

COLORADO VETERAN

and Auxiliary News

“No One Does More For Veterans”



May, 2017

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

Volume 56, Issue 4 2016 - 2017



John E. Hamilton
Past Commander-in-Chief

National Representative
State Convention
June 14-17, 2017

John E. Hamilton was elected commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on July 25, 2012, at the 113th VFW National Convention in Reno, Nev.

In July 2013 he was appointed adjutant general of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a position he held until his retirement in 2016.

John served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1968 to 1970, including a tour in Vietnam. His decorations include three Purple Hearts, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Gallantry Cross Color, Republic of Vietnam Unit Citation Civil Actions Color (First Class) and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

He joined the VFW in 1974 at Post 7909 in Jacksonville, Fla., where he maintains his Legacy Gold Life membership. He has served the VFW in many leadership positions, including the National Council of Administration from 1989 to 1991, and as Florida's Department commander from 1987 to 1988. He served on the board of the VFW National Home from 2002 to 2008 and as its president from 2004 to 2005.

He also served as supreme commander of the Military Order of the Cootie from 1992 to 1993.

John graduated with honors from Georgia Military Academy in 1967. He worked as a professional wrestler throughout the United States and the world for 15 years as Johnny Montana (also known as “Dr. Death”), along with other names and identities.

He was named Florida's Young Veteran of the Year in 1981. John served as a commissioner on the United States World War I Centennial Commission board located in Washington, D.C., from 2014 to 2016, and served on the board of the World War I Museum located in Kansas City, Mo., from 2011 to 2016. He has been honored by Presidents Jimmy Carter and George H. W. Bush for his outstanding community service and leadership.

John is a member of the Military Order of the Cootie, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, AMVETS, Fleet Reserve Association, and the Semper Fidelis Society.

He resides in Crestview, Fla.

Jean Hamil
VFW Auxiliary Guard

National Representative
State Convention
June 14-17, 2017

Jean Hamil of Orlando, Florida, was elected National Guard of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary at its 103rd National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., on July 27, 2016.

She is now in the first of five offices leading to the National Presidency, which she is expected to hold in 2021-2022.

A Life member of East Seminole County VFW Auxiliary 10139, she joined on the eligibility of her father, George W. Nunnery, a Korean War veteran, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1952-1973.

She has served the Auxiliary in several capacities including Auxiliary, District and State President. On the national level she has served as National District Coun-

VA Fellow helps improve the VA Hiring and Training Process

Karthik Venkatraj University of Colorado Law School student, a member of VFW Post 1, and one of ten VFW Legislative Student Fellows recently joined Jr. Vice Commander Steve Kjonaas and Past Dept Commander D.J. Alberts as Karthik briefed his VFW Fellowship project on the Executive Management Fellowship Program to Staff experts of the House Veterans Affairs committee inside the Rayburn Building in Washington D.C. February 28th.

In effect, Karthik's Fellowship project will permanently add to Chapter 7 of title 39 of the United States Code “Subchapter III — Executive management fellowship program.” This change will create a fellowship program between the Dept. of Veterans Affairs and the private sector for the purpose of making available to eligible employees of the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Veterans Health Administration with training and experience



cil Member, National Director of the Membership program and is a Life Member of the VFW National Home for Children and a member of the Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary (MaCA).

Jean is employed as a Manager, Food Safety & Environmental Compliance for A. Duda & Sons, Inc.

In her spare time she enjoys quilting, spending time with friends and traveling. She belongs to the Florida Cabin Fever Quilters Guild and also a small group of “Quilting Angels” who make quilts for veterans at the Orlando VA Healthcare Center, for children temporarily located at Safe House, and seniors in Seminole County.

in the private sector; and eligible employees of a private-sector entity with training and experience in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

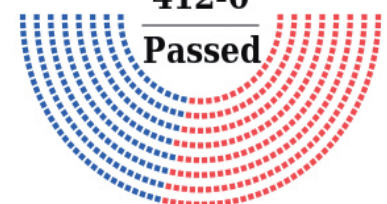
Comrade Venkatraj's Fellowship program was a large part of H.R. 1367 (to streamline and update the VA hiring process) and it passed the House unanimously and at this moment sits on the Senate calendar for consideration.

When you see Karth, be sure to congratulate him on a job well down!

H.R. 1367: To improve the...

412-0

Passed



House Vote #171 -- 03/17/17

2016 - 2017 District Meeting Schedules

MAY DISTRICT MEETINGS

NO.	DATE	LOCATION	TIME	REPRESENTATIVE
1	5/20/17 Saturday	Post No. 5061 Denver	10:00 am 12:00 noon Meal Joint Meeting Election/Installation	Ed Aitken Caroline Gelatt
2	5/06/17 Saturday	Post No. 4061 Canon City	11:00 am Joint Mtg 12:00 noon Lunch Meeting to follow Election/Installation	David Stone Sabrina Feagaiga
3	5/21/17 Sunday	Post No. 2585 Johnstown	12:00 noon Meal 1:00 pm Meeting Election/Installation	Allan Stone Linda Reinpold
8	5/13/17 Saturday	Post No. 12009 Conifer	12:00 noon Meal 1:00 pm Meeting Election/Installation	Allan Stone Linda Reinpold
9	5/13/17 Saturday	Post No. 5843 Meeker	12:00 noon Meeker	Robert Kidd Caroline Gelatt
10	5/21/17 Sunday	Post No. 4171 Golden	1:00 pm Meeting Election of Officers Dinner and Installation	Bruce Dolan Sabrina Feagaiga
11	5/07/17 Sunday	Post No. 9333 Hotchkiss	9:30 am Registration 10:30 am Memorial Service 11:00 am Joint Mtg 12:00 noon Lunch Meeting to follow Election/Installation	David Stone Shelley Schlieman

Mother's Day is May 14th

Colorado VFW Foundation

From the Board of Directors: First and foremost THANK YOU!!! VFW, VFW Auxiliary, Family and Friends. With your help and support we have been able to continue to help Colorado's Veterans and their families.

We are approaching the end of the Fiscal Year for 2016-2017: so far this year we have processed over 200 applications and have approved 117 applications. Phone calls and Applications are still being screened and processed by the Board of Directors. Funds are limited and approval is determined on a case by case basis.

The Grant Application is available on the Department Website. Any eligible Veteran in need of emergency assistance across the State of Colorado can apply for a one time Grant of \$500

As always we are asking for donations. Please make your checks payable to Colorado VFW Foundation and mail to 1400 Carr Street, Lakewood, CO 80214.

**Remember to phone your Mother, send flowers or a card!
It is her time to relax and be pampered!**

We wish everyone a Great Mother's Day May 14th

COLORADO VETERAN and AUXILIARY NEWS

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Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Colorado

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National Convention

118th VFW National Convention

Advertising deadline 1st of preceding month - Article deadline 1st of preceding month
Stories, pictures, etc., received after these dates may be withheld 'till the next publication

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Gloria Otwell, jr. past president
Ann Mauck, auxiliary news chairman

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 7	So Denver VFW #2461	Denver
14	John S. Stewart VFW #1	Denver
21	Joseph J Jacques VFW #7945	Thornton
28	Verle Huffiman VFW #9644	Sheridan
Jun 4	Paul A Westover VFW #3471	Morrison
11	Dean K Phillips VFW #5061	Denver
18	Retired Enlisted (TREA#3)	Denver
25	Englewood VFW #322	Englewood
Jul 2	Skyline PT #2797	Denver
9	Mile High VFW #1771	Lafayette
16	Pat Hannon VFW #4666	Littleton
23	Dean K Phillips VFW #5061	Denver
30	Frances Brown Lowry VFW #501	Denver

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.

Protestant service begins at 9:00 AM. Please meet in the Chapel at 8:30 for assignments of volunteers to escort from the Community Living Center. If you are unable to keep your assigned date, please work out a trade and then call, Betty Melsen at 303-237-6646 or Juanita Bowen 303-935-4271 IN ADVANCE so they are aware of any changes.

Please contact Betty Melsen if your VFW and 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 Foundation Post/Auxiliary Community Support Grant from National

Want to get more involved in your community by helping a local nonprofit organization that helps veterans? We have the answer...apply for the VFW Foundation Post/Auxiliary Community Support Grant! It was simple!

VFW Auxiliary 7829, Monument, received \$1,000 from the VFW Foundation to help provide meals and lodging to disabled vets and Gold Star kids who participate in hunting excursions sponsored by the local Freedom Hunters chapter in Monument. Doug Lyons, Chaplain of VFW 7829, is one of the main volunteers who plans and conducts the hunts. His wife, Linda Lyons, Chaplain of the VFW Auxiliary to Post 7829 who mentors the wives of the disabled vets, made the Auxiliary aware of the need for donations for food and lodging during hunts, especially their large one where they take 10 handicapped vets hunting for 4 days, accompanied by 10 veterans who mentor and assist the handicapped veterans. Conductress Colleen Kolsti, whose husband is active

military, volunteered to write the grant application. She summarized how the grant would benefit the community. It was mailed the end of January and the Auxiliary received notice of the award with the \$1,000 check one month later!

The application is simply two pages long – Section I tells who is applying and the amount requested, and Section II explains the need for funding and how it will be used, in 250 words or less. VFW Auxiliary 7829 had 4 goals – to help our local veterans and Gold Star families; to enhance local outreach from our VFW Auxiliary; to strengthen community connections to our VFW and VFW Auxiliary; and to potentially boost membership in our VFW and VFW Auxiliary.

The grant cycle is now closed for the year; however, applications may be submitted again beginning September 1, 2017.

Want to know more about Freedom Hunters? Check out its website: www.freedomhunters.org.

