

FRA - NORTHWEST REGIONAL

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Shipmates, this will be my last newsletter prior to the Northwest Regional Convention in September 2013.

This year I asked that you use your **Communication** skills with me for any issues or problems within your branches before I heard about them from FRA National Headquarters. You have done great in that respect. It was not always great news, but we handled it together.

I ask that you continue contacting your Northwest Regional Officers first as we transition to the new set of Regional Officers. This means if a Shipmate or Unit member has a question, start with your Branch or Unit leaders first, then to Regional leaders.

Branch Reports have due dates and must be filled out correctly to be considered for any national or branch awards. The March mailings from National Headquarters to Branch Secretaries included the Branch Officer Report forms and the Committee Report Forms. Please make sure you are using the most current copies. These forms can all be found on the FRA Website under the Branch and Regional Officer Section. The attached Northwest Regional Committee Listing on page 3 will help you contact your committee chairmen for any help concerning your reports. You may also contact me if you are unable to reach the appropriate Regional Committee Chairman.

Regional PCT Dues notices have been sent out to the Northwest Regional Branches by email or the U.S. Postal Service by the Northwest Regional Treasurer. Please get your regional PCT dues paid to the Northwest Regional Treasurer prior to the Northwest Convention in September to avoid having your branch suspended for non-payment of these dues.

Conventions, Delegates, and Proxies - Please encourage your branch's participation in the Northwest Regional and the National Conventions. Without your voice or proxy, your branch will not be represented. Please fill out the convention delegate forms for both conventions and return them to me with a copy to the Regional Vice President and the Northwest Regional Credentials Chairman, Shipmate McKenzie. I know that all the Branch Secretaries should have received their March National Mailings and copies of the national delegate forms are included. The Regional Delegate form, and the National one, can be found on the FRA Website in the Branch and Regional Officer Section. If you need help getting on the FRA website please call me.

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The **2013 Northwest Regional Convention** is being hosted by Bremerton Branch 29. It will be on September 20-21, 2013 at the Baymont Inn & Suites at 5640 Kitsap Way, Bremerton, WA. The 2013 Regional Convention Committee will be sending out one last notice soon. Get your reservations made and your monies into the Convention Chairman for the meals. Candidates for Northwest Regional Officers are Branch 382 Shipmate and current RVPNW Dan Holloway for Northwest Regional President and Branch 59 Shipmate Mike Archer for Northwest Regional Vice President.

The 2014 Northwest Regional Convention will be held in Spokane, WA and is hosted jointly by Inland Empire Branch 38 of Spokane and Lewis & Clark Branch 63 of Lewiston, ID.

The **86the FRA & 81st LAFRA National Convention** will be held October 14-20, 2013 at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo Hotel in Chattanooga, TN. There are three letters from the National Convention Committee posted on the Regional Website, **fra-nwregion.org** under the Conventions tab. Please get the delegate credential forms in to me and the convention credentials chairman. Your branch's votes are needed.

The 2014 National Convention will be in Corpus Christi, TX.

The Northwest Region is actively working to submit a bid for the 2015 National Convention. Lead Coordinator JrPRPNW Lazzaretti has received information from FRA HQ and their convention planners on what is needed and bids are being received. We have asked the planners to look at the Seattle, WA area, Portland, OR area, and the greater Spokane, WA area (including the Coeur d'Alene, ID vicinity). We are hoping that all Northwest Region Branches will assist in this endeavor if the Northwest Region is selected for the 2015 national convention.

Branch Visits - I have visited fifteen of the Northwest Region's 32 branches to date. I have had the honor of installing the officers of several of the branches I have visited. The last branch I plan to visit will be Branch 59 in Cheyenne, WY on August 1st.

I did not get to visit the Branch 342 in Anchorage, Alaska, but was able to talk to one of our Shipmates from that Branch. The Shipmate lives 300 miles from Anchorage, but he keeps up-to-date on issues by using the FRA website and the FRA Action Center. I gave him the Northwest Region's website address and he will dial into it to keep up with Regional activities. Keep up the support Branch 342!

We are losing one Northwest Region Branch, #374 from Salem, OR. They have requested to turn in their charter to National HQ. Some shipmates are transferring to other active branches and some will go to the MAL list. JrPRPNW Lazzaretti and I attended their last meeting on May 19th where they performed their Memorial Day observance on the Willamette Queen and placing a memorial wreath in the river in remembrance of our "Departed Shipmates and Comrades in Arms". We wish them well and hope they remain members of the FRA.

All Northwest Region Branches are busy with their branch sponsored summer activities to show what our organization is about. As you attend these activities, please take pictures and submit an article to our regional webmaster for posting on the regional website. They can also be submitted to FRA Today for possible publication.

Regional Website - The Northwest Region's website is at http://fra-nwregion.org. I would encourage each branch to submit to our Regional Webmaster, JrPRPNW Pete Lazzaretti, what they would like to see on the website in addition to the basic contact information. Please submit photos of events that you participate in to be published on the website. All website submissions should be sent to webmaster@fra-nwregion.org. The Regional Webmaster adds new information as it comes from FRA Headquarters.

In Loyalty, Protection, and Service

RPNW Margret "Peg" Burke, Inland Empire Branch #038, Spokane, WA

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|--|-------------------------------------|--|
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