

# COLORADO VETERAN

and Auxiliary News

“No One Does More For Veterans”



May, 2015

Department of Colorado, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.  
and its Ladies Auxiliary Official Publication

Volume 54, Issue 4 2014 - 2015



## Merlin “Bruce” Hollinger National Chief of Staff 2014 - 2015

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.  
National Representative

State Convention  
Sheridan, CO.

Merlin “Bruce” Hollinger was appointed National Chief of Staff of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States at the organization’s 115<sup>th</sup> National Convention in St. Louis, Mo., on July 23, 2014.

Mr. Hollinger served in the United States Navy from 1964-1985. During that time he served in Vietnam, Gulf of Tonkin, on the USS Intrepid and the USS Ranger as a Naval Aviator. In recognition of his service, he received the Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with gold star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V, and numerous others.

He joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 2003 at Post 8336 in Moapa Valley, Nev., where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life Membership. He currently serves as the State Adjutant/

Quartermaster, State Public Affairs Officer, State Newspaper Editor/Publisher, District 6 Nevada Adjutant and the Post Adjutant/Quartermaster. He has previously served as All American State, District and Post Commander.

Mr. Hollinger attended the University of Nebraska, earning his Bachelor of Arts degree, the University of La Verne, earning his Masters of Business Administration and the US Naval Postgraduate School, earning his Master of Science, Computer Science Degree. He is retired and was formerly employed as Program Director with Lockheed Martin, Space Systems Division in Sunnyvale Calif.

He is a member of the American Legion and the Scottish American Military Society Post.

He and his wife Kathleen reside in Logandale, Nev.

## VFW Announces Kick-Off of Youth Scholarship Competitions

### New themes selected for the 2015-16 contest

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (VFW) is pleased to announce the kick-off of the 2015-16 VFW’s Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen scholarship competitions. The announcement comes just weeks after students from across the globe took home their share of the more than \$3 million in scholarships and awards from last year’s competitions.

The VFW’s Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen essay competitions are dedicated to encouraging a better understanding and appreciation for our great country and fostering patriotism among our nation’s youth. Students are asked to submit an essay in response to a question or statement on a subject which prompts them to consider how American history and democratic ideals and principles apply to their lives.

This year’s Voice of Democracy theme asks students to contemplate, “My Vision for America.” The Voice of Democracy scholarship competition is an audio-essay competition open to students in grades 9-12. The national winner will receive the \$30,000 T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship Award.

The Patriot’s Pen competition is open to students in grades 6-8. This year, students are asked to reflect on the statement, “What Freedom Means to Me.” The national winner will receive a \$5,000 award.

Student participants are asked to submit their entry (along with a completed entry form) to their participating local VFW Post. The deadline for student entries in both contests is November 1, 2015.



Adam Densmore  
1st Place National  
Voice of Democracy  
2014-2015

Sponsored by:  
Department of  
Colorado VFW

District #10

VFW Post #3631  
Aurora

### To Mom:

Thank You for Loving, Caring,  
Knowing, Sharing, Always Listening  
and Being There  
We Love You

### IN MEMORY

Marcia “Eileen” Bath  
Past Department President  
1978 - 1979  
Passed Away March 16, 2015  
Loveland Ladies Auxiliary #41

Anna M. Jacobson  
Past Department President  
1998 - 1999  
Passed Away March 6, 2015  
Paul A. Westover Ladies Auxiliary #3471

Rest in Peace - “Peace be thine”

### MAY DISTRICT MEETINGS

NO.	DATE	LOCATION	TIME	REPRESENTATIVE
1	5/16/15 Saturday	Post No. 2461 Denver	11:00 am Joint Mtg 12:00 noon Lunch Meeting to follow Election/Installation	Jim Lafferty Corena Hampton
2	5/09/15 Saturday	Post No. 5812 Pueblo West	11:00 am Joint Mtg 12:00 noon Lunch Meeting to follow Election/Installation	D J Alberts Martine Arndt
3	5/17/15 Sunday	Post No. 2585 Johnstown	12:00 noon Meal 1:00 pm Meeting Election/Installation	Ron Johnson Martine Arndt
8	5/23/15 Saturday	Post No. 1166 Buena Vista	12:00 noon Meal 1:00 pm Meeting Installation of Officers	Kirk Rosa Colleen Rylant
10	5/17/15 Sunday	Post No. 4171 Golden	1:00 pm (Election of Officers) Dinner and Installation	Allan Stone Corena Hampton
11	5/3/15 Sunday	Post No. 4663 Clifton	9:00 am Registration 10:00 am Memorial Service 11:00 am Joint Mtg 12:00 noon Lunch Meeting to follow / Election/Installation	Peter Buchanan Shelley Schlieman
12	5/03/15 Sunday	Post No. 5181 Dove Creek	11:00 am Joint 12:00 noon Lunch Mtg to follow Election/Installation	Kirk Rosa Gloria Otwell

Mother's Day is May 10th

#### Student Veterans of America

Today's veterans can face any number of obstacles while furthering their education. That's why the VFW partnered with Student Veterans of America (SVA), to be there for veterans while they pursue their education. SVA and the VFW are committed to ensuring our nation's veterans succeed in their educational pursuits, community service endeavors, careers and personal lives. Working together, SVA Chapters and VFW Posts can help our nation's veterans attain these goals.

The missions and purposes of both organizations share a great deal of synergy. SVA offers peer support for veterans transitioning back to civilian life and academia, frequently after serving one or more deployments overseas. The VFW provides opportunities for camaraderie, community service and veterans advocacy to those who have honorably served in overseas conflicts. While SVA Chapters are unique amongst veterans groups with their location on campus, VFW Posts are located in the same communities off campus. These two organizations can experience great and mutual success working together through several key avenues of cooperation:

Shared access to VFW Service Officers to help file disability claims; Camaraderie, peer support and mentorship; Cooperating on community and veterans service initiatives; Conducting joint events, celebrations and recognition ceremonies; Fellowship Opportunities; Use of VFW facilities; Pooling community connections for mutual benefit; Combined effort on local, state and national advocacy efforts to attain the best possible outcomes for veterans; Access to VFW Help A Hero scholarships.

With more than 6,800 VFW Posts and nearly a thousand SVA Chapters, there are many opportunities for cooperation and engagement. Find a VFW Post or an SVA Chapter near you to get involved.

### COLORADO VETERAN and AUXILIARY NEWS

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Telephone 303-421-1630, 800-965-1630 (Colorado only - Denver Metro excluded) FAX 303-421-1727

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www.vfwcolodept.org

POSTMASTER  
Send address changes to:  
VFW National Headquarters  
406 W. 34th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111

### Chapel Escort and Coffee Hour Schedule

May	3	Dean K. Phillips #5061	Denver
	10	So Denver #2461	Denver
	17	John S. Stewart #1	Denver
	24	Joseph J Jacques #7945	Thornton
	31	Verle Huffman #9644	Sheridan
June	7	Paul A Westover #3471	Morrison
	14	Retired Enlisted (TREA #3)	Denver
	21	Dean K Phillips #5061	Denver
	28	Englewood #322	Englewood
July	5	Skyline #2797	Denver
	12	Mile High #1771	Lafayette
	19	Pat Hannon #4666	Denver
	26	Dean K Phillips #5061	Denver
Aug	2	Francis Brown Lowry #501	Denver
	9	Golden #4171	Golden
	16	Retired Enlisted (TREA #39)	
	23	Verle Huffman #9644	Sheridan
	30	Mile High #1771	Lafayette

Please plan to bring 3 dozen doughnuts and some sugar free goodies, like cookies, croissants or bagels with cream cheese. Bring enough for both services. Coffee will be supplied to the Hosts, and you may bring juice or fruits if you wish.

**If you are unable to keep your assigned date, please work out a trade and then call, Betty Melsen at 303-237-6646 IN ADVANCE.**

**Please contact Betty Melsen if your VFW and Ladies Auxiliary would volunteer for Chapel Escort and Coffee Hour, VA Bingo Parties, or VA Birthday Parties. She is needing to fill vacancies left by VFW Posts and Auxiliaries that are unable to have enough volunteers to continue.**

### VFW Sponsors Bataan Memorial Death March for Fifth Year

Over 7,000 marchers registered for  
grueling event

March 25, 2015

March 21-22, 2015 VFW National Commander John W. Stroud was at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., to support and cheer on marchers participating in the 26th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March. For the fifth year in a row, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) was the presenting sponsor for the memorial March.

Every year thousands of service members, veterans and civilians travel to White Sands Missile Range, N.M., to participate in the rigorous Bataan Memorial Death March. The March, a grueling 26.2 miles through difficult desert terrain, is held in honor of the heroic American service members who defended the Philippine Islands during World War II. These soldiers endured horrendous conditions, including malaria-infested regions, no medical attention, meager rations and outdated equipment. Then in April 1942, tens of thousands of soldiers were surrendered to the Japanese and forced to march for days to a war camp, enduring the high Philippine jungle heat and extreme brutality of their captors, thousands perished.

This tragedy became known as the Bataan Death March.

Together, with VFW National Commander Stroud, dozens of VFW members spent the weekend visiting with service members and veterans who participated in the March, promoting the many programs and services the VFW has to offer. "I noticed this year, compared to previous years, a much greater interest in the VFW and our programs," said B.J. Lawrence, VFW Department of New Mexico assistant state adjutant/quartermaster.

VFW National Commander Stroud presented his "Chief's Medallion" to White Sands Army Base Commanding Brigadier General Timothy Coffin and to the original Bataan Death March survivors in attendance during an awards presentation ceremony after the March concluded.

Over 7,000 marchers registered in this year's event and March organizers expect that number to continue to grow. "The VFW is incredibly proud to be involved with events like the Bataan Memorial Death March. Supporting this March is a unique way to honor the memory of so many courageous soldiers who paid the ultimate price in the fight for freedom," said VFW National Commander John W. Stroud.

### POST & AUXILIARY CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE MOVED OR WILL BE MOVING.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP NO. \_\_\_\_\_ VFW POST NO. \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: YOUR RETURN ADDRESS IS ON THE BACK SIDE OF THIS NOTICE.

MAIL TO: DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO VFW,  
1400 CARR ST., LAKEWOOD, CO 80214

THANK YOU  
EDITOR



## Commander's Column Jim Lafferty



We just got over with our council meeting a few days ago. We had a very good turn out and I do believe that everybody learned something. Our repre-

sentative was Commander in Chief John Stroud. I have gotten comments from different comrades that they were very pleased with what was presented.

We have had questions concerning the weapons that are used for our ceremonies. The State Judge Advocate is working on this and there will be information out about this in the near future.

We have been working with dif-

ferent posts and districts in the State and for the most part all are doing good.

We do need to remember to get our reports in and the audits completed.

Our membership is getting close so we need to work on getting our unpaid members and the continuous signed back up. I know that a lot of the members are on the new system so they do not get counted now.