**Watch for the Grant cycle to re-open September 1, 2017
And apply. It is simple!**

Voice of Democracy 2017-2018 Theme

“American History: Our Hope for the Future”

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 Allan Stone



This is my last article for the "Colorado Veteran". Where have the last five years gone? I am the first comrade in the last several years to go

through all five chairs - Chaplain, Surgeon, Junior Vice Commander, Senior Vice Commander and Commander. It has been an honor and pleasure to work with all of you, the comrades of the great State of Colorado.

Membership is the backbone of any organization and Veterans of Foreign Wars is no exception. Without keeping current members and recruiting new members, VFW will fail.

There are three R's for Veterans of Foreign Wars that we need to discuss.

1. RECRUIT
2. RETAIN
3. REINSTATE

Let's explore each one of the three R's.

RECRUIT - National, Department and District are always encouraging Posts to recruit new members. Several people to consider recruiting into VFW are neighbors, postmen, policemen, sheriffs, firemen and anyone wearing a cap or shirt with military insignia. Just ask them if they were in the service and where they served.

RETAIN - We need to retain the new

members that we bring into the posts. Start a mentor program and have a member communicate and keep in touch with the new members through e-mails, phone calls, text messages or any other form of communication the new member prefers. The continuous members need to be encouraged to become life members.

REINSTATE - Members who have fallen through the cracks and have been taken off of the roster need to be contacted and encouraged to rejoin VFW. My Membership Chairman, Duane Johnson, has a list of individuals who can be reinstated, as well as, a list of members at large that can be contacted.

This year, the Department of Colorado, needs 17,379 to reach a goal of 100 plus 1. 13,137 are life members so 4,241 members need to be added to the membership from continuous, new and reinstated members. Contact my Membership Chairman, Duane Johnson at 720-999-0539, to assist Posts and Districts achieve 100 plus 1. If we all work together, we can make the Department of Colorado 100 plus 1.

I look forward to seeing you at the State Convention in Colorado Springs, June 14 - 17. Let's all work together to help and support veterans!

Allan Stone
Department Commander

Jr. Vice Column Steve Kjonaas



Comrades, reflecting on all of you I have met for the first time this past year and the continued friendships I enjoy, thank you. I feel honored that

you entrusted me to carry the banner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to events and far reaching places to speak on our behalf about issues that deeply affect our way of life and our transition toward conquering new challenges.

I was most happy to see our Colorado State Comrade Commander Allan Stone walk toward me, stick out his hand with a smile on his face and tell me, "Steve, I'm back!" Comrade Stone's long hospitalization had been extremely tough on him and his family, but for Phyllis, her strong courage and strength is what inspired me. This further strengthened my view of our VFW family. The very essence of comradeship and solidarity amongst ourselves is what makes us strong when one is weakened but then helps us find those who makes us proud as we watch them stand up and take charge. We are all in this together, we have a common thread to continue

on our life's path of service before self, to help those in need, yet, celebrate our triumphs.

I wonder where we would be at without the VFW. We could have joined another Veteran's Service Organization. Yet, the VFW is special for its qualifications to become a member and I say, bravo! I celebrate your choice to join the VFW and help other Veterans become better. The Veterans in your community need our synergy to push forward and accomplish great things. We need that collaboration to push the VA and our legislatures to serve Veterans of all types and backgrounds. You have Veterans who do not know the accomplishments we have made and yet they are right there in your community. Albeit, only you know where they are, how to reach them, and what they may need. We need those Veterans to become VFW members to help themselves and to help others, as the pride you feel is not just for yourself, but to help and witness others overcome their own hardship and become one of our VFW family.

Steve Kjonaas
State Jr. Vice Commander

Sr. Vice Column Ed Aitken



Comrades, Sisters and Brothers I would like to thank you for all the cards and prayers when I was restricted to my city. I have been released from all re-

striction. As the Doctor said "I am good to go".

The Counsel of Administration was held on March 25 and 26th and was a success. Beside the training and business sessions it is always fun to visit with old friends and meeting and making new ones. Our next C.O.A. will be at our State Convention. Hope to see you all there.

The Legislation team, lead by D. J. Alberts, went to Washington D.C. To visit with your Senators and Congressman to present the Veterans of Foreign Wars Goals. The week started out with the Voice of Democracy Awards Ceremony, our State Winner Faith M. Spino was escorted by the Commander Allan Stone and Auxiliary President Linda Reinbold to the stage where Ms Spino received a \$1000 award.

The next couple days we visited the Senators and Congressman or their aids. We did visit with Congressman Coffman

who agreed with the goals and when we were finished Congressman Coffman walk with us to the Senate entrance and then went to his committee hearing. We arrived at Senator Gardner office and was told he was on the Senate floor for a vote. While waiting to visit with the Senators aid, Senator Gardner came into the office shock our hands and apologized but had to return to the floor for a vote and asked his aid to visit with us. I believe it was a successful trip thanks D.J. Alberts.

On the Tuesday March 28th My wife and I attended the Institution and Installation of the Officers of the Carbon Valley Post 9741 Auxiliary. Auxiliary President Linda Reinbold and her State Officers performed the ceremonies. We wish the President Colleen Whitlow, Senior Vice President Chris Tone, Junior Vice President David Adams, Treasurer Debbie Kloczkowski, Secretary Stacy Tone, Chaplain Patrisa McHone, Conductress Barbara Goettsch. Let us all wish them great success.

I look forward to seeing you at our State Convention, till then be safe.

Ed Aitken
State Sr. Vice Commander

Quartermaster's Column Bruce Dolan



Sometimes sitting at a stop light or on my front porch, I drift away and think how fortunate I am. Growing up at Boys Town you come to realize when you graduate, you have no idea what

the world is going to throw at you. I have a great family. I have a good job. I can count my good friends on one hand, and I have the privilege on belonging to a world class organization and have been given the HONOR of serving my fellow comrades in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. I want to take this short time to thank everyone reading for that HONOR. I didn't join the VFW with this in mind, but things sometimes happen in strange ways. THANK YOU!

I receive newsletter from most of the 53 Departments of the VFW. I have normally read the news articles the officers write. Most are about programs, visits, and of course—MEMBERSHIP. There were one or two in the past few months that caught my eye. They stated that we have to increase membership so we do not become EXTINCT. Really! Extinct! It seems to me the last time I looked the VFW was over 100 years old. I try look at the future a little more optimistically. Our numbers are decreasing, true. But remember, our WW2 and Korean vets

formed Posts for the personal camaraderie. Today's vets have computers. Vietnam vets were given a bad rap and were not always welcome. Some of the hard feelings linger today, although age is slowing that down. Today's vets have a large percentage of women veterans. I feel we really are in a downward trend concerning membership in our organization. BUT, extinction is not in our vocabulary. There are thousands of eligible veterans in Colorado. I feel we have to change what we are offering as compared to what we had to offer. Our young veterans will come around. History proves that to us. Remember, a lot of returning vets are in the same boat (no reference to the Navy) we were in when we got out. They have a family, they want to go to school or get a job. If they need to talk to someone, they go to the computer and chat as long and as personally as they want. We WILL find a way to have them join our ranks. We WILL find a way to grow our ranks again. We WILL leave our great organization on good hands for the future. WE WILL NOT BECOME EXTINCT.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the convention in Colorado Springs.

Please pray for our veterans; especially those on the streets, and pray for our troops in harms way.

Bruce R. Dolan
State Quartermaster

Thank You - Thank You

I would like to thank everyone in Colorado for the many Cards, e-mails phone calls and visits the last couple of months while I was in and out of the Hospital and ER. Your concerns and prayers are greatly appreciated. I am still under Dr's care with regular check ins and have good and bad days. I am planning on seeing you all at State Convention.

Jim Mauck PDC

Thank You Colorado

I would like to thank everyone in Colorado for the Cards and Phone Calls. Your thoughts and kind words were helpful, and greatly appreciated. I am feeling much better.

Warren Tellgren PDC

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

**General Orders No. 4
May 1, 2017 Series 2016-2017**

1. **97th DEPARTMENT CONVENTION** will be held in Colorado Springs, June 14th through 17th. The Council of Administration will meet at 6:00 pm, June 14th at Hotel Elegante. 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 19, 2017.

3. **DISTRICT COMMANDERS** must attend Council of Administration meeting June 14th at State Convention in Colorado Springs, CO. You must also be present at ALL Business Sessions to receive your full travel expense check plus per diem for your motel room.

4. **REQUESTS FOR REIMBURSEMENT** from 2016-2017 Council Members between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, must be submitted in writing and approved by the State Commander. If NOT submitted by July 10, 2017, the request will not be paid.

5. **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.

Section 213 – Arrearages, Deficiencies and Omissions states: Any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to District, Department or National for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money,

failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

6. **POST AND DISTRICT ELECTION REPORTS:** If not sent to Department by July 1, 2017 your officers will be omitted from the Department Roster. No exceptions.

7. **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 8th, VE Day; June 6th, D Day; June 14th, Flag Day. It is requested that all Posts and their members honor Memorial Day on May 31st.

8. **DELEGATE FEE NOTICES** are being sent to each Post Quartermaster, May 1, 2017. 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/ *Ronald J. Lattin*
Ronald J. Lattin
State Adjutant

BY COMMAND OF:
/s/ *Allan Stone*
Allan Stone
State Commander

**VFW National Convention
118th VFW National Convention**

New Orleans, La., “The Big Easy” is the host city for the 118th VFW National Convention.

Explore New Orleans today!

Approximately 10,000 VFW and Auxiliary members will convene from all over the world at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, July 22-26, 2017. VFW members will vote on organizational by-laws, attend workshops, network with other veterans and attend business sessions. Convention delegates will also enjoy addresses from several notable and distinguished guests.

