

COLORADO VETERAN

and Auxiliary News

“No One Does More For Veterans”



February, 2018

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

Volume 57, Issue 3 2017 - 2018



Debra Anderson Quartermaster General

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

National Representative March Spring Conference

Debra Anderson was elected quartermaster general of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States on July 27, 2016, at the 117th VFW National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., making her the first female veteran to hold the position.

Prior to her election, she held appointed positions as assistant quartermaster general and director of human resources and investment coordinator.

Anderson attended the University of Missouri-Columbia on an ROTC scholarship, where she majored in economics. In May 1980 upon graduation, she was commissioned in the Army as an AG (Human Resources) Second Lieutenant. Her military assignments included Nuremberg/Furth, Germany; Fort Harrison, Ind.; Fort Riley, Kan.; Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; and Fort McPherson, Ga. She deployed as part of the division headquarters with the 1st Infantry Division during Desert Storm in December 1990.

During her 13 years of service, Anderson was awarded the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (2), Army

Commendation Medal (4), Army Achievement Medal (2), National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Army Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation Medal, and Parachutist Badge. Anderson earned a master's degree of science in systems management from the University of Southern California in 1989, and is a graduate of the Army's Combined Arms Services Staff School (CAS3) and Command and General Staff College (CGSC).

Anderson left the Army in 1993 and held a variety of management positions in business from 1993-2007. She joined VFW Post 7356 in Parkville, Mo., in 2006 where she maintains her Legacy Life membership, and has held the positions of Voice of Democracy chair, junior vice commander, senior vice commander, All-American Post commander, trustee and District adjutant. She is also a life member of the VFW Auxiliary and VFW National Home.

Debra and her husband Dr. Stephen Bourque, a 20-year Army veteran, live in Kansas City, Mo.

H.R. 4457 “Veterans Empowerment Act”

Overview: H.R. 4457 “Veterans Empowerment Act” is a bill that will “amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Veterans Accountable Care Organization and to provide veterans access to private health insurance plans, and for other purposes.” The Veterans of Foreign Wars has stated that the bill “**would dismantle the VA health care system, require veterans to pay for care they need to recuperate from military injuries and illnesses and reduce VA’s role to an insurance program for veterans.**” In essence, H.R. 4457 would transform the VA’s health care system to an insurance program for veterans. Under this plan the VA would continue to operate “centers of excellence” as care facilities. Veterans would choose between continuing to use the centers and enrolling in the “VetsCare” health insurance program for non-service connected care.

What you can do:

Help us voice our concern to congress that this bill will dismantle our VA health care system and require veterans to pay for the care that they have already earned defending our country. Use the URL to the VFW Action Alert to tell your Congressman that they were elected to improve, not dismantle, the health care America provides her veterans and that **veterans do not want this bill!**

Key points of H.R 4457:

- Excludes nursing home and domiciliary care.
- Creates the “Veterans Accountable Care Organization”, governed by a Board of Directors (see page 3 for details).
- All VA assets and staff will be transferred to the organization.
- Permits reduction in force.
- **Terminates all functions** of the current VA Health Administration directly relating to furnishing of hospital care, medical services and other health care.
- VA will continue to administer “centers of excellence” relating to service-connected injuries and other medical issues under the direction of the organization Board of Directors.
- Creates the “Veterans Accountable Care Organization Fund” to fund “centers of excellence” and related costs of health care or medical services furnished to a veteran at the organization’s facilities.
- Establishes the “Veterans Health Insurance Program” also referred to as the VetsCare Federal program and VetsCare Choice program.
- Establishes secondary payer, i.e. TRICARE, Medicare, for non-service

connected care provided under the program.

- Cost of care, including copayments, will be determined by the organization.

About VetsCare Choice:

- All veterans currently eligible for VA services under 38 U.S.C 1705(a) are eligible participate in VetsCare and may elect health insurance support in lieu of eligibility for hospital care, medical services, and other health care.
- Veterans may continue to use the Department (VA) pharmacies.
- **Health Insurance Support** - paying or reimbursing eligible veterans for costs associated with health insurance support. In a manner similar to Medicare and Medicaid Services. There are four types of health insurance support:
- **Premium support** will be tiered based on eligibility:
- Tier 1 - Priority Group 1 and 100% disabled = full actuarial value (premium) of benefits (no copay).
- Tier 2 - Priority Group 1 not 100% disabled and Priority Group 2 = 90% actuarial value (premium) of benefits (10% co-pay).
- Tier 3 - Priority Group 3 or 4 = 80% actuarial value (premium) of benefits (20% co-pay).
- Tier 4 - Priority Group 5 or 6 = 70% actuarial value (premium) of benefits (30% co-pay).
- Tier 5 - Other eligible veterans that are not covered in Tier’s 1 - 4 = 60% actuarial value (premium) of benefits (40% co-pay).
- **Premium Support Based on Need** - tiered support for veterans with an annual gross household income that is less than 400 percent of the poverty line. See pages 20 - 21 for details and <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines> for poverty guidelines.
- **Cost Sharing Support** - Support for copayments, deductibles, or other health insurance provider charges in order to ensure that the effective minimum actuarial value of benefits a prescribed percentage, based on income. See 21 - 22 for details.
- **Alternative Support** - Veterans who obtain a high deductible health plan that includes a health savings account are eligible for alternative support. See pages 22-23 for details.
- **VetsCare Senior program** - for Medicare eligible veterans - Medicare or a Medicare supplement policy will be responsible for non-service connected disability health care costs.

2017 - 2018 Council Meeting Schedule

March 24 - 25 Pueblo West CO VFW Post 5812

June 13 - 16 Thornton CO VFW Post 7945
(Ramada Plaza & Conference Center)

FEBRUARY DISTRICT MEETINGS

1	2/17/18 Saturday	Post No. 501 Denver	11:00 am Jnt Meeting 12:00 noon meal Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen Meeting to follow	Bruce Dolan Patsy Gilmore
5	2/18/18 Sunday	Post No. 6461 Fountain	1:00 pm Lunch Meeting to follow	George Snyder Cindy Anderson
11	2/11/18 Sunday	Post No. 3571 Delta	10:00 am Registration 11:00 am Jnt Meeting Voice of Democracy & Patriot Pen/Teacher 12:00 noon Lunch Meetings to follow	David Stone Sabrina Feagaiga
12	2/17/18 Saturday	Post No. 4031 Durango	11:00 am Jtn Mtg 12 noon Lunch Meeting to follow	Kirk Rosa Caroline Gelatt
13	2/18/18 Sunday	Post No. 3411 Kit Carson	2:00 pm Meeting Snack to follow	Robert Kidd Sabrina Feagaiga

Mar 3rd- 7th Voice of Democracy, Washington DC
Mar 4th - 8th Legislative Conference, Washington DC

MARCH DISTRICT MEETINGS

3	3/11/18 Sunday	Post No. 4334 Ault	12:00 Meal Meeting to follow	Bruce Dolan
7	3/11/18 Sunday	Post No. 6101 San Luis	12:00 noon Meal Voice of Democracy Patriots Pen Meeting to follow	Kirk Rosa
10	3/11/18 Sunday	Post No. 9644 Sheridan	Breakfast 11:00 am Memorial Service Meeting to follow	David Stone

APRIL DISTRICT MEETINGS

3	4/08/18 Sunday	Post No. 2121 Greeley	12:00 noon Lunch 1:00 pm Memorial Service Meeting to follow	
4	4/22/18 Sunday	Post No. 2551 Ft Morgan	11:00 am Memorial Service 12:00 noon Meal Election/Installation	
5	4/22/18 Sunday	Post No. 4051 Colo Spgs	1:00 pm Lunch Meeting to follow Election/Installation	
6	4/08/18 Saturday	Post No. 2411 Las Animas	12:00 am Meeting Election/Installation	
7	4/22/18 Sunday	Post No. 899 Alamosa	12:00 noon Lunch 1:00 pm Meeting Memorial Service Election/Installation	
8	4/07/18 Saturday	Post No. 11411 Lake George	12:00 noon Lunch Meeting to follow VFW Election	
12	4/28/18 Saturday	Post 5181 Dove Creek	11:00 am Jnt Mtg 12:00 noon Lunch Meeting to follow Election/Installation	
13	4/15/18 Sunday	Post No. 6612 Hugo	2:00 pm Meeting VOD & PP Memorial Service Election/Installation	

Chapel Escort and Coffee Hour Schedule

Feb	4	John S Stewart VFW #1	Denver
	11	Broomfield VFW #9565	Broomfield
	18	Mile High VFW #1771	Lafayette
	25	Joseph J Jacques VFW #7945	Thornton
Mar	4	John S. Stewart VFW #1	Denver
	11	Golden VFW #4171	Golden
	18	Francis Brown Lowry VFW #501	Denver
	25	Aurora VFW #3631	Aurora
Apr	1	Silver Dollar PT 31	Denver
	8	Arvada VFW #4331	Arvada
	15	Mile High VFW #1771	Lafayette
	22	Francis Brown Lowry VFW #501	Denver
	29	Dean K. Phillips VFW #5061	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 patients that wish to attend.

