



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MASON DIXON POST 7234

APRIL 2020

COMMANDERS COMMENT

HELLO EVERYONE!

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well, safe and surviving the quarantine. There isn't a lot to say this month except what everyone hears on a daily basis about the covid-19 pandemic. This caught Ellen and I off guard because we were on a cruise when they started the closings. We were well taken care of on the cruise. The ship made sure it was well sanitized and we were kept up to date on the happenings at home. We



felt much safer there even if we were part of 3,000 passengers and crew. We were turned away from 3 out of 5 ports but on a good note the cruise line offered 125% credit towards another cruise or a complete refund. It was very sad to see that most of the crew who work so hard to send money back to their families were being sent home and losing their jobs. Of course we had cleaned out the refrigerator before we left so we were a little short of food after eating 3 or 4 times a day for 12 days. Things could be a whole lot worse. We are counting our blessings for the things we do have. Thanks to all the places offering takeout food. As you all know, the post is totally closed until further notice. We will keep you updated by email as to what is happening. I sure miss socializing with all of my fellow comrades and friends. Hopefully it won't be too long before we can phase back into a somewhat normal schedule.

I want to also thank the board of directors for making the decisions for the good of the post. Some of these are not always easy ones to make and I hope everyone appreciates that not everyone can be pleased. I also want to thank Fulton for his work putting together a daily email with a little levity included to keep our spirits up. If anyone needs anything (excluding toilet paper), please don't hesitate to call me and we will try to offer help where needed.

This is a great time to do some things you never have time to do like updating your passwords, shredding unneeded files, balance your check book until it comes out perfect. Yes, I still write checks!!! Try cooking something new, do a puzzle and most important get in touch with friends and neighbors to see how they're doing. We neglect some of these basic chores most of the time. If you know an older veteran who might be struggling right now make a double effort to contact them. That's what we are all about. For right now we all need to count our blessings, be thankful for our friends and family and ask the power that is bigger than all of us to get us through this quickly.

Please remember the sick from our post.

**God bless all veterans.
Those who served
Those who are now serving
& Those who didn't return.
God bless America**

Dean Levering
Commander
443-553-1167

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Hello Members, I hope this message finds you all safe and healthy and following all the guidelines on social distancing. This is a very difficult time for all of us at



our Post and all of you. We miss seeing you and sharing friendly conversations and planning for upcoming events. I am confident we can get through this difficult time and come out stronger, kinder and appreciative of all we have and share with our family, friends and our VFW family. During

this difficult time, we can't lose sight of our mission of serving our Veterans and spreading Patriotism. If you know of anyone needing assistance, please let me know, and between the Post and Auxiliary we will do our best to assist. If you know of members living alone, a phone call to them would certainly lift their spirits. As you know, we have had to cancel many events at the Post, including our Children's Easter Party. Our Spring Fling with Bryan Clark is postponed, and I will insure a reschedule date. Our April meeting, scheduled for April 6th is cancelled, which means the election of officers for the new year, beginning in July, will be postponed. My hope is to meet in May to hold elections and installation of officers. If May is still not possible the current officers will remain in their positions, until we can meet. I have many applications for membership in our Auxiliary, however, without a meeting and a voice vote by members, they cannot be processed. If you know of anyone who filed recently, please assure them their applications and fees are secure and will be processed as soon as we can meet. The Post is still collecting for the Food Bank, so when shopping, pick up a few extra nonperishable items. Your donations can be dropped off on Saturday and Sunday in the lobby of the Post, between 12-5. Thank you to Fulton Loppatto for his daily messages filled with fun stories and jokes. It is helping us stay connected. If you can, get out for a walk, as long as you distance yourself. Sweat if you can, for that nasty virus hates heat and our bodies may look better when we meet again. Stay safe, healthy and keep smiling. I am looking forward to seeing all of you soon.

Let us always remember those who served and always try harder to serve them better.