New Orleans is one of the world’s most fascinating cities – it’s home to a truly unique melting pot of culture, food and music. From world-famous restaurants to hidden music clubs, as one of America’s most culturally and historically-rich destinations, New Orleans has something to discover at every turn. Follow your instincts, your rhythm, your flavor and fun to discover the heart, soul and spirit of the city.

Convention housing is open now. Make your reservation today!



- Post 41: QP Devore
- Post 784: Norman E. Kroschel, James S. Miller
- Post 1247: Phillip E. Hagen
- Post 2411: Clayton Woodworth, Theodore Kuhns
- Post 3471: Roger Poe, William De Wolf
- Post 3981: Harold Shader, Tom Huseman, William Komstedt
- Post 4051: Frand Rose, Walter Bjerkelund, Leland Kinney, Vito Martinez, John Aragon, Robert Isham
- Post 4171: James Carrozo, Carl Smith
- Post 7829: Jodie Zwolinski, Ret. MSGT, Alvin E. (Pat) Varley
- Post 7945: Laverne F. Harris
- Post 9644: Douglas Wigle

**Surgeon’s Column
David Stone**



Greetings comrades,
As we approach the end of the VFW year I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Department Sur-

geon. It has been both educational and a pleasure to travel across Colorado and visit the homes and their wonderful staff.

Overall I think that our State Veterans Community Living Centers are excellent, stable facilities for our Veterans and most are running above 80 percent of capacity. The state continues to invest in the facilities. Over the past 18 months both the Rifle and Homelake centers have had their kitchens and dining areas updated.

There is also good news at the Cheyenne VA Community Living Center.

They are accepting bids for a \$10 million, 14,000 sq. ft addition that will add 12 more beds.

However, I am concerned that Colorado appears to be at risk of losing beds in the VA system. The budget pressures for the new Denver VA hospital has left the Denver Community Center without funds to build a new facility and move with the hospital. Additionally there appears to be a shift in the focus of care in the VA system, moving away from long-term care and toward more rehabilitation and hospice care. Combined I think that these are going to put more pressure on the State system and in turn leave a growing Veteran’s population with fewer resources for long term care.

David Stone
State Surgeon

**Chaplain’s Column
Robert Kidd Sr.**



Well, we only have two months left in this Veterans of Foreign Wars year. And Spring Time in the Rockies is upon us, with snow after winter is over.

It was nice to see everyone that made it to the C of A last month. I know that a few Comrades and Auxiliary members fell ill. I have been told that they all made it home. Please keep them in your prayers. I hope that you have spent time with family and friends both within the VFW and out.

Psalm 15 NIV
A psalm of David

1 LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain?

- 2 The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart;
- 3 whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others;
- 4 who despises a vile person but honors those who fear the LORD; who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind;
- 5 who lends money to the poor without interest; who does not accept a bribe against the innocent. Whoever does these things will never be shaken.

Hope to see more of you at the State convention in Colorado Springs Jun 14th thru 17th, 2017.

God Bless
State Chaplain
Robert M Kidd Sr

Department of Colorado Convention Golf Tournament

**14 June 2017
Cheyenne Shadows Golf Course (Ft Carson)**

REGISTRATION FORM

This will be a 4 Member Team Best ball format, start time @ 8:00 am

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

The cost is \$55.00 a person. This will include one round of golf with cart, and lunch

POC. Kirk Rosa

e-mail: navycpo7@yahoo.com

**Make all checks payable to: Dept of Colorado
Mark for Golf Tournament
Registration needs to be received by June 2, 2017
Mail all checks to with this form to:
Kirk Rosa, 416 S Pine Dr
Bailey, CO 80421**

VFW Post Membership by District as of March 19, 2017

Number/ City	2016	2017	%
DISTRICT #1			
1 Denver	940	911	97
501 Denver	335	341	102*
2461 Denver	158	154	97
2797 Denver	67	51	76
3971 Denver	93	84	90
5061 Denver	325	299	92
TOTAL	1918	1840	96%
DISTRICT #2			
61 Pueblo	82	77	94
2788 Penrose	97	86	89
3641 Pueblo	87	80	92
4061 Canon City	322	310	96
5812 Pueblo West	193	186	96
7305 Colo. City	44	44	100*
8898 Boone	48	43	90
12063 Westcliffe	52	51	98
TOTAL	925	877	95%
DISTRICT #3			
41 Loveland	284	291	102*
807 Boulder	48	45	94
1771 Lafayette	313	294	94
1781 Ft. Collins	328	322	98
2121 Greeley	181	165	91
2585 Johnstown	215	201	93
2601 Longmont	397	354	89
4334 Ault	73	66	90
6624 Evans	303	273	90
9565 Broomfield	138	116	84
9741 Dacono	50	59	118*
TOTAL	2330	2186	94%
DISTRICT #4			
2551 Ft. Morgan	235	217	92
3378 Yuma	66	63	95
3541 Sterling	97	94	97
3551 Brush	37	37	100*
3951 Ovid	26	26	100*
3961 Otis	23	20	87
4191 Crook	20	18	90
4671 Wray	58	54	93
6482 Holyoke	58	55	95
7153 Fleming	33	28	85
8064 Akron	45	40	89
TOTAL	698	652	93%
DISTRICT #5			
101 Colo. Spgs.	540	477	88
3917 Security	681	640	94
4051 Colo. Spgs	708	649	92
5221 Calhan	112	105	94
6051 WdInd Park	47	46	98
6461 Fountain	327	283	87
7829 Monument	122	127	104*
10649 Elizabeth	50	48	96
TOTAL	2587	2375	92%
DISTRICT #6			
336 Ordway	100	95	95
2411 LasAnimas	98	98	100*
4001 Springfield	46	46	100*
4091 Rocky Ford	55	52	95
4281 Holly	27	27	100*
TOTAL	326	318	98%
DISTRICT #7			
899 Alamosa	119	108	91
3228 Monte Vista	41	38	93
4849 La Jara	57	56	98
6101 San Luis	68	67	99
8121 Del Norte	56	56	100*
TOTAL	341	325	95%

Number/City	2016	2017	%
DISTRICT #8			
859 Leadville	38	37	97
1166 Buena Vista	139	131	94
3820 Salida	93	91	98
8661 Bailey	143	134	94
10721 Minturn	96	98	102*
11411 Lake George	45	46	102*
12009 Conifer	129	131	102*
TOTAL	683	668	98%
DISTRICT #9			
2371 Walden	28	26	93
4264 Steambt Spgs	97	91	94
4265 Craig	140	130	93
5261 Rangely	23	31	135*
5843 Meeker	54	53	98
9374 Kremmling	36	35	97
9471 Hayden	11	9	82
TOTAL	389	375	96%
DISTRICT #10			
322 Englewood	122	113	93
3471 Morrison	74	69	93
3631 Aurora	349	339	97
4121 Idaho Spgs.	55	51	93
4171 Golden	479	450	94
4266 Parker	67	75	112*
4331 Arvada	289	312	108*
4444 Cmmrc Cty	242	213	88
4666 Littleton	137	137	100*
7563 Black Hawk	23	24	104*
7945 Thornton	426	385	90
8449 Bennett	45	59	131*
9644 Fort Logan	676	434	64
TOTAL	2984	2661	89%
DISTRICT #11			
784 Montrose	149	142	95
1247 Grnd Jnctn	301	280	93
3571 Delta	61	59	97
3981 Grnd Jnctn	124	132	106*
4663 Clifton	87	83	95
5485 Parachute	44	42	95
9221 Cedaredge	113	97	86
9304 Rifle	33	33	100*
9333 Hotchkiss	28	30	107*
TOTAL	940	898	96%
DISTRICT #12			
4031 Durango	235	221	94
5181 Dove Creek	50	50	100*
5231 Mancos	159	137	86
9058 Nucla	36	33	92
TOTAL	480	441	92%
DISTRICT #13			
3411 Kit Carson	23	27	117*
6491 Burlington	74	69	93
6612 Hugo	43	36	84
9491 Deer Trail	19	20	105*
9700 Chynn Wlls	28	28	100*
TOTAL	187	180	96%
15006 MAL	2590	2452	95%
TOTAL DEPT	17378	16248	93%

2017 dues are now DUE.
Be 100% +1 in 2016-2017

**We are on Subscription Dues
Have you paid yours??
Buy a Life Membership**

#8 97.8%	#6 97.5%	#9 96.4%	#13 96.2%	#1 95.9%
#11 95.5%	#7 95.3%	#2 94.8%	#3 93.7%	Dept 93.5%
#4 93.4%	#12 91.9%	#5 91.8%	#10 89.2%	

Membership 2016-2017

Comrades,

As we fast approach the end of our 2017 year, our numbers are still in a downward spiral. For those posts and districts who have reached your national membership requirement of 100 +, I commend you on a job very well done. Colorado has at this time 16 posts who have reached 100 +, and another 10 posts who have reached 100 and only need that 1 more person to reach your National Membership goal. Now is NOT the time to sit back and see what others are doing to send our State Commander, Allan Stone to the National Convention as an All- American Department Commander. We ALL need to move forward to maintain our

membership if we are to continue helping OUR veterans in need. REMEMBER "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS!"

As of today, we still are in need of 1171 more members, either new, reinstated or continuous members needing to be renewed. This means we need 15 per day, everyday, until June 30th, 2017 for us to realize our goal as a Department.

If I can be of assistance to ANYONE, please contact me at 720-999-0539 or e-mail me at dujohnson2797@gmail.com.

Thank you ALL for what you do for OUR veterans

Duane A. Johnson
Dept Membership Director

State Convention Ditty Bag Items

**VFW Department of Colorado,
Districts and Posts and
VFW Auxiliaries**

Comrades and Sisters:

We are asking for any and all Districts, Posts & VFW Auxiliaries to donate items for the VFW State Convention. If you do not want to donate items please consider a monetary donation and we will ensure the items are purchased and your VFW Number is properly displayed.