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.

Colorado VFW Foundation

Thank you to the VFW Posts, VFW Auxiliaries, family members and friends for your donations. We have received an increase in donations from outside sources, and we are greatly appreciative of their support and dedication to helping Colorado's Veterans and their Families.

We are still processing applications for Eligible Veterans and their Families in the State of Colorado. Assistance to date: August 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017, we have expended \$27,786.16 in assistance to 63 Veterans and their Families with Rent, Utilities, and Vehicle Repairs etc..... We are on track to have funds available for assistance until possibly March, however as most of you know, winter in Colorado is unpredictable, we know we will see an increase in grant requests once the snow and freezing temperatures move in.

Any eligible Veteran in need of emergency assistance across the State of Colorado can apply for a one time Grant of \$500. We receive referrals from VA Social workers, Veterans Service Officers, and other non-profit organizations. In the event the need is greater than the assistance that can be provided, the veteran will be referred to outside resources for additional assistance.

The Grant Application is available on the Department Website to download; follow the requirements and submit the application to our office.

We are asking you our members and your family and friends to donate to the Colorado VFW Foundation. Make your checks payable to Colorado VFW Foundation and mail to 1400 Carr Street, Lakewood, CO 80214.

Colorado VFW Foundation
Board of Directors

H. R. 4457 References:

- URL to this article: <http://www.vfwpost3917.org/index.php>
- URL to bill status: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/4457>
- URL to bill text (pdf): <https://www.congress.gov/115/bills/hr4457/BILLS-115hr4457ih.pdf>
- URL to Title 38, US Code: <http://codes.findlaw.com/us/title-38-veteransbenefits/#/tid=NB92F0A440A044393BB3F1A4B1CC409B9>
- URL to US Poverty Guidelines: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>
- URL to Congressman Lamborn: <https://lamborn.house.gov/>
- URL to VFW Action Alert: <http://capwiz.com/vfw/utr/1/IAJGBARZHWP/IS-JQBARZJIV/11612121316>

COLORADO VETERAN and AUXILIARY NEWS

Official periodical of
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Colorado

Colorado Veteran (ISSN 1056-0807) is published quarterly Feb., May., Aug., Nov. 4 issues a year. \$2.00 to non-members, \$1.00 per year to widows of VFW members.

Send all correspondence, typewritten (double-spaced, upper and lower case to Department Headquarters, 1400 Carr Street, Lakewood, CO 80214

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

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

Published by:
Dept. of Colorado VFW
1400 Carr Street
Lakewood, CO 80214

Periodicals postage paid at Lakewood, CO.

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POSTMASTER
Send address changes to:

VFW National Headquarters
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

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 Ed Aitken



'HAPPY NEW YEAR'

We hope you and yours had a very Merry Christmas and the New Year

brings you all that you desire.

We had the pleasure of having the Commander-in-Chief Keith Harmon and the First Lady Mary Lou Harmon, who came as the guests of Post #1 for their Founders Day Celebration, which was a wonderful evening. While they were here we had dinner at The Buckhorn Exchange, what an experience. It is the oldest restaurant in Denver. There Liquor license is number 1. Besides being a historical site the food was exceptional, I would like to thank Post 1 Commander John Harry, the Officers and membership for a wonderful experience.

We then traveled to Monument Post 7829 Christmas Party which is a pleasure as always. We had a choir of young people who sang Christmas Carols. While we were sitting at our table there was a lady who was discussing a Therapeutic Riding Center called Hearts and Horses. She looked familiar and as it turned out she was an instructor there when I served on the Board of Directors, what a Small World! I would like to thank Commander Joe and his wife Cathy for a great evening.

My special Project was the VFW and

CABA Airlift, which Past Commander Peter Buchanan will tell you more about. I would like to ask you to bring a toy, such as a small puzzle, truck or some small toy to your Post and District meeting, which in turn can be brought to the Council meeting. I thank you in advance for your help in this matter.

My wife and I had the pleasure of attending a Christmas Party for Gold Star Families on Fort Carson. There was a Santa Claus his Elf and many helpers. The families were fed a Christmas Dinner, then one family at a time had an opportunity to visit with Santa Claus. The Gold Star families were given groceries for approximately two months, gifts for the parent and toys for the kids. The kids got what they wished for. Fifteen families were given a Christmas they won't forget.

There is a Bill, H.R. 4457 "Veterans Empowerment Act." **PLEASE READ** the related article. We need your **HELP**, Congress looks at the VFW as numbers. The larger our membership numbers are the bigger our voting base becomes. We are asking you to renew your membership and if you know of someone that has dropped out of the VFW ask them to reinstate and **HELP** us stop this attempt to privatize our VA Benefits. Your Membership Dues are a small price to pay to save your Benefits.

Ed Aitken
State Commander

"Communication Key to Success"

Jr. Vice Column David Stone



Greetings comrades,
According to the Congressional Charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, one of the purposes of our or-

ganization is to "preserve and strengthen comradeship..." Comradeship is an interesting word, defined as "the company and friendship of others with common aims, or as I like to refer to it as "a group of likeminded veterans". Ideally the group includes the entire body of the Post and Auxiliary membership but we should consider that there will often be groups within the organization due to many very human reasons, like friendships, different generations, experiences, and different visions of what the VFW should be.

So, what does comradeship look like anyway? It looks like the Bingo workers who show up time and time again for years. It's the VFW and Auxiliary members that can always be counted on to support buddy poppy drives. It's the volunteer kitchen crews that cook and clean at Post events. It's the canteen patrons who show up for Friday happy hour to have a cold one and play some pull tabs. It's the group that makes special projects happen. It's the VFW Warriors who sponsor rides that raise money for homeless veterans in our communities. It is all of us, VFW and Auxiliary members collectively making

a difference by doing these and other things that we enjoy doing. How do we preserve comradeship? We can preserve comradeship by supporting the independent groups within our Posts and Auxiliaries, provided that they are working to the benefit of the organization. We can recognize that different generations will have different interests, will work on different projects, and have different approaches to the same tasks. It should be OK to try new ideas.

How can we strengthen comradeship? We strengthen comradeship through open communications, training and understanding. We can't expect new members to get involved if we don't take the time to introduce them to work that we do every month. We can't expect a new generation to step up if we don't teach them how to be successful. Senior Vice Commander's should run a Post meeting before they are elected as the Commander. And we can't expect support from our communities if they don't see our work.

Remember that together we are the Veterans of Foreign Wars where No One Does More for Veterans and nobody does it better than the Department of Colorado.

David Stone
Department Jr. Vice Commander

Sr. Vice Column Steve Kjonaas



Fellow Comrades, welcome home and welcome to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Colorado. We wish you find the opportunities within the

VFW that you were hoping to find and to discover many more.

How often do you think a new member hears a version of the above phrase? A real heartfelt welcome to a new organization is always desired and fitting. Even amongst long-term members that feel that their membership and contributions are appreciated, is heartfelt, and rewarding likewise helps fulfill the need of belonging to a family they choose. Nothing stops you from letting a long-term member know that his or her work and contributions are what makes the post strong and that it is the place to be like no other. Our opportunities within the VFW depend on you and the many members of the Auxiliary and the membership. That is, we wish to find an exceptional experience based on our membership and feel part of something much bigger than the individual. Without knowing it you likely felt at home with your own Post at first because there was a sense of value, you knew what was expected from you, and you found a good fit in the activities you participated in.

So, what are the best practices for laying the foundation of a strong mem-

bership? Look this over and see that this short list is not only for formal leaders, but anyone who is involved within the VFW.

- Members,
- Need to feel appreciated.
- They need to see they are making a difference.
- That many want an opportunity for personal growth.
- They value being recognized in private and publicly.
- They can handle the tasks that they have accepted or been assigned.
- That they have a sense of belonging to the *Team*.
- That they have ownership in problem solving, decision making, and goal setting.
- They grasp that something significant is happening because the group exists, and lastly.
- Their personal needs are met.

Accepting the challenge of maintaining a strong organization is about creating and maintaining a desirable and wanted team of volunteers who will do almost anything to accomplish the Teams goals. Your mission in maintaining members is to lead and be part of an organization that people want to come to and that they become part of a successful team.

Steve Kjonaas
State Sr. Vice Commander

Quartermaster's Column Bruce Dolan



Greetings,
I hope this finds everyone well.