Our next council meeting will be at the State convention. I am hoping that I will see a lot of you there. Elections will be held at that time. Any body that is interested in it should be at the convention.

**Working for all veterans**

Jim Lafferty, State Commander

## Quartermaster's Column Bruce Dolan



Greetings, I hope this finds everyone well.

As we come to the end of another wonderful year in the VFW, I would like to thank all of you for allowing me to be your Quartermaster. Every day

I learn something new. Most good, some not. The good is always interesting. The things that are not so good always seem to take care of themselves.

I am glad to be working with the cast of Line of Line Officers we have this year. Please know what they do is greatly appreciated.

As elections and installation approaches, please research your By-Laws as to the specifics of the Post and Districts. They are both done differently. Just remember, everything is done at one meeting at the District level, and the Post uses several meetings. One thing I do suggest. Even though it is allowed, don't use a show of hands voting. Everyone likes their privacy and should be allowed that privilege. Use small pieces of paper and number each one in sequence. Let the voters write their choice, fold the paper and have someone collect them in a hat or something. You should then select three people to count

the votes. If the Post is a smaller Post, adjustments can be made that are agreeable to all.

The quarterly audits are getting better and better for most Posts and Districts. As of this writing, we have 1 Post that has not turned in any Audits. We have 1 District and 3 Posts who have not turned in an Audit for June. There are 6 Posts and 1 district who have not turned on in for September. And there are 13 Posts that have not turned in an Audit for December. This really isn't too bad, but could be lower. If you need help, contact your District Commanders and let them know you need help.

We have several light brown Foundation shirts left. If these are not sold by Convention, they will be donated to a veteran's nursing home, as will the 8 or so ball caps we have left. We do have Vietnam challenge coins that are sold as a set of 2 for \$25. I also have current conflict challenge coins that can be ordered for \$20. I will have samples at the Convention if you are interest.

Hope everyone has dug out your speedos and bikinis for summer, it's almost here.

Bruce R. Dolan  
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

## Chaplain's Column Ron Johnson



This year, it has been an honor to serve you as your State Chaplain. Fulfilling my duties has re-confirmed my belief that true comradeship is greatly improved

with spiritual guidance. It has also re-confirmed my belief that we, as members of the world's leading veterans' organization, are examples in our communities. The examples we present affect how our communities respond to the needs of all veterans. Each of us should, as representatives of the VFW, be leaders.

General Douglas MacArthur has been quoted as saying, "A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent."

As veterans, we stand apart from most

of our fellow citizens. Having served in combat situations, we have made tough decisions. And, by belonging to the VFW, we know the importance of listening to others.

Proverbs 2.6 and 2.9 state, "For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding." and (by listening to the Lord) "Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment and equity; yea, every good path."

By acting with courage and confidence, listening with compassion, and judging with understanding and equity we display the integrity of our intents. We become leaders!

Lastly, our annual Memorial Service is an important event at the State Convention. Please review your membership and submit your Taps Report for the year to Ann or Rita at State Headquarters.

Ron Johnson, State Chaplain

## Sr. Vice Column Peter Buchanan



There's an old sea story about a ship's Captain who inspected his sailors, and afterward told the first mate that all his men smelled bad from body

odor....

The Captain suggested perhaps it would help if the sailors would change underwear occasionally. The first mate responded, "Aye, Aye Sir, I'll see to it immediately!" The first mate went straight to the sailors berth deck and announced, "The Captains thinks you guys smell bad, change your underwear." He continued, "Pittman, you change with Jones, McCarthy, you change with Witkowski, and Brown, you change with Schultz." **THE MORAL OF THE STORY:** Someone may come along and promise "Change", but don't count on things smelling any better.

We now are trying to finish this administrative year, trying to get our membership goals complete, finishing our Community Service requirements, Audits up to date and fill positions in our posts/districts for the 2015-2016 year. This is a busy time for us as we plan to the next year.

Everything you do is based on the choices you make. It's not your parents, your past relationships, your job, the economy, the weather, an argument or your age that is to blame. You and only you are responsible for every decision

and choice you make. Period.

And finally a quote from Why the VFW is Worth Saving. We can't give up on the VFW; we must accept the torch as it is passed to us. And if the VFW does not voluntarily pass it, we must seize it. This right and burden is now ours, and we have much to learn from the WWII, Korean, Vietnam, and Gulf War vets who inhabit our Posts; and they have much to learn from us.

Visit your Post, and if the members think you don't belong there, continue to sit at that dark bar until they do. Infiltrate the ranks and run for leadership positions; write about your Post, volunteer there; offer your ideas. Don't allow them to tell you your youth is a disadvantage; instead, politely advise them that your youth is exactly what's going to save them.

"*Help Carry the Load*" will be our 2015-2016 mantra.

As we plan our future, we no longer can fret about why there aren't enough members in our meetings. It is time for action Comrades, brothers & sisters; it is time for the big battle in Colorado. We must, no excuse, immediately plan our membership drives to save our Posts and show pride in our Colorado VFW and it's Auxiliary's.

Pete Buchanan  
State Sr. Vice Commander

## Jr. Vice Column Allan Stone



It was good to see and visit with comrades and sisters at the Council of Administration in Golden, March 27 - 29.

Valuable knowledge and training occur at all Council of Administration meetings. I encourage all members to attend the State Convention June 17 - 21 at the Verle Huffman Post #9644, Sheridan, CO.

I attended the Junior Vice Commanders/Quartermasters Conference in Kansas City, February 19 - 22. Training sessions were held by the Veterans of Foreign Wars staff and a tour of the National Headquarters was included. John F. Gwizdak, Past Commander-in-Chief gave an excellent lecture on attitude and leadership. Concerning attitude he stated, "The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude ... I am convinced that life is 10 what happens to me and 90 how I react to it. And so it is with you ... we are in charge of our attitudes."

The Chief gave several examples of leadership traits - Confident, Honor, Integrity, Loyalty, Sense of Duty, Selfless Service and Sets the Example. Other examples of leadership traits were treat people with respect, do not abuse position or status and do not play favorites.

The Voice of Democracy 2015 - 2016 Theme: "My Vision for America" and The Patriot's Pen Theme: "What Freedom Means to Me" were presented to us. Also National Military Services name has been changed to

Veterans & Military Support Programs, which include Unmet Needs, Operation Uplink and Military Assistance Programs (MAP).

The first week in March I attended the 2015 VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. VFW National Commander-in-Chief John Stroud testified before a Special Joint Hearing of the House and Senate Affairs Committees to layout the VFW legislative agenda for 2015, which includes issues like the devastating effects of sequestration on the military, the continued and proper funding of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act and the misleading geographic qualifications for the Veterans Choice Program.

The Colorado delegation met with Senator Bennet and Senator Gardner in their offices. Warren Tellgren, Federal Legislative Liaison, prepared a packet of information which was discussed and presented to the Senators. I also was able to met with Representative Coffman and Representative Perlmutter to discuss the information in the packet and encourage them to get the Aurora VA Hospital built. My team visited Representative Buck, Representative Tipton and Representative Polis offices and discussed veterans issues with their legislative assistants.

I look forward to visiting with you at the State Convention in Sheridan June 17 - 21. Let's all work together to support and honor veterans!

Allan P. Stone  
State Jr. Vice Commander



**Department of Colorado, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.  
1400 Carr Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80214**

**General Orders No. 4  
May 1, 2015 Series 2014-2015**

1. **95th DEPARTMENT CONVENTION** will be held in Sheridan, June 17<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup>. The Council of Administration will meet at 6:00 pm, June 17<sup>th</sup> at Fort Logan Northgate School. All Council Members are requested to attend!! Uniform for the Convention will be: Council of Administration - casual; Joint Opening - Blues & Greys; Business Sessions - Black & White; Joint Memorial - Dark Suit or Blues & Greys.

2. **POST QUARTERMASTERS:** Request the assistance of your members in completing the list of deceased members form and return to Department Headquarters no later than May 15, 2015.

3. **DISTRICT COMMANDERS** must attend Council of Administration meeting June 17<sup>th</sup> at State Convention in Denver, CO. You must also be present at ALL Business Sessions to receive your full travel expense check plus per diem for you motel room.

4. **REQUESTS FOR REIMBURSEMENT** from 2014-2015 Council Members between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015, must be submitted in writing and approved by the State Commander. If NOT submitted by July 10, 2015, the request will not be paid.

**VA Works to Expand Choice Program Eligibility**

**Eligibility criteria for 40 miles calculation would change to driving distance**

Washington -- In order to expand eligibility for the Veterans Choice Program, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced that it will change the calculation used to determine the distance between a Veteran's residence and the nearest VA medical facility from a straight line distance to driving distance. The policy change will be made through regulatory action in the coming weeks. The Veterans Choice Program was authorized by the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA).

"VA has worked very quickly to implement the Veterans Choice Program and we appreciate the constructive feedback shared by Veterans and our partners to help us improve service to Veterans," said Secretary Robert McDonald. "We've determined that changing the distance calculation will help ensure more Veterans have access to care when and where they want it. VA looks forward to the ongoing support of our partners as we continue to make improvements to this new program."

The method of determining driving distance will be through distance as calculated by using a commercial product. The change is expected to roughly double the number of eligible Veterans.

The Veterans Choice Program is a new, temporary benefit that allows eligible Veterans to receive health care in

5. **DISTRICT AND POST ELECTION REPORTS:** It is the responsibility of the membership to insist that the responsible officer reports the elections of officers to Department immediately after the election is completed. If not sent to Department Headquarters by July 1, 2015, your officers will be omitted from the Department Roster.

6. **POSTS SHOULD ARRANGE SPECIAL CEREMONIES** and all Commanders shall alert comrades to their obligations for appropriate commemoration of the following outstanding action dates in U.S. History: May 8<sup>th</sup>, VE Day; June 6<sup>th</sup>, D Day; June 14<sup>th</sup>, Flag Day. It is requested that all Posts and their members honor Memorial Day on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

7. **DELEGATE FEE NOTICES** are being sent to each Post Quartermaster. Fee must be paid to Department Headquarters prior to State Convention or your vote will not be accepted. Post Commander Delegate Card will be mailed to the Post Commander.

ATTESTED BY:  
*/s/ Bruce R. Dolan*  
Bruce R. Dolan  
State Adjutant

BY COMMAND OF:  
*/s/ Jim Lafferty*  
Jim Lafferty  
State Commander

their communities rather than waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a VA facility. Veterans seeking to use the Veterans Choice Program should call 1-866-606-8198 to confirm their eligibility and to schedule an appointment. Since the Choice Program went into effect on November 5, 2014, more than 45,000 medical appointments have been scheduled.

Using expanded authorities from VACAA, VA continues to expand access to care through increased staffing and enhanced collaboration with both the Indian Health Service and Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems.

