



Connecticut

District 3 Newsletter #4

February 2022

Welcome to the fourth edition of the District 3 newsletter with a reminder about our next District meeting, **Saturday, February 12 at 10:00am ON ZOOM**. While we would have liked to have met in person, several of you asked that we focus on being safe and healthy right now. I know you all enjoy meeting the student winners of the District 3 VOD/PP competition every February, so here are the winners and contact information should you wish to send them a congratulatory note. Their awards will be mailed soon.

Voice of Democracy:

First Place – Bradford F. deVillier, 20 Avalon Place, Feeding Hills, MA 01030 He is a sophomore at Hampden Charter School of Science, West Springfield, MA. He is sponsored by Landry-Sic VFW Post 9544, Suffield, CT. There were no other submissions for VOD in District 3.

Patriot's Pen:

First Place – Srida Kadari, 2 Rosa Ct., Ellington, CT 06029. She is in 8th grade at Ellington Middle School. She is sponsored by VFW Post 10689, Ellington, CT.

Second Place – Adhiti Parupalli, 54 Ardsley Lane, Ellington, CT 06029, 8th grade student at Ellington Middle School.

Third Place – Skylah Kuszewski, 3 George St., Stafford Springs, CT 06071. She is a 6th grade student at Stafford Middle School. She is sponsored by Stafford Post 9990.

MESSAGE FROM KEN TRACY, SPECIAL PROJECTS CHAIRMAN:

As many of you know, Commander Cortese's special project is Mental Health Awareness. According to the VFW brochure entitled "VFW Mental Wellness Campaign – Awareness, Support and Intervention for Veterans," *it is essential that the VFW and VFW Auxiliary work hand-in-hand on every level of support to bring the needed awareness and education on mental health to everyone.* We know there are 22 veterans who take their life every day in this country. It is vitally essential that NOW your Post and Auxiliary make donations to this cause to the Department of CT toward this national program. Here is the link from National's website with details: <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness>

Thank you to all who sent in items for this newsletter. I want this newsletter to be YOUR Post and Auxiliary newsletter of events, news items, questions, or comments. Keep sending anything and everything to me for upcoming issues!

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

GENERAL NEWS:

- THANK YOU to everyone who attended the December District meeting in Windsor Locks.
- PLEASE work on bringing back your expired and unpaid members! And don't forget to purchase your Buddy Poppies this year! Let's make District 3 a model for all others!
- Post Commanders and Post Quartermasters are reminded to send AUDITS and PROGRAM REPORTS in a timely manner. See this list to find what is missing.

DISTRICT 3 AND POSTS
COMMUNITY ACTIVITY/ADMINISTRATION/AUDIT REPORT

PRINT DATE: 1/28/2022 12:30 P

NEED ED FOR ALL- STATE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NEEDED FOR ALL- STATE		
	***** SEE DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM FOR SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL-STATE *****																						
DISTRICT AND POSTS	COMMUNITY ACTIVITY													ADMINISTRATION			AUDITS			CATEGORIES COMPLETED	% OF CATEGORIES COMPLETED		
	VOICE OF DEMOCRACY	PATRIOT'S PEN	SCOUT OF THE YEAR	OTHER YOUTH ACTIVITIES	TEACHER OF THE YEAR	CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION	SAFETY	BUDDY POPPY	HOSPITAL / NURSING HOME	AMERICANISM	COMMANDER'S SPECIAL PROJECT	OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICE And VMS	POPPY PURCHASED	BOND	CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY	DISTRICT MEETING ATTENDANCE	INSPECTION REPORT	JUNE AUDIT	SEPTEMBER AUDIT			DECEMBER AUDIT	MARCH AUDIT
D3																					3	15%	
254													1	1								4	20%
511	1	1	1	2	2	4	1		6	1	10											13	65%
574				1			1		4	2	3											8	40%
938				2							5											6	30%
1009	1	1																				3	15%
1926	2	2	7	3	1	3	1	4	2	13	1	10	1	1	1							18	90%
2046	1	1		1		1				6		47										9	45%
2083	1	1		1		8	2		5	4		19										11	55%
2138												1	1									3	15%
3272	1	1		1	1	7			7	5	1	5										12	60%
4740																						3	15%
6123	1	1		3	1	1	4		1	11		7	1	1								12	60%
8776																						3	15%
9544	1	1		2		2	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1							15	75%
9929																						3	15%
9990																						2	10%
10251																						3	15%
10589																						2	10%
10689																						3	15%
10732																						3	15%
GRAN D	9	9	8	16	5	26	9	6	21	50	4	108	5	21	2	0	0	20	16	1	0		
UNITS ACTIV	8	8	2	9	4	7	5	3	6	9	4	9	5	21	2	0	0	20	16	1	0		
% ACTIV	30%	30%	7%	33%	15%	26%	###	11%	22%	33%	15%	33%	19%	78%	7%	0%	0%	74%	59%	4%	0%		

