



Connecticut

District 3 Newsletter #6

May 2022

Welcome to the District 3 newsletter compiled after the District's Convention, Election and Installation on May 14th. Thank you to all who attended the Convention and for your continued support of its leadership for the 2022-2023 year. And congratulations to everyone who was elected for this ensuing year; let's continue to work to make District 3 the best in the State of Connecticut. (Please see the last page for the names of the incoming officers)

This being Memorial Day month, it is a busy time for most VFWs and Auxiliaries as we commemorate the service by prior comrades and their families in all the wars and conflicts over the past centuries. I hope you all have time to participate in local parades, poppy drives, visits to cemeteries to place flags and spent quality time with family and friends.

I am happy to report that this newsletter has been well received by many and will continue into the new year. And to start off that new year, you are all invited to the FIRST District 3 meeting on Saturday, July 9th at 2pm for a picnic at my home in Avon. We will have brief meetings of both the VFW and Auxiliary, then enjoy a meal together. We can tent almost our whole backyard so light rain won't bother us. But, heavy rain will postpone it to Sunday, July 10th at 2pm. Terri and I will provide the BBQ items, including veggie burgers. If everyone can bring a salad, side or dessert to share, that would be helpful. BYOB please, set ups will be provided. Your significant other is welcome to attend this family friendly event. RSVP by JULY 1st to receive directions and parking information. Let's make this first meeting a fun kick off to a productive year!

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

GENERAL NEWS:

- June 10-12 – State Convention – Saturday, June 11 Awards Breakfast at 8:30am and Convention Banquet that night at 7:00pm at Rocky Hill Sheraton Hotel.
- July 2 – Join VFW Auxiliary Post 685, 104 South Canaan Rd., Canaan, CT in conjunction with the VFW Department of CT Auxiliary for a **Family Freedom Festival** from 12:00pm – 5:00pm. This “FREE” family-friendly event includes fun activities for kids and adults, music and more. Food is available for purchase all day. Please come with a donation of bar soap, men's and women's socks, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, wet wipes, etc. for “boxes to boots” to send to our National Guards that are serving in Europe. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

- Post Commanders and Post Quartermasters are reminded to send AUDITS and PROGRAM REPORTS in a timely manner.
- All Auxiliaries are strongly encouraged to bring a Poppy Display to the State Convention. Show off your creative skills with the beautiful red poppies!
- National has released the contest themes for the 2022-2023 VOD and Patriot Pen; now is the time to have a plan to reach out to all teachers in middle and high school to share this essay contest with their students.
 - Voice of Democracy – “Why is the Veteran Important?”
 - Patriot Pen – “My Pledge to our Veterans”
- REMINDER: Post Commander Frank Forrest of Rochambeau-Elms Post 2083, East Hartford, announces that SOS Connecticut (Support our Soldiers-Connecticut) will continue to send 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. You will receive acknowledgement of your donation. Thanks.
- On Saturday, April 23, the new Gold Star Families Memorial Monument was dedicated in Veterans Memorial Park, 51 Lower Lane, Berlin. The monument has four panels representing The Homeland, The Family, The Patriot and The Sacrifice. It is a truly impressive memorial; worth a visit. It was created through the Berlin Veterans Commission. Three photos of the memorial are below.





POST NEWS:

Post 3272, Avon, submitted by Commander Bob Nardiello

The Post will have its annual six-day Buddy Poppy Drive in May over the course of two weekends just before Memorial Day.

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Post will continue their traditional Memorial Day activities – early morning visits to five cemeteries to lay a wreath, have the annual parade in the town center and ceremony on the town green followed by a picnic.

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



The Auxiliary made and donated 26 goody bags to First Responders/Police Officers in Windsor Locks.



The Auxiliary made and donated Easter Goodie Bags to the residents of Bickfords Convalescent Home.

The Post Poppy Drive just finished a three-day event at Geissler's in East Windsor. They lead the April Opening Day Little League Parade in Windsor Locks and posted the flag. The Post hosts a THURSDAY NIGHT CRUISE NIGHT at the Post, 36 Fairview St., Windsor Locks beginning at 5:30pm. This weekly event kicked off on Thursday, May 12th. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun any Thursday night.