Loyally yours,
Carol Weber
Auxiliary President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTES

March certainly has been a month to remember. The Board had three emergency meetings. The first was to discuss how Covid 19 was going to affect the Post the second the "possibility" of shutting down only to find when we met that our liquor license had been suspended. We tried to do takeout and Mark came up with some great menus for that. Our last meeting was an online meeting. We discussed the fact that the Governor was shutting down the entire state and what to do. We decided to stop takeout and the close all activity at the Post. We also came up with how to take care of "Family"....Our Bartenders, Cooks and Cleaning people. (Thank You Bill) I believe we did right by them. We will be having a Post meeting on April 6th, however this meeting will be an Online Meeting using an App called Zoom....Fulton is working out the details Should be interesting.....and a Post first I believe. We did a test run today for our BOD Meeting.....we had eight members and approved Mason Dixon applications and financials.....I want to thank Fulton for setting this up.....Also for keeping us entertained each day with his emails. Thank You also to Bill Hensley for his hard work and devotion it keeping us running during these difficult and trying times.....Please Stay Safe.....Check on your neighbors and fellow Post Family. Together we will get through these difficult times and come out of it Better and Stronger.

Chairman Hal Dietrich

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families who have lost loved ones. Eternal rest grant unto them O' Lord, may the perpetual light shine upon them, and may they rest in peace. Amen.



*Maureen Scanlon
Joseph J. Borek
Donald J. Lynch
Donna Coleman
Connie O'Neal*

Please call John Mitchell at 302-381-9934 for the VFW or Theo Loppatto at 302-537-5661 for the Auxiliary, if a member is sick or has passed away.

SERVICE OFFICER OUTREACH

Coronavirus

Call your [VA medical center](#) before going to a clinic, urgent care, or emergency room, especially if you have symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath. Calling first helps them protect you, medical staff, and other patients. Ask your VA health care team about the option of care by phone or video instead of an in-person visit. We also ask that visitors who feel unwell postpone their visits to VA facilities. The number for the Georgetown Clinic is 1-800-461-8262 Ext 2300.

VA announces change to urgent care in Community Care Network Region 1

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is transitioning its urgent care network manager, effective March 18, from TriWest Healthcare Alliance to Optum Public Sector Solutions, Inc. (Optum), which is part of UnitedHealth Group, Inc., in Community Care Network Region 1. The change will result in new urgent care providers being added to VA's contracted network, while others will be removed. These changes in Veterans' urgent care are part of the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Outside Networks Act of 2018 or [MISSION Act](#). Veterans have the option for [urgent care treatment](#) of minor injuries and illnesses such as colds, sore throats and minor skin infections at in-network non-VA urgent care providers. Additionally, Veterans can receive same-day urgent care treatment at VA medical centers.

“VA is working to ensure Veterans in Region 1 understand how this change will affect them,” said VA Secretary Robert L. Wilkie. “The goal is to provide Veterans a seamless transition when seeking urgent care in their communities.”

Not all urgent care providers currently in the Region 1 network will be authorized to provide care after March 18. Conversely, new providers who are not currently authorized through the TriWest network will be available through Optum's network beginning March 18. VA can only pay for urgent care if the provider is part of VA's contracted network. **If Veterans go to an out-of-network urgent care provider, they will be required to pay the full cost of care.**

The change in network management will also affect pharmacies. Veterans who require [urgent care prescriptions](#) of 14 days or less can find an [authorized in-network provider](#) or contact their local

VA medical facility to identify a VA network pharmacy to avoid paying out-of-pocket costs. Community providers within Region 1 who want to provide urgent care services to Veterans after March 18 must establish a contract with [Optum](#). The change will impact Veterans in the following locations: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, D.C. and West Virginia. Veterans in these states who need urgent care should use VA's [facility locator](#) or contact their local VA medical facility for help identifying in-network urgent care providers.