VA is enhancing its health care system and improving service delivery to better serve Veterans and set the course for long-term excellence and reform. VA has made significant progress in various areas of the legislation, such as extending the Assisted Living/Traumatic Brain Injury Pilot program and Project Arch, to expand timely access to high-quality health care for Veterans.

For more details about the department's progress and related information, see [www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/factsheets\\_and\\_details.asp](http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/factsheets_and_details.asp) and [www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/documents/FactSheets/Progress-Report-March-2015-Fact-Sheet.pdf](http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/documents/FactSheets/Progress-Report-March-2015-Fact-Sheet.pdf).

A fact sheet on the 40-mile-rule change can be found at [www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/documents/FactSheets/March-2015-40-mile-rule-change-factsheet.pdf](http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/documents/FactSheets/March-2015-40-mile-rule-change-factsheet.pdf).

**VFW Action Corps Weekly April 24, 2015:** Today, VA announced it will change the way distance is calculated for the Veterans Choice Program from straight-line distance to driving distance. The change is effective immediately. The nearly 300,000 veterans affected by this change will receive a letter informing them that they are now eligible. If you believe you are eligible or did not receive a Choice Card in the mail, you can contact 1-866-606-8198 for more information. This is one of two changes to the 40-mile rule VFW members seek. This change fails to address the travel burden faced by veterans who live within 40 miles (driving distance) of a VA medical facility, but are required to travel more than 40 miles to receive health care. CIC Stroud states that the VFW will continue to advocate for the second change to be made.

**Surgeon's Column  
Ed Aitken**



Comrades and Sisters,  
I hope the you had a safe trip home and it was a pleasure to visit with you at the Council of Administration.

The final Veterans home within our state is The Colorado State Home at Fitzsimons. On the outside it looks like a small motel but when we walk in to the lobby is was very large with hallways then went for ever. We were meet by Mellissa Blair-O'shaughnessy the Activities Director who gave us a short tour of the facility. It struck us as a very homey place.

Here are a few of the things that set Fitzsimons apart from other nursing homes:

The Living Center at Fitzsimons serves only veterans, veterans' spouses and Gold-Star Parents, creating a unique atmosphere among long-term care facilities. Residents enjoy camaraderie with other veterans and respect from staff and volunteers, who value the contributions these service men, women and their families have made to our country.

Fitzsimons is a 180-bed facility providing skilled nursing care and a specialized 21-bed short-term rehabilitation unit.

Specialized care and services:

- **Long-term care:** They provide long-term medical and non-medical care,
- **Alzheimer's care: 21 Bed neighborhood.**
- **End-of-life/hospice services:** They offer comfort-oriented care and family support
- **Short-term rehabilitation:** Specialized physical, occupational and speech therapies

From the first day a new resident comes to live at Fitzsimons, the staff gathers detailed information about the person's history.

Recreational programs are a very important part of the daily care. A wide

range of programs adapted to individual abilities. Outings such as scenic drives, dinners and museum visits also are available with assistance from family members and volunteers.

An in-house pharmacy enables staff to become familiar with residents' conditions and history. Residents who live throughout the nursing home are encouraged to bring in familiar items such as personal belongings and even their own furniture if desired. Modern building with convenient amenities. Meaningful activities and resident involvement ("culture change")

Meaningful activities and resident involvement ("culture change")

- Variety of meal choices and snacks
- Meals served in dining rooms on each floor
- Snack Shack serves ice cream every afternoon as well as milkshakes, malts and fresh baked goods.
- Pets for companionship: family members are encouraged to bring residents' pets for visits.

Meaningful activities: meaningful activities and continued learning are important parts of Fitzsimons' care. Residents can take classes in Spanish, photography, cooking and other subjects;

Trained staff create meaningful interactions, maintain a positive approach, communicate in engaging ways, slow down to enable the resident to track and understand information, eliminate stress in the environment, avoid stimulation overload, provide activities that focus on their remaining abilities and help meet residents' nutritional needs. In essence, the training helps participants provide care based on the needs of each individual.

I would like to thank you for allowing me to share the information that I have received through the year. I hope you to gain something useful form of it

Edward T. Aitken, State Surgeon

**"Memorial Day"**

The preferred name for the holiday gradually changed from "Decoration Day" to "Memorial Day", which was first used in 1882. It did not become more common until after World War II, and was not declared the official name by Federal law until 1967. On June 28, 1968, the Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which moved four holidays, including Memorial Day, from their traditional dates to a specified Monday in order to create a convenient three-day weekend. The change moved Memorial Day from its traditional May 30 date to the last Monday in May. The law took effect at the federal level in 1971. After some initial confusion and unwillingness to comply, all 50 states adopted Congress' change of date within a few years.

Memorial Day endures as a holiday which most businesses observe because it marks the unofficial beginning of summer. The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) advocate returning to the original date, although the significance of the date is tenuous. The VFW stated in a 2002 Memorial Day Address:

Changing the date merely to create three-day weekends has undermined the very meaning of the day. No doubt, this has contributed a lot to the general public's nonchalant observance of Memorial Day.

Starting in 1987 Hawaii's Senator

Daniel Inouye, a World War II veteran, introduced a measure to return Memorial Day to its traditional date. Inouye continued introducing the resolution until his death in 2012.

On Memorial Day, the flag of the United States is raised briskly to the top of the staff and then solemnly lowered to the half-staff position, where it remains only until noon. It is then raised to full-staff for the remainder of the day.

The half-staff position remembers the more than one million men and women who gave their lives in service of their country. At noon, their memory is raised by the living, who resolve not to let their sacrifice be in vain, but to rise up in their stead and continue the fight for liberty and justice for all.

In 1915, following the Second Battle of Ypres, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a physician with the Canadian Expeditionary Force, wrote the poem, "In Flanders Fields". Its opening lines refer to the fields of poppies that grew among the soldiers' graves in Flanders.

In 1918, inspired by the poem, YWCA worker Moina Michael attended a YWCA Overseas War Secretaries' conference wearing a silk poppy pinned to her coat and distributed over two dozen more to others present. In 1920, the National American Legion adopted it as their official symbol of remembrance.



**VFW Post Membership by District as of April 21, 2015**

Number/ City	2014	2015	%	Number/City	2014	2015	%
<b>DISTRICT #1</b>				<b>DISTRICT #8</b>			
1 Denver	868	829	96	859 Leadville	44	43	98
501 Denver	381	333	87	1166 Buena Vista	155	155	100*
2461 Denver	216	164	76	3820 Salida	103	94	91
2797 Denver	74	41	55	8661 Bailey	162	146	90
3971 Denver	100	94	94	10721 Minturn	92	88	96
5061 Denver	446	364	82	11411 Lake George	46	45	98
TOTAL	2085	1825	88%	12009 Conifer	128	129	101*
<b>DISTRICT #2</b>				<b>DISTRICT #9</b>			
61 Pueblo	94	89	95	2371 Walden	32	29	91
984 Trinidad	63	59	94	4264 Steamt Spgs	100	98	98
2788 Penrose	103	121	117*	4265 Craig	139	140	101*
3641 Pueblo	89	91	102*	5261 Rangely	17	28	165*
4061 Canon City	370	352	95	5843 Meeker	49	45	92
5812 Pueblo West	232	209	90	9374 Kremmling	41	40	98
7305 Colo. City	48	47	98	9471 Hayden	12	12	100*
8898 Boone	46	50	109*	TOTAL	390	392	101%*
12063 Westcliffe	44	42	95	<b>DISTRICT #10</b>			
TOTAL	1089	1060	97%	322 Englewood	132	133	101*
<b>DISTRICT #3</b>				<b>DISTRICT #11</b>			
41 Loveland	315	300	95	3471 Morrison	77	74	96
807 Boulder	54	48	89	3631 Aurora	382	368	96
1771 Lafayette	371	316	85	4121 Idaho Spgs.	59	58	98
1781 Ft. Collins	324	324	100*	4171 Golden	538	541	101*
2121 Greeley	191	181	95	4266 Parker	85	68	80
2585 Johnstown	119	130	109*	4331 Arvada	285	293	103*
2601 Longmont	447	396	89	4444 Cmmrc Cty	258	239	93
4334 Ault	82	75	91	4666 Littleton	147	143	97
6011 Platteville	70	66	94	7563 Black Hawk	17	23	135*
6624 Evans	328	299	91	7945 Thornton	447	415	93
9565 Broomfield	132	134	102*	8449 Bennett	38	50	132*
9741 Dacono	51	48	94	9644 Fort Logan	709	754	106*
TOTAL	2484	2317	93%	TOTAL	3174	3159	99.5%
<b>DISTRICT #4</b>				<b>DISTRICT #12</b>			
2551 Ft. Morgan	280	256	91	4031 Durango	241	230	95
3378 Yuma	70	66	94	5181 Dove Creek	57	54	95
3541 Sterling	115	104	90	5231 Mancos	185	163	88
3551 Brush	40	39	98	9058 Nucla	28	30	107*
3951 Ovid	29	29	100*	TOTAL	511	477	93%
3961 Otis	26	25	96	<b>DISTRICT #13</b>			
4191 Crook	24	22	92	3411 Kit Carson	27	30	111*
4671 Wray	65	62	95	6491 Burlington	85	81	95
6482 Holyoke	61	59	97	6612 Hugo	51	46	90
7153 Fleming	39	36	92	9491 Deer Trail	21	21	100*
8064 Akron	45	45	100*	9700 Chynn Wlls	36	31	86
TOTAL	794	743	94%	TOTAL	220	209	95%
<b>DISTRICT #5</b>				<b>DISTRICT #14</b>			
101 Colo. Spgs.	504	466	92	15006 MAL	2646	2422	92%
3917 Security	692	670	97	TOTAL DEPT	18495	17499	95%
4051 Colo. Spgs	781	726	93	2015 dues are now DUE. Be 100% +1 in 2015			
5221 Calhan	105	108	103*	<b>Have You Paid Yours??</b>			
6051 Wdln Park	44	44	100*				
6461 Fountain	302	280	93				
7829 Monument	116	113	97				
10649 Elizabeth	43	45	105*				
TOTAL	2587	2452	95%				
<b>DISTRICT #6</b>							
336 Ordway	107	101	94				
2411 LasAnimas	108	105	97				
3621 Lamar	63	57	90				
4001 Springfield	48	51	106*				
4091 Rocky Ford	62	59	95				
4281 Holly	30	28	93				
TOTAL	418	401	94%				
<b>DISTRICT #7</b>							
899 Alamosa	132	136	103*				
3228 Monte Vista	39	40	103*				
4849 La Jara	67	61	91				
6101 San Luis	79	70	89				
8121 Del Norte	62	58	94				
TOTAL	379	365	96%				

**COLORADO MEMBERSHIP PLAN 2014 - 2015**

Since my last article, we now have thirty (30) VFW Posts that are 100%. But this is not enough. We need to work a little harder. Some of those Posts only need one (1) more member for 100% + 1 to have be qualified for All State Commander and Quartermaster. Please check your membership percentage. If you did not get that one more member, you will not get a form for All State and you will not be recognized at State Convention.

