



The Heritage

Heritage Chapter Bluebills
Boeing Retiree Volunteer Newsletter

January 2015

WWW.BLUEBILLS.ORG

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 1

Chairman's Corner

By Doug Hoople



Welcome to 2015 and welcome from the new leadership team.

Something unusual happened on the way to the Bluebills' elections this year.

In all three chapters and the Central Leadership Council, there was only one candidate for each leadership position. In two chapters the only candidates were the existing officers. In the Heritage Chapter, there was a new candidate for Chairman and only one candidate for each of the other positions.

The various Chapter Leadership teams and the Central Leadership Council all agreed that the cost of mailing out ballots for single candidates was not an effective use of budget or mailing resources. The Heritage Chapter Leadership voted unanimously to not send out ballots.

So this year no ballots were mailed out to any Bluebill.

As the new chairman of the Heritage Chapter I'm looking forward to getting more involved with the operation of our endeavors to volunteer our time, energy, skills, knowledge and experience to improve our quality of life and our communities. (That is a rephrasing of the mission statement of the Bluebills and my mission while in office.)

With Don Hilt and Howard Syder as Vice-Chairmen we will have some valued experience

on the leadership team (and the knowledge and advice to keep me out of trouble). I hope that our committee chairs will continue their important work coordinating and recording our efforts.

I personally have been mainly involved with Veteran boards, organizations and projects for the past many years. I believe it is time for those of us who have not been directly involved with the leadership of our organization to step up and relieve those who have carried the responsibilities for us in the past. We all need to contribute to carrying on the traditions established by a few dedicated individuals who believe in a strong organization to improve our communities through volunteer assistance and personal commitment.

Will you join me in taking on new responsibilities as we need to replace valued people in key areas. I know that we will need someone to take over as Historian, RAPCO and recorder.

At the end of each of these monthly Chairman's Corner notes I would like to acknowledge someone who has provided us with insight or service in the Bluebill tradition. This month, Jim Beasley is the individual I'd like to highlight. Anybody who has been a program or speaker coordinator/chairman knows how difficult it is to find program speakers month after month. Jim has provided us with great speakers and programs that have inspired, educated and entertained us for the past several years. Thank you Jim for your many hours of effort. At the next meeting, please take a moment to stop by and thank him.



Busy B's

by Janice Hawes

Hi Bluebills,

The Busy B's are on "vacation" until the third week of January. We all wish you all a very Happy New Year and hope you had a great Holiday season.

Mr Gorsky

Submitted by Jim Beasley



In case you didn't already know this little tidbit of wonderful trivial.

On July 20, 1969 as commander of the Apollo 11 Lunar Module, Neil Armstrong was the first person to set foot on the moon.

His first words after stepping on the moon. "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," were televised to earth and heard by millions. But, just before he re-entered the Lander, he made the enigmatic remark "Good Luck, Mr. Gorsky." Many people at NASA thought it was a casual remark concerning some rival soviet cosmonaut.

However, upon checking, there was no Gorsky in either the Russian or American space programs. Over the years, many people questioned Armstrong as to what the 'Good Luck Mr. Gorsky' statement meant, but Armstrong always just smiled.

On July 5, 1995, in Tampa, Florida, while on answering questions following a speech, a reporter brought up the 26 year old question about Mr. Gorsky to Armstrong. This time he finally responded because Mr. Gorsky had just died, so Neil Armstrong felt he could answer the question.

Here is the answer to "Who was Mr. Gorsky."

In 1938 when he was a kid in a small mid-western town, he was playing baseball with a friend in the backyard. His friend hit the ball, which landed in his neighbor's yard by their bedroom window. His neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Gorsky. As he leaned

down to pick up the ball, young Armstrong heard Mrs. Gorsky shouting at Mr. Gorsky, "Sex! You want sex?! You'll get sex when the kid next door walks on the moon!"

It broke the place up.

Neil Armstrong's family confirmed that this is a true story.

December Chapter Meeting Recap

By Mary Ulibarri

Chairman Howard Syder called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Two December birthdays were recognized: Millard Battles and James Burrows. Jean Derheim stated she and the mister celebrated their 44-year anniversary. Howard then presented the official Bluebills airplane picture to our Volunteers of the Year - Bill and Vicki Lee. They were out of town during the Annual Awards Luncheon in November. They donated the funds collected from the luncheon in the amount of \$1,200 to the Seattle Red Cross.

