



Connecticut

District 3 Newsletter #2

October 2021

Welcome to the second installment of the District 3 newsletter to share what is happening and to remind you about the next District meeting. It is next week Saturday, October 16 at 10:00am in Rocky Hill with a special guest, Paul Lloyd, National Inspector General, who will be in Connecticut for the State VFW Testimonial the next day. Let's make a good impression and welcome him warmly. Therefore, I am requesting:

1. At least ONE person from every Post in District 3 attend, including from the Auxiliaries!
2. Dress will be "Commander Casual" – Golf shirts (with VFW logo if you have one), pants (no shorts), VFW overseas caps (no baseball caps.)
3. Make him feel welcome as he is also a fellow New Englander! He is a member of Post 1631, Concord, New Hampshire.

We will invite him to speak at the meeting and share with us insights from National. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation with this special guest.

After the meeting we will have a presentation and LIVE demonstration by Aquiline Drones! Please read Page 4 for details and bring other Post and Auxiliary members to this meeting to learn more about new career opportunities for all veterans.

Lee Wilson, District 3 Commander – 860-798-3562 cmd@vfwctdist3.org

GENERAL NEWS:

- Additional HUGE congratulations to Ted Graziani, Past Post Commander, of **Post 10689 in Ellington** on his induction into the Connecticut Class of 2021 Veterans Hall of Fame! This honor is bestowed on Veterans for their "countless contributions to society after their service." We are pleased that this year's class includes two members of posts in District 3. Manny Rodrigues and Ted Graziani. Both are more than deserving of this award. Congratulations!!
- Thank you to the Posts and individual members who donated their entrance fee to the canceled District 3 picnic. Your generosity totaled \$290 which will be split evenly with the District 3 Auxiliary.
- Special thank you to **LT. C.C. Robinson Post 254, Hartford**, for their donation of \$1,000 to District 3's Auxiliary. They heard of their need and responded accordingly. It is wonderful when Posts and Auxiliaries can work together for a common cause, our military veterans and their families.

- REMINDER! If you are holding a Poppy Drive this Fall, please put your order in NOW! It would make our District proud if each Post purchased a minimum of 500 poppies and distributed them in schools, at safe outdoor events, etc.
- The deadline for Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen submissions to your Post is in October 31. NOW is the time to reach out to your middle/junior and high schools to have students participate. The more students who do, the more our District has a chance of having the state winner! Want to learn more? Watch this from our Commander in Chief: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kLwenmTN00>
- The District congratulates Gerry Wright, life member of **Post 8776, Hebron**, for the two-page feature in the October issue of VFW Magazine entitled *We've Been Fighting this for 55 Years*. It tells his story of leading the cause to create the now built Agent Orange mural at the Andover Veterans Monument Park. The unveiling was on June 5. He raised \$30,000 in six months by selling engraved brick pavers which are now part of the walkway to the mural. Here is the link to the online version of the magazine: <http://digitaledition.qwinc.com/publication/?m=3914&i=719119&p=44&ver=html>
- Did you know...if you are in need of a patriotic holiday speech for Veterans Day, Memorial Day, etc., the national VFW website has several generic samples you are welcome to use. Contact Lee Wilson for copies of any of them.

POST NEWS FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER:

Post 10732, Berlin, submitted by Commander William Hamel:

- We had a very successful year. We had a craft fair in May, two car shows in August and made \$758 selling poppies and promoting the VFW at the Berlin Fair in September. We get food coupons and gift cards from local businesses. The cards are used to purchase food that we sell at our shows. Anything left over (cards & food) is used for the meetings.
- Everyone enjoyed our annual picnic last month. We supply the hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks and the Auxiliary brings the side dishes.
- We are trying to bring in new members but finding it difficult. Every year we get a few new members, but also lose some members. If someone signs up for our Post, we pay the 1st year dues and include the overseas cap at no charge.
- If anyone has some good information on solar power, please pass it along. Last year we replaced our roof and have discussed purchasing some panels.

Post 10589, Coventry, submitted by Commander Manny Rodrigues:

- We partner with Foodshare handing out food to more than 100 people in need. Any VFW or Auxiliary member is welcome to join us at St. Mary's Church, 1600 Main Street from 0930-1030. Upcoming dates: Oct. 13 and 27 & Nov. 10 and 24, with lunch provided.
- We have not had a Poppy Drive for quite some time. We will work on that soon.

- We host Bingo twice a month – open to all.
- We contacted our middle and high school about the Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy contests. We normally have a good selection of essays each year.
- We continue our support of the Veterans Day Road Race in Coventry <https://www.ctveteransdayrace.com/> which will be held on November 6.
- We are getting prepared now to participate in Wreaths Across America in December.

Post 10689, Ellington, submitted by Commander Bruce Warkentin:

- Our Post will participate in the Veterans Day Ceremonies on Nov. 11 at Ellington High School and Ellington Middle School.
- We will participate in our town's Wreaths Across America ceremony in December.
- We provided applications for the Patriot's Pen contest to Ellington Middle School and Windermere School.