We are requesting when donating items to have at least 350 and the items labeled with your VFW Post #. If you are donating money please make sure the Checks are Made payable to VFW Department of Colorado, Ear-

marked for "Ditty Bags State Convention". Mail Payments to VFW Department of Colorado 1400 Carr Street; Lakewood, CO 80214. Please have all money and Items donated no later than June 2nd 2017. If dropping items off at VFW Department Headquarters please make sure the Box is clearly Marked "Ditty Bag" and who it is from. Thanking you for your time and consideration. If you should have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail vfw@vfwcolodept.org or by Phone 303-421-1630. We look forward to seeing you at the VFW State Convention.

Kirk Rosa
State Ditty Bag Chairman

**Rocky Mountain Network Announces
New Medical Center Director**

The Department of Veterans Affairs is pleased to announce the appointment of Michael T. Kilmer as director of the Grand Junction VA Medical Center. He will oversee delivery of health care to a region with nearly 42,000 Veterans with and an operating budget of \$101 million.

"We are excited to bring Mr. Kilmer on board as the new medical center director for Grand Junction," said Ralph Gigliotti, Director, Veterans Integrated Service Network 19. "His sound leadership qualities and proven experience will be valuable assets for the facility, the employees and volunteers, and most importantly, the Veterans we are honored to serve. We anticipate he will arrive at the medical center within the next 45 days to begin his appointment."

Mr. Kilmer joined the VA more than 13 years ago and has held several progressive leadership positions. He previously worked at VA Central Office as Chief Consultant for Care Management and Social Work. He served as the principal advisor on professional case management and social work practice, representing more than 12,000 professional staff nationwide. He also managed six national level programs with an operating budget of over \$600M and served as a national leader in improving clinical access and service delivery for Veterans.

He recently served as the Interim Medical Center Director for Central Tex-

as VA Health Care System, a complexity Level 1-B Health Care System, from September 2016 to January 2017. This included two medical center divisions, seven additional sites of care, 3,800 VA employees, a budget of \$700 million, and a Veteran population of 252,500 throughout 39 counties in Texas.

Mr. Kilmer holds a master's degree in Social Work and a bachelor's of Arts and Sciences from the University of Washington in Seattle. He is a graduate of the 2013 Senior Executive Strategic Leadership Course, 2011 Health Care Leadership Development Program, and the VHA Health Care Leadership Institute. He was also the inaugural recipient and was awarded the School of Social Work's Distinguished Alumni - Early Career Achievement Award in 2014 by the University of Washington.

As a Veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard, a Veteran's advocate, hiker, and skier, Mr. Kilmer looks forward to making Grand Junction his new home.

The Grand Junction VA Medical Center is a Joint Commission accredited, complexity level 2 facility serving 17 counties over 3 states. The Medical Center is located in Grand Junction, Colo., with a Community Based Outreach Clinic in Montrose, Colo., and Telehealth clinics in Craig and Glenwood Springs, Colo., and Moab, Utah.

FOR THE OFFICE OF
COMMANDER 2017-2018



EDWARD T. AITKEN

- Department Sr. Vice Commander 2016 - 2017
- Department Jr. Vice Commander 2015 - 2016
- Department Surgeon 2014 - 2015
- Department Chaplain 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

Asks for your support to become
the 2017-2018 VFW Colo. Dept.
Sr. Vice Commander

Current Jr. Vice Commander

Deep engagement
with:

- Our Colorado United States Legislative Leaders
- Homeless Veterans
- Student Veterans
- VFW Leader Mentorship and Training



Let's do things right AND do the right things

David Stone

**For Department of Colorado
Jr. Vice Commander**



- **Department Surgeon**
- **All American District Commander**
- **District Quartermaster**
- **All State Post Commander**
- **Department VOD Chairman**
- **Department Scouting Chairman**
- **District VOD, Patriots Pen Chairman**

George "Bear" Snyder
Candidate For
STATE CHAPLAIN
2017-2018



- State Chief of Staff – 2016-2017
- "All American" District Commander – 2015-2016
- District 5 Commander – 2015-2016
- Military Order of the Cootie - 2015
- Post Commander - 2009-2011
- Post – Multiple Positions – 2005-2008
- President, VFW Warriors Motorcycle Organization - 2007
- VFW Life Member - 2005
- Iraq War Veteran

THANK YOU

(For your service, sacrifice, and patriotism)
"Nurture the living, care for the wounded, and honor the fallen."

Re-Elect Bruce Dolan

Joseph J Jacques Jr. VFW Post 7945
State Quartermaster 2017-2018



- Bruce has served as
- Department Quartermaster 2013-2017
- Department Commander 2012-2013
- Department Sr Vice Commander 2011-2012
- Department Jr Vice Commander 2010-2011
- National Council Member 2016-2020

"Always working for Colorado Veterans"

ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT



**Robert M. Kidd Sr.
For
State Surgeon 2017-2018**

Doing all that I can to help Veterans and their Family members is what I believe in.

I have been a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Post 3917 for over 21 years.

As I finish out my year as the State Chaplain, I am looking for your support to be elected to the position of the State Surgeon.



Sr. Vice Cmdr. Ed Aitken (center), Legislative Chrm. D. J. Alberts (L), State Cmdr. Allan Stone and Phyllis, VFW-SVA Legislative Fellows Karthik Venkatraj, Jr Vice Steve Kjonaas and Janna, Lennie Dolan, State President Linda Reinbold and State Qm. Bruce Dolan visit Congressman Jared Polis office during the Washington D. C. trip.



“Taste of Ireland” Service to Veterans at the Pueblo VA Community Living Center with Monument 7829 VFW Comrade Rich Crawford, Cmdr. Joe Carlson, Post 6461 Auxiliary member Russell Wilcox (green kilt), Post 7829 Comrade Dale Bastin , Post 6461 Auxiliary member Patrick O’Malley (kilt), Post 101 John Nisewaner, Pueblo Recreation Therapist Rob Marshall and Post 7819 Comrade Bill Byars. VFW Post 7829 has sponsored the monthly “Taste of Country” activity for the past three years at the Pueblo VA Community Living Center for the residents.



Carbon Valley VFW Auxiliary #9741, Dacono, was insituted, officers were elected and installed March 28th. State President Linda Reinbold conducted the insitution and Sr. Vice President Caroline Gelatt installed the officers. District 3 Officers and members were in attendance along with many VFW and Auxiliary members. We welcome this new VFW Auxiliary.



L-R: Sr Vice Aitken, State Cmdr., Allan Stone, Voice of Democracy 2016-2017 State winner Faith Spino from District #8 VFW Post & Auxiliary #3820 Salida, State President Linda Reinbold, & Jr. Vice Kjonaas at Parade of Winners.



L-R: Diane Harris VFW Auxiliary VAVS Representative, Hospital Co-Chair El-lie Ford, VA Hospital Tour Guide Paul, State President Linda Reinbold, and VA Hospital Volunteer. during their visit to the Grand Junction VA. VFW Auxiliary Hospital Chairman Phil Reinbold is taking the picture.



Purple Heart Recipient Reception Hosted by VFW Post 101 and 7829 L-R: Post 101 Cmdr. Jeff Newsome, VFW Auxiliary President Kathy Carlson, VFW Auxilairy 101 President Debbie Hutchins, Post 7829 Cmdr. Joe Carlson, Recipient James Kwasniewski, Auxiliary 101 member Julie Van Horn, State Chief of Staff George Snyder and District 5 Cmdr. Barbara Green.



VFW Department and District #3 Officers were present for the insitution, election and installation of officers of Carbon Valley VFW Auxiliary #9741 Dacono. Also attending were VFW Department Line Officers, VFW Post #9741 members and guests. PDP Colleen Rylant, PDP Ann Mauck and District 3 President Gayle Stockwell were the organizers.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION
HOTEL ELEGANTE – Colorado Springs, CO. JUNE 14th thru 17th, 2017
 NAME: _____
 Post #: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 2016-2017 OFFICE/POSTION/TITLE: _____
 Pre-Registration is **\$15.00**, and will include a ditty bag, convention book.
 Make checks to: **DEPARTMENT OF COLORAO VFW**
 Mail to: 1400 CARR STREET, LAKEWOOD CO 80214
 REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS WILL BE READY UPON ARRIVAL AT
 THE HOTEL
 Registration at the Convention will be \$20.00
 If you wish to pre-purchase your Military Banquet tickets: Cost will be \$25.00
 each.
 London Broil: Number of tickets: _____
 Chicken Piccata: Number of tickets _____

VFW AUXILIARY CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION
HOTEL ELEGANTE – Colorado Springs, CO. JUNE 14th thru 17th, 2017
 NAME: _____
 Auxiliary #: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 2016-2017 OFFICE/POSTION/TITLE: _____
 Pre-Registration is **\$15.00**, and will include a ditty bag, convention book.
 Make checks to **DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO VFW**
 Mail to: 1400 CARR STREET, LAKEWOOD CO 80214
 REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS WILL BE READY UPON ARRIVAL AT
 THE HOTEL
 Registration at the Convention will be \$20.00
 If you wish to pre-purchase your Military Banquet tickets: Cost will be \$25.00
 each.
 London Broil: Number of tickets: _____
 Chicken Piccata: Number of tickets _____

2017 VFW State Convention Ad Sheet

FULL PAGE \$125.00	8 1/4" X 10 3/4"
HALF PAGE \$100.00	8 1/4" X 5 1/4"
FOURTH PAGE \$35.00	8 1/4" X 2 3/4"
BUSINESS CARD AD \$25.00	3 1/2" X 2"