The VFW National Foundation recently started a support grant for Posts and Auxiliaries who are perform-

ing an important and needed outreach in the Community to renovate or repair their Post buildings. The grant is for up to \$1000. The way to apply for this grant is to visit www.vfwfoundation.org/grants. The application is on this site. If you have questions, please contact Jason Couch at 816-968-1174.

I would like to thank all of the Posts in Colorado for turning in an election report. Please also remember to turn in a new report **WHENEVER** an officer is

replaced. All of our Posts are bonded. The By-Laws specifically state Quartermasters and persons responsible and having access to Post funds must be bonded. Thank you to all for a job well done.

A year ago I had a file with approximately 24 to 30 incorrect Quarterly Audits awaiting correction. This year I have one. And only two that have been sent back and corrected. Great work. And, if you need help, get ahold of the Headquarters Office and I will send you a step by step guide how to fill out your Audit.

I hope everyone had great Holidays and see you in March at Pueblo West.

Bruce R. Dolan
Department Quartermaster

Surgeon's Column Robert Kidd, Sr.



It is hard to believe that we are half way through this Veterans of Foreign Wars year. Time is just flying by. I hope that everyone has gotten through

the Holidays, it's now time to reflect on times past and what we hope to accomplish in the future.

I only have one more VA assistance living home to visit and that will complete all the VA visitation that the Surgeon does every year. I will say that it has been a very in lightening time.

I would like to remind everyone to keep an eye out for the children within your communities as they are back in

school. Please slow down when passing schools. Also check in on your members that you have not seen in some time. I have noticed that as some of our members get older, they cannot get out like the used to. They may not be able to drive at night and don't come by the Post Home for events or to your meetings.

Remember if you did not get your annual flu shot, you may think about getting it. It is always better to get the shot then getting the flu.

Yours in Comradeship
Robert M. Kidd Sr.
State Surgeon

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

**GENERAL ORDERS NO. 3
February 1, 2018 2017-2018**
Please remind all Posts that you **MUST be 100% +1 to qualify for All State. Deadline is June 30, 2018. Entry forms will be mailed to all that qualify.**

1. As prescribed by Sec 217 & Sec 221 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, Posts having two (2) meetings a month will hold nominations at the first meeting in April with elections at the next regular in April. While Posts with only (1) one meeting a month will hold nominations in March and elections in April and that all members must be notified of such elections.

(a) The officers of each Post will consist of a Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Adjutant, Chaplain, Judge Advocate, Surgeon and three (3) Trustees.

(b) The Post shall elect the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain and three trustees.

(c) The Appointed officers of each Post shall consist of at least an Adjutant, Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Officer of the Day, Service Officer and Guard to be appointed as prescribed in Section 216 in the Manual of Procedure.

2. Proof of Eligibility Requirements for Officers: All Posts, Districts and Department should be reminded of the provisions of Sec. 216(c), 316, 414(c), and 515(d) of the National By-Laws and Manual or procedure that officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until such proof of eligibility has been submitted to the respective Adjutant for review.

3. Registration for the VFW National Convention: Each Post will pay, in advance, a national registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the national convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee, in accordance with the requirements of Sec 222 of the National Constitution and By-Laws. **Delegate fees should be sent directly to the Quartermaster General at National Headquarters.**

4. Attention is directed to Sec. 213 of the National By-Laws concerning arrearages of Posts for National, Department, or District Dues, National Convention registration, poppy money, supply money or other financial obligations, or failure to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703 of the National By-Laws, or failure to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit or Post Election Reports. Posts that are delinquent in any of the aforementioned shall be deprived of all representation in County

Council meetings, District, Department and National Conventions.

5. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Sec. 218, Manual of Procedure, Duty of Trustees. Trustees Report of Audit must be completed by the Trustees, in detail, at the close of each quarter, one of which ends March 31st. Commanders are reminded that all funds are to be under the custody and control of the Post Quartermaster. Persons other than the Post Quartermaster who may handle Post funds, such as club manager, bingo chairman, or committee chairmen are responsible to the Post Quartermaster to maintain accurate records and accounts and should be properly bonded. Post Trustees are to ensure that the financial records of these special funds are also audited in the same manner as the other accounts of the Post Quartermaster.

6. Commanders on all levels should begin organizing their 2018 Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Campaign. To qualify for Post All American, VFW Posts must order a minimum of five (5) Buddy Poppies per member for the program year from Department Headquarters.

7. All-State Commanders and Quartermasters. Entry forms for All-State Commanders and Quartermasters **will be mailed to all qualified persons.** Posts and Districts must be 100% + 1 in membership by **June 30, 2018**, in order for the Commanders and/or Quartermasters to be eligible for this award. The Commander's Department Leadership Manual, along with the entry form, must arrive at Department Headquarters not later than close of business on **Tuesday July 10, 2018**, to be judged. Post Quartermasters need only submit the entry form by the same deadline date.

8. Council of Administration meeting will be March 25, 2018 at VFW Post 5812, Pueblo West, 8:30 am for Joint Meeting. **Workshops** will begin March 24.

9. State Convention is scheduled for Ramada Plaza Inn, June 13 through June 16, 2018, hosted by Joseph J. Jacques Jr. VFW Post 7945 Thornton. See Page 8 of the Colorado Veteran for pre-registration, hotel, Convention Book ads and VFW Schedule of events.

10. The Department of Colorado Veterans of Foreign Wars Loyalty Day Parade will be in Calhan, CO., Saturday May 5, 2018 10:00 am line-up time. Please contact Jim Crim 719-541-2650 or Rowland Hannon 719-347-2522 for further information.

11. Applications for the Department State Convention Site for 2019 can be obtained by contacting State Qm. Bruce Dolan, 1400 Carr St., Lakewood, CO. 80214, (303) 421-1630. A check for \$300.00 deposit must accompany the bid application.

ATTEST BY:
Ronald Lattin, State Adjutant

BY COMMAND:
Edward Aitken, State Commander

We have a gambling problem

We have a problem following the gaming rules and laws within the VFW Posts in Colorado. Mostly the issues can be simple mistakes and misunderstandings of the gaming statutes within Colorado. Currently there are **four Posts under investigation** by the Secretary of States Gaming division. The past practices of a Post have been the number one reason. Everything from doing pull tabs in the Canteen that has a Tavern License, to doing raffles, including 50/50's (that are considered raffles) without a license. Just because we are a Veterans Organization does not give us the right to ignore the laws on gaming.

It is time for all VFW Posts with gaming licenses to stop and take a hard look at each step of their gaming, use the gaming statutes, and do not accept the answer of "we have always done it that way," verify it all against the gaming statutes. Maybe even use the mindset that this is the first time you are setting up any type of gaming. And learn from others outside your Post.

We hold training classes and answer individual questions frequently, we make every effort to give Post and District Commanders the information they need to help them in their duties as leaders of their respective Posts and Districts. After the training, we find that there are still some of the "good ole boy networks" that will fight and argue with the leadership of the Posts and Districts about the information, "that the information is not accurate," and one of the better ones is "we have always done it this way" and even better than that one is, "they do not know what they are talking about." Despite the point that the training is 100% leak proof and baked in with facts from our state gaming statutes. The training goal is to keep you out of trouble with the law and fix your gaming problem.

Here are some facts on the Bingo Raffle rules. Failure to follow them, you risk paying fines or even losing one's license. Anytime a ticket is sold to give away a prize to include 50 / 50's (**even if tickets sold and drawing is a one day event**) they are considered raffles and as such is governed by State Law. All this has been confirmed with the Secretary of State, Bingo/Raffle division.

1. Colorado Constitution Article XVIII, Section 2(4)

a. The entire net proceeds of any game shall be exclusively devoted to the lawful purposes of organizations permitted to conduct such games.

b. No person except a bona fide member of any organization may participate in the management or operation of any such game. (**This means whoever is paying out the pull tabs, running the raffle, doing the Bingo etc., must be members of our organization, either as members of the VFW or Aux-**

iliary).

c. No person may receive any remuneration of profit for participating in the management or operation of any such game. (**This mean if someone is receiving a salary or tips as part of their job, working for the Post or District, they cannot pay out pull tabs, work bingo occasions, etc. This includes Posts with canteens that pay their bartenders. The bartenders first have to be members of the organization, and second cannot be receiving tips or a salary to pay out the pull tabs**).