Post 1926, Simsbury, submitted by Commander Lee Wilson:

- The Post held a Poppy Drive over the September 17 POW/MIA weekend at one local food store. Over \$2,500 was raised which will be used for donations to non-profits in the Farmington Valley that support veteran causes. A report on these donations will be available in the next District newsletter.
- The Post had a booth at the return of the Simsbury Airport Fly-In on Sunday, Sept. 26 from 8:00am – 5:00pm. This is a combined air and car show with food trucks and thousands who attend during the day. The focus of the booth was to encourage membership and provide information to the community about what the VFW can and does do.
- The Post delivered greetings, along with many other groups in town, at the 100th anniversary of scouting event in Simsbury on Oct. 2.
- The Post has extensive plans for Veterans Day and beyond. In addition to a Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11, they will have a 3-day Buddy Poppy drive in early November and will have a one month long (Nov. 11 to Dec. 11) NEW clothing drive for veterans at the Rocky Hill Home as well as two congregate housing centers in Simsbury where veterans reside.
- The Post is also planning to participate with the Simsbury DAR in Wreaths Across America in December.

Post 574, Plainville, submitted by Commander Dave Dudek:

- Weekly Bingo at 6:30 on Mondays and Tuesdays – open to all! Join us!
- Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy information was distributed to the middle and high schools. The information is sent to each school's principals as well as the superintendent to raise awareness of these programs.

Post 2083, East Hartford, submitted by Commander Frank Forrest:

- We are collecting Halloween treats to send to our troops through our SOS-Connecticut organization in early November. Full details, and invitation to Thanksgiving dinner for you and your family, is on Page 5 of this newsletter.

Become an Army of One! Get Trained as a Professional Drone Pilot!

Craving some new action? Yearning financial independence? Want to be part of a billion-dollar industry? Then join us at your District 3 meeting on Saturday, Oct. 16th when we will demonstrate the newest applications in drone technology and how to become an FAA-certified drone pilot!

Aquiline Drones, an independent, progressive American drone manufacturing and cloud solutions company founded by highly experienced aviators, systems engineers, IT gurus and retired military, will be conducting an exciting commercial drone demonstration, as well as discussing its revolutionary, online, drone pilot training program – Flight to the Future - that positions you for a variety of high-tech jobs now and into the future.

Specifically, you will experience:

- Advanced Drone Technology
- FAA Regulations
- AD Cloud Immersion including the topics of artificial intelligence, (AI) and the Internet-of-Things (IoT).
- Mastery of a Specific Industry Application, such as surveillance and security, manufacturing, farming, videography, etc.
- Establishment of a Small Drone Business

Flight-to-the-Future is designed for anyone who is 18+, unemployed, underemployed, about to be furloughed or just looking for a new career in our current pandemic world. No prior degrees or certifications are needed to enroll. Within a matter of weeks, Aquiline Drones prepares a participant to become a fully licensed drone pilot and business operator, helping them regain their financial independence by matching their newly acquired skills with real jobs and missions for viable and continuous work opportunities. **What's more, Aquiline Drones is currently in conversations with the Department of Veterans Affairs to explore ways of using the GI Bill to offset the cost of the training program.**

How do you find a job as a drone pilot? Specifically, all Flight to the Future graduates will have access to our proprietary business development app, called Drone on Demand, which works a lot like Uber. The drone pilot picks the jobs that they want, and Aquiline Drones pays them to fly the missions under its brand. A drone pilot has complete control over when and how much they work. Aquiline's Drone-on-Demand and Flight to the Future is a ground floor opportunity to establish themselves in a new and exciting industry. Visit www.flighttothefuture.com for more information.



Commander Lee Wilson (R) met with Aquiline Drones at the recent Simsbury Air Show and learned about their opportunity for military veterans to find a new career as a drone pilot!

**INVITATION TO THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR
ALL VETERANS AND FAMILIES
FROM POST 2083 EAST HARTFORD
Sunday, November 7 at 2:00pm**



SOS-Connecticut is currently receiving hundreds of pounds of Halloween candy from area schools, dentists, and individuals like you! On Sunday, November 7, 2021, starting at noon, we will sort and pack it up to send to our Soldiers who will miss Halloween. This will be held at the Hillstown Grange Hall, 617 Hills Street, East Hartford. This is our Thanksgiving treat box so any cards and letters to the Troops to place in the boxes would be greatly appreciated. Blank Christmas and Holiday cards are helpful also. Volunteers are needed to sort and pack the candy, just stop in when you can between 11:30 and 2 pm.

After the packing is done a special "Thank a Veteran" Thanksgiving Dinner will be served. Dinner will start around 2:00 pm. We will provide the main courses and request those who can, to bring a salad or dessert to share. The dinner is free and is open to all, Veterans, families, and anyone who wants to say "Thanks" to the Veterans in attendance. Kitchen help with set up and clean-up is needed. If too many people show up 'to go' boxes will be handed out to any overflow.

This is a great event to support our Troops stationed away from home for the Holidays and organizations that are interested in helping, please contact us. Monetary donations for postage are always needed. Send checks to: VFW Post 2083, 357 Main Street, Suite 206, East Hartford, CT 06118. Write "SOS-Connecticut" in memo line.

Masks may be required for this event and every precaution we can use for the safety of all attending will be utilized.

For more information, please call Frank Forrest at 860-690-2845 or email to: sos-connecticut@aol.com.