



NW MASK BRIGADE

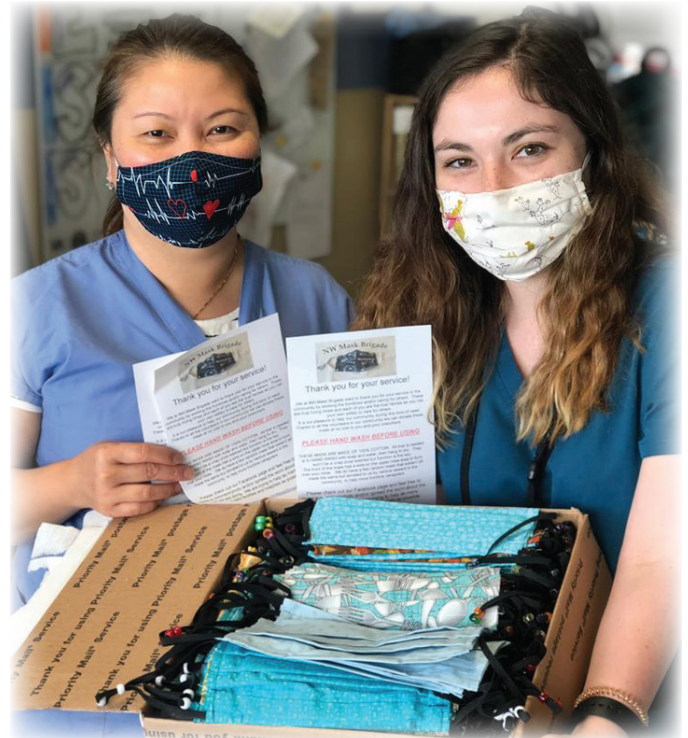
By Syl Ward

On March 19, 2020 I made 6 masks for a neighbor, who had asked if I could make fabric face masks. She wore one to the nursing home her mother lives at and the staff asked if I would be willing to sew some for them. Their PPE's were running low and they were going to need something, which would have been better than nothing. I offered to make them for free, being they are frontline caregivers.

When I found out how many they wanted, I put out a call for help. The Gig Harbor community came through like a thunderstorm and in that mix was someone that puts together the newsletter for the Gig Harbor Historical Museum. She posted my cry for help in their newsletter and I received a mailbox FULL of responses from citizens wanting to help, along with requests for masks from nursing homes and various other care facilities.

The requests were coming at me faster than I could think....so I went with it. I went to the fabric store spent over \$300 in fabric and supplies and started sewing and putting together kits for the volunteers wanting to help me. I came up with a name NW Mask Brigade because I knew things were quickly needing to be organized and thus NW Mask Brigade started its journey.

Mind you this was right before fabric masks were accepted and boy was I getting a LOT of flack from naysayers on the community pages. My focus was to help those on the frontlines. So, I text messaged my primary care doctor and he and I had a long conversation about fabric masks and he encouraged me to move forward because he felt there would be a great need for them. There's a lot that happened in how I made it all work (it was a mess...or maybe



President's Message

I hope that everyone is safe and healthy. We are experiencing some trying times right now, but we will get through this and eventually we will return to normal life. Until then we have cancelled our May and June regular meetings and Buncos, however our July Bunco is still on the calendar. The Board plans on meeting June 20th to make the final decision on the status of the July Bunco. Please follow our Open Facebook Page or Members Only Facebook group for updates. Take care of yourselves and each other!

I should say, I was a mess. My home was turned into headquarters, my windows were covered with stick em's to try to stay organized, I have two sewing stations, a cutting stations, ironing stations and at the entry way there's a table where all volunteers must sign in when checking out kits and/or returning finished masks. Little by little, things came together. My best friend from high school who lives in Mission Viejo, CA made a spreadsheet and developed a sign up form that was tied to the facebook page and the request for masks came in and the list of volunteers grew.

As of May 13, 2020 I have distributed 5800 fabric masks out of my home to frontline care givers, nursing homes, shelters, isolation centers, hospitals and first responders. From Hawaii, Idaho, Arizona, No. Carolina, California, of course Gig Harbor, Tacoma, eastern Washington, Seattle and many other places. The list is long.

Never did I ever think that my little idea to help one nursing home would grow into this. I had some help at the beginning, but it became overwhelming and too much of a commitment for them. So, I did it alone. Oh wait...my son Justin has been consistent in helping me. He would stand in the 2 hour lines just to get into Joann's to buy supplies I need, make pickups/deliveries and more.

I now have one person that helps me fund NWMB. A personal friend, totally unrelated to sports. She handles all emails that go to a dedicated email (NWMaskBrigade@gmail.com) And she schedules all comings and goings of volunteers needing supplies from my house. The entry way is sanitized each time someone leaves and there's tape on the floor for social distancing. The Gig Harbor community volunteers are the true above and beyond volunteers. Brian Deren, South Sound Sea Hawks, has done a couple of runs for me and I so appreciate it and he has also offered to help more. And I'm sure I will be calling him at some point.