2. Colorado Revised Statutes Title 24 Government – State

1. Article 21 Secretary of State – Department of State Part 6 – Bingo and Raffles Law

a. 24-21-602(8) "Charitable gaming" means bingo, pull tab games, and raffles.

b. 24-21-602(19) "Game of Chance" means that a specific kind of game of chance commonly known as bingo or lotto in which prizes are awarded on the basis of designated numbers or symbols on a card conforming to numbers or symbols selected at random and that specific kind of game of chance commonly known as raffles that is conducted by drawing for prizes or the allotment of prizes by chance, by the selling of shares or tickets or rights to participate in such a game".

c. 24-21-619(1) A licensee shall not sell, offer for sale, or put into play any pull tab ticket except at the location of and during its licensed bingo occasions or upon premises that are:

i. Owned, leased, or rented by the bingo-affle licensee, used as its principal place of business, and controlled so that admittance to the premises is limited to the bingo-affle licensee's members and bona fide guests. (**This means Post members and bona fide guests that are known persons of the Post and or Canteen and those guests must leave when the member who brought them leaves**), or:

ii. Owned, leased, or rented by a landlord licensee.

These are just a few of the facts with actual statutes listed. All one has to do is go to the actual statutes and read the entire Article 21 Part 6 and follow it.

Reach out to myself, the State Judge Advocate with gaming questions. If I do not know the answer, I know who I can go to and get the answer. This includes anyone who sees anything wrong or you are suspicious of some gaming activity. Together we will recover from our gaming problem and concentrate on doing what we do best; serve Veterans and their families.

Kirk Rosa
Department Judge Advocate

VFW Roster Changes

Page 32: Beye-Lotz #1247 Cmdr: Larry Klingmann, 3168 Klover Lee Ct., Grnd Jct. 81504 970-318-0942

Qm: Calvin Cage, 619 Sierra Ct., Grnd Jct., 81507 303-241-1560

Page 35: Skyline #2797 Cmdr: Jack Roseman, 7080 W 20th Ave., Lakewood 80214 303-910-4993

Page 44: Montezuma County #5231 Qm: Robert Valencia, 10400 US Hwy 491. Cortez 81321 970-560-1891

Ser.Off: Vacant
Page 45: Pueblo West #5812 Ser Off: Vacant

Page 46: San Luis #6101 Qm: Carlos DeLeon, 12159 Co Rd 21, San Luis 81152 719-206-0279

Ser Off: Charles Orona, 10565 Co Rd 21, San Luis 81152
Page 53: Elizabeth #10649 Cmdr: Alan Beebe, 37495 Wild Horse Trl., Elizabeth 80107 303-330-0390

Mount Holy Cross #10721 Ser Off: Tiffany Campbell, 570 Homestead Dr., Edwards 81632 720-384-4990

March Spring Conference - Pueblo West VFW Post #5812

Friday 3/23 7:00 - 11:00 pm: Hot and Cold hors d'oeuvres, Band - NO charge

Saturday 3/24 - Doughnuts and Coffee 7:00 am VFW Post 5812

VFW meeting place TBD for Workshops will be on Web Site

Lunch \$5.00 - subs, chips, cookies, VFW Post 5812

Dinner \$12.00 TBD VFW Post 5812

Sunday 3/25 - Doughnuts and Coffee 7:00 am VFW Post 5812

Joint Meeting with VFW Auxiliary 8:30 am VFW Post 5812 back hall

VFW meeting VFW Post 5812 Bar area

VFW Post Membership by District as of January 22, 2018

Number/ City	2017	2018	%	Number/City	2017	2018	%
DISTRICT #1				DISTRICT #8			
1 Denver	930	899	97	859 Leadville	37	32	86
501 Denver	334	283	85	1166 Buena Vista	130	126	97
2461 Denver	157	122	78	3820 Salida	90	82	91
2797 Denver	66	38	58	8661 Bailey	138	123	89
5061 Denver	308	279	91	10721 Minturn	102	95	93
TOTAL	1795	1621	90%	11411 Lake George	47	48	102*
DISTRICT #2				DISTRICT #9			
2788 Penrose	88	86	98	12009 Conifer	137	128	93
3641 Pueblo	152	151	99	TOTAL	681	634	93%
4061 Canon City	303	274	90	DISTRICT #10			
5812 Pueblo West	184	179	97	322 Englewood	107	104	97
7305 Colo. City	45	38	84	3471 Morrison	68	71	104*
8898 Boone	43	42	98	3631 Aurora	335	309	92
12063 Westcliffe	54	50	93	4121 Idaho Spgs.	53	48	91
TOTAL	869	820	94%	4171 Golden	446	414	93
DISTRICT #3				DISTRICT #11			
41 Loveland	294	279	95	4266 Parker	76	70	92
807 Boulder	45	41	91	4331 Arvada	325	272	84
1771 Lafayette	309	267	86	4444 Cmmrc Cty	212	190	90
1781 Ft. Collins	324	299	92	4666 Littleton	139	134	96
2121 Greeley	168	164	98	7563 Black Hawk	24	18	75
2585 Johnstown	214	181	85	7945 Thornton	384	350	91
2601 Longmont	359	349	97	8449 Bennett	59	51	86
4334 Ault	66	60	91	9644 Fort Logan	446	419	94
6624 Evans	270	246	91	TOTAL	2674	2450	92%
9565 Broomfield	116	111	96	DISTRICT #12			
9741 Dacono	66	55	83	4031 Durango	223	217	97
TOTAL	2231	2052	92%	5181 Dove Creek	50	50	100*
DISTRICT #4				DISTRICT #13			
2551 Ft. Morgan	205	199	97	3411 Kit Carson	27	22	81
3378 Yuma	63	62	98	6491 Burlington	68	65	95
3541 Sterling	109	94	86	6612 Hugo	38	34	89
3551 Brush	37	29	78	9491 Deer Trail	20	18	90
3951 Ovid	24	20	83	9700 Chynn Wlls	28	29	104*
3961 Otis	19	19	100*	TOTAL	181	168	93%
4671 Wray	54	54	100*	15006 MAL	2642	2336	88%
6482 Holyoke	56	51	91	TOTAL DEPT	16496	15140	92%
7153 Fleming	28	26	93	DISTRICT #5			
8064 Akron	40	41	103*	101 Colo. Spgs.	490	468	96
TOTAL	635	595	94%	3917 Security	636	610	96
DISTRICT #5				DISTRICT #6			
101 Colo. Spgs.	490	468	96	336 Ordway	94	89	95
3917 Security	636	610	96	2411 LasAnimas	98	91	93
4051 Colo. Spgs	647	587	91	4001 Springfield	44	43	98
5221 Calhan	111	96	86	4091 Rocky Ford	48	45	94
6051 Wldnd Park	49	47	96	4281 Holly	27	28	104*
6461 Fountain	307	282	92	TOTAL	311	296	95%
7829 Monument	136	126	93	DISTRICT #7			
10649 Elizabeth	50	51	102*	899 Alamosa	110	99	90
TOTAL	2426	2267	93%	3228 Monte Vista	38	34	89
DISTRICT #6				DISTRICT #7			
336 Ordway	94	89	95	4849 La Jara	56	50	89
2411 LasAnimas	98	91	93	6101 San Luis	66	57	86
4001 Springfield	44	43	98	8121 Del Norte	55	54	98
4091 Rocky Ford	48	45	94	TOTAL	325	294	90%
4281 Holly	27	28	104*	2018 dues are now DUE.			
TOTAL	311	296	95%	Be 100% +1 in 2017-2018			
DISTRICT #7				We are on Subscription Dues			
899 Alamosa	110	99	90	Have you paid yours??			
3228 Monte Vista	38	34	89	Buy a Life Membership			
4849 La Jara	56	50	89				
6101 San Luis	66	57	86				
8121 Del Norte	55	54	98				
TOTAL	325	294	90%				

**Chaplain's Column
George Snyder**



Greetings Colorado; Comrades, Auxiliary Members, Family, and Friends; I trust that each of you had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. It

from it, develops each of us as leaders. There are many great leaders within the Department of Colorado, who are vessels of vast knowledge, whom are engrained in the purposes of this organization, and are willing to pass on all they have learned. The invite has been given, all that must be done, is to ask.

is my favorite time of the year!! To see the joy in the children's eyes, and the way the old folks smile. Makes me wish that it was Christmas every day. May every day of your New Year glow with good cheer and happiness for each of you and your families.

Why we do what we do as leaders in this great organization, our purpose; "The purposes of the corporation are fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational, and are: to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its constitution and laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and to preserve and defend the United States from all enemies."

As we begin the New Year I would ask that we strive to develop, mentor, and train new leaders from the Post, District, and Department level, who, will one day take your place and continue to lead this great organization and maintain its purposes. How do we do this?? It is done through a three step process; Model, Participate, Do!!

I say this unto you. If you are steadfast, resolute in your purpose, then you can do all things. In the Bible, the book of Job 42: 2 says, and I quote "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted" As we continue our purpose throughout the New Year, I encourage each of you to seek out responsibility within, your Post, District, and Department. Look to leaders for mentorship, develop your skills, and be that which you were born to be!!