It has been a long time since we were 100% in membership. We deserve better, We Can Do it, and there is still time. We can make that 100% by June 30, 2015 if everyone will try just a little harder.

Break down your membership, give each member 2-5-10-15 names to call, go and visit them, or at least a phone call. Let them know what is happening at your Post, ask them if they see a committee they would like to help on. Make them

**Men's Auxiliary**

I will be checking the files at Department Headquarters and handing out awards at State Convention Opening session on Thursday morning. I hope your Men's Auxiliary qualifies for one of them.

We will have a meeting Wednesday afternoon at State Convention at 1:00 pm at the Fort Logan Northgate School. Please have someone from your Men's Auxiliary in attendance and also at Opening Session

feel like they belong, not just a number on your roster.

Commanders remember that if you qualify for All State, headquarters will send you a form to fill out. Please send it back with your book, so we can judge your Post. Quartermaster's only have to fill out the form that they receive.

If you need some help, let us know and if at all possible, we will help. Your Quartermaster can download a list of unpaid members, or if he cannot, call me or Ann or Rita at Headquarters, and we can send you a list of unpaid members.

We have one (1) District that is 100%. Hope to see everyone in Sheridan at State Convention.

Jim Mauck  
colofatalbert@outlook.com  
303-588-7518

Thursday Morning.

I will not be your Liaison Officer for the 2015-2016 year. Bur I am sure you will be well taken care of. If you need help or have questions, you will need to call the new Chairman. I have enjoyed working with you and wish you all well, in the coming year.

Jim Mauck  
Men's Auxiliary Liaison Officer

**VFW Legacy Life Membership**

Leave a Lasting Legacy for Veterans: Legacy Life Membership enables VFW Life Members to leave a lasting impression on our great organization.

When you become a Legacy Life Member, you are helping us strengthen the VFW – where NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Three prestigious levels of Legacy Life Membership are available: Gold \$1200, Silver \$800 and Bronze \$400. Each level offers generous benefits reserved exclusively for Legacy Life Members.

Once your Legacy Life Membership begins, an annual endowment in your name will be made to your Post, Department and the organization. You will feel confident knowing your contribution to our organization is not only helping

today's veterans but the veterans of tomorrow.

You may also purchase a Memorial Legacy in the name of a deceased VFW Life Member to help future generations know and remember their sacrifice and contributions.

You must be a current Life Member of the VFW, or if purchasing a Memorial Legacy, the veteran in whose name it is purchased must be a deceased Life Member of the VFW. You may also purchase a Legacy Life on the Installment Plan.

For any questions regarding Legacy Life Membership, please contact the VFW Membership Department at 816-756-3390. National will gladly provide you with more information on this prestigious and rewarding membership.



- Post 1: Porfirio "Pete" Aragon
- Post 101: Charles W. Woolsey
- Post 2121: Roger W. Cozene, Porfelio Garbosp, Patrick McDonnell, Johnny Aguilar, Emmett J. Archuletta, Bruce L. Ashley, John S. Mestas
- Post 2601: John M. Boysen, Joseph H. Campbell, Samuel Ehrlich, Richard G. Hankins, Joseph Kerwin
- Post 3631: Kenneth Love, Joseph Perez, Danny DeNalley, Arthur Mulley, Richard Mott, Lloyd E Parnalee, Kenneth B. Ross, Shelby Baker
- Post 3820: Peter B. Salerno, George Argys
- Post 4051: Harold Wright, Wilford Ostrowski, Daniel Tamblyn
- Post 4061: Larry Lee Hulette
- Post 4334: Frank Y. Akahoshi, Michael L. Lewis, Leopoldo L. Martinez, Tatsuo Matsuda, Jerry Purcell, Norman Reed, Gayland D. Jackson, Arnold G. Schwab
- Post 4444: John Yonker, Thomas Page, Randy Dykes, Anita Jacobus
- Post 4666: Ronald Keehn, William Stofer
- Post 4671: Dan W. Pope
- Post 5061: Richard Jackson, James Kennedy, John Hartman
- Post 5485: James R. Taylor
- Post 7305: Marvin D. Maune
- Post 7945: Delbert Allbee, Robert Beard, Lawrence Berube, Virgil Choate, Walter Leas, Curtis Leck, Paul Mares, Bertil Munson, Bluford Trusty, Don Varnau, Andrew Vigil, Howard Watkins
- Post 8449: Glenn G. Larson, Warren G. Clair, Earl H. Froman
- Post 9644: Zoltan A. Varga

**IT IS ALMOST TIME!!!**  
**Have you sent in your pre-registration for State Convention??**  
**Have you reserved for the Military Banquet??**  
**Have you made your Hotel Reservations??**  
**See Page 8 of this Colorado Veteran for all the latest information.**  
**Hope to see everyone in Sheridan, CO.**

PETER BUCHANAN  
 Candidate For:  
**COLORADO VFW COMMANDER**  
 2015-2016



WISHING MY COMRADES AND SISTERS CALM SEAS AND FOLLOWING WINDS DURING THE 2015-2016 ADMINISTRATIVE YEAR.

WORKING THROUGH THE VFW CHAIRS HAS BEEN AN HONOR TO SERVE WITH EACH OF YOU.

**“HELP CARRY THE LOAD”**

*“FOCUSING ON VETERANS”*

**FOR THE OFFICE OF  
 JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER**



**2015 - 2016**

**EDWARD T. AITKEN**

- Department Surgeon 2014 - 2015**
- Department Chaplin 2013 - 2014**
- Department Hospital Chairman 2013 -2015**
- Department Fund-Raising Chairman 2012-13**
- Department Americanism Chairman 2011-12**
- Warriors, District 3 Treasurer 2011- 2015**
- District 3 Commander 2012-13**
- All State Commander 2010, 2011**
- Cootie PT-1Member 2013---**
- Life Member National Home 2012---**
- VFW Life Member 2009---**
- Vietnam Veteran**
- U.S. Army**

Steve Kjonaas, VFW Post #3917

David Stone, VFW Post #3917

and

has declared for  
 Department Surgeon

Donald McNeely, VFW Post #9644

have declared for  
 Department Chaplain

Nominations are open until Saturday June 20th  
 Business Session for All Offices

**ALLAN P. STONE**

**FOR THE OFFICE OF  
 SR. VICE COMMANDER  
 2015-2016**



**Committed, Dedicated, Experienced**

**Common sense decisions  
 for veterans!**

- Department of Colorado Jr. Vice Commander 2014 - 2015
- Department of Colorado Surgeon 2013 - 2014
- Department of Colorado Chaplain 2012 - 2013
- Department of Colorado Buddy Poppy Chairman 2009 - 2014
- Department of Colorado National Deputy Chief of Staff 2010
- District 10 - Commander 2012
- District 10 - Chaplain 2014 - 2015
- District 10 - Buddy Poppy Chairman 2009 - 2014
- Post Commander 4666 Littleton 2006, 2007, 2008
- All State Team 2007, 2008
- Post 4666 Chaplain 2010 - 2015
- VFW Life Member
- MOC Grand Commander 2014 - 2015

**Ron Johnson**  
 For State Surgeon 2015-16



- ✓ US Army Special Forces (Retired)
- ✓ Vietnam Service 1968-69
- ✓ National Deputy Chief of Staff 2011-12
- ✓ National Aide-de-Camp (Recruiter Class) 2009-10
- ✓ National Aide-de-Camp 2010-11 & 2012-13
- ✓ **State Chaplain 2014-15**
- ✓ Dept. Youth Activities Chairman 2012-15
- ✓ Dept. General Resolutions Committee Member 2011-2014
- ✓ District 1 Commander 2011-13
- ✓ District 1 Chaplain 2013-15
- ✓ Post - Multiple Positions 2009-14
- ✓ MOC Supreme Shirt Reader (**voting member**, Supreme Council) 2014-15
- ✓ MOC Grand Commander 2013-14
- ✓ VFW Gold Legacy Life Member
- ✓ Life Member VFW National Home
- ✓ Life Member NRA
- ✓ Life Member KU Alumni Association

**"All American"** District Commander 2012-13  
**MOC "All\*Star"** Seam Squirrel PT#1 2012-13

MOC Knight Award 2010-11  
 2012 VIP Member of the "Cambridge Who's Who"  
 2012 Honored Member of the "Continental Who's Who"  
 1989 Nominee for McMillan's "Who's Who in the West"

- Dedicated & Experienced -



**Re-Elect Bruce Dolan**  
**Joseph J Jacques Jr. VFW Post 7945**  
**State Quartermaster 2015-2016**  
 Bruce has served as  
**Department Quartermaster 2013-2015**  
**Department Commander 2012-2013**  
**Department Sr Vice Commander 2011-2012**  
**Department Jr Vice Commander 2010-2011**  
**“Always working for Colorado Veterans”**





Post 1's Alfred Hurtado was Knighted by the Netherlands government with their highest award. While Alfred was with the 82nd Airborne, 504 PIR Co H, he made 4 combat jumps, was awarded the Purple Heart 3 times, Bronze Star, served in North Africa, Italy, served as 1 of only 27 Pathfinders (he jumped into France before D-Day), Bastone, Operation Market Garden, served as the color guard for a conference with President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Charles De Gualle. Alfred is a soft spoken man who only speaks of those who didn't come home. Sunday, January 25, 2015 the moving ceremony brought the Denver Veteran community together. VFW Post 7945 hosted the event, GI Forum provided the Color Guard, American Legion, 82nd Airborne Assoc and more were there to honor Alfred. Members of Post 1 were honored and moved to be with Alfred on this momentous day.



Evans Ladies Auxiliary #6624 presented a check for \$1,000 to Rocky Mountain Cancer Rehab Institute. L-R: Reid Hayward, Ph.D Director, Kathy Springer - Chairman, Gayle Stockwell - Auxiliary President and Alicia Loyzoa.



March Parade of Programs exercise class at Golden. After sitting, and sitting, and sitting, we get to exercise and then it is back to listening to Chairmen.



**Congratulations to Alex Rodriguez, son of Nick and Kristen, Grandson of Else & Rod Rodriguez, VFW 9644 Sheridan. Alex is 2014-2015 Colorado State Wrestling Champion.**

**Trophy is a big as Alex**



## 2015 VFW State Convention Golf Tournament

Deer Creek Golf Club at Meadow Ranch  
8135 Shaffer Parkway  
Littleton, CO 80127  
303-978-1800

Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2015  
Time: 7:30 a.m. – 18 Hole Shot Gun Start  
Format: 4 Person Scramble  
Price: \$70.00 Per Player



Price includes green fee, golf cart, range balls, tee favors and merchandise gift card. Also included is a Free lunch following the golf tournament at **VFW Post 9644**, 2680 W Hampden Ave, Englewood. Awards and Prizes will be presented at that time. This event should bring in many golfers so please get your foursomes ready and signed up early. If you don't have a foursome, we will fit you in.