Rich Fales, Post Service Officer
Cell:(301) 325-3813
Email: Smokey1st@netzero.net

ALERT FROM SERVICE OFFICER

Beware of scams related to the coronavirus

By [Erin Scheithe](#) – MAR 27, 2020

Scammers are taking advantage of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic to con people into giving up their money. Though the reason behind their [fraud](#) is new, their tactics are familiar. It can be even harder to prevent scams right now because people 65 and older aren't interacting with as many friends, neighbors and senior service providers due to efforts to slow the spread of disease.

Those who are ill or don't feel comfortable potentially exposing themselves may need someone to help with errands. Be cautious when accepting offers of help and use trusted delivery services for supplies and food. During this time of uncertainty, knowing about possible scams is a good first step toward preventing them. The [Money Smart for Older Adults resource guide](#) and our [scam prevention handouts and activities](#) offer telltale signs of a variety of scams, and here are a few coronavirus-specific scams to look out for.

[Scams offering COVID-19 vaccine, cure, air filters, testing](#)

The [FTC warned](#) about an increasing number of scams related to vaccines, test kits, cures or treatments, and air filter systems designed to remove COVID-19 from the air in your home. There is no vaccine for this virus, and there is no cure. [Testing is available](#) through your local and state governments, but these tests are not delivered to your house. If you receive a phone call, email, text message, or letter with claims to sell you any of these items—it's a scam.

Fake coronavirus-related charity scams

A [charity scam](#) is when a thief poses as a real charity or makes up the name of a charity that sounds real to get money from you. Be careful about any charity calling you asking for donations. If you are able to help financially, visit the website of the organization of your choice to make sure your money is going to the right place. And be wary if you get a call following up on a donation pledge that you don't remember making—it could be a scam.

“Person in need” scams

Scammers could use the circumstances of the coronavirus to pose as a [grandchild](#), relative or friend who claims to be ill, stranded in another state or foreign country, or otherwise in trouble, and ask you to send money. They may ask you to send cash by mail or buy gift cards. These scammers often beg you keep it a secret and act fast before you ask questions. Don't panic! Take a deep breath and get the facts. Don't send money unless you're sure it's the real person who contacted you. Hang up and call your grandchild or friend's phone number to see if the story checks out. You could also call a different friend or relative.

Scams targeting your Social Security benefits

While local Social Security Administration (SSA) offices are closed to the public due to COVID-19 concerns, [SSA will not suspend or decrease](#) Social Security benefit payments or Supplemental Security Income payments due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Scammers may mislead people into believing they need to provide personal information or pay by gift card, wire transfer, internet currency, or by mailing cash to maintain regular benefit payments during this period. Any communication that says SSA will suspend or decrease your benefits due to COVID-19 is a scam, whether you receive it by letter, text, email, or phone call. Report Social Security scams to the SSA Inspector General online at oig.ssa.gov.

The bottom line

The best defense is to say NO if anyone contacts you and asks for your Social Security number, bank account number, credit card information, [Medicare ID](#) number, drivers license number or any other personally identifiable information by phone, in person, by text message, or email. Report scams to ftc.gov/complaint. The [Eldercare Locator](#), a public service of the U.S. Administration on Aging, can connect older adults and their families to services. You can also call 1-800-677-1116.

For more information about resources available to help consumers manage their finances during this time, please visit the CFPB's coronavirus response webpage. For more information about the government's response, visit the government-wide COVID-19 response webpage.

CANTEEN CORNER

Every one of my articles talks about what will be happening at the Post for the upcoming Month. Well this will be very short, because the Post will be closed until it is deemed safe to reopen. We are all doing what we are supposed to do during these unbelievable times. The fun, the laughter, the music and the good times will return to the Post. We will need your support more than ever when this is over. We will have a St Patrick's Day Party we just do not know the date. The Craft show can be rescheduled, and all events that we had scheduled, we will find dates so every event will happen. Our job right now is to make sure we are doing the right thing by staying home and checking on other members to make sure everyone is safe. A simple phone call means a lot to someone who is alone.