Modeling: "Watch Me" Spend time with, and mentor the individual. Have them along with you on visits, meetings, etc. Develop and model character traits and skills, and introduce them to resources that gauge success such as the VFW Manual of Procedure/By-Laws, and Roberts Rules of Order to name a few.

May God bestow his richest blessings on each of you while you continue to serve. I look forward to seeing all of you in March at the Council of Administration in Pueblo West.

Participating: "Let's Do This Together" As the individual continues to learn and grow, participation in events is introduced. As the confidence and skill level increases with each event greater responsibility is sought. Remember to render praise when due. A few simple words go along way!!

George Snyder
State Chaplain

Doing: "You Do, I Watch You" The individual having participated in many said events, is skilled and proficient enough, while continuing to learn and grow, to assume responsibility of offices. To be sure, mistakes will be made!! Realizing that mistake, and learning

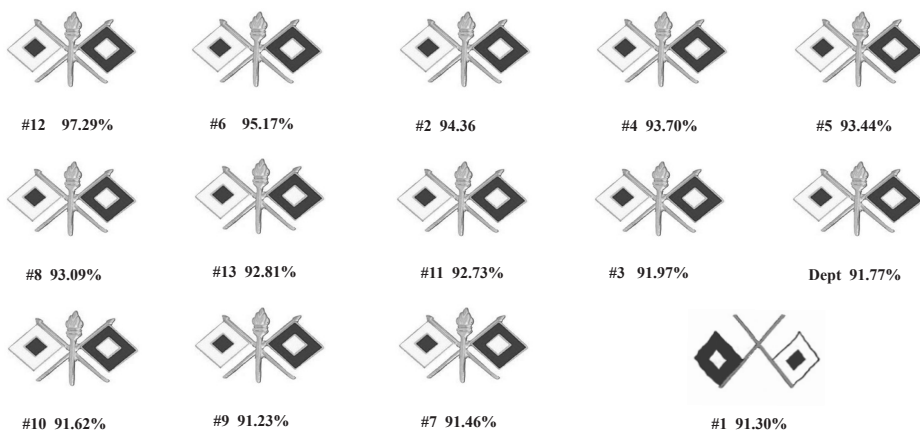
Thank You - Thank You

Thank You to all the VFW members and VFW Auxiliary members that sent Thinking of You Cards, Get Well Cards, emails, made phone calls and expressed concern when I fell at Fort Morgan Friday evening, before VFW workshops and COA meeting. I was taken to the hospital Friday evening and went home Saturday morning. I am now doing OK and back to my usual activities. Thank You

Dick Wellensiek
VFW Post #4171

TAPS

- Post 501: Norman Cloutier
- Post 1771: George Villegas
- Post 3820: Edwin M. Pugh
- Post 3981: Dale Lange, Edward Burdick Sr., Joseph Bogner, Roy J. Grossman, Robert L. Smith
- Post 4051: Earl Collins, John Kaufman, Kirby Stafford, Leroy Neitzke, Roy Walker, Norman Evans, Ernest Chandler, James West, Clovis Rodelandier, Jose Romero, Dale Brown, Thomas Ferrara
- Post 4061: Richard K. Schlee, Harold C. Estabrooks, Patrick J. Burns
- Post 4265: Mike A. Salazar, Harry M. Weber, Eliseo A. Martinez, Winfield G. Pankey
- Post 5221: James H. Gilbert, Clarence B. Gregory, Dale P. Beaman, Daniel H. Patton, Robert R. Wilkins, Wilford A. Elwood, William M. Brown, James R. Tubbs, Leslie Bullock
- Post 6051: Eric W. Keenhn, Donald L. Parlier
- Post 6101: Randy A. Velasquez
- Post 8121: Bryce F. Payne
- Post 9333: Don P. Smith, Billie G. Carson
- Post 11411 Duane A. Russell, Robert O. Tarpley



“My Hope for the Future”

Washington, D.C., October 8, 2016. It was a cool, rainy day. My hair was wet, my body cold, and my feet were aching from the hours we had spent walking discovering our nation's capital. We started our day early that morning knowing the opportunities were endless. First, was the Washington Monument. I thought that the day had already reached its peak when I looked at the sight that stood 555 feet in the air, and my politics loving heart was about to spring out of my chest. That continued until we reached the Lincoln Memorial. This time my service loving heart wrapped like a vine around the monument that stood before me. I felt as if I could hear Lincoln reciting the Gettysburg Address as I read it on the wall. .. “Fore score and seven years ago ... “

And then this: 58,272 names on 246 feet of granite wall stretched out before me for what seemed like forever. The weight of the granite and the weight of the names felt like bricks in my chest, and tears began to fill my eyes as I saw my reflection. I realized that the names were not merely names, but sons, fathers, and friends. I could smell the sweat, touch the wounds, and see the blood shed. The Vietnam war took so much from our country and from our families. As I saw the 58,000 names staring back at me, the man who ran through my mind, was my grandfather a Vietnam veteran who realized his duty to serve.

He left his home at 18 not for himself, but with his country in mind. He went into battle, protected his men, and was injured twice in two land mine explosions. He returned home, hearing loss in both ears, receiving two purple hearts. My grandfather's name easily could've been one on that wall of 58,000 others, but the land mines did not take his life, as they took many others. We honorably settled the Vietnam war but my grandfather had won. Not because he got out alive, but my grandfather won the war between selfish and selfless acts. He realized his duty to serve saying, “I enlisted, I was not drafted. I always knew I wanted to be a marine, to serve my country. Semper Fidelis: always faithful to your core, always faithful to your country.”

Americans throughout history have given their all. From framing the constitution in 1787, to defending our country both then and now, the framers and our soldiers, always lived to serve others. The constitution tells us that we were born free! Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness - free. But we are told in Galatians 5:13: “You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free, but do not use your freedom to indulge in worldly things; rather, serve one another humbly in love.” Because to serve is to be an American, human, to love and to live.

Will the youth of America win the internal war between self-

ish and selfless acts? Will the youth of America grow into servant leaders who know the difference between I and we? Will the youth of America exceed this standard of servant leadership that is set? My hope is that in the future, I can answer yes to these questions. When we fall prisoner to the voice in our head saying, “I must do this for me” I hope that the voice in our heart prevails saying, “ I must do this for us.”

My hope for the future is that we, as Americans, realize our responsibility to serve, not only through active duty, but active service and leadership.

My hope for the future is that we nurture our hearts for service because it is when we serve others that we rise individually, as a nation, and as a world.

My hope for our future is that we lift others up with our love, create light with our words, and show compassion through our actions, and that we realize that “I” alone cannot change the world but I alone can change a life.

My hope for the future is that all strive to serve our country, knowing that to serve doesn't mean to frame a constitution or fight in a war, but to lead others in the direction that is right.

My hope for the future is that all men and women, boys and girls know and act on the idea that to serve is to be an American.

Caitlyn Olson, District #3



Caitlyn Olson
District #3 and
Pioneer VFW Post
#2121 and
VFW Auxiliary



Jessica Scott
District #10 and
Verle Huffman VFW
Post #9644 and
VFW Auxiliary



Sophia Schwartz
District #1 and
So Denver VFW
Post #2461 and
VFW Auxiliary



Melinda Huspen
District #11 and
Black Canyon VFW
Post #9333 and
VFW Auxiliary



Katie Gosch
District #8 and
Louis J. Miller VFW
Post #1166 and
VFW Auxiliary

2018 - 2019 Contest Themes
Voice of Democracy “WHY MY VOTE MATTERS”
Patriot's Pen “WHY I HONOR THE AMERICAN FLAG”



VFW Post 3541 Sterling includes inmates in Veterans Day celebration

Picture & Article by Jeff Rice

Veterans Day was a busy day for Jake Uhrig VFW #3541 Sterling.

The Post started the day with two ceremonies for veterans incarcerated in the Sterling Correctional Facility. In the close security section of the prison, four members of the Post helped about 30 members of a new veterans group at the prison conduct a posting of the colors and an inspirational talk by one of their fellow inmates. Later, in the minimum security section, inmates assembled to hear about a new veterans program on that side of the prison in which military values are re-instilled in the members.

Prisons are experimenting with ways to help veterans who have committed crimes and are serving time. At one state prison in Washington state, veterans are organized in a cell block like a military unit, complete with unit insignia and flag ceremonies. The idea is to build on the discipline they learned in the military to help prepare them for a return to the community.



Longs Peak VFW #2601 Longmont, serves coffee at Denver VA every 3rd Monday of the month. L-R: Jim Lunkenheimer, Joe Richards, Leon Bartholmay and Jim Miller. VFW member Lloyd Peele and VFW Auxiliary member Inza Peele retired after 44 years and the VFW Post is carrying on the tradition of serving coffee to veterans. Many other VFWs and Auxiliaries serve coffee also.