- Post Commander Frank Forrest of Rochambeau-Elms Post 2083, East Hartford, announces that SOS Connecticut (Support our Soldiers-Connecticut) will once again be sending care packages to men and women who serve around the world. They do this FIVE times a year. They are asking for donations toward the postage they have to purchase to send over 100 packages abroad each time. Please help by sending a generous donation to: SOS Connecticut, 165 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT 06118. Thanks.

- The District 3 Auxiliary thanks you all for donating so generously to the door prizes at the district meeting in December. A total of \$203 was raised along with a \$100 anonymous donation. Therefore, \$303 was donated to State President Kim McCarroll's "Homes for Heroes" Special Project. Below is a photo of the District 3 & State Auxiliary Officers who attended that day: Eduarda Swilling-Wade (State Chief of Staff); Kim McCarroll (State President); Candace Shepard (District 3 President); Deb Breault (State Senior Vice President); seated is Doris Laferriere (District 3 Treasurer)



- CONGRATULATIONS to two-time Past Post Commander and current Quartermaster Roy Walton of the Gildo T. Consolini Post 3272, Avon, on his retirement as a Colonel after 38 years of service in the Air Force and Air National Guard. The event was held at the 103rd Air Wing main hanger at Bradley Airport. District Commander Lee Wilson attended the event (see below).



Did you know?? The VFW National Home is 100 years old this year! It all started with the goal of a 23-year-old woman in Detroit who wanted to help unemployed veterans of WWI. That led to a donation of 472 acres by a millionaire cattleman to help support veterans and their families. They now house 42 families, each in their own home. They have a new Executive Director, Michal Wilson, who is also a Desert Storm veteran. (no relation to Lee!) He is a retired Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major who also served in Iraq Freedom. Your Post's donation to the VFW National Home is vitally important and I hope you will continue to do so into their next century!

POST NEWS:

Post 511, New Britain, submitted by Commander Daniel Luty

Pre-Covid the Post cleared some space and opened up a food pantry for local New Britain residents and Post members. As soon as it opened, it closed due to the pandemic. Recently the Post decided it's time to try again! So, they have a dedicated space on top of a cabinet with shelving below inside for nonperishables. If anyone would like to donate to this food pantry, feel free to drop them off anytime at the Post: 41 Veterans Drive, New Britain or call the Post at 860-225-1107.



Standing in front of the new area of the food pantry is Bob Stafford, Trustee & Daniel Luty, Commander

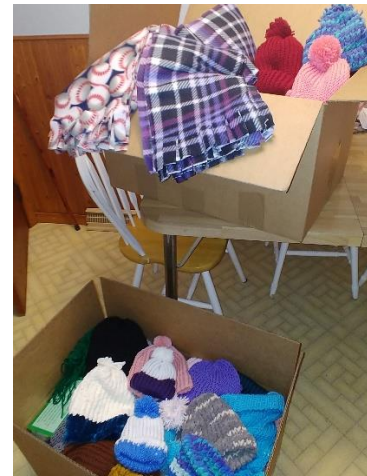
Post 10732, Berlin, submitted by Commander William Hamel

Berlin VFW Post 10732 will hold a 100th birthday party for one of our auxiliary members. Anne Wilchynsky will turn 100 years old Feb. 15th! The birthday party will be held on Sunday, Feb 13th. We are expecting around 50 family and VFW members to attend. We are very excited to have this party, as very few of us live this long and it also gives us a chance to thank Anne for her many years of service to the VFW.

Post 6123 Auxiliary, Windsor Locks, submitted by President Cheryl Costello-Pelkey

The Auxiliary invites everyone to a Chili Cook Off on Sunday, March 6 from 1:00-3:00pm (or until all the Chili runs out) at the Post Home, 36 Fairview St, Windsor Locks. A bowl of chili is only \$5.00. The best chili wins \$25. Entries are due by 12:30pm for judging. Call Cheryl to sign up to bring a chili: 860-463-5832.