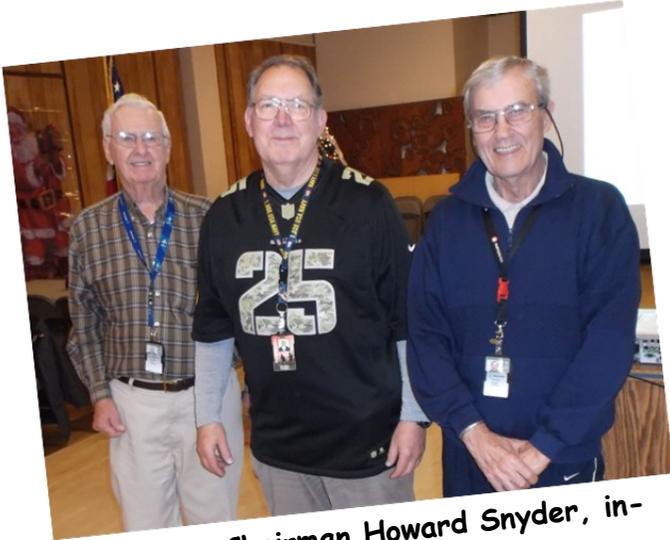
Next the Heritage Officers for 2015 were announced. They are: Chairman Doug Hoople and Vice Chairmens Don Hilt and Howard Syder.

Central Leadership new members are: Bert Goldstein, Lonnie Stevenson, Myron Vogt and Dick Ostlund. Members carried over from this year are: Millard Battles, Bill Lee, Fran Parker and Janice Hawes. Congratulations one and all.

Fran Parker stated a Christmas card was being passed around for Maybelle Brickley who was unable to attend due to health reasons. The situation looks bleak and she has requested no visitors. Fortunately, family members are with her. Please keep her in your thoughts.

Howard invited the 56-plus attendees to help themselves to the large variety of food items provided, which included hors d'ouerves, slow cooker dishes, many salads, crackers, cheese, cold cuts, chips, deviled eggs, fruit and a plethora of yummy desserts. If anyone walked away hungry, they weren't trying hard enough.

Howard then held the door prize drawings, which included double the usual number of gifts and the Poinsettia plants on the tables. After thanking everyone for supporting his chairmanship this year, he adjourned the meeting with **best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**



Outgoing Chairman Howard Snyder, introduces new Chairman, Doug Hoople and Vice Chairman, Don Hilt



Bill and Vicki Lee receive the Outstanding Volunteer of the



**Christmas Potluck
VFW Post 1263,
Renton, WA**









Election of Bluebills Central Leadership Council Members

Submitted by Norma Vaughn, CLC Chairman

In past years the Bluebills organization has held elections of members to the Central Leadership Council (CLC). This year (2014) we needed to elect four (4) members from all three chapters to serve on the Council for 2015 and 2016. When the nominating committee searched for candidates there were four Bluebills who agreed to run for these openings. Since this was the number of open positions, the Council voted at their December meeting to not send out ballots but to declare these four candidates elected to those positions.

Traditionally, returned ballots have had only a few write-in votes and the cost of postage and envelopes plus the time involved in a mailing were determined to be a major factor in order to save our budget.

We hope you do not find this to be a problem but if you would like to speak to someone about it, please call the office (206-544-6286). A Council member will re-

turn your call. Thank you.

RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH A COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA)

*By Kirk Larson
Social Security Washington Public Affairs Specialist*

Happy New Year from Social Security! Put down the champagne and ring in the New Year with a COLA! And we don't mean the soda. In 2015, nearly 64 million Americans who receive Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) will receive a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increase to their monthly benefit payments of 1.7 percent.

The average monthly Social Security benefit for a retired worker in 2015 is \$1,328. The average monthly Social Security benefit for a disabled

worker in 2015 is \$1,165. The State of Washington the average payment is a little higher at \$1,398 for a retired worker and \$1,168 for a disabled worker.

For people who receive SSI, the maximum federal payment amount increased to \$733 (up from \$721 in 2014).

Other Social Security changes in 2015 are also worth noting. For example, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security payroll tax will increase to \$118,500 (up from \$117,000 in 2014). A worker will earn one credit toward Social Security coverage after paying taxes on \$1,220 in earnings in 2015 (up from \$1,200 in 2014). As a reminder, eligibility for retirement benefits still requires 40 credits (usually about 10 years of work).

Information about Medicare changes for 2015 is available at www.medicare.gov.

The Social Security Act outlines how the COLA is calculated. To read more about the COLA, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/cola.

To learn more about your own Social Security benefits visit www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount/ - Over 15 million people have already created their own online account.

ARE YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS TAXABLE?

By Kirk Larson
Social Security Washington Public Affairs Specialist

If you've recently begun receiving Social Security benefits or plan to apply in the near future, you may be wondering this tax season: are Social Security benefits taxable?

The short answer is: sometimes.

Some people have to pay federal income taxes on their Social Security benefits. This usually happens only if you have other substantial income (such as wages, self-employment, interest, dividends and other taxable income that must be reported on your tax return) in addition to your Social Security benefits.