L-R; State Patriotic Instructor Kathy Boatman, State President Caroline Gelatt, Jr. Past President Linda Reinbold and State Conductress Patsy Gillmore. They attended the National VFW President's Celebration, October 20-21 in Williamsburg, VA.



THE FLIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

**COLORADO VFW/CABA ANNUAL VETERAN FOOD AND TOY AIRLIFT
COMMANDER'S SPECIAL PROJECT**

The Seventh COLORADO VFW/CABA Christmas Airlift was completed on December 10, 2017. This was our largest event of the past seven years boasting a huge increase of the number of private donated planes and pilots to 33 aircraft this year. We had two new posts added to the event this year out of District #3 Greeley and District #4 Fort Morgan. We also added three new posts in District #12, Dove Creek, Durango and Cortez. We fly into; Montrose/Delta, Alamosa, Burlington, Las Animas, and Pueblo. Most posts received 4 planes at their local airports filled with 7000# food and toys adding to the over 4,000# the posts had collected. This past year \$15,496.00 was contributed by VFW Posts and Auxiliaries with mileage reported as 11,497 miles. Over 300 VFW and Auxiliary members worked on this project. We were able to serve 431 Veterans and 250 children.

December 2018 Airlift is already in the planning stage with money coming in from the "Relief Funds" of our VFW. We always ask for financial support but another item we need is toys of the kids. It has been suggested that each meeting if our members would bring in a small toy, game, puzzle, teddy bear etc., by the time December rolls around, we will have a generous supply of gifts for the kids this year. It has also been suggested those who attend a District meeting, to take a small toy to the meeting. The Department Representative can return those toys to Department for storage. By the next newsletter we will have a "short" list of the foods we would like you to donate for next year.

Finally, it has been said over and over, "we didn't know anything about this program". Now you can take this information back to your posts and spread the word. You may want to be the recipient of food and toys for your post this next Christmas time, please contact: Peter Buchanan: 303-981-1606 or peterbuchanan@comcast.net. Longmont VFW #2601 will be part of the program this year.

**Peter Buchanan
Chairman**



VFW Post #322 Englewood, Leaders & CUB Scout Pak 572 held a Flag Retirement ceremony, Veterans Day. Also present Dist. 10 President Alice Smith, Leroy Chavez Dist. 10 Inspector, Cmdr #322 Mark Wakefield & President Carla Wakefield.



State Cmdr. Aitken (R) VFW Post #1 Cmdr. John Harry (L) greet CIC Keith Harman (2nd L) and spouse (2nd R) at DIA for Founders Day. John Holland, Diane Aitken (C) and Chris Stillman, #7945, who is a TSA Honor Guard Captain.

VFW Convention Pre-Registration - June 13th thru 16th, 2018
 Ramada Plaza- 10 E 120th Avenue, Northglenn, CO 80233

Name _____ Post # _____

Address _____

2017-2018 Officer Title _____

Pre- Registration is \$15.00 and will include a ditty bag and convention book
(registration at convention will be \$20.00)

Make Checks payable to: **VFW Post 7945.**
Mail to: VFW Post 7945, Attn: Convention Registration
10217 Quivas Street, Thornton, CO 80260

Registration \$ _____

If you wish to pre-purchase your Banquet tickets: Cost will be \$25.00 each
Tickets: _____

HOTEL RESERVATIONS Ramada Plaza: Phone 303-452-4100 VFW Room Rate \$109 +Tax Cutoff Date May 28, 2018	Beef _____ x 25.00 = \$ _____ Chicken _____ x 25.00 = \$ _____
Total Amount: \$ _____	

VFW Auxiliary Convention Pre-Registration - June 13th thru 16th, 2018
 Ramada Plaza- 10 E 120th Avenue, Northglenn, CO 80233

Name _____ Post # _____

Address _____

2017-2018 Officer Title _____

Pre- Registration is \$15.00 and will include a ditty bag and convention book
(registration at convention will be \$20.00)

Make Checks payable to: **VFW Post 7945.**
Mail to: VFW Post 7945, Attn: Convention Registration
10217 Quivas Street, Thornton, CO 80260

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Tickets: _____

HOTEL RESERVATIONS Ramada Plaza: Phone 303-452-4100 VFW Room Rate \$109 +Tax Cutoff Date May 28, 2018	Beef _____ x 25.00 = \$ _____ Chicken _____ x 25.00 = \$ _____
Total Amount: \$ _____	

Revised 12/06/2017

Department of Colorado VFW State Convention

Eagle Trace Golf Club
 1200 Clubhouse Drive
 Broomfield, CO 80020
 Phone: 303-466-3322

8:00 AM Shotgun

June 13, 2018

REGISTRATION FORM

\$60.00 per person. This will include one round of golf with cart, prizes and lunch at VFW Post 7945.

Team Point of Contact: Name: _____
Phone: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____
Name: _____ Name: _____

Make all checks payable to: VFW Post 7945
Memo Line: Golf Registration
DO NOT COMBINE PAYMENT WITH OTHER CONVENTION FEES

Registration and payment must be received by June 6, 2018

Mail Checks & Registration form to:
 VFW Post 7945
 Attn: Convention Golf Registration
 10217 Quivas Street
 Thornton, CO 80260

Questions Contact: Ron Schlieman Email: sshellbell@aol.com
Phone: 303-349-5615

2018 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 : Copy this form along with your Ad (JPEG FILE OR PDF FILE) to:
 chavez5426@comcast.net by 11 May 2018.
 Payment must be received by May 11, 2018.
 (Ad will not be printed if payment is not received)

Make Checks Payable to: VFW Post 7945
 Mail Form & Payment to: Convention Book Chairman
 10217 Quivas Street
 Thornton, CO 80260

State Convention - VFW

Hosted by Joseph J. Jacques Jr. VFW Post 7945

Wednesday June 13

8:00 am	Golf Tournament	Eagle Trace Golf Club
12:00 noon – 1:30 pm	Lunch for Golfers	VFW Post 7945
12:00 noon - 4:00 pm	Registration	VFW Post 7945
12:00 noon - 4:00 pm	Lunch	VFW Post 7945
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Service Officer Claims	VFW Post 7945
5:00 pm	Memorial Service Practice	Olinger Highland Mortuary
7:00 pm	Council of Administration	Ramada Plaza Inn

Thursday June 14

7:00 am - 8:00 am	Registration	Ramada Plaza Inn
8:00 am	Joint Opening Session	Ramada Plaza Inn
12:30 pm	Dept Commanders Luncheon	VFW Post 7945
(by invitation only)		
1:00 pm	General Resolutions	Ramada Plaza Inn
1:00 pm	Service/Rehab Resolutions	Ramada Plaza Inn
1:00 pm	Time & Place Committee	Ramada Plaza Inn
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Registration	Ramada Plaza Inn
5:30 pm	Joint Memorial Service	Olinger Highland Mortuary
7:00 pm	Past Post Commanders Banquet	TBA
8:30 pm	Theme Party	VFW Post 7945

Friday June 15

7:00 am	All American Cap & VFW Line Officers & Staff Breakfast	Ramada Plaza Inn
8:00 am - 10:00 am	Registration	Ramada Plaza Inn
8:30 am	Business Session	Ramada Plaza Inn
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Open Houses - Caucuses	VFW Post 7945
7:00 pm	Military Banquet	VFW Post 7945

Saturday June 16

7:00 am	Past State Commanders Breakfast	Ramada Plaza Inn
7:00 am - 9:00 am	Registration	Ramada Plaza Inn
8:00 am	Business Session /Election	Ramada Plaza Inn
11:00 am	VFW Warriors Meeting	TBA
6:00 pm	Joint Installation of Officers	Ramada Plaza Inn
	State Commander/President Reception	VFW Post 7945

Sunday June 17

10:30 am	VFW Warriors Ride	TBA
	Buddy Poppy Displays and Program Report Scrap Books Room - Ramada Inn	SUBJECT TO CHANGE

State Convention – Department Auxiliary

Hosted by Joseph J. Jacques Jr. #7945

Wednesday June 13

8:00 am	Golf Tournament	Eagle Trace Golf Club
12:00 noon to 1:30 pm	Lunch for Golfers	VFW Post 7945
9:00 am	Staff Meeting	Ramada Plaza Inn
12:00 noon - 4:00 pm	Registration	VFW Post 7945
12:00 noon - 4:00 pm	Lunch	VFW Post 7945
2:00 pm	Floor Work Practice	Ramada Plaza Inn
5:00 pm	Memorial Service Practice	Olinger Highland Mortuary
7:00 pm	Council of Administration	Ramada Plaza Inn