Full Page Ad
8 1/4" X 10 3/4"

HALF PAGE
8 1/4" X 5 1/4"

ONE QUARTER PAGE
8 1/4" X 2 3/4"

Business Card
3 1/2" X 2"

Business name: _____
 Phone number: _____
 Webpage URL: _____
 POC: _____ Phone: _____
 Select Ad size: Full Half Quarter Business Card
 Total Enclosed \$ _____

Submit this form along with your **copy ready** ad, artwork and payment to the address below before 12 May 2017.
 Make Checks Payable to: VFW Department of Colorado, Memo: State Convention Ad-2017
 Mail all Ads and Payment to:
 Convention Book Chairman
 Robert M. Kidd Sr.
 4114 Morley Circle
 Colorado Springs, CO 80916-2831

State Convention - VFW
Hosted by Department of Colorado VFW

Wednesday June 14

7:30 am	Golf Tournament	TBA
	Lunch for Golfers	TBA
12:00 noon - 4:00 pm	Registration	Hotel Elegante
12:00 noon - 4:00 pm	Lunch	Hotel Elegante
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Service Officer Claims	Hotel Elegante
3:00 pm	Installation Practice	Hotel Elegante "A&B"
6:00 pm	Council of Administration	Hotel Elegante "C"

Thursday June 15

7:00 am - 8:00 am	Registration	Hotel Elegante
8:00 am	Joint Opening Session	Hotel Elegante "A&B"
12:00 noon	Dept Commanders Luncheon	Hotel Elegante
	(by invitation only)	
1:00 pm	General Resolutions	Hotel Elegante
1:00 pm	Service/Rehab Resolutions	Hotel Elegante
1:00 pm	Time & Place Committee	Hotel Elegante
1:00 pm	Warrior's meeting	Hotel Elegante
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Registration	Hotel Elegante
4:30 pm	Memorial Service Practice	Hotel Elegante "A&B"
5:30 pm	Joint Memorial Service	Hotel Elegante "A&B"
7:00 pm	Past Post Commanders Banquet	VFW Post #101

Friday June 16

7:00 am	All American Cap Breakfast	Hotel Elegante
8:00 am - 10:00 am	Registration	Hotel Elegante
8:30 am	Business Session	Hotel Elegante "C"
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Open Houses - Caucuses	VFW Post #3917 Security
7:00 pm	Military Banquet	Hotel Elegante

Saturday June 17

7:00 am	Past State Commanders Breakfast	Hotel Elegante
7:00 am - 9:00 am	Registration	Hotel Elegante
8:30 am	Business Session / Election	Hotel Elegante "C"
6:00 pm	Joint Installation of Officers	Hotel Elegante "A&B"
	State Commander/President Reception	Hotel Elegante

Sunday June 18

9:00 am	District Commander Elect & District Sr. Vice Elect Breakfast & Mini COA Meeting	Hotel Elegante
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State Convention – Department Auxiliary
Hosted by Department of Colorado VFW

Wednesday June 14

8:00 am	Golf Tournament	TBA
	Lunch for Golfers	TBA
9:00 am	Staff Meeting	Hotel Elegante
12:00 noon - 4:00 pm	Registration	Hotel Elegante
12:00 noon - 4:00 pm	Lunch	Hotel Elegante
2:00 pm	Floor Work Practice	Hotel Elegante "A&B"
3:00 pm	Installation Practice	Hotel Elegante "A&B"
6:00 pm	Council of Administration	Hotel Elegante "A&B"

Thursday June 15

7:00 am - 8:00 am	Registration	Hotel Elegante
8:00 am	Joint Opening Session	Hotel Elegante "A&B"
12:00 noon	Dept Presidents Luncheon	VFW Post #3917 Security
	(By invitation only)	
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Registration	Hotel Elegante
4:30 pm	Memorial Service Practice	Hotel Elegante "A&B"
5:30 pm	Joint Memorial Service	Hotel Elegante "A&B"
7:00 pm	Past Dept. Presidents Banquet	TBA

Friday June 16

7:00 am	Past District President's Breakfast	VFW Post #3917
8:00 am - 10:00 am	Registration	Hotel Elegante
8:30 am	Auxiliary Opening Session	Hotel Elegante "A&B"
12:00 noon - 4:00 pm	Open Houses - Caucuses	VFW Post #3917 Security
7:00 pm	Military Banquet	Hotel Elegante

Saturday June 17

7:00 am	Past Auxiliary President's Breakfast	TBA
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Registration	Hotel Elegante
8:30 am	Business Session / Election	Hotel Elegante "A&B"
6:00 pm	Joint Installation of Officers	Hotel Elegante "A&B"
	State Commander/President Reception	Hotel Elegante

Sunday June 18

9:00 am	Breakfast	Hotel Elegante
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Buddy Poppy Displays and Community Activities Record Books Room
 Hotel Elegante

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

VFW STATE CONVENTION
and
VFW AUXILIARY STATE CONVENTION
JUNE 14 - 17, 2017

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION
Rooms are blocked make reservations ASAP

Hotel Elegante, 2886 S. Circle Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80906
719-302-9877



Auxiliary News

Published by Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of Colorado

Ann Mauck, Auxiliary News Chairman



Presidents's Column Linda Reinpold



Keeping Veterans at the Center of Our Hearts

Hello Brothers and Sisters of Colorado!

Over the past few

months, I have visited Districts 1, 2, 5, 10, and 12 and enjoyed meeting all the Auxiliary members. Thank you for your hospitality and sharing your activity reports. All Auxiliaries in our Department have been doing wonderful work this year in supporting our Veterans.

I visited the VA Hospital in Grand Junction with Hospital Chair Phil Reinpold, Co-Chair Ellie Ford and VAVS Rep Diane Harris. We also visited the Rifle Veteran Nursing Home. Thank you to Diane Harris and Janine Barth for setting up these tours. Both visits were very enjoyable and informative. Colorado Auxiliary members are doing work great in their hospital volunteer efforts.

In January, I attended the Voice of Democracy Banquet at Post #3917 where winner Faith Spino from Post 3820 was announced. All finalists had such inspiring speeches and heartfelt patriotism.

In February, Commander Stone and I had the honor in Washington, D.C. to escort Faith to the stage for the national winner announcement. It was an experience to hear the respect these young leaders have for our country and patriotism. We also attended the Legislative Conference and met many of our Congress men and women on Capitol Hill and discuss our concerns for veteran issues.

In March, we had our Parade of Programs and Council meetings. It is always a treat to see everyone and learn from our Program Chairs and training sessions. Dee Guillory, National Sr. Vice President was our National Representative. She enjoyed meeting members and was impressed with Colorado and all that we are doing for our Veterans.

Also, in March we welcomed a new Auxiliary. Carbon Valley Auxiliary #9741 in Frederick was instituted and the new officers were installed. Congratulations!!

Please put on your calendars a visit from our National President Colette Bishop from May 23-25. We will have events and visiting Posts. If you can at-

Scholarship Program

The reporting year has come to a close and I want to give everyone some KUDOS!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Scholarship program. Thank you for your efforts of getting out to the schools and to students within your community. I enjoyed reading all of the ways you chose to recognize the students and I appreciated ALL OF YOUR WORK.

tend, please do. The agenda will be on the website.

Program reporting for this year has ended. Your commitment and volunteerism to our Veterans and their families goes above and beyond what is shown on these program reports. Thank You!!

Our membership has grown during this past year and at the end of March was 97%+. It has been a fantastic year thanks to you and all your hard work along with Shelley and her membership team. Increased membership means we can do even more for our Veterans and their families.

Please plan to attend our Department Convention, June 14-17 in Colorado Springs at the Hotel Elegante. VFW Department is working hard for a great Convention. Join us to celebrate our year end.

Thank you for your support of the President's Special Project – Project Sanctuary. Your fundraising events and donations have been outstanding. Also, thank you for purchasing our first ever Colorado Veteran pin. These funds will go to Operation TBI Freedom. Both project funds will stay in Colorado and your efforts will help many Veterans and their families.

To Commander Stone, I would like to thank you for your support and congratulate you on your achievements during this year. It has been an honor to serve with you during our exciting year together.

To Sr. Vice President Caroline and incoming Officers, I pledge my continuing help and support to each of you next year. We have worked as a Team this past year and I know you will continue to do so in your commitment to our members and Department. Thank you for our great year!

To our Members, it has been an eventful year and hard to believe it will soon be over. Thank you for the honor and privilege to represent and serve you over the past 5 years. Your friendships, caring and support have made this time memorable and you will always be at the center of my heart.

Respectfully and With Love,
Linda Reinpold
Department of Colorado
VFW Auxiliary President

Looking unto next year, the Voice of Democracy theme is "American History: Our Hope for the Future" and the Patriots Pen theme is, "America's Gift to My Generation."

Let me know if you need anything! Looking forward to seeing you at Convention in June.

Sabrina Feagaiga
Department Scholarship Chairman



**Joseph J. Jacques Jr
Auxiliary Post 7945
Proudly Endorses
Shelley Schliemann
for
Department Sr. Vice President
2017-2018**

position of Secretary.

Shelley was elected Department Guard in 2014-15. She served as Department Chaplain 2015-16 and Department Jr. Vice President 2016-17. She also was Membership Chairman 2016-17.

We ask for your support as we endorse Shelley Schliemann for Department Sr. Vice President 2017-18.

Brigitte Dolan
VFW Auxiliary 7945 President



**LT. Marion L. Willis VFW
Post 101 and Auxiliary
Proudly Support
Sabrina Feagaiga
for
Department Jr. Vice President
2017-2018**

We, the members of VFW Post 101 and the Auxiliary, are honored to endorse Sabrina Feagaiga for Department Jr. Vice President. Sabrina is a VFW Post 101 Auxiliary Life Member, which she joined under the eligibility of her father, Setaiai Feagaiga.