Remember we as a country will beat this and when Safe return to The Post for our normal activities.

Hope everyone is Safe
Mark

VFW GOLF ASSOCIATION

VFW Golf Association members play golf each Tuesday at the Salt Pond Golf Course. Please show-up at 8:30 a.m. for 9:00 a.m. tee time. Just a heads-up that effective June 2 we will change to our Summer hours: show at 7:30 for an 8:00 tee time. Remember all are welcome!!!

In response to the coronavirus pandemic the Salt Pond Golf Course is taking precautionary measures, such as "solo" golf carts, to prevent or minimize exposure. Please check with the pro shop about protocols in place on the day you play golf.

If you are thinking about joining the Golf Association, please contact our President, Ken Smith, at 267-228-7285 or madriverven1946@gmail.com for more information.

E

YOUR COMPUTER: HE OR SHE?

You know how some inanimate things are sometimes referred to by masculine or feminine gender. For



example, ships are typically referred to as “she” and “her”. And people sometimes personify objects that have an emotional attachment, like their cars, with gender names. But what about your computer? I just heard about one interesting study.

A group of adults taking a computer science class at a

community college were divided by gender with the men on one side and the women on the other. The professor asked each side to determine what gender computers should be. After the assigned time limit, the professor asked for decisions and the reasons.

The men said that they voted unanimously that computers should be referred to in the feminine gender. They had four reasons:

- First, no one but their creator understands their internal logic;
- Second, when computers communicate with each other, they speak in code language which only they and experts understand;
- Third, every mistake you make is stored on their hard drive for later retrieval; and
- Fourth, because as soon as you commit to one, you find yourself spending a lot of money accessorizing it.

The women had the last word on the issue. They voted unanimously that computers must be in the masculine gender. Their reasons:

- First, in order to get their attention, you have to turn them on;
- Second, they have a lot of data, but still can't think for themselves;
- Third, they're supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they are the problem; and
- Fourth, as soon as you commit to one you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have gotten a better model!

We report. You decide.

Finally, here are some special dates in April to think about.

April 1. April Fools' Day. According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, the name may have originated in 16th Century France. At that time, New Year's Day (or week) began on March 25, with a full week of partying and exchanging gifts until April 1. In 1582, the new authoritative Gregorian calendar moved New Year's Day to January 1. Those who forgot or refused to follow the new calendar and continued to recognize April 1 were called April Fools. True or not, watch out for the practical jokers.

April 6. Army Day (on the VFW calendar).

April 7. National Beer Day! It's a about time!

April 8. Passover begins at sundown.

April 9. National Former POW Recognition Day.

April 12. Easter Sunday.

April 19. Orthodox Easter.

April 23. Happy Birthday to the Army Reserve, recognizing the anniversary of the creation of the Army Reserve Medical Corps by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908.

April 29. Patent for the first zipper issued (1913). They're still working on it.

Hope everyone enjoys every social distancing day and stays well in April.

Jerry Hardiman

IN MEMORIAM:

MAUREEN FERGUSON SCANLON, RN

On March 2, 2020, two days before her 98th birthday, we said “farewell for now” to our friend, Maureen Scanlon. Appropriately, March was also Women's History Month and Maureen was an important part of our history. She was, among many things, a nurse, a World War II veteran, the first woman member of VFW Post 724 and an active and valued member of the Post for many years. Rosemary and I had the pleasure of interviewing her a few years ago in connection with a WWII program at the Post. Here are a few highlights from our notes.

From Ireland to Service in WWII. Maureen was born in Ireland and came to the United States with her parents and brothers when she was four years old. When she graduated from St. Joseph School of Nursing in Pittsburgh in 1943, she saw a notice in a local paper advertising for nurses for the military services. She hesitated to respond because two of her brothers were already in the military. But her father, who was always so grateful to be in America, saw the ad and told her: “Maureen, if I was a nurse, this is what I would do.” With that, she answered the call to service.