Thursday June 14

7:00 am - 8:00 am	Registration	Ramada Plaza Inn
8:00 am	Joint Opening Session	Ramada Plaza Inn
12:30 pm	Dept Presidents Luncheon	VFW Post 7945
(By invitation only)		
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Registration	Ramada Plaza Inn
5:30 pm	Joint Memorial Service	Olinger Highland Mortuary
7:00 pm	Past Dept. Presidents Banquet	TBA
8:30 pm	Theme Party	Ramada Plaza Inn

Friday June 15

7:00 am	Past District President's Breakfast	TBA
8:00 am - 10:00 am	Registration	Ramada Plaza Inn
8:30 am	Business Session	Ramada Plaza Inn
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Open Houses - Caucuses	VFW Post 7945
7:00 pm	Military Banquet	VFW Post 7945

Saturday June 16

7:00 am	Past Auxiliary President's Breakfast	TBA
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Registration	Ramada Plaza Inn
8:00 am	Business Session / Election	Ramada Plaza Inn
6:00 pm	Joint Installation of Officers	Ramada Plaza Inn
	State Commander/President Reception	VFW Post 7945

Sunday June 17

9:00 am	Department Officers Breakfast	TBA
10:30 am	VFW Warriors Ride	TBA
	Buddy Poppy Displays and Program Report Scrap Books Room - Ramada Inn	SUBJECT TO CHANGE



Auxiliary News

Published by Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of Colorado

Ann Mauck, Auxiliary News Chairman



Presidents's Column Caroline Gelatt



Happy New Year
Colorado Auxiliary
Members!

As 2017 came to an end, I had time to reflect on all the opportunities our organization has given

to me and many others who volunteer their time tirelessly for our Veterans. Yes, it has been a hectic, productive, and a jam-packed year for me; one filled with both excitement and sadness. But through the dedication of each of our officers who serve in leadership positions at every level throughout our state and the support of all our membership we have prevailed. It is with deep appreciation that I thank each of our members because without you we could not continue our work for Veterans. My wish for us all is to understand and respect our differences and work with what we have in common. May your New Year be filled with peace, family, friends and good times.

It seems like time has flown by since our last Parade of Programs and COA held in Fort Morgan last October. Our meetings were well attended and very productive. I continue to hear from so many members about how they appreciated being recognized for all their hard work. Our Program Chairs did an outstanding job with their presentations and I am sure that each of you were able to share at least one new piece of information, with your auxiliary membership. Please continue to read each chairmen's article and pay close attention to any deadlines they may have for specific awards ensuring our volunteers and Auxiliaries receive the recognition they deserve. Thank you all for your continued hard work! Although it seems early to think about year end deadline reporting, March 31, 2018 is now just around the corner and the cutoff date for your yearend reports will be due to the Department Chairmen by April 15, 2018. Our next Parade of Programs/COA will be held at Pueblo West March 23-25, 2018. Please be sure to attend and find out any final information or ask questions pertaining to year end reporting.

As our membership continues to grow at a steady pace we all still have much work to be done to reach our 100% + 1 goal, which would be 6,698 dues paying members. As of December 31, 2017, our membership was at 91.13%. or 6,103 paid members. We still need 595 members to pay their dues, WE CAN DO THIS! Remember every auxiliary reaching 100% +1 will receive \$40.00 from National. Congratulations to our auxiliaries that have reached 100%, Auxiliary #7305 (Colorado City), #6461 (Fountain), #7829 (Monument), #3228 (Monte Vista), #859 (Leadville), #4265 (Craig), #3571 (Delta), #3981 (Grand Junction), #4663

(Clifton), #9333 (Hotchkiss) and #6491 (Burlington).

Upon publication of the February Colorado Veterans I will have made my official visits to District 13 hosted by William Hogate Post 6491 in Burlington, District 6 hosted by John Butler Post 336 in Ordway, District 2 hosted by Minnequa Post 3641 in Pueblo and District 3 hosted by Adamson Warmuth Post 6624 in Evans. We also celebrated our youth who participated in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Contest. The annual VOD weekend and banquet held in their honor was at the Verle Huffman VFW Post 9644 in Englewood the last weekend in January. Congratulations goes out to our winner and thank you to all those who attended.

Over the past few months I have also had the opportunity to attend many first-time events. I have traveled from the east coast to the west coast. representing our Department. These trips have included our Celebrating America's Freedom Event in Yorktown, VA, our National President's Homecoming in Williamsburg, VA and Western Conference in San Diego, CA. Thank you to all my travel buddies for making these events thrilling, to say the least. If you have never been to one of these National events, think about planning your next trip around one, if for nothing else the experience. Travel plans have been made for our national Mid-Winter Conference to be held in Nashville, Tennessee the second weekend in February (this would be my old stomping grounds for those of you who don't know) and then off again to the Spring Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. At this time, I will have the honor of escorting our Department 1st place winner for the Voice of Democracy along with our Department Commander Ed Atiken.

Remember to get your nominations in for the Salute to Service, they are due to Department Headquarters by March 31, 2018. The Department Award Banquet will be held on April 21, 2018 at Francis Brown Lowry VFW Post #501 located at 4747 W Colfax, Denver CO 80204. RSVP for the banquet must be received at Department Headquarters no later than April 16th as seating is limited. Since our next Colorado Veterans does not come out until May, start making your plans now to attend Department Convention in June to be sponsored by Joseph J. Jacques Post #7945 in Thornton. Visit the department website at vfwco.org for continued updates.

We are ONE VOICE UNITED FOR
VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES!

Caroline A Gelatt
Department President



Joseph J. Jacques Jr.
VFW Auxiliary #7945
proudly endorses
Shelley Schlieman
Department President
2018-2019

Dear Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters:

The members of Joseph J. Jacques Jr. VFW Auxiliary 7945 are proud to endorse Shelley Schlieman for the office of President for the VFW Auxiliary Department of Colorado. Shelley has been an Auxiliary member for 23 years, joining under the eligibility of her husband, Ron, a Vietnam Veteran, who served in the United States Air force from 1968 until 1991.

In 2002-03, when the Auxiliary President resigned, Senior Vice Shelley moved into the office and was named an All State President. Over the years, she has served as Auxiliary President eight times and was again, in 2011-2012 named All State President. In 2003, Shelley entered the chairs in District 10, becoming District President in 2008. She has held chairs at the Auxiliary and District levels, was Department Courtesy Chair, and Department Membership chair last year, where after 17 years, thanks to the tremendous effort of every Auxiliary in the state, Colorado attained 100% membership. She has

been District and Auxiliary Secretary many times and is currently her Auxiliary's Secretary. Shelley looks forward, every month, to going to the Denver VA hospital and participating in their Coffee Admissions program, where, while handing out cookies and coffee, she gets to visit with the Veterans.

After spending 21 years as an active duty military wife and being part of that family, Shelley was happy to join the VFW Auxiliary family. She looks forward to adding more brothers and sisters to our organization, making members feel welcome and valued, working hard for our National programs and Veterans, Active Duty, their families and our communities.

We ask for your support, as we proudly endorse Shelley for Department of Colorado Auxiliary President at the June Department Convention in Thornton.

Respectfully
Brandi Dolan
VFW Auxiliary 7945 President

National Certified Recruiter Training Program

Thank you to all of you for making our Colorado Auxiliary an exceptional one. Each one of you has provided so much through your volunteerism to our veterans and their families. You have worked effortlessly to increase our membership so that we can continue to support our veterans in the future.

As of the end of December we are at 91.13% toward our 100%+ membership. We still have until June 30, 2018 to attain this goal. We are so close, it is attainable and we can have Colorado in the Circle of Excellence in 2018. When talking with prospects let them know about the benefits they can receive when becoming a member. Also, encourage current members to renew their annual membership and maybe consider becoming a Life member.

At the end of December, if they do

not renew, they are no longer in good standing on January 1 and, because people are busy, let them know that if they do not renew, their membership might lapse. This is also a good time to look at the members who have lapsed, contact them, and encourage them to rejoin by letting them know how important they are to the Auxiliary and veterans.

Thank you to everyone for your efforts toward membership growth and all that you are doing for our veterans and their families. We can work together to "Catch the Dream for Our Veterans" and have "One Voice UNITED for Veterans and Their Families". I wish each of you and your families a very happy and healthy New Year!

Linda Reinbold
National Certified Recruiter Trainer

THANK YOU - THANK YOU

To all of you for the get well cards while I was down
with pneumonia. Believe me, they really do make you feel better.
With Love and Blessings to each of you.

Betty Melsen, VAVS Representative for Department VFWA

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO**

GENERAL ORDERS #3

February 1, 2018

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. The Department of Colorado VFW Auxiliary will hold its Parade of Programs/Workshops and Council of Administration meeting on March 23 and 24, 2018 at the Pueblo West VFW Post # 5812, 127 E Spaulding Avenue, Pueblo West CO 81007. A schedule of programs and workshops is on the Department website. Workshops will begin at 8:00 am with Parade of Programs at 1:30 pm. Joint Council of Administration will be held on Sunday, March 24, 2018 at 8:30 am and the Auxiliary Council meeting will follow.