Deadline for sign up is June 01, 2015

### Name, Address & Phone No.:

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Please make check payable to: **VFW Post 9644** (Tax deductible Donation)

**Mail Check and registration form to:** Andy Hahn  
VFW State Golf Tournament  
7410 S Houston Waring Circle  
Littleton, Co 80120

Thank you for your support  
Andy Hahn (303-730-9252 or 303-868-2413)  
Dick Wellensiek (303-319-4566) Co-Chairman



Bonnie Nelson, Golden 4171 Jr Girls Advisor (left), Alice Smith and Rita Fama (right) and Golden Jr Girls visited Fitzsimons for Easter. They visited with the Residents and treated them with Easter Eggs and Refreshments. This is the last visit to Fitzsimons that the Jr Girls Unit will do, as National has eliminated the Jr Girls Program at the end of June.



Grand MOC and MOCA members held a Joint Memorial Service at their Annual Convention held at VFW Post 4051 Colorado Springs, April 18th. Grand Commander Allan Stone and Grand President Rosie Mitchell are standing behind the Alter. You will have to ask Rosie and Allan why the bibs. In fact you can ask any MOC or MOCA member why the bibs, as everyone was wearing one all day long. Elections and Installation of new officers was held for 2015 - 2016.



**VFW Membership Convention Pre-Registration  
Sheridan, Colorado June 17 – 20, 2015**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Post # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

2014-2015 Officer Title \_\_\_\_\_

Pre- Registration is \$10.00 and will include a ditty bag and convention book  
Make Checks payable to: VFW Post 9644  
Mail to: VFW Post 9644, P O Box 2508, Englewood, CO 80150  
ATTN: Ron Davies - Convention Chairman  
Registration at the door will be \$12.00

Will you be attending the Military Banquet? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Number in your party? \_\_\_

Military Banquet Tickets 25.00 each. Stuffed Pork Chops (Seating Limit 160)

**Ladies Auxiliary Convention Pre-Registration  
Sheridan, Colorado June 17 – 20, 2015**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

2014-2015 Ladies Auxiliary Officer Title \_\_\_\_\_

Pre- Registration is \$10.00 and will include a ditty bag and convention book  
Make Checks payable to: VFW Post 9644  
Mail to: VFW Post 9644, P O Box 2508, Englewood, CO 80150  
ATTN: Ron Davies - Convention Chairman  
Registration at the door will be \$12.00

Will you be attending the Military Banquet? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Number in your party? \_\_\_

Military Banquet Tickets \$25.00 each. Stuffed Pork Chops (Seating Limit 160)

**Men's Auxiliary Convention Pre-Registration  
Sheridan, Colorado June 17 – 20, 2015**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

2014-2015 Men's Auxiliary Officer Title \_\_\_\_\_

Pre- Registration is \$10.00 and will include a ditty bag and convention book  
Make Checks payable to: VFW Post 9644  
Mail to: VFW Post 9644, P O Box 2508, Englewood, CO 80150  
ATTN: Ron Davies - Convention Chairman  
Registration at the door will be \$12.00

Will you be attending the Military Banquet? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Number in your party? \_\_\_

Military Banquet Tickets \$25.00 each. Stuffed Pork Chops (Seating Limit 160)

**Lodging for VFW State Convention**

Holiday Inn (VFW Headquarters) 7390 W Hampton Ave., Lakewood 303-980-4284  
Deadline May 17, 2015

Best Western 3440 S Vance St, Lakewood 303-989-5500  
Deadline May 18, 2015

Hampton Inn 3605 S Wadsworth, Lakewood 303-989-6900  
Deadline May 17, 2015

Quality Inn 7240 W Jefferson Ave., Lakewood 303-989-4600  
Deadline May 17, 2015

La Quinta Inn 7190 W Hampton Ave., Lakewood 303-969-9700  
Deadline May 17, 2015

Courtyard Marriott 7180 W Hampton Ave., Lakewood 303-985-9696  
Deadline April 1, 2015

Resident Inn Marriott 7050 W Hampton Ave., Lakewood 303-985-7676  
Deadline April 1, 2015

Flying Saucer RV Park 2500 W Hampton Ave., Englewood 303-789-1707

South Park RVPark 3650 S Federal Blvd., Englewood 303-761-0121  
(Good Sam Park)

**Deer Creek Golf Course 8135 Shaffer Parkway, Littleton**  
**Fort Logan Northgate School 4100 S Lowell Blvd., Denver**  
**Jubilee Fellowship Church 6800 W Hampden Ave., Lakewood**  
**VFW Post 9644 2680 W Hampden Ave., Sheridan**  
**VFW Post 322 3800 S Windermere St., Englewood**

**State Convention - VFW  
Hosted by Verle Huffman #9644**

**Wednesday June 17**

8:00 am  
12:00 noon - 4:00 pm  
12:00 noon - 4:00 pm  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
1:00 pm  
3:00 pm  
6:00 pm

**Thursday June 18**

7:00 am - 8:00 am  
8:00 am  
12:00 noon

1:00 pm  
1:00 pm  
1:00 pm  
1:00 pm  
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
4:30 pm  
5:30 pm  
7:00 pm  
7:30 pm  
7:00 pm

**Friday June 19**

7:00 am  
8:00 am - 10:00 am  
8:30 am  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
7:00 pm  
7:00 pm

**Saturday June 20**

7:00 am  
7:00 am - 9:00 am  
8:30 am  
3:00 pm  
6:00 pm

**Sunday June 21**

8:00 am

**Wednesday June 17**

8:00 am  
8:30 am  
12:00 noon - 4:00 pm  
12:00 noon - 4:00 pm  
2:00 pm  
3:00 pm  
6:00 pm

**Thursday June 18**

7:00 am - 8:00 am  
8:00 am  
12:00 noon

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm  
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm  
4:30 pm  
5:30 pm  
7:00 pm  
7:00 pm

**Friday June 19**

7:00 am  
8:00 am - 10:00 am  
9:00 am  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
7:00 pm  
7:00 pm

**Saturday June 20**

7:00 am  
8:00 am - 9:00 am  
9:00 am  
3:00 pm  
6:00 pm

**Sunday June 21**

8:00 am

Golf Tournament Deer Creek Golf Club  
Lunch for Golfers VFW Post 9644  
Registration VFW Post 9644  
Lunch VFW Post 9644  
Service Officer Claims Ft Logan Northgate School  
Men's Auxiliary Ft Logan Northgate School  
Installation Practice Ft Logan Northgate School  
Council of Administration Ft Logan Northgate School

Registration Ft Logan Northgate School  
Joint Opening Session Ft Logan Northgate School  
Dept Commanders Luncheon VFW Post 9644

**(by invitation only)**  
General Resolutions Ft Logan Northgate School  
Service/Rehab Resolutions Ft Logan Northgate School  
Time & Place Committee Ft Logan Northgate School  
VFW Warriors meeting VFW Post 9644  
Registration Ft Logan Northgate School  
Colo Department of Revenue Ft Logan Northgate School  
Memorial Service Practice Jubilee Fellowship Church  
Joint Memorial Service Jubilee Fellowship Church  
PC Club Cocktails VFW Post 9644  
Past Commanders Banquet VFW Post 9644  
Fiesta (Karaoke) VFW Post 9644 Patio

District Commander Elect & VFW Post 9644  
District Sr. Vice Elect  
All American Breakfast  
Registration Ft Logan Northgate School  
Business Session Ft Logan Northgate School  
Open Houses - Caucuses VFW Post 9644  
Military Banquet VFW Post 9644  
Karaoke Party VFW Post 9644 Patio

Past State Commanders Breakfast VFW Post 9644  
Registration Ft Logan Northgate School  
Business Session /Election Ft Logan Northgate School  
Rally TBA  
Joint Installation of Officers Ft Logan Northgate School  
State Commander/President VFW Post 9644  
Dinner Reception & Dance VFW Post 9644

Breakfast (2015-2016 officers) VFW Post 9644

**State Convention - Ladies Auxiliary  
Hosted by Verle Huffman #9644**

Golf Tournament Deer Creek Golf Club  
Lunch for Golfers VFW Post 9644  
Staff Meeting TBA  
Registration VFW Post 9644  
Lunch VFW Post 9644  
State Officers Practice Ft Logan Northgate School  
Installation Practice Ft Logan Northgate School  
Council of Administration Ft Logan Northgate School

Registration Ft Logan Northgate School  
Joint Opening Session Ft Logan Northgate School  
Dept Presidents Luncheon VFW Post 322 Englewood

**(By invitation only)**  
Registration Ft Logan Northgate School  
Ladies Opening Session Ft Logan Northgate School  
Memorial Service Practice Jubilee Fellowship Church  
Joint Memorial Service Jubilee Fellowship Church  
Past Dept. Presidents Banquet TBA  
Fiesta (Karaoke) VFW Post 9644 Patio

Past District President's VFW Post 9644  
Breakfast

Registration Ft Logan Northgate School  
Business Session Ft Logan Northgate School  
Open Houses - Caucuses VFW Post 9644  
Military Banquet VFW Post 9644  
Karaoke Party VFW Post 9644 Patio

Past Auxiliary President's VFW Post 9644  
Breakfast

Registration Ft Logan Northgate School  
Business Session / Election Ft Logan Northgate School  
Rally TBA  
Joint Installation of Officers Northgate Middle School  
State Commander/President VFW Post 9644  
Dinner Reception & Dance

Breakfast (2015-2016 officers) VFW Post 9644

**Buddy Poppy Displays and Community Activities Books Room TBA**  
**SUBJECT TO CHANGE**





# Auxiliary News

Published by the Ladies Auxiliary  
to the Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Department of Colorado

Ann Mauck, Auxiliary News Chairman



## Presidents's Column Martine Arndt



As I write this article, you have completed your projects and reports. I know how hard you have all worked and wish you all luck for winning awards!

However, we are not done! We need

to continue to grow and nourish our organization. Do not hold "new" members until July, this is a disservice to both the member and your Auxiliary. Doing this can affect the member's ability to get a cancer grant, and waiting can discourage a person who is excited and motivated to get to work for our cause....our heroes. Please take the time to contact those members who have lapsed and be sure they understand the cancellation of the "one year rule", be sure they are paid before June 30 so they are not terminated as members. Do what needs to be done to get their dues paid. Don't forget that you can use the relief fund to pay their dues if they are in need. Our numbers are our strength with Congress, and the hours and money we donate have a great impact on the service members and veterans of our country. Our work continues every hour and every day, and will as long as there are those that defend our freedoms.

