



Connecticut

District 3 Newsletter #1

July 2023

Hello everyone! Welcome to a new year for the CT VFW District 3! Thank you for your confidence in my leadership for another year. My team of officers are ready to get started!

As we did last year, I invite the VFW and Auxiliary to hold its first meeting of the year at the District 3 picnic next week, Saturday, July 29 at 4pm at my house in Avon. See the last page for details. These can be brief official meetings, then we can enjoy the early evening with food and conversation.

Mark your calendars now for the next five meetings of the 2023-2024 year:

- Sat. Sept. 9 – Post 2138 Rocky Hill
- Sat. Nov. 18 – Post 9954 Suffield
- Sat. Jan. 13 – Post 574 Plainville (VOD/PP awards ceremony)
- Sat. March 9 – Post 511 New Britain
- Sat. May 11 – District 3 Elections and Installation – pending location in Avon

Congratulations to the Posts in Third District that received awards at the VFW State Convention in June:

- Honor Post Award – Posts 2138, 9990
- National Home Award – Posts 574, 2046
- All State Award Commander and Quartermaster Awards – Posts 1926, 2138, 9544
- 100% Membership Award – Posts 254, 1926, 2046, 2138, 3272, 4740, 9544
- Youth Activity Second Place Award – Post 1926
- Americanism Award – Post 1926
- Buddy Poppy Award – Posts 2138, 3272
- Quartermaster Excellence Award – Post 1926

Also, I would like to start a VFW CT District 3 Scout of the Year Program and raise some money for the prizes. If you would like to donate to this new program, please make the check payable to: VFW CT District 3 and mail to my home: 64 Mountain View Avenue, Avon, CT 06001...or bring it to the picnic next week!!!! THANKS.

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

GENERAL NEWS:

- Reminder....Tee Off for a Veteran VFW Golf Tournament is Thursday, September 7 at Mohegan Sun Country Club at Pautipaug, 7 Dows Lane, Baltic, CT. Proceeds will benefit the Veterans & Military Support Program for Unmet Needs. To register contact the Department.
- The Annual CT Department of Veterans Affairs STAND DOWN will take place on Friday, September 22 from 8:00 – 2:00pm at five regional sites – Bridgeport, Bristol, Danbury, Norwich and Rocky Hill. VOLUNTEERS are needed at all sites. Contact Judith Barnes at 860-537-0612 to sign up or for more information.
- PLEASE work on bringing back your expired and unpaid members. There are many ideas on how to do this in any of the VFW Magazines or check in with any of the officers of District 3 who are happy to help.
- Post Commanders and Post Quartermasters are reminded to send AUDITS and PROGRAM REPORTS in a timely manner.
- National has released the themes for the Voice of Democracy (VOD) and Patriot Pen (PP) essay contests. REMEMBER the deadline for Post winners comes up fast – October 31. Please reach out to your schools NOW to let them know this contest exists. WE NEED MORE STUDENTS TO WRITE AND SUBMIT. Here's the themes:
 - VOD – **What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?** Here's the link to the application to send to the high schools: <https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/Voice-of-Democracy-Entry-Form-Fillable.pdf?v=1&d=20180316T180558Z&la=en>
 - PP – **How Are You Inspired by America?** Here is the link to application to send to your middle/junior high schools: <https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/Patriots-Pen-Entry-Form-Fillable.pdf?la=en&v=1&d=20230306T234856Z>

POST NEWS:

Post 2046, Manchester, submitted by Arthur Thompson, Commander

- We will have our membership and poppy drive at the Army/Navy Club during Cruisin' on Main Street event, August 6 from 10am – 2pm.
- We are planning a similar drive at the Hebron Harvest Fair, Sept. 7-10.

Post 2138, Rocky Hill – Everyone is welcome to this weekly event; bring the family!



Post 10689, Ellington, submitted by Bruce Warkentin, Commander

- Our Post will participate in Veteran’s Day ceremonies at Ellington High School on November 11th.
- We are hoping to arrange a visit to an assisted living center in Ellington to honor resident veterans.

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

- JOIN US at the Smalley Brothers Post in Windsor Locks for our weekly Cruise Nights on Thursdays from 5:30 -8:00pm (weather permitting) Grilled hot dogs, hamburgers or sausage are all available for purchase and beverages can be bought in our canteen. Music and 50/50 raffle every Thursday! Show us YOUR antique car! Open to all.

Post 1926, Simsbury, submitted by Jon Blume, Quartermaster

- The Post will hold a POW/MIA Remembrance Weekend event on September 16 & 17 at the Simsbury Veterans Memorial on Hopmeadow Street (Route 10) in the center of Simsbury. It will be from 10:00am – 2:00pm. We will set up a Missing Man table on the plaza also.



You are invited to the VFW & Auxiliary District 3 picnic and brief first meetings for the 2023-2024 year!!

Saturday, July 29 beginning at 4pm

Home of Lee and Terri Wilson

64 Mountain View Avenue, Avon

We can tent our backyard so light rain is OK.

(HEAVY RAIN DATE - Sunday, July 30 at 2pm)

Lee and Terri will provide burgers, hot dogs and veggie burger options.

Please bring a salad, side or dessert to share.

BYOB! Ice, water and soda will be provided.

Bring significant other for this friendly event.

RSVP by JULY 25 to receive directions and parking info:

cmd@vfwctdistrict3.org or 860-798-3562

P.S. We live next to the Farmington Valley Rails to Trails, so bring your walking shoes or bike & enjoy the outdoors!