She is actively involved in the auxiliary at post, district, and department level serving as Auxiliary Jr. Vice President, Auxiliary Sr. Vice President, Auxiliary Scholarship Chairmen, Auxiliary Membership Chairman, Auxiliary Poppy Chairman, District Scholarship Chairman, District Membership Chairmen, District Flag Bearer, District Guard, Department Scholarship Co-Chairman, Department Color Bearer, and Department Guard.



We the members of Arvada VFW Auxiliary proudly endorse Cindy Anderson for the office of Department Treasurer. This is an office she has held for the last two years.

Cindy has been a life member of the 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 19 years and has served in many capacities including Auxiliary President for three years for which she was named an Outstanding President twice. She held the office of District 10 President in 2005-2006 and received the Outstanding Large District Award. She then went through all of the Department chairs and

Sabrina is truly dedicated to serving our veterans and their families. She provides un-bounded energy to the VFW as she devotes her time and effort in learning about the traditions and bylaws governing our organization. Sabrina's great respect for our traditions combined with her infectious enthusiasm for growing the VFW Auxiliary is a winning ticket to ensure the Department of Colorado Auxiliary continues as a vibrant entity.

VFW Post 101 asks your support for Sabrina Feagaiga for Department Jr. Vice President in the upcoming election.

Respectfully,
Jeff Newsome, Post Commander
Deborah Hutchins, Auxiliary President

**Arvada 4331 VFW Auxiliary
and Post
Endorse
Cindy Anderson
for
Department Treasurer**

was Department President in 2011-2012. Cindy also served as Auxiliary Treasurer for 7 consecutive years and received the Outstanding Treasurer Award twice. She is currently serving as Auxiliary Secretary and Department Treasurer.

We find Cindy always willing to answer questions, and teach anyone who asks for 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 endeavor. We respectfully ask you to join us in supporting Cindy at the Department convention with your vote.

Loyally,
Laura Root, Auxiliary 4331 President



**VFW Auxiliary & Post 7829
Proudly Endorse
Kathy Carlson
for
Dept. Chaplain
2017-2018**

We, the members of VFW Auxiliary & Post 7829, are proud to endorse Kathy! A charter member of 7829, Kathy joined under the eligibility of her husband, Joe, who served in the U.S. Army, Vietnam. She is serving her third term as our President, received All State President in 2015 and 2016, and led our Auxiliary to win Outstanding Achievement, 1st Place, in 2015 and 2016. She has worked extensively on every Program. In addition to being Department Conductress, she currently serves as District 5 Sr. Vice.

Kathy and Joe have three children at home, Lily 10, Andy 12, and Michael 13. She teaches 5th & 6th grade Sunday school, volunteers at Prairie Winds Elementary School, and helps her sons with Boy Scouts, and Lily with 4-H.

Kathy not only coordinates and leads, but she is the first one to be immersed in all our projects as we serve veterans and

promote patriotism. Many of our members were personally recruited by Kathy. Her love of country and community are apparent in everything she does. She is always ready to promote the VFW and the Auxiliary, and energetically recruits; 7 members this year alone!

Kathy leads our group with purpose, grace and excellence. She has a welcoming spirit that makes everyone she meets feel important. She has a deep love for family, and encourages our children to get involved in serving Veterans. She understands the importance of passing on respect for God and country to our next generation.

Kathy brings a level of enthusiasm and respect to the VFW Auxiliary that is contagious. We know she would be a blessing to the VFW Auxiliary membership if elected Department Chaplain. Please join us in supporting Kathy for Department Chaplain.

Thank You Colorado

What a comfort each card, prayer, and kind thought brought to my family and me before and after the death of my dad, Pat Varley, WWII veteran and VFW 7829 member. Thank you so much.

Kathy Carlson, Department Conductress

Hospital

As this VFW year draws to a close, I have taken some time to review what I have been privileged to see this year in our hospitals and community living centers. Recently, I had the opportunity to visit the Grand Junction and Rifle hospitals and community living centers, and like the other facilities that I was able to visit, the level of care and the commitment is high and the pride in patient care is obvious. New and expanded care, increasing options for patients, flexibility in arranging schedules for residents, and creativity in providing support are just some of the things I have witnessed during my year as Hospital Chair. The facilities are clean and organized, and developed with an eye to the future. I have also noticed increasing community involvement and support of our veteran's facilities and an increasing emphasis in showing gratitude to our veterans for the service and sacrifice that they have made for our great nation.

As I enter the mountain of data that has been submitted by Hospital Volunteers on the Program Reporting Forms, I am both amazed and humbled by the thousands of hours, dollars, miles and donations that have been selflessly given to support and care for our vets. The number of ways that you have chosen to volunteer is astonishing—donation of items, blood donations, transporting vets to hospitals or appointments, chapel services, giving parties, serving meals and snacks, working bingo, sending cards, visiting patients, reading stories—the list is endless. As noted before, I can't say enough to thank you for the time and heart that you have given to the hospital department. Countless hours and tireless commitment—that is how I

would characterize your efforts. I have personally witnessed just how much our veterans appreciate you.

A brief update on the new VA Hospital facility in Aurora. Three veterans organizations - Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and Disabled American Veterans gave a recommendation that the name of the new facility be named Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center. This recommendation was approved at a vote held at a United Veterans Council meeting and was forwarded to Congress. The clinic portion is open and in operation at this time. Construction is approximately 90% complete and turn-over is slated for January 2018. They hope to have the medical center in complete operation by Spring 2018. We will continue to keep you informed as additional information becomes available.

A very important part of our program emphasis this year continues to be Military Suicide Awareness. Please pass on information for the Veterans Crisis Line, 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 to connect to a specially trained and experienced person, text 838255 to connect to a VA responder or go on-line to www.veteranscrisisline.net. A wallet sized card is available for quick reference that you can keep handy at all times. Learn to recognize the signs of someone who is reaching out for help or is at risk.

I look forward to completing my hospital visits for this year. With your support and assistance, we have made this a year to remember! We have shown that we truly believe in "Keeping Veterans Close to Our Hearts".

Phil Reinbold
Department Hospital Chairman

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO
GENERAL ORDERS #4**

May 1, 2017

All General Orders from the Department President are official and must be read at the first meeting following receipt before being filed for reference.

1. Department President, Linda Reinbold's Special Project is Project Sanctuary in Colorado. Please forward your donations to Department Treasurer, Cindy Anderson. The proceeds from the sale of the special Veterans pin will go to Operation TBI at the Craig Hospital of Colorado.

2. **Department Convention** will be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado at the Hotel Elegante, 2886 S. Circle Drive, Colorado Springs CO on June 14 through June 17, 2017. Linda's yellow shirt with, blue, black or white slacks will be the dress for the Council of Administration meeting on Wednesday, June 14. The Official Blue blouse/shirt with black slacks, black jacket and black shoes will be the dress for all business sessions of the Auxiliary. President Linda asks that no capris or open toed shoes be worn by the line officers or floor team.

3. **Department Convention Credentials** for Department Officers, District Presidents and Past Department Presidents will be mailed directly to them. **Credentials** for Auxiliary Presidents and Delegates will be mailed to the Auxiliary President by the Department Secretary. *There are no credentials for Alternates.* It will be necessary for the Auxiliary President and Secretary to sign the credentials and affix the Auxiliary Seal before the credentials is given to the Delegates.

4. **Any Auxiliary in arrears** for submission of audits shall be deprived of their vote at the Department Convention. All rights shall be promptly restored upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

5. **Membership:** Keeping your membership current is the easiest way to keep our organization membership whole and healthy. Please pay your dues now. Your dues help to keep our congressional voice strong for active duty, veterans and their families. Having your dues current also entitles you to receive a

cancer grant provided the eligibility requirements are met. Recruit new members by always carrying an application form with you. Use it to sign up your friends and family. The VFW Auxiliary shall fix an admission fee of not less than \$5.00 per member. This entitles each new member to a membership pin and copy of the current Bylaws and Booklet of Instruction. (See Section 103 of the Bylaws).

6. **A reminder to District Presidents** – Annual Inspections are very important and must be conducted in a timely manner. The Inspecting Official should sign the Secretary and Treasurer books only if they are kept according to procedures outlined in the Booklet of Instructions. Every question on the Inspection form should be answered. Copies of the Auxiliary W-9 and acknowledgement of filing the 990 should be on file for the Inspection Official to review.

7. **Please file your Program Reporting** forms with the VFW Department of Colorado. Your Program Chairman needs your help in receiving these forms in a timely manner so they can report your hard work. Remember the reporting year is April 1, 2016 thru March 31, 2017. All reports are due to Department Headquarters by April 15, 2017.

8. **Department Officers and Program Chairmen** need to have their typewritten convention book reports to the Department Secretary, Ginny Rosa no later than June 1.

9. A special thank you to all those who attended the Parade of Programs in Colorado Springs. I hope everyone was able to learn something new to take back to your Auxiliaries from the training sessions. The Program Chairmen did an outstanding job of promoting their programs and I am sure that you were able to take something back to your Auxiliaries.

BY ORDER OF:
/s/ Linda Reinbold
Linda Reinbold, President
ATTEST:
/s/ Ginny Rosa
Ginny Rosa, Secretary

Youth Activities

Greetings to all Auxiliary members!

As the 2016-2017 year is nearing the end, I would like to thank all members for a great year. It doesn't seem possible that State and National Convention is so near. Thank you for all your support of the National goals of the Youth Activities Program. Whether it was working side by side with our youth, filling out National Citations, handing out Random Acts of Patriotism (R.A.P.) cards and coins or having the task of submitting monthly reports, your hard work is very much appreciated.