I hope to see many of you at my "Membership Gala" which will be held on May 30, 2015. 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Fontaine Qui Bouille Post 6461 in Fountain, CO. Watch for your invitation to this event in your email/snail mail.

My travels recently took me to both coasts, first to Mid-Winter Conference in Anaheim, CA where I enjoyed a wonderful "Night on the Town" with our National President, Ann Pantelekos. This year was different as all Department Presidents were invited to this event. It was a wonderful time and one I will never forget. Then off to Washington D.C. for the Legislative Conference and the Voice of Democracy Parade of Winners. What an honor to escort our winner, Adam Densmore down the aisle only to have him



Peggy Haake, Kahului, Hawaii, was elected National Guard of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States at its 101<sup>st</sup> National Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, on July 23, 2014.

A Life Member of Wilbert Wah Hu Tom Ladies Auxiliary #3850, which she joined on the eligibility of her husband, Richard, who served in the United States Army in Vietnam in 1970-71. Since joining she has served in several capacities for the orga-

nization, including Auxiliary and State President and Western Conference Chairman for the Youth Activities program. She is currently serving as Secretary-Treasurer of her Department and Treasurer for her Auxiliary.

awarded the First Place \$30,000 T. C. Selman Scholarship, talk about exciting! The week continued with a great experience meeting with our lawmakers and listening to the testimony of the Commander in Chief, John Stroud. I wish that all of you could attend this event, as it is amazing. My special project, "Military/Veteran Suicide Awareness and Prevention" has been doing well, but, we can always use more donations to fight this tragic epidemic. One suicide a day is unbearable, twenty two a day is unacceptable. Thank you for your continued support.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our Department Convention in Sheridan in June. The members of the Post and Auxiliaries of Verle Huffman #9644 have been working hard at setting up a memorable convention with many activities for our members.

To Senior Vice Commander, Pete; Senior Vice President Gloria, and all of those who are stepping up into offices for our Department, I pledge my support, love and best wishes for a successful year.

It is said that, "time flies when you are having fun", and for me these words are very true. It is hard to believe that this is my last article as your President. The past four years serving as an officer in the great Department of Colorado have been extremely fun! This year has been a wonderful and wild ride that I will remember for the rest of my life. Only a small number of people are able to live their dream, and I am so grateful that I have been able to do this. I thank all of you, my comrades, sisters and brothers of this great organization for your hospitality, kindness and courtesies that have been extended to my family and me, and for allowing me to represent you throughout the country. It has truly been an honor and a privilege!

My love and appreciation for you all to "Let It Snow A Blizzard of Love, Honor and Care for Our Heroes"

Hugs,  
Martine Arndt  
Department President

## Peggy Haake National Guard 2014-2015

National Representative  
State Convention

nization, including Auxiliary and State President and Western Conference Chairman for the Youth Activities program. She is currently serving as Secretary-Treasurer of her Department and Treasurer for her Auxiliary.

Peggy is retired after 34 years with the Bank of Hawaii and is currently an instructor for AARP Driver Safety Program. In her spare time she enjoys bowling, golfing and volunteer work.



Linda has been a member for 24 years of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

She joined the Joseph J. Jacques, Jr. Post 7945 Auxiliary in 1991 under the eligibility of her father.

She was Auxiliary President for four years and has held several District positions.

Linda is Colorado Department Jr. Vice President for the 2014-2015 year.

Linda has been a member of the Pueblo



We the sisters of Adamson-Warmuth Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post #6624 proudly stand in support of Caroline Gelatt on her continuous journey through the Colorado Department Chairs.

Caroline became a member of our Auxiliary in 1999 when she joined under the eligibility of her husband, Dave who is a Vietnam Era and Persian Gulf War Veteran, having served 20 years in the Navy. She has a passion for supporting our veterans past and present. She became a Life Member in 2001. Over the last 11 years she has held numerous elected and appointed chairmanships at local District and Department level. She served as our Auxiliary President and as District #3 President twice. At that time she received Outstanding District #3 President in 2011-2012. She is currently the VAVS Associate Representative for the Cheyenne VA



Shelley joined the VFW in 1995. She was President for six years between 2003-2012. She was All-State President 2003-04 and 2011-12. She has served in all of the District chairs and as the District President. Shelley has also been Auxiliary trustee, Youth Activities, Community Service, Legislative, Veterans and Family Support Chairs. Shelly has been District 10 Secretary for the

## Pueblo West VFW Ladies Auxiliary 5812 Proudly endorse Linda Reinhold for Senior Vice President 2015-2016

West Auxiliary for 14 years, during that time, she has been a dedicated member who is willing to share her knowledge.

We believe she will serve proudly and Pueblo West 5812 Auxiliary is honored to endorse Linda for Department Sr. Vice President and we ask you to support her in the upcoming election of officers.

Audrey Quick  
Pueblo West VFW 5812  
Auxiliary President

## Adamson-Warmuth Ladies Auxiliary Post 6624 & District #3 Proudly endorse Caroline Gelatt for Department Jr. Vice For the ensuing year 2015-2016

Hospital and has held this position for 8 Years. She has dedicated herself to serving and supporting all veterans and their families through the Ladies Auxiliary as well as through her work with a local nonprofit agency.

Caroline has held the position of Department Guard 2012-2013, this last year she has been Department Chaplain 2014-2015. She has done an excellent job. If you ask her, she'll say she still has a lot to learn but with your trust and support she'll be able to do just that.

Please help support our sister and friend Caroline Gelatt, as she continues her journey as she advances through the Department chairs and elect her to Department of Colorado Jr. Vice for the year 2015-2016.

May God Bless each and everyone and we Thank you for your consideration.

Gayle Stockwell, Auxiliary President

## Joseph J Jacques Jr VFW Ladies Auxiliary #7945 Proudly endorse Shelley Schlieman for Department Conductress 2015 - 2016

last three years and the Auxiliary Secretary for the last three years. Shelley is currently Department Guard.

The sisters of Joseph J Jacques Jr VFW Post #7945 ask for your support and to vote for Shelley Schlieman for Department Conductress in the upcoming election.

Respectfully,  
Brigitte Dolan, Auxiliary President





**Ladies Auxiliary #4331 Arvada Proudly Endorses**

**Cindy Anderson  
for  
Department Treasurer  
2015 - 2016**

The Ladies Auxiliary to Post 4331 in Arvada proudly endorses Cindy Anderson for the office of Department Treasurer for the 2015-2016 year.

Cindy has been a life member of the Ladies Auxiliary since 1991 joining under the eligibility of her husband Warren who is a Vietnam veteran. She has belonged to the Arvada Auxiliary for the last 17 years and has served in many capacities over the years including Auxiliary President for three years for which she received the honor of being an Outstanding President twice. She held the office of District President for District 10 in 2005-2006 and received the Outstanding Large District Award. She then went through all of the Department chairs and was Department President in 2011-2012. Cindy has also served as Auxiliary Treasurer for the last 7 consecutive years and has received the

Outstanding Treasurer Award twice.

Along with her vast knowledge of the workings of the Auxiliary, her work career included over 30 years as a full charge bookkeeper and then write-up bookkeeper and office manager for a tax accountant in Arvada.

We find Cindy always willing to answer questions, help, and teach anyone who needs assistance and we know that she will be an asset to the Department in the position of Treasurer. Cindy has the full support of her family and Auxiliary in this endeavour.

We respectfully ask you to join us in supporting Cindy at the Department Convention in June.

Loyally,  
*Stephanie Calvaresi*  
Auxiliary President 4331

**Youth Activities and Jr Girls**

Hello to all you AWESOME Colorado Ladies:

Well my time as the Youth Activities and Jr. Girls Chairman for the 2014-2015 is coming to an end. I would like to Thank Martine Arndt for the faith and trust in me when she asked me to be one of her chairmen this year. Thank you Rosie Mitchell for all her encouragement and help—I made it!! I had a blast and I hope I made this program fun for all of the Colorado Auxiliaries. I will always remember the flying plastic minus the injuries, laughter or smiles from blowing bubbles, and how bubble wrap can help with frustration. If none of the last sentence makes sense, please ask someone who went to C.O.A.'s.

Thank you to all the Auxiliaries for all their hard work with the youth within their Post home as well as the community. I love seeing all the events or activities you have put together or participated in this year. I feel that the work you did helped shape the youth of tomorrow. Thank you all for being great role models.

Jr. Girls: There is SOO much say but I'm only allowed so much space. I am in awe of the determination and dedication all of you have shown this year. Even when after receiving devastating news; all

of you stayed true to your oath to helping our veterans, families, and communities. For that I say thank you and nicely done ladies! I have no doubt that as long as all of you stay on this path ALL of you will become and be outstanding Ladies Auxiliary Member in the future. All Jr. Girls Units are invited to convention in June. I know I personally would love to put the beautiful faces to our future members.

Jr. Girl Advisors—my hat goes off to all of you for your hard work and staying true to your oath to help these Units. Without your hard work and dedication, they would not have reached the level of success they reached this year. Past Jr. Girl Advisors—thank you paving the way and your help at making the Jr. Girls Units what they became in Colorado. All of you helped create a piece history and are now part of a legacy we will remember forever. May we all reflect and use what we have learned from the Jr. Girls Units to move on to creating Youth Groups within our Posts and/or Auxiliaries.

Good luck to all of you and see you in June!!

Stephane Trujillo  
State Youth Activities and  
Jr. Girls Chairman



**Conifer VFW Post 12009 & Ladies Auxiliary and District 8 Ladies Auxiliaries Proudly Support Virginia "Ginny" Rosa for National Council 13 Representative**

Conifer VFW Post 12009, Ladies Auxiliary and District 8 Ladies Auxiliaries proudly support Virginia "Ginny" Rosa for National Council 13 Representative.

Ginny is a 33 year Life Member of the Ladies Auxiliary. Has held all Officer positions in the Auxiliary, and 2 terms as Auxiliary President. All officer positions in District 12 and 5 terms as District 12 President. All Officer positions in the Department of Colorado Ladies Auxiliary and President 2012-2013. Currently serv-

ing as Department Secretary.

Ginny's goal is to speak for the Auxiliaries of the Department of Colorado and Kansas, and make your wishes known to the National organization.

The Ladies of Conifer 12009 and District 8 proudly support Virginia "Ginny" Rosa for the office of National Council 13 Representative and ask for your vote, Saturday at the State Convention.

Donna Tellgren, Auxiliary 12009 President  
Janiece Tyler District 8 President

**LET IT SNOW- A BLIZZARD OF LOVE  
HONOR & CARE FOR OUR HEROS**

Department Raffle 2015

**Just a reminder ladies,**

If you still have ticket stubs & money to send in  
Deadline For mailing is June 9, 2015.

**If anything is sent after this time there may be a chance I will not receive them.**

so if you have unsold tickets, I need them also.  
please send them to me or bring them to convention.

I can always sell them there.