Around that time, she discovered that she wasn't a U.S. citizen. Her parents had become citizens, but weren't aware of the naturalization requirement for their children born in Ireland. However, a kindly judge helped expedite the process and Maureen was able to join the Army as a citizen.

Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1944 after training, she was sent immediately to France. She was assigned to a field hospital in General Patton's Third Army. Her memories of that time include caring for large numbers of combat casualties, especially in Belgium, and field hospital conditions. The operating and intensive care units were in Quonset huts, but the patient recovery areas and quarters for the doctors, nurses and other staff were all in crowded tents. We can all imagine the conditions with the fast-moving Third Army.

One story Maureen remembered was that they were sometimes short on supplies. One night in a patient tent she told the doctor on duty that they had run out of medication to help the recovering patients sleep and asked for advice. His response was "I don't know. Just give them a kiss good night." The soldiers overheard and loved it. Thereafter, whenever she was on duty they would call out: "Oh nurse, oh nurse, I can't sleep." Maureen said there were a lot of laughs even in difficult circumstances.

After WWII. When the war in Europe ended, they expected to be sent to the Pacific, but with the surrender of Japan that didn't happen. Maureen returned to civilian life and pursued her nursing career. While studying for her Masters degree at Catholic University in Washington, DC around 1950, she met her husband, Dan Scanlon, who was studying civil engineering. After graduation, they married in 1954 and raised a family. Maureen cared for patients in a number of hospitals until she retired from Providence Hospital in Washington, DC in 1982.

After Dan retired, they moved to Sea Colony and Maureen became an active member and volunteer at St. Ann's Church and our VFW Post. We honor her service to our country during World War II, her care of so many patients over the years, and her service in our community. She will be missed. Rest in peace, Maureen.

Jerry Hardiman

COVID 19
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

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CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

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www.cdc.gov/COVID19

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LEADERSHIP TEAM

Commander	Dean Levering
Sr. Vice Cmdr	Hal Dietrich
Jr. Vice Cmdr	Tony Adams
Quartermaster	Bill Hensley
Adjutant	Fulton Loppatto
Chaplain	John Mitchell
Judge Advocate	John Gossart Jr.
Surgeon	George Hickman
Officer of the Day	Rob Gill
Guard	James Jensen
Service Officer	Rich Fales
Honor Guard Capt	Paul Burbank
Trustee	Danny Steele
Trustee	George Smith
Trustee	Ed Wolfe

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President	Fulton Loppatto
Treasurer	Bill Hensley
Secretary	Ken Weber
Board Member	Frank Mathers
Board Member	Tony Adams
Board Member	Hal Barber
Board Member	John Mitchell
Board Member	Rick Delaney
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AUXILIARY TEAM

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Jr Vice Pres	Dale Weese
Secretary	Ty Magliola
Treasurer	Roberta Walter
Chaplain	Theo Loppatto
Guard	Shirley Stong
Conductress	Karen Vitsorek
Patriotic Ins	Jackie Umstetter
Trustee	Connie Weber
Trustee	Debbie Vischer-Jensen
Trustee	Larry Hamby

Our Sr Vice Commander, Hal Dietrich is a notary. He will provide notary services to members at no cost. Donations to the VFW will be accepted. Please call the post at 302-539-9981 to schedule.

FOOD BANK

Please continue to drop off food items at the entry way. We continue to support our local families in need. Thank you for your donations.

**VFW POST 7234 HONOR GUARD TO BECOME A MEMBER, PLEASE CONTACT PAUL BURBANK
757-288-6248**

**Member in Need of Assistance
Please call:
Dean Levering 443-553-1167**

**Member Sick or Deceased
Please call:
For VFW – John Mitchell 302-381-9934
For Aux – Theo Loppatto 302-537-5661**

**Assistance with VA claims or benefits
Please call:
Rich Fales (301)325-3813 or email me at
Smokey1st@netzero.net**

**For the Latest Updates and News
Please send your email to
vfwpost7234@vfw7234.com**