There is never a case when a person pays tax on more than 85 percent of his or her Social Security benefits, based on Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules. Now, let's get down to the numbers.

If you file a federal tax return as an individual and your income is between \$25,000 and \$34,000, you may have to pay income tax on up to 50 percent of your benefits. If your income is more than \$34,000, then up to 85 percent of your benefits may be taxable.

If you are married and you file a joint return, and you and your spouse have a combined income that is between \$32,000 and \$44,000, you may have to pay income tax on up to 50 percent of your benefits. If your combined income is more than \$44,000, then up to 85 percent of your benefits may be taxable.

Note that your "income" for the purpose of determining whether you must pay taxes on some of your Social Security benefits includes your adjusted gross income, your nontaxable interest, and one half of your Social Security benefits.

In January, you should have received a *Social Security Benefit Statement* showing the amount of benefits you received last year. You can use this statement, or SSA-1099, when completing your federal income tax return to find out whether some of your benefits are subject to federal income tax. If you didn't receive yours, you can request one at www.socialsecurity.gov/1099.

So, are your Social Security benefits taxable? Maybe. To learn more, read page 14 of our booklet, *Retirement Benefits*, available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs or visit www.irs.gov/ to obtain more detailed information on the subject.

Calendar of Events 2015

Jan 15	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Jan 30	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Feb 12	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Feb 27	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Mar 12	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Mar 27	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Apr 16	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Apr 24	Chapter Monthly Meeting
May 14	Heritage Leadership Meeting
May 29	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Jun 11	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Jun 26	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Jul 16	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Jul 31	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Aug 13	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Aug 28	Chapter Picnic (TBD)
Sep 10	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Sept 25	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Oct 15	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Oct 30	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Nov 12	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Nov 20	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Dec 10	Heritage Leadership Meeting
Dec 18	Chapter Monthly Meeting

Food Bank Schedule For 2015

Bring a non-perishable food item to monthly meetings to be given to a different food bank each month.

January	Highline	Marian Herrin
February	Bellevue	Doug Hoople
March	Federal Way	Jim & Bambi Lee
April	Maple Valley	Vaughn's
May	Kent	Bob Stubbs
June	Auburn	Lonnie Stevenson
July	West Seattle	Marian Herrin
August	Tacoma	Ted & Judy Leyden
September	Renton	Bob Lambert
October	White Center	Eileen Bear
November	Issaquah	Eleanor Skinner
December	Des Moines	Dave & Mary Frantz

Bluebills - Heritage Chapter

PO Box 3707 M/C 2T-04

Seattle, WA 98124

(206) 544-6286

e-mail: bluebills@boeing.com

Web Site: www.bluebills.org

Doug Hoople	Chairman ddhoople@earthlink.net
Howard Syder	Vice Chairman handjsyder@comcast.net
Don Hilt	Vice Chairman dphilt@aol.com
Gary Palmer	Vice Chairman garipalmer@juno.com
Roland Machado	Agency Relations ramachado2@comcast.net
Norma Vaughn	Office Manager abbyrose00@MSN.com
<i>(Open)</i>	Retiree Assistance
<i>(Open)</i>	Volunteers
Millard Battles/Dick Cihak	Education mtbattles@aol.com / dickcihak@aol.com
Karen Baker	Historian bakerkm2@comcast.net
Ron Hanson	Computers hansonis@aol.com
Dick Beham	Newsletter—Webmaster rsqdnrc@foxinternet.net
Janice Hawes	Busy B's j.s.hawes@comcast.net
Jim Beasley	Speaker Coordinator jimcarlab@hotmail.com
Jim Lee	Special Projects jimtleee@comcast.net
Fran Parker	School Supplies for Children parker33@q.com
Mary Ulibarri	Newsletter co-editor bbbeditor@live.com

Bluebills Heritage Chapter Meeting



January 30, 2015

VFW Post 1263
416 Burnett Ave S
Renton, WA

10:00 AM—12 Noon

Speaker: Hayden Wartes, Seattle YMCA

Topic: "Seniors and Their Health at The YMCA."

Bring a non-perishable food item to monthly meetings to be given to a different food bank each month

Please Note:

The Bluebills monthly meetings are held at the VFW Post 1263, 416 Burnett Ave South, Renton, WA. Parking is available in the lot immediately across the street from the VFW.

Bluebills Monthly Volunteer Hours

Volunteer Name _____

Phone Number _____

_____ **Hours worked** _____ **For** _____
(month/year) (agency name)

_____ **Hours worked** _____ **For** _____
(month/year) (agency name)

_____ **Hours worked** _____ **For** _____
(month/year) (agency name)

Please send completed hours form to Bluebills, PO Box 3707 2T-04, Seattle, WA 98124
Email to bluebills@boeing.com or bring to Bluebills monthly meeting