You may send your stubs with the money collected OR unsold tickets  
TO Glenna Medina; P.O. Box 874, Platteville, CO 80651  
**Please make checks payable to: LAVFW DEPT. OF CO**

Remember these are funds to provide awards to winners in;  
**Youth Scholarship Programs;**

**Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Creative Patriotic Art**

Booklets of tickets have been distributed to all

Auxiliary Presidents, District Presidents,

Department Officers and Department Chairmen to sell.

**ALL** Auxiliary members are encouraged to sell tickets.

**I have had a tremendous response from our members.**

**Thank you ALL for the work that you do.**

If you are coming to Convention I look forward to seeing you there.

**I will be at the registration desk during convention to take your ticket stubs and money.**

It would be great if we could get all the tickets sold and everything turned in before the Convention @ VERLE HUFFMAN, POST 9644.  
With the cooperation of all of our ladies, this raffle will be a great success and we will have all of the funds we need to support our youth programs.

**IF WE ALL WORK HARD WE WILL BRING ON THE**

**BLIZZARD.**

**So go to work ladies, sell those tickets! Time is running out!**

**Contact me for more information**

**970-352-1028 work or 970-381-0137 cell**

**Roster Changes - as of 3/16/15**

**Aux 101** President Address Change 7318 Murdoch Drive Colorado Springs 80920

**Auxiliary 7829** Third Wednesday Meeting time & place change

Monument Hill Country Club 18945 Pebble Beach Way Monument

**Aux 6011** Secretary Terri Morgan, 15002 CR 36, Platteville 80651 720-466-0775

**District 2** President Audrey Quick, 819 E. Loma Drive, Pueblo West 81007

719-671-1216 adrestevq@aol.com

**Aux 2788** President Jean Lennie, P O Box 243, Penrose 81240

Secretary Tammy Freeman, P O Box 523, Florence 81226-0523

Treasurer Marie Halvorsen

**Aux 7305** President Toni Liebnow, P O Box 19215, Colorado City 81019

719-676-3143 tmlrier@aol.com

**District 5** Secretary Deborah A. Hutchins, 2713 Ferber Drive, Colo Springs 80916

719-392-2522 duganier@aol.com

**Aux 5221** President Peggy Doven, 968 8th Street, Calhan 80808

719-347-2145 pmjargon@msn.com

**Aux 9221** President Connie Tollefson, 10368 Hwy 65, Austin 81410

970-835-3825 garytolleffson@TDS.net

**Aux 6101** President Susanne Quintana, P O Box 236, San Luis, CO 81152-0236

**Aux 2585** Meeting time change 4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

**Aux 4334** President Rebecca Stewart, 203 Rowe Ave, Pierce 80650

970-381-6338 evnbec@aol.com

**Aux 9644** Treasurer Debbie Blesh, 5450 W. Plymouth Drive, Littleton 80128

720-456-7739 coach-wife7@msn.com

**Aux 4444** President Robin Teti, 5580 Holland Drive, Arvada 80002

**Aux 4671** President Jodi Brady, 418 Birch Street, Wray 80758

970-630-0734 jodibrady@gmail.com

**Aux 6461** Meeting change 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 pm



- Aux 41: M. Eileen Bath PDP, Goldie Bradley, Wanda Gray, Kathleen Hinds, B. Jeanne Konig, Jo Ann Mutka, Velda Stolebarger, Effie Thompson
- Aux 784: Georgie Kincaid, Julia Rivera
- Aux 859: Marion Schaefer
- Aux 1771: Susie Chacon, Irene McCoy, Julia Montour
- Aux 3471: Anna Jacobson PDP, Rose Boston
- Aux 3631: Irene Sparks, Sally Perry, B. B. Vaughan
- Aux 3981: Shirley Florine Harwood
- Aux 4001: Ruth Moore
- Aux 4444: Vivian Hood, Marcia Kaiser
- Aux 4061: Georgia Garrett, Ramona Rupp, Katherine Greer, Flossie Javernick, Mary Cornella
- Aux 4331: Maxine Eittreim, Denise Chamberlain
- Aux 6461: Betty Frazier, Ruby Graham
- Aux 7305: Sharon Lowe
- Aux 7945: Cynthia Carley, Kathryn Krane, Doris Dade, Bettie Nunemacher
- Aux 9565: Marjorie Weber, Patricia Follett, Carol Ottersberg
- Aux 9644: Vivian Ellison, Barbara Hoskins, Marge Murray, Opal Hover, Betty McClung, Kathryn Ghilino, Ronora Plocher
- MAL: Katherine Wolff



**Membership 2014-2015**

Hello Ladies, what a great time we've had this year! Talking to all those new members and encouraging them to get involved in all our projects. Now let's focus on our current members that dues haven't yet been paid.

Starting 1 July 2015 anyone who hasn't paid their dues will be dropped from the membership rolls. At last year's National Convention the Membership rules were changed. You no longer have until 31 Dec to pay your dues. Furthermore there will no longer be reinstated memberships. If your membership is not paid by 1 July you will have to complete a new Membership Application and show your eligibility for the Ladies Auxiliary. If you became a member under a now divorced spouse your eligibility will be lost if you lapse. So I encourage each of you to make sure your dues are paid before 30 June.

All that being said, on to the fun stuff!

**Recruiter Training Program**

I would like to thank everyone who has attended the training classes that have been held and the members who have shown an interest in having a class and are trying to get one together.

The primary purpose of the training is to show how to increase membership, retain members and reinstate past members. The Department of Colorado membership level declined 491 members from 2011 to 2014, a 6.53% drop and National dropped 9.79%. National levels have dropped 31.81% since 2000. Colorado is currently at 92.07% of June 2014 and need 557 members to reach 100% by June 30, 2015. National is at 94.43% of their membership goal.

As of March 31, 2015 there are 22 Colorado Auxiliaries and one District that have achieved 100% of their 2014 June membership. There are an additional 26 that are over 90% and many others approaching over 90%. Thank you everyone for all of your hard work!

In the March issue of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW Magazine, there are two articles that can help with recruiting members. The first one is Bright Ideas – "Just One" cards to hand out to Auxiliary members to make a pledge to recruit just one member during the year. The second article is

All Presidents, Treasurers, and Membership Chairman are invited to the Membership Gala that President Martine Arndt is hosting on 30 May 2015 at VFW Post 6461 in Fountain CO. It will begin at 1100. She has lovely gifts for those Auxiliaries that have met their goals, and all Members that have recruited or reinstated members. What a fun time we will have together! I hope you will be able to attend and meet our Department Officers.

Good news, as of this morning our membership percentage is at 93.30%. Whoo Hoo!! Keep working ladies!

**"Let it snow a Blizzard of Love, Care, and Honor, for our Heroes"**

Thanks!

Gloria Otwell, Linda Reinpold, and Kathy Boatman, Membership Committee

"Who We Are and What We Do". When you are talking with a prospective member, it is a short speech to help you explain that the LAVFW is a service organization and how we help veterans and their families through our volunteer efforts.

Sr. Vice President and Department Membership Chairman Gloria Otwell, Kathy Boatman and I are working together to help you increase, recruit and retain future membership through training and mentoring to keep our Department and Auxiliaries healthy and active.

Classes can be held throughout the state at the Department, District and Auxiliary levels. They can help you develop a plan for future membership, use outside events and resources and set realistic goals. There will be materials available to take with you. Remember – it is getting one member at a time that will make us a success so we can continue to support our veterans and their families.

I look forward to working with all Auxiliaries in this membership training program! Please call me with any questions and to schedule a training session.

Linda Reinpold  
National Certified Recruiter Trainer  
Department of Colorado

**Chief of Staff**

First of all, I want to "THANK" all of the Deputy Chief of Staff and the Auxiliaries for their participation in the R U Healthy? check list, the Member Questionnaire and the nominations of members for the "Good Job" Award. If you haven't participated, you may by April 20, 2015 for the certificates to be handed out at the Department Convention.

Every Auxiliary has a person/persons that go above the norm for our Organization and need to be recognized with the "Good Job" Award. R U Healthy?

Please check off the questions and give to the Deputies or send them to me. Would you as a member like to see changes in our Organization.

You still have time to voice your opinion. Fill out the Questionnaire, put your Auxiliary number and mail to me.

You will find all of the forms in the Program Book. Also we would like to know if you used the Phone Tree and the Meeting Clinic. Remember I am a phone call away to assist in helping your Auxiliaries.

Sue Tartaglione,  
Department Chief of Staff

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

Thank you for all the cards, phone calls and show of concern for Henry. He really looked forward to the mail man delivering all the cards and reading your messages. Henry is on oxygen 24/7 and does not leave the house, except for Dr. Appointments. He does miss seeing everyone, so your cards help us pass the days. I also will miss being with you at State Convention, as I resigned from Color Bearer to take care of Henry. Bless all of you.  
Mayola and Henry Reed, VFW Post 3917 Security

**Auxiliary Membership by District 2014 - 2015  
April 21, 2015**

Number	City	2014	2015	%	Number	City	2014	2015	%
<b>DISTRICT #1</b>					<b>DISTRICT #7</b>				
1	Denver	175	168	96	899	Alamosa	77	79	103*
501	Denver	153	148	97	3228	Monte Vista	40	41	103*
2461	Denver	120	116	97	4849	La Jara	48	48	100*
2797	Denver	37	36	97	6101	San Luis	46	46	100*
3971	Denver	44	40	91	8121	So Fork	93	94	101*
5061	Denver	139	112	81		TOTAL	304	308	101%*
	TOTAL	668	620	93%					
<b>DISTRICT #2</b>					<b>DISTRICT #8</b>				
984	Trinidad	23	0	0	859	Leadville	31	31	100*
2788	Penrose	44	44	100*	1166	Buena Vista	89	90	101*
3641	Pueblo	89	74	83	8661	Bailey	63	34	54
4061	Canon City	171	160	94	11411	Lake George	42	47	112*
5812	Pueblo West	40	50	125*	12009	Conifer	35	30	86
7305	Colo. City	30	26	87		TOTAL	260	232	89%
	TOTAL	397	354	89%					
<b>DISTRICT #3</b>					<b>DISTRICT #9</b>				
41	Loveland	140	125	89	4264	Stmbt Spgs	33	34	103*
1771	Lafayette	346	321	93	4265	Craig	59	51	86
1781	Ft. Collins	75	80	107*	5843	Meeker	38	30	79
2121	Greeley	106	94	89	9374	Kremmling	17	18	106*
2585	Johnstown	43	42	98		TOTAL	147	133	90%
2601	Longmont	260	241	93					
2841	Brighton	55	36	65	<b>DISTRICT #10</b>				
4334	Ault	37	36	97	322	Englewood	113	112	99
6011	Platteville	38	33	87	3471	Morrison	52	51	98
6624	Evans	207	195	94	3631	Aurora	108	110	102*
9565	Broomfield	37	39	105*	4171	Golden	338	313	93
	TOTAL	1344	1242	92%	4331	Arvada	136	120	88
					4444	Cmmrc City	177	178	101*
					6331	Aurora	49	0	0
					7945	Thornton	254	234	92
					9644	Fort Logan	372	340	91
						TOTAL	1599	1458	91%
					<b>DISTRICT #11</b>				
					784	Montrose	58	52	90
					1247	Grnd Jcnctn	102	93	91
					3571	Delta	79	73	92
					3981	Grnd Jcnctn	24	20	83
					4663	Clifton	74	52	70
					9221	Cedaredge	67	67	100*
					9304	Silt	23	23	100*
					9333	Hotchkiss	25	24	96
						TOTAL	452	404	89%
					<b>DISTRICT #12</b>				
					4031	Durango	75	65	87
					5181	Dove Creek	43	41	95
					5231	Mancos	68	61	90
					9058	Nucla	20	19	95
						TOTAL	206	186	90%
					<b>DISTRICT #13</b>				
					3411	Kit Carson	32	29	91
					6491	Burlington	11	17	155*
					6612	Hugo	59	51	86
						TOTAL	102	97	96%
					15006	At Large	187	257	137%*
						TOTAL DEPT.	7,030	6,559	93%