It's a well oiled machine now thanks to Holly Bukes my friend from years back who is my right hand person. I have decided to give my volunteer hours to both Kirkland and South Sound Sea Hawks. Only because I was able to get a bit of help from Blanca at the beginning and I know Brian is there for me if I need him. Plus Justin is always there for me. The hours I have put into this project are at the minimum 470 hours, thus far and that's just from March 13.

The way I see it. My heart was bleeding for all those frontline caregivers. The least I could do was to help in my small way. If they can work under the conditions they are working...then I can work making masks, pulling 48 hours shifts (yes, I didn't go to bed at all, three different times)

Not sure when this will end...but, I'm in for the long haul. NWMB is making a difference for many out there. This I know, because I'm getting cards and thank you's from many receiving our masks from around the United States. This is NOT Syl doing something that matters...it's a community of the BEST volunteers coming together to make a difference for those on the frontlines. Plus, it has given me purpose in life.

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CENTRAL COUNCIL UPDATE

Central Council is looking for someone to fill the Secretary position (thru end of 2021) and the VP-Publicity (thru end of 2020)., Both positions need a capable and dependable individual. If you are interested in either please email Yolanda Morgan at president@seahawkers.org

Brian Deren has been selected to fill the Parliamentarian post thru the end of 2020. South Sound is now represented at Central Council by Cindi Lang and Steve Bucholtz.



SEAHAWKS

There is so much uncertainty about NFL football right now. We don't know if there will be a season, or what it will look like when we have one. The draft is done. The schedule has been announced. Will we be able to go to the games, or will they be played without fans? There are a lot of unanswered questions.

The Seahawks drafted eight players. They are Linebacker Jordyn Brooks in the first round, DE Darrell Taylor, second round, Offensive Lineman Damien Lewis third round, TE Coby Parkinson fourth round, RB DeeJay Dallas fourth round, DE Alton Robinson fifth round, WR Freddie Swain sixth round, WR Stephen Sullivan seventh round.

There is a flyer of the schedule attached.

SEA HAWKERS DEBIT CARD

We are developing a Sea Hawks branded debit card through a partnership we have developed with GroundSwell. We invite you to join us on the ground floor to bring thousands of fans to come together to heal our community and neighborhoods.

Some of the benefits of this card may include:

- Good for Sea Hawks – up to 1% of your purchase goes directly to Sea Hawks at no additional cost to you
- Good for you – No signup, monthly or annual fees
- No changing banks – No credit check


- Good for your local chapter – Your activity will also benefit your local Sea Hawks' chapter. The more you use your card, the more your own community will benefit.

This program will be available to everyone over the age of 18, family, friends, whoever wants it. Being a Sea Hawker is not a requirement, but every time it is used, it will benefit the Sea Hawks' causes we support.

Be a part of the early adopters that will be the start of something great. Text "seahawkers" to 555888 and sign up to be notified as soon as it becomes available.

Your Chapter Officers

I'M IN

President	Vice-President	Treasurer	Secretary
			
Brian Deren 253-223-9350 southsoundprez@comcast.net	Steve Bucholtz 253-306-2668 sbucholtz@comcast.net	Sue Farley 253-468-6565 hawkette@comcast.net	Cindi Lang 253-219-0756 langcindi4852@comcast.net

GO HAWKS

Monthly Meetings:
Third Tuesday of the Month

No meeting in July
Next meeting August 18

SIZZLER RESTAURANT

10204 South Tacoma Way
Lakewood WA 98499

Dinner 6:00 pm - Meeting 7:00 pm

December will be our Annual Christmas Party.

If you have any ideas for speakers for the meetings please get in touch with Steve Bucholtz at sbucholtz@comcast.net

If you have any information for the newsletter send to Cindi Lang at langcindi4852@comcast.net

SEAHAWK RAFFLE ITEMS

If you see different Seahawk items on sale, pick them up for the raffle and you will be reimbursed by the club.

South Sound Website:

- www.southsoundseahawkers.com

Facebook:

- **South Sound Sea Hawks**

NW MASK BRIGADE





2020

SEP 13 10:00AM WK 1	@	NOV 15 1:25PM WK 10	@
SEP 20 5:20PM WK 2	@	NOV 19 5:20PM WK 11	@
SEP 27 1:25PM WK 3	@	NOV 30 5:15PM WK 12	@
OCT 4 10:00AM WK 4	@	DEC 6 1:05PM WK 13	@
OCT 11 5:20PM WK 5	@	DEC 13 1:05PM WK 14	@
WK 6 BYE		DEC 20 10:00AM WK 15	@
WK 7 OCT 25 1:05PM	@	DEC 27 1:05PM WK 16	@
WK 8 NOV 1 1:25PM	@	JAN 3 1:25PM WK 17	@
WK 9 NOV 8 10:00AM	@	powered by aws	

