



TO ALL BRANCH, AUXILIARY AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Board of Governors: Tues May 2 @ 9AM

Board of Directors: Monday May 8 @ 4 PM

Branch Meeting: Wednesday May 10 @ 5 PM

FRA National website: <http://www.fra.org/>

Well all, here we are in May. Almost half way through 2017 already, oh my...Not sure about you, but to me the time seems to be going so quickly.

With that being said, our National convention this year will be having a new proposal concerning eligibility. The FRA is looking to modify the eligibility requirements to include ALL branches of the military. Currently, Branch membership is limited to only enlisted members (served at least 1 day active enlisted and honorably discharged) for Navy, Marines and Coast Guard. The new proposal is to allow ALL branches, to include Army and Air Force. That would mean that all of you that served in any branch as enlisted (for at least 1 day) would be branch members and able to vote and participate in leadership for the FRA 170. We in the Branch believe this to be a good initiative and voted for it.

May is a very busy month for the Branch as we hold elections, and a visit from our Regional President, Shipmate NWRP Peg Burke. Speaking of elections and the installation of officers, we would like to do the installation on the dance floor of the club during our June Branch meeting. That would be on June 14th, between 5 and 6 PM, just before Queen of Hearts drawing. I have asked the Board of Governors for this privilege and they have said that would be a great thing! So please join us as we install our officers and Board of Directors in the club on June 14th.

We have a couple of big anniversaries in May for Branch members. They are:

- David Hembd-25 years
- Elbert Pama-25 years

If you see these fine people please congratulate them for their honored and faithful service.

Not sure if you all are aware, but we have a suggestion box in the Club. That is used to make any suggestions, criticisms or praises, all alike. Please feel free to use it to let us know how we are doing and what changes you would like to see. We take all of them to heart. **ALL** suggestions are handled by the Board of Governors. For those of you who are not aware of how we at the Branch and Club 170 run things let me explain (the best I can). You see, we have no one person that has any power to make any change within our organization. We use boards, and these boards have specific and limited scope of abilities. The boards are:

- Board of Governors
- Board of Directors
- Branch Meeting

Let's address the Board of Governors first. These elected volunteers are the members who oversee the enterprise, known to you as the club. This includes gaming, pull tabs, lottery, activities, the galley, and the liquor servicing to include the staff. The staff is our Club Manager, Cheryl, all the bar staff and the club

administration. All operations are “governed” by the Board of Governors. So that also include the suggestion box. They review 100% of the suggestions and if you sign the suggestion they will respond in writing back to you with their findings. The board does everything to make your experience at your Club the most enjoyable and they do a great job!! Our club/branch is by far the best club/branch that I have seen in the past 25 years of experiencing them. Membership to the Board of Governors is limited to Branch members in good standing. The Board of Governors and CLUB 170 is not affiliated with the FRA, it exists only as a separate entity of Branch 170, but the Branch is 100% accountable for all activity of the club.

Next, the Board of Directors. This board is comprised of Branch members, elected volunteers, to triage business prior to the Branch meeting, which is why it is held 2 days prior to the Branch meeting. This board reviews prior minutes from the Board of Directors meeting, hears minutes and reviews reporting from the Board of Governors, votes on spending, giving, planning, work parties and all business that the branch needs to hear. This meeting is one hour in length usually, but no limits are imposed on time as we need to ensure all business is dealt with.

Last but not least is the Branch. The Branch is the power behind the FRA Branch 170. All business for Branch 170 is voted on, discussed and carried out in this meeting. The branch members in good standing have the final vote. The president facilitates this meeting and keeps the agenda, and it is formally conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order. The Branch is responsible for ALL activity of FRA 170.

We also have an Auxiliary (Unit), which is run like the branch and membership is limited to family (Grandparents down to grandchildren to include brothers and sisters) of Branch/military eligible (if deceased) members.

I hope this sheds some light on how we conduct our business and hopefully it will spark your desire to serve. We encourage all to come to our meetings and listen, vote and get involved. Remember, if you want to come to a meeting please bring your ID card or have it electronically. You will be asked. This is your Club/Branch.

Leadership is not something that comes easy to many people and for many it is a trait that is learned and honed over many years. I am very proud of our leaders of our Branch, Directors, Auxiliary, and Governors. One of those leaders I would like to recognize this month is Kyle Greenwood. He is our Branch Membership Chairman. His job is to keep membership, report on anniversaries, keep track of members and their family members, bring sick and ailing people to the branch so we can assist them and their families and work with National on departed shipmates. Kudos Kyle-keep up the great work!!

Don't forget, May 5th at 1730 (5:30 PM) is award night at Everett High. I will be reading a citation and having Jan Craigen present the scholarship and check to an award winner. Looking forward to seeing some of you there.

We held nominations in the April meeting for Officers, in May we will vote and install. Please get involved Branch members, your Branch needs you!!

As I wrap up this letter I want to thank you all for reading it, coming to the Branch, Auxiliary, and Club 170 and participating and enjoying spending your time with us. Be kind to each other and let's continue to make this year special. May God Bless all of you, our wonderful city of Everett, our Armed Forces, and the United States of America...

In Loyalty,
Protection and Service
Irving Salsbury
President, Branch 170