The Auxiliary spent time this Fall making 13 goodie bags with homemade cookies that were included in packages sent to deployed troops by Enfield Hoorah for the holidays. The members made camouflage fabric bags for the cookies. In addition, the Auxiliary made 32 flannel scarfs and collected over 150 homemade hats from auxiliary members, the Windsor Locks Womens Club and friends of the auxiliary, along with other gifts, that were sent in 2 very large boxes to the National Home for the children at Christmas to help them stay warm in the winter months.



Members of the Post Auxiliary busy making camouflage bags for cookies and hats & scarves for the National Home

Post 1926, Simsbury, submitted by Quartermaster Jon Blume

Thanks to generous donations from the public during the Post's various Buddy Poppy Drives each year, the Post makes donations to veteran-friendly organizations in the area. The most recent was a donation to Foxfield F.A.R.M. (For A Recovery Mission) in Granby, CT. They are a not-for-profit that provides an equestrian groundwork training program for military veterans and first responders with PTSD. Inclusive in this effort is a program that utilizes rescued/retired horses to be rehabilitated/re-homed for a safe and productive new life. For more information or to refer a veteran for the program, visit: www.foxfieldrecoverymission.org

During the Post's annual new clothing drive for Rocky Hill Veterans Home, this note was left with a bag of new clothes. It makes all the work of collecting and donating worthwhile. *My name is Len. My great uncle served in WWI with the 17th Aero Squadron, Second Oxford detachment and flew a Sopwith Camel in France against the Germans. In WWII my uncle George was an MP in Italy and cleared out the Abby Monte Cassino of snipers, mines and booby traps before the Americans could enter. My wife and I are happy to donate yearly to the veterans in Rocky Hill Hospital and will continue to do so every year. Very best wishes to all the men and women who serve.*

Post 10689, Ellington, submitted by Commander Bruce Warkentin

Our Post participated in The Wreaths Across America Ceremony on Dec.18th with our Adopted Unit, the 102nd Army Band, providing a bugler and singer to sing The National Anthem. We also provided grocery store gift cards to the social service departments in the Towns of Ellington, Vernon and Tolland with instructions to deliver to veterans in need (or families of veterans.)

Post 9544, West Suffield, submitted by Adjutant Frederick King

Landry-Sic Post 9544 provided relief services to a local Navy veteran affected by a severe storm last summer which caused extensive property damage to include disabling her

furnace. Repairs were made restoring her furnace to full operation prior to the cold weather arriving. ▪ Post members participated in the Town of Suffield's 350th Anniversary Parade, riding aboard an antique military vehicle provided by a local citizen. ▪ Members conducted a two-day Poppy drive at the Suffield Village Market collecting over \$1,300 (waiting on confirmation of that number). The next Poppy Drive is planned for Memorial Day weekend. ▪ Our Post officers conducted a Veterans Day observance at the Suffield Veterans Memorial monument, with readings of poignant poems, patriotic music and POW/MIA remembrance. A reception was held at the Post home following the ceremony, and a veteran's dinner that evening prepared and hosted by volunteers. ▪ Post Officers visited The Suffield House nursing and rehabilitation facility to join the resident veterans and staff for a special Veterans Day luncheon. ▪ A Pot Luck dinner was well attended on the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving. ▪ Santa paid a special visit to the Post Christmas party for veterans and their families as well as friends of the Post, dinner and desserts were enjoyed by all. On December 27, 2021, the Landry-Sic Post 9544 celebrated the 100TH birthday of current Trustee and past Post Commander; Sergeant Edmund "Duke" Suzenski, USMC, a veteran of World War II. We are pleased to announce the Post made donations to the VFW National Home for Children and Homes for the Brave in the amounts of \$1,000 and \$500 respectively.

SPRINGFIELD THUNDERBIRDS
MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT

Saturday,
February 26th
7:05 PM

VS.

CHECKERS

2016 2021

Place order by 2/25 to receive discounted ticket rate.

Optional \$2 food voucher add on includes hot dog and fountain soda

This offer is **NOT** available at the MassMutual Center Box office

To order your special group rate ticket, scan the QR Code or visit the link below:
https://springfieldthunderbirds.formstack.com/forms/military226_lb

T-birds Rep Lauren Blanchard
(413) 417-2289
 lblanchard@springfieldthunderbirds.com

Complimentary ticket to all branches of Active-duty military personnel and veterans! Additional \$14 discounted tickets are available for family and friends!

All branches of the military will be honored throughout the evening!