Although the reporting is done for this year, please continue to volunteer on different projects with our youth. I believe with our mentorship and guidance our youth will be successful in leading the future. I encourage all members to

carry R.A.P. coins and cards to give out to our youth "being caught" showing their patriotism.

This year at the State Convention in June, the Outstanding Young Volunteer of the Year and the Youth Group of the Year will be given out. There will also be two drawings for a \$50.00 gift certificate to the VFW Store. One \$50.00 gift certificate drawing will be for all those that reported to me at least once a quarter, and the other will be for all Auxiliaries that submitted a Youth Group National Citation to me.

Thanks again for all your hours of hard work and time spent volunteering!

Patsy Gilmore
Department Youth Activities Chairman

**Department Auxiliary VFW Raffle 2017
Help support our
Youth Scholarship Programs;
Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Creative Patriotic Art
Mail ticket stubs & money, or unsold tickets to
Glenna Medina, Chairman, by June 6, 2017
P O Box 874, Platteville, CO 80651
Checks payable to: VFWA DEPT. OF CO
All unsold tickets can be hand delivered to Glenna at State Convention**

Membership 2016-2017

I cannot begin to thank all of you for the hard work you have done since July 1st. We just had our last COA of the year in Colorado Springs and if you were unable to attend I would like to bring you up to date on what your hard work has accomplished. We were given a goal by our National organization to have 316 new annual, life or rejoined by June 30th. As of March 22, we have 367! You have brought us 153 new annual, 196 new life, and 18 rejoined. But, do not stop now, we can make that total even grander by June 30th so keep recruiting. The three \$25 dollar winners for recruiting were: Carla Vagliante from 9644, Verle Huffman; Breanna McClure from 4031, Durango; and Julie Dentlinger from 6624, Evans. If you recruited five or more members your name went into a drawing for \$50. The two winners were: Genevieve Osborn, from 336, Ordway and Kathy Carlson from 7829, Monument. At the Department Convention, there will be a \$75 drawing for the **Auxiliary member** who recruits the most throughout the year, and a \$75 drawing for **the Auxiliary** who recruits the most members this year – so keep working for those goals. We also have 32 Auxiliaries who are at 100% and I know that by Department Convention many more

Chief of Staff / Extension

Congratulations to the newly instituted Carbon Valley VFW Auxiliary to VFW Post 9741. They were instituted on March 28, 2017.

The VFW Auxiliary Department of Colorado extends our best wishes to all the members of this new auxiliary. We would like to thank Colleen Rylant, the Organizer, her assistants Ann Mauck and Gayle Stockwell and all the members of VFW Post 9741 for their help in getting this auxiliary instituted. Our Department President Linda Reinpold did the institution and Caroline Gelatt, Department Sr. Vice President installed the new officers. There were several

of you will be receiving your 100% plaques, with them. By the way, let's make 100% old hat, let's go for 110 or 120%. We need about 165 more members for Colorado to be at 100% and we have until June 30th to achieve this. You smacked the heck out of the National goals and I have confidence that, although it has been many years since we've seen it, this is the year for Colorado to join the many Departments who will be 100% by June 30th. **DO NOT LET EVEN ONE OF YOUR CONTINUOUS MEMBERS DROP OFF THE ROLLS.** Call, write, use your relief fund, if needed, make sure that July 1, 2017 your members are still with you. President Linda has worked so hard, and given so much for us this year, let's give her the "Circle of Excellence" at National Convention in July. When you read this article in the May Colorado Veteran, these numbers will be much grander but work it till the end. How far can we go? How high can we reach? As far as we want and as high as want. We are Colorado and we are "Keeping Veterans Close to Our Hearts" because we have "Unwavering Support for Uncommon Hero's".

Shelley Schlieman, Jr. Vice
Department Membership Chairman

Department officers and members in attendance. Thank You.

Our reporting year has completed, however, we must continue to assist the new auxiliaries and those that may be struggling. Elections have just taken place, please support the officers you have elected and remember to work for the good of the organization.

Please continue "Keeping Veterans at the Center of Our Hearts" and have "Unwavering Support For Uncommon Heroes".

Rosie Mitchell
Department Chief of Staff / Extension

Courtesy

Thank you to all of you for thinking of our members throughout the year. Your thoughts, prayers, outreach and cards have meant so much to each member who has received them.

As we finish this year, please send your notices of concern for those who are in need of a get well, thinking of you, birthday or a sympathy card to: Shelley Schlieman at sshelbell@aol.com so that she may get the information to our Auxiliaries.

Please send in your Chaplain's Report monthly totals for 2016-2017 to Shelly Schlieman if you have not yet done so. You can find the form in the Program

Book under the Courtesy section.

Please send in your TAPS reports for your deceased members to Department Treasurer Cindy Anderson at cindyaintx@aol.com. Cindy needs this information to update membership records and ensure that these members are recognized in our Memorial Book at our June Convention Joint Memorial Service. This information needs to be sent to Cindy by May 19, 2017. Also, please send a copy to your District Chaplain and Department Secretary Ginny Rosa at hummingbird657@gmail.com.

Linda Reinpold
Department VFW Auxiliary President

TAPS

Aux 41: Imogene Baechler, Nadine Bliss, Lillian Crosley, Helen Gibson, Frances Russell
Aux 1771: Danetta Fowler, Mary Lou Woolard, Janis Tracy, Dorothy Jones, Lavina Elliott, Betty Marino
Aux 2601: Arlene Triplett
Aux 4051: Barbara Adair, Louise Kilgore, Norma Wolles, Eileen Perotti
Aux 4061: Joy Blatnick, Violet Myers, Frances Slock
Aux 5221: Shirley Husson
Aux 5812: Joyce Hunter, Alicia Quick, Sandi Wodzisz
Aux 7829: Jodie Zwolinski, Ret. MSGT
Aux 8121: Delma Trujillo
Aux 9221: Mary Grace Farmer, Billie Bowen, Doris Levenhagen, Ruth C. Dawson

Auxiliary Membership by District as of March 19, 2017

Number	City	2016	2017	%	Number	City	2016	2017	%
DISTRICT #1									
1	Denver	175	180	103*	DISTRICT #7				
501	Denver	140	135	96	899	Alamosa	82	84	102*
2461	Denver	126	107	85	3228	Monte Vista	49	49	100*
2797	Denver	37	40	108*	4849	La Jara	49	45	92
3971	Denver	36	32	89	6101	San Luis	32	28	88
5061	Denver	106	115	108*	8121	So Fork	96	107	111*
TOTAL		620	609	98%	TOTAL		308	313	102%*
DISTRICT #2									
2788	Penrose	38	31	82	DISTRICT #8				
3641	Pueblo	81	75	93	859	Leadville	27	26	96
4061	Canon City	153	141	92	1166	Buena Vista	91	75	82
5812	Pueblo West	53	50	94	11411	Lake George	52	51	98
7305	Colo. City	27	22	81	12009	Conifer	31	34	110*
TOTAL		352	319	91%	TOTAL		201	186	93%
DISTRICT #3									
41	Loveland	121	119	98	DISTRICT #9				
1771	Lafayette	316	317	100*	4264	Stmbt Spgs	32	33	100*
1781	Ft. Collins	97	104	107*	4265	Craig	52	47	90
2121	Greeley	98	98	100*	5843	Meeker	32	31	97
2585	Johnstown	80	75	94	9374	Kremmling	19	22	116*
2601	Longmont	234	222	95	TOTAL		135	133	98%
4334	Ault	34	35	103*	DISTRICT #10				
6624	Evans	218	214	98	322	Englewood	119	103	86
9565	Broomfield	49	42	86	3471	Morrison	49	49	100*
9741	Dacono	0	17	0	3631	Aurora	109	111	102*
TOTAL		1247	1243	99.7%	4171	Golden	325	320	98
DISTRICT #4									
2551	Ft. Morgan	129	127	98	4331	Arvada	132	138	105*
3541	Sterling	81	71	88	4444	Cmmrc City	184	192	104*
4671	Wray	30	30	100*	7945	Thornton	255	256	100*
8064	Akron	30	9	30	9644	Fort Logan	330	337	102%*
TOTAL		270	237	88%	TOTAL		1503	1506	100%*
DISTRICT #5									
101	Colo. Spgs.	80	81	101*	DISTRICT #11				
3917	Security	214	207	97	784	Montrose	50	41	82
4051	Colo. Spgs	309	283	92	1247	Grnd Jcnctn	95	88	93
5221	Calhan	27	28	104*	3571	Delta	60	60	100*
6461	Fountain	120	131	109*	3981	Grnd Jcnctn	6	0	0
7829	Monument	31	35	113*	4663	Clifton	57	44	77
TOTAL		781	765	98%	9221	Cedaredge	58	59	102*
DISTRICT #6									
336	Ordway	79	82	104*	9304	Silt	13	13	100*
2411	LasAnimas	110	112	102*	9333	Hotchkiss	21	20	95
3621	Lamar	17	0	0	TOTAL		360	325	90%
4001	Springfield	28	26	93	DISTRICT #12				
4281	Holly	8	9	113*	4031	Durango	75	98	131*
TOTAL		242	229	95%	5181	Dove Creek	39	39	100*
DISTRICT #7									
3411	Kit Carson	27	28	104*	5231	Mancos	63	59	94
6491	Burlington	18	18	100*	9058	Nucla	23	19	83
6612	Hugo	51	47	92	TOTAL		200	215	108%*
TOTAL		96	93	97%	DISTRICT #13				
"100 Years of Serving Veterans"									
VFW Auxiliary									
Department of Colorado									
15006	At Large	318	327	103%*	National Certified Recruiter Training Program				
TOTAL DEPT.		6,633	6,500	98%	needs to be mailed by July 15, 2017 for the year ended June 30, 2017. The awards will be presented at the August 2017 meeting.				