Post 2083, East Hartford, submitted by Sr. Vice Commander/Adjutant Howard Satalino

- On April 23rd the Post again took part in the Hartford Harley-Davidson K-Bar raffle event. Post members were joined by District Commander Lee Wilson at the event.
- East Hartford High School Iron Hornet Club's obstacle course fundraiser will be at the high school at 869 Forbes St. on Friday, May 20th The purpose of this club is to support first responders and veterans. Jennifer Marinko, the teacher in charge of the club, has invited all veterans to attend so that they can honor us and we can watch the kids race. Contact the school at 860-662-5200 for details on the start time.
- The Post will be placing flags at Center Cemetery, 944 Main Street, on Saturday, May 21 starting at 8:00am. The entrance to the cemetery, and where we start is at the entrance on Elm Street (you can't drive into the cemetery on Main St.)
- The East Hartford Memorial Day Parade will be on May 30th (Memorial Day) with line up at 8:30am. All veterans are welcome to join us! The Post will have a table with information on the VFW and buddy poppies at the end of the parade. Here's the link to the town website for more info on the entire event: <https://www.easthartfordct.gov/home/news/2022-east-hartford-memorial-day-event>. We do have a vehicle for those who need to ride. And we can have a second vehicle available if necessary.

Post 1926, Simsbury, submitted by Commander Lee Wilson

In preparation for Memorial Day, the Post will be joining the Simsbury American Legion Post 84 and four scout troops in placing flags on veteran's graves in two cemeteries. In addition, the Post will hold a three-day Buddy Poppy Drive outside Fitzgerald's Food Store in the center of town. There will be a return of the two Memorial Day parades – the Tariffville parade and cemetery ceremony in the morning followed by a Simsbury parade and veteran memorial ceremony in the afternoon.

The Post is close to finishing the flag retirement platform at the Weatogue Fire Station. A grant has been applied for from a local company to help defray some of the costs of the fencing around the area. Flag collection boxes have been built and are in various town buildings for use by the public.

The Post has met with the staff of the newly opened Tractor Supply on the Simsbury/Granby border. The staff agreed to allow the VFW to have a membership drive on site soon.

Post 574, Plainville, submitted by Commander Dave Dudek

The commander of Post 574 is the Chairman of the Plainville Memorial Day Parade Association. The Post will participate in the parade. Members of the Post, along with Plainville Police, will also be firing a 21-gun salute during the Memorial Day ceremony with the playing of Taps. Post 574 will also hold a service at each cemetery prior to the parade. Cemetery ceremonies will begin on Monday, May 30th at 6:30 am at Post 574. The parade steps off at 9:00am. The Post will hold a Buddy Poppy Drive on Memorial Day during the Open House that begins at Noon.

The Post replaced all old heating and air conditioning units. We also had an energy audit, and as a result, upgraded all our lighting to LED. The Post donates their hall for use by the Plainville Rotary monthly meetings. They also donated the hall twice over the winter for memorial services for deceased individuals. And we donate the hall for the Cancer Society's 2022 Kick Off Dinner.

Post 938, Willington, submitted by Commander Edward Dagata

- On May 27th the Post will have a poppy and recruitment booth at the townwide Willington Days. This recruitment drive will go through the summer months.
- On May 30th the Post will provide a ceremony for the Town's parade with the National Guard as the Color Guard. The Post invited Congressman Joe Courtney, State Rep. Tammy Nuccio and State Senator Dan Champagne.
- On June 14th the Post will be at Center Elementary School for a Flag Day ceremony to hand out flags to all the children.
- The Post is planning a Veterans BBQ in July to be held at the town's Recreational Park. More details to come.
- The Post is a participant in the creation of the Willington Veterans Memorial Foundation. The Foundation will oversee the maintenance and care of the Veterans

Memorial and will also take care of the annual Flag displays on 22 large flag poles running for two miles from the Cemetery on State Route 74 to the Veterans Memorial at the Senior Complex. The Foundation will also oversee the grave markers and flags that are kept on every veteran's grave in all cemeteries in town.

District 3 VFW Officers 2022-2023

Commander Lee Wilson
Sr. Vice Manny Rodrigues
Jr. Vice Felix Ortiz

Quartermaster Tim Gleason
Adjutant Joe Haney
Service Officer Manny Rodrigues
Trustees Roger Bogdan
Everett Bennett
Robert Stafford



District 3 Auxiliary Officers 2022-2023

President Candice Shepard
Sr. Vice Debbie Knickerbocker

Jr. Vice Sarah Flaherty
Treasurer Doris LaFerriere
Secretary Sharon Messenger
Chaplain Marie Flanagan
Conductress Deb Breault
Guard Rose Bennett
Trustees Cheryl Costello-Pelkey
Linda Ciccone
Cindy Flaherty