**"100 Years of Serving Veterans"  
Department of Colorado  
Ladies Auxiliary VFW**

**Legislative**

The 2014/15 year is almost to an end and plans are in the making for a new year. I hope that you legislative chairmen that have worked so hard this year, to inspire others to take legislation for veterans as a personal quest, don't feel that your job is done just yet. Our year isn't quite over and maybe you are not going to be chairman next year, but as an advocate for veterans, you know in your heart that the job will never be done. The more people who become and stay involved, the stronger

the voice becomes. Please continue to seek the truth, speak out on behalf of our veterans, and hold our government officials responsible for their actions. I hope you all can come to convention so you can receive the credit you have earned through your efforts, and I look forward to congratulating you personally.

**In It For Our Vets**

Susan Griffith  
State Legislative Chairman

**ALL STATE PRESIDENT/ACHIEVEMENT**

Reporting has ended and now the hard part begins--Judging. Even though reporting has ended for the year 2014-2015 the work continues. Program Reports starting with April 16, 2015 are the activities that count toward the 2015-2016 reporting year. Be sure those activities are counted for judging next year. Please keep reporting.

you believe what we do for our veterans is important. We believe that Colorado has the best Auxiliaries and Presidents in The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Best Wishes to all for the deserved honor at the State Convention.

**"Let It Snow A Blizzard of Love Care & Honor For Our Heroes"**

Sue Tartaglione, Jane Ledesma,  
Rosie Mitchell, Ruth Gulden Chairman

Our thanks to all who completed the year end reports for All State President and Auxiliary Achievement. It proves that



## Americanism

I know that most of us grew up with Little Golden Books.

Well, interestingly enough, on the New York Times Bestseller Nonfiction List has been an incredible book entitled: **Everything I Need to Know I Learned From a Little Golden Book** by Diane Muldrow.

I'd like you to enjoy my own book entitled: **Everything I Need to Know I Learned From the VFW Ladies Auxiliary!!!**

I have learned that I belong to an honorable, exclusive group because of my father, grandfather, brother, or spouse.

I have learned that my organization exists to serve my community and our veterans.

I have learned that one must lead by example.

I have learned the history of the Buddy Poppy and its incredible power in helping others.

I have learned about the wonderful programs that the Ladies Auxiliary works to support.

I have learned about shopping...my closet is now full of Red, White, and Blue.

I have learned about pins...Ladies Auxiliary pins are now my go-to jewelry.

I have learned about potlucks and fundraisers...we know how to do the best ever events.

I have learned about energy, commitment, and belief that I can make a difference.

I have learned that donating and dis-

tributing the American flag continues to spread patriotism throughout our land.

I have learned how important it is to help educate our youth on flag etiquette and our essay contests.



I have learned the significance of each item on the POW/MIA table.

I have learned about the importance of reporting all of our volunteer activities...not only for my own auxiliary, but for our nonprofit status and lobbying purposes.

I have learned the effect of a Smile, a Please, and a Thank You.

I have learned that belonging to the Ladies Auxiliary is "no tea party"...it's hard, meaningful work. (Your back might hurt...but your heart is happy)

I have learned ways to show my heart-felt dedication and loyalty to our veterans and that the Ladies Auxiliary organization exists because of our VFW.

And lastly, I have learned that I still have so much to learn and DO!!

I look forward to seeing ALL of you at the State Convention.

Thank you, my Sisters, for your hard work to spread Americanism throughout your community!!!

Loyally,  
Rose Naughton,  
State Americanism Chairman

## Hospital

Thank You to all the Auxiliaries for your support for our Veterans and the Hospital program.

The auxiliaries have volunteered hundreds of hours having special parties, Bingo and countless other activities for our veterans. I will attend some of the special awards parties at the VA hospitals and the State Living Care Center as they present your pins for hours volunteered.

Betty Melsen was selected as the Department Auxiliary Outstanding Hospital Volunteer this year. Betty greatly deserves this honor with over 50 year of volunteer service at the VA. Betty held many positions for the Department Ladies Auxiliary over the years. She was Hospital chairman, Denver VAVS Deputy and then Denver VAVS Representative, always serving with superiority. Betty will receive her award at the Department Convention.

If anyone needs hospital pins please let me know. You can count the hours at community nursing homes, Ft Carson hospital, outpatient clinics & making items at home!

I also will be presenting certificates of appreciation at the department convention for volunteer hours to the hospital program.

Do not forget the Women and Homeless Veterans. There are many special programs in the VA system to volunteer

or send donations.

In Denver we have a new 40 bed facility "Valor Point" for homeless veterans. The facility is for men and women located in south Denver off of Hampden & Wadsworth Blvd., managed by the VA. They need volunteers to host Bingo and other activities along with clothing donations. Call me for more information on whom to contact to volunteer or host an activity.

Be sure to send in the form for any new volunteers you recruited this year to receive an award at the convention. They can be at home working on projects for the hospital program as well as volunteering in the VA hospitals and State Living Care Centers or in communities nursing homes.

We still have many opportunities to visit our veterans on special days like Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day & Father's Day. Plan a picnic or bring special treats to let our hero's know they are not forgotten.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Department Convention. Thank you for a wonderful year.

We have "Let It Snow a Blizzard of Love, to Honor and Care for our Heroes."

Charlotte Lattin  
State Hospital Chairman

## Veterans And Family Support

The Veterans and Family Support Program Theme for the March COA was "Get Our Ducks in Order".

A fuzzy, yellow duck reminded the participants to report in all four (4) National program area goals:

- 1) National Veterans Services (NVS) "Operation Changing Lives"
- 2) National Military Services (NMS)
  - a. Operation Uplink
  - b. Military Assistance Program (MAP)
  - c. Sports Clips Help a Hero Scholarship
  - d. Unmet Needs
- 3) VFW National Home for Children
- 4) Buddy Poppy

**PLUS** to remember and assist our Homeless Veterans

As of the March COA, 82% of the auxiliaries had reported. The goal is 100%! As the National President has designated the Veterans & Family Support Program the "Premier Program for this year".

A drawing for NVS was conducted at

the Sunday joint session and the winner of the Samsung Galaxy Tab 4-7.0" Tablet 8GB was Mike Barber, District #4 and Post #2551 Commander.

The \$550 drawing funds combined with the \$250 jewelry silent auction conducted at the Fall COA enabled CO to present \$800 to Commander-in-Chief, John Stroud toward the Commander's and National President's mutual special project, "Operation Changing Lives".

My personal thanks to Lucille Chavez, #4171 and Mike and Linda Stahly, #3571 for helping with the NVS Drawing.

**KUDOS** to you for all your work for the Veterans & Family Support Program.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the State Convention and receive your well-deserved awards!!

Loyally,  
Carol Anderson,  
State Veterans and Family Support Chairman

## Cancer Aid and Research

I hope that everyone is staying warm and looking forward to Spring.

Ladies, don't forget to send in your \$2.00 per member ear-marked for Cancer Aid & Research to Department Treasurer Colleen Rylant. Colorado will receive 15% of all donations sent if we reach 100% by June 2015.

Our National Ambassador for Cancer Aid & Research would like to hear about more Survivor Celebrations in Colorado. If your Auxiliary has not yet hosted a celebration, here's what you need to get started:

An event chairman and a publicity contact.

A date for, and the type of, celebration you will have.

Are you going to give a small gift? A couple of places to start looking are:

- Oriental Trading Company [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com)
- Pink Wings [www.pinkwings.com](http://www.pinkwings.com)
- Quill Company [www.quill.com](http://www.quill.com)

Get the word out about your celebration. Share the information on your Facebook page, post flyers in the community, place a notification on your local paper, etc.

Volunteers to assist with decorations, food, greeters, etc.

When all is done and you have completed a Survivor's Celebration...REPORT, REPORT, REPORT.

1,684 Cancer Grants have been given to our members during the 2014-2015

Program Year and we still have 3 months until the Program Year is over!

The 7-7-7 Campaign is just one more way for your Auxiliary to raise money for the Cancer Aid & Research Fund. Any Auxiliary, with any number of members, active or homebound, can participate. Basically, it's a phone-a-thon, where members make calls to give others an opportunity to donate to the Fund.

7-7-7 is to make it easy to remember what you need to do: Each day for 7 days, members call 7 people each day and ask each person to donate 7 dollars. (They can donate more, of course!)

You'll need to vote at a meeting that it will be a fundraiser for the Cancer Aid & Research Program. Then you choose a week to have your campaign.

There is a manual on how to do a 7-7-7 Phone-a-Thon that I will have available at the Council meeting in Golden.

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness, Kidney Cancer Awareness & Multiple Myeloma Awareness.

April is Testicular Cancer Awareness, Esophageal Cancer Awareness & Head and Neck Cancer Awareness.

May is Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness & Brain Cancer Awareness.

*"Let it Snow a Blizzard of Love, Honor and Care for Our Heroes!"*

Lennie Dolan, Department State Cancer Aid & Research Chairman



## 2014 - 2015 Cancer Pins Order Form



Auxiliary No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: CO Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Pins for \$3.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

Ordered by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to Department of Colorado Ladies Auxiliary  
Mail Cancer Pin order to: Lennie Dolan  
1170 Fulton Street  
Aurora, CO 80010  
(303) 341-7488

## Thank You Thank You

We would like to thank the members of the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary and friends far and wide that we met in our travels.

For all the cards, emails, Face Book's, and phone calls of Sympathy.

Shirley Florine Harwood passed on to her Lord, February 11th at 3:41 am. She was a Ladies Auxiliary member for over Fifty years.

Always Loved,  
The Family: Dielon Harwood, Carols S. Campbel,  
Rubert M. Campbell (Mary)