Thank you to all of you for making our Colorado Auxiliary an exceptional one. Each one of you have provided so much through your volunteerism in supporting our veterans and their families. **THANK YOU!!**

You, Shelley, and her membership team have worked very hard this year to increase our membership. At the end of March, we were at 97%+ toward reaching 100% +1 membership. Last year in March Department was at 95%. Thank you for helping our Department achieve this new goal!

For those who have recruited 5 or more members, please remember to fill out the VFW Auxiliary Member Award for the Department of Colorado found in the 2016-17 Program Book. The form

If you have any questions about ordering materials to have available for prospective members, they may be found at www.vfwauxiliary.org or you can contact me. Be sure to order your application brochures to carry with you at all times.

Again, thank you to everyone for working together to "Keeping Veterans at the Center of Our Hearts" and in helping our membership grow throughout the year so we can continue to help our Veterans and their families.

Linda Reinpold
National Certified Recruiter Trainer

Remember to phone your Mother, send flowers or a card!

It is her time to relax and be pampered!

We wish everyone a Great Mother's Day May 14th

Americanism

First of all thank you to Department President Linda Reinpold for asking me to be her Americanism chairman. It was certainly honor and a pleasure being able to share my love of Patriotism and American pride with all my Auxiliary brothers and sisters. Thank you to all the VFW Posts and Auxiliaries who participated with this important program. The time spent at schools teaching flag etiquette, how to fold a flag, and show respect for the flag is amazing. Thank you to everyone who properly retired flags and gave flag certificates out to the community. A special shout out to VFW and Auxiliaries (101, 2121, 3571, 4051, 4266, 6624, 7829, and 7945) for their nominations for the Smart/Maher VFW

National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Colorado Department convention. Be sure to bring your Red, White, and Blue with you! Let's show Colorado Springs that the VFW and it's Auxiliaries know how to show our Patriotic pride! P.S. Remember what I said I at the first C.O.A., I promised Wanda that no matter what, I would ensure that we had just as much fun as she did when it came to the Auxiliary. I thank you all for the encouragement as I let the "fun" roll on every chance I got this year!

Stephane Trujillo
Department Americanism Chairman

VFW National Home for Children Program

My presentation at our March COA challenged the membership to empowering ourselves with knowledge about the VFW National Home for Children and being prepared to talk 30 second about it. If we can dedicate ourselves to presenting this to one person a day, just 30 seconds, we will be surprised at how many people are willing to open up their wallets to donate. It is all about planting seeds.

At our November COA Parade of Programs I asked a trivia question regarding our VFW National Home for Children. Kathy Carlson's son Michael was the first to answer the question correctly and won a VFW National Home bank that is shaped like a house. Kathy has informed me that he was so inspired, that he asked his school's student council about hosting a fundraiser. He has been told that he can have all the pro-

ceeds from the concession stand at an upcoming school dance for this worthy cause. This seed will bear fruit.

I have been raising funds at all the COA Parade of Programs this year. We raised \$200 ! This is enough for two bricks in the Tribute Walk at the VFW National Home. Thank you for your generosity. I feel very blessed to be associated with an organization that makes such a positive impact on our community of veterans and their families.

Any questions, ideas or comments for your Department of Colorado VFW Auxiliary National Home for Children Chairmen can be e-mailed to raymond.moelder@gmail.com

Raymond Moelder
Department VFW National Home for Children Chairman

Buddy Poppy Program

For the Auxiliaries that have not ordered your Buddy Poppies for this reporting year, you have until the end of May for them to count.

State Convention Buddy Poppy Hat Parade. The judging categories are: 1. Creative 2. Patriotic / Presidents Theme.

State / National Convention Buddy Poppy Display Contest

Rules have been designed to put emphasis on the purpose and effectiveness of the displays.

Displays will be presented and judged in three categories:

#1. Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign (window, booth, parade, poster displays, campaign promotions, etc..) (a) Displays must be designed for public exposure and must bear a message soliciting a donation for and wearing of the VFW Buddy Poppy

#2. Memorial or Inspirational Displays (wreaths, memorial tables or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes) (a) Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the Buddy Poppy

#3. Artistic or Decorative use of Poppies (post home displays, table centerpieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.) (a) any display not meeting the qualifications for Categories 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered in Category 3.

For ALL entries, at least one Poppy used must be in it's original form and color, with the label attached.

Displays may be accompanied by a white card, not to exceed 4 inches by 6 inches in size, on which is lettered in black ink an explanation of the theme for the display or other information of interest to the viewer of the judges. Post name, number or location may NOT be visible on display entries; failure to comply will result in disqualification.

Starting at 7:30 a.m. Thursday till 12:00 noon Friday, you may check in, with a Buddy Poppy Chairman to enter and set up your displays in the space provided at the Convention. You must fill out an entry form and the required information is: Category, The purpose of the display, What you have used, or are going to use it for, Auxiliary number and location, How many Poppys used, Name and cell phone number of who will dismantle and remove the display as the close of the Convention. The State Buddy Poppy Committee shall have no responsibility in setting up, taking down or returning displays.

Judging will be based on: effectiveness, purpose, clarity of theme, suitability, originality, beauty and number of Poppies used (total count).

First, second and third place winners in each category will be awarded at the Military Banquet.

First Place Winners in each Category will be eligible to be taken to National Convention and be entered in their respective category.

Rena Cales
Department Buddy Poppy Chairman



Cheyenne Mountain VFW Post 3917 Auxiliary Proudly Support Patsy Gilmore for Department Conductress 2017-2018

We, the members of Cheyenne Mountain VFW Post 3917 Auxiliary, are proud to endorse Patsy Gilmore for Department Conductress.

Patsy is a Life Member of VFW 3917 Auxiliary. She joined under the eligibility of her husband of almost thirty-one years, Page. She has been very active since becoming a member in 2012 and converting to a Life Member in 2013. Patsy has been involved at the Post, District and Department levels. She has served as Post Conductress, Secretary and Guard. She has also been chairman of Hospital, Scholarship and Program Reporting. Currently she is serving as JR. Vice for her Auxiliary. Patsy is serving as Scholarship Chairman and Flag Bearer for District 5 and for the Department of Colorado Auxiliary she is serving her 2nd year as both Youth Activities Chairman and as a Color Bearer.

Patsy is very committed to helping

out our Veterans and their families. She doesn't hesitate to volunteer for our VFW and Auxiliary functions. Patsy is eager to ask questions or do the research on a subject if she doesn't know the answer to a question. She is also thankful for all those that have given of their time to mentor her. Patsy has a respect for the traditions and bylaws of the VFW Organization. She is always excited to share and pass on the knowledge that she has gained with anyone who might have questions. She is willing to think outside the box and invite other people to share their ideas and opinions.

The members of VFW Post 3917 Auxiliary are asking for your support of Patsy as the Department Conductress for the upcoming year.

Barbara Kidd
VFW Auxiliary 3917 President

Veterans And Family Support

Auxiliary members....What kind of IMPACT have you made this past year on our Veterans and their families? Often times we never really hear, as in the case of sending packages overseas. Sometimes we're off and running to work on the next project, and we fail to take the time to notice or reflect on our impact on another human being...or their impact on us. This year I asked all of you to notice your effect on others you are assisting...look in those eyes...look at that smile...and please write down their reactions and perhaps your reaction and thoughts!!! Thank you for taking the time to do that, as I received some amazing communications from you!! All it takes is a few comments to keep us all going!!

~Lots of tears, lots of hugs, lots of

Thank You to All

~They were so appreciative

~The gratitude shown was truly overwhelming

~You have made this a Christmas we will never forget

~God Bless...God Bless

Remember...I talked about the Auxiliary not only being the backbone of the VFW, but really...we are lifesavers... WE GIVE HOPE!

Why is it important to reflect on our impact on others? Human nature... when we feel needed and appreciated... we are ALL into it...So keep at it...keep up your giving and kind ways! Thank you for all you do and please don't ever underestimate your Impact on others!!!

I have had a fabulous year working with 2 energetic, creative members...Thank you, Ray Moelder and Rena Cales for your dedication to National Home for Children and Buddy Poppy. Thank you to our Program Coordinator, Charlotte Latin. The Leadership of our line officers has been exceptional---Thank You to Linda and her outstanding team! My sincere gratitude to all of you for giving your ALL and I look forward to seeing you at Convention!

Loyally, Rosie Naughton
Department Veterans and Family Support Chairman

Legislative Program

Happy Spring to all VFW Auxiliary members! Our year for reporting has ended for 2016-17 and started as of April 1, 2017 for the year 2017-18. Please continue to attend town hall meetings whenever possible and carry a brochure of the 2017 VFW Priority Goals and give to your legislators.

The 71st General Assembly of the Colorado Legislature convened January 11, 2017 and will adjourn for the year May 10, 2017. You can access information about legislation that has passed or is on line to be voted on by logging on to www.leg.state.co.us. Please explore this website and share facts and information by printing or e-mailing address to members both VFW and Auxiliary. More information and tutorial about the processes of government can be viewed at www.coloradochannel.net and for those with Comcast can tune into chan-

nel 165 to view the Colorado Senate in action.

The VFW Auxiliary website at www.vfwauxiliary.org is an excellent site and will provide you with all of the program information that you could want. Simply click on Program and Publicity Resources and scroll down. Legislative Program and information will be found on the lower right hand side of the screen. There are several links to be explored and you are encouraged to explore and share the information found there.

Thank you for all of your interest in our legislative process and protecting our veterans rights by voting in favor of those who support the VFW goals and our veterans needs and concerns.

Colleen Rylant,
Department Legislative Chairman