2. Department President, Caroline Gelatt's Special Project is the Colorado VFW Foundation, where eligible Veterans can receive a one-time grant up to \$500.00, please forward your donations to Department Treasurer, Cindy Anderson. In addition, \$2.00 from every Veterans Pin sold will benefit the Colorado VFW Foundation.

3. **Auxiliary and District Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers:** To be considered a member in good standing and to retain your elected position, your 2017 dues had to have been paid by December 31, 2017. Membership is restored to good standing upon payment of dues. A member shall not be refused entrance if they have not received their 2018 membership card, showing a paper or digital version of their receipt and/or membership card from MALTA is considered proof of membership.

4. **Membership:** Keeping your membership current is the easiest way to keep our organization membership whole and healthy. If you have not already done so, please pay your 2018 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 may fix an admission fee. This entitles each new member to a membership pin and copy of the current Bylaws and Booklet of Instruction. (See Section 102 of the Bylaws).

5. Fourth Quarter Audits for the months of October, November and December are due January 31, 2018. Audits must be voted on and approved by the membership prior to being mailed to Department Treasurer, Cindy Anderson. If an

extension is required, please contact your Department Treasurer as soon as possible.

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. The Department Voice of Democracy Banquet was held at Verle Huffman VFW Post #9644, 2680 W Hampden, Sheridan CO 80110 on Saturday, January 27, 2018. The Department VFW Auxiliary would like to extend Congratulations to all winners throughout the state and thank each Auxiliary for their hard work in promoting this program.

8. February 12 - 16, 2018 is a special week to honor our hospitalized veterans. Consider planning a special event or activity to pay tribute and express appreciation to our Veterans.

9. Nominations for the Salute to Service are due to Department Headquarters by March 31, 2018. The Department Award Banquet will be held on April 21, 2018 at Francis Brown Lowry VFW Post #501, located at 4747 W Colfax, Denver CO 80204. RSVP for the banquet must be received at Department Headquarters no later than April 16th as seating is limited. Please visit the Department website at vfwco.org for more information.

10. 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 Auxiliaries hard work. Remember the reporting year is April 1, 2017 thru March 31, 2018. All reports are due to Department Headquarters by April 15, 2018.

11. A special thank you to all those who attended the Parade of Programs in Fort Morgan. 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/ Caroline Gelatt
Caroline Gelatt, President

ATTEST:
/s/ Ginny Rosa
Ginny Rosa, Secretary

All State President/Auxiliary Achievement

Auxiliary Presidents, You joined the VFW Auxiliary on the eligibility of a loved one—
A VETERAN WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY HONORABLY DURING WAR TIME.

Auxiliary Members, You joined the VFW Auxiliary on the eligibility of a loved one—
A VETERAN WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY HONORABLY DURING WAR TIME.

They served Honorably, now you can Honor them by----

SUBMITTING YOUR ALL STATE PRESIDENT AND AUXILIARY ACHIEVEMENT YEAR END REPORTS.

Special information, to be shared with the membership, will be coming to all Auxiliary Presidents. We know you all do great work for our Veterans. Surprise yourselves by putting it on the year end reports. You may be amazed.

Thanks for all you do!
Pam Valdez, Gayle Stockwell,
Queenie Barz, Chairman Ruth Gulden

Reporting Year April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018

Youth Activities

Greetings to all Auxiliary members!

I hope all of you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! It doesn't seem possible that 2017 is already in the past and 2018 is already here! As we welcome in 2018, continue the great work volunteering you all have been doing. I would like to thank all of the Auxiliaries that have continued to send in their reports. Continue the great work in your communities and also including working with youth in some of your projects. Taking the time to mentor our youth today will create quality leadership skills for them to use tomorrow. Rewarding youth for doing the "right thing" might also encourage them to continue doing positive actions in the future.

One of our National Program goals is giving out Random Acts of Patriotism (R.A.P.) cards and coins. If you happen to see a youth performing a Patriotic Act, please reward them with a R.A.P. coin or card. Both cards and coins can be reported under the Youth Activities section of the Program Reporting form. Coins can be purchased at www.vfw-store.org. There will be R.A.P. coins at the Council of Administration weekends for those that would like to purchase a smaller amount than what the VFW Store sells. There is a new R.A.P. card template and three different youth patriotism award certificates (fillable) that are available at www.vfwauxiliary.org under the Youth Activities Program. Another program under Youth Activities is the Veteran History Project (VHP) where Veteran's personal accounts of war are shared for future generations to listen to or read to better understand

the realities of war. There is a Field kit available if you have youth that would like to participate in this project.

As most of you know, these awards are also available for youth and youth groups. The Outstanding Young Volunteer of the Year and the Outstanding Youth Group of the Year Awards will be presented at State Convention in June 2018. For more information on all requirements and application deadlines, please download from the Department website, make a copy from the Colorado Program Book, or visit the Youth Activities table during the Council of Administration weekends. Another National Program goal is submitting The Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citation on behalf of a youth group that helps out Veterans and their families. They can be submitted to me at any time until 10 April 2018.

I would like to see each Auxiliary attain our Program Goals:

* Submitting at least one Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans National Citation.

* Sponsoring and working with youth groups (please report).

* Giving out Random Acts of Patriotism coins and cards

Please continue to let me know all that your Auxiliaries are doing in your communities and all the different youth groups you work with through your program reporting. Please submit a report for Youth Activities if you have not done so this reporting year. May 2018 be filled with many BLESSINGS for you all!

Patsy Gilmore
Department Youth Activities Chairman

ROSTER CHANGE

**Page 55: PDP Ruth Carson, 1445 Porter Court Apt. 205, Delta, CO 81416
970-250-1845**

Hospital Program

This has been such a busy and productive year in the Hospital Program! I had the chance to wrap up the year with a visit to the Denver VA Hospital facility with my Co-Chair Linda Reinhold. It was a Christmas visit which made it even more memorable as we gave out gifts and visited those who were in the facility. Many Thanks to Charlotte Lattin and all the members of the Posts and Auxiliaries that were also there to visit patients and give out gifts. In some respects, it was especially important to visit this time of year—especially for those who were so far from home and had no family to visit them. I was pleasantly surprised and encouraged by their very positive attitude and outlook.

Please continue to give emphasis to awarding your volunteers for the hard work and commitment that they give. Please contact me or my Co-Chair if you have any questions regarding the awarding of pins and other volunteer recognition. We would like to see our volunteers recognized more for the incredible work that they do and will be happy to clear up any questions or concerns that you might have. Please send me your selection for Outstanding Hospital Volunteer by March 1, 2018 to have them considered, so please give some thought to that as well. We again received word that the new Rocky

Mountain Regional VA Medical Center in Aurora may be looking for volunteers and may begin to hire for some positions. The official opening of this facility may be pushed back as far as April 2018.

Military Suicide Awareness and Prevention continues to be a high priority for us. If any Post or Auxiliary needs additional training or an updated copy of the presentation that I gave at the COA in Fort Morgan, please contact me—I will get you whatever you need to train the staff and members of your Post. We must become informed about how we can help on the personal level, at the Post level and at the Department level. You can also pass on information directly to 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.

Thank you again for your incredible support and assistance over this past year! If I or any member of my team can assist you in any way to make the Hospital Department the best that it can be, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Phil Reinhold
Department Hospital Chairman

Membership 2017-2018

The holidays are over and as a new year begins, we need to work on membership so our organization can continue to grow and have more helping hands to work for our Veterans and in our communities.

As of this writing, we have several Auxiliaries that attained 100% in membership. THANK YOU!!!! Colorado is 91.13% and we only need 16 new or rejoined members to meet our next quota of 80 by January 31 to receive \$200 from National. Keep up the good work.

Has your Auxiliary held a recruitment drive? Has your Auxiliary requested a copy of the Post's membership roster? Please remember to not only recruit the female members of their families, but also remember that males can now join the VFW Auxiliary and reach out to their father, brothers and sons who can join under their eligibility.

Please don't forget to contact the

Chief of Staff / Extension / Mentoring

Calling ALL MEMBERS! "Good day and so glad to see you here." "We've missed you." "Thank you."

"Why yes, I would love someone to work with." "What can I do to help?" And again "Thank you."

Simple phrases, yet do we say them often enough? Do our facial expressions and or body language say different than the words we are speaking? We have all been on both sides, the giving and receiving end of the afore mentioned. Sometimes we underestimate the effect that our actions and words might have on a new or prospective member. It is never too late to make a resolution to be a kinder and more gentle auxiliary member and mentor.

Please read our National Chief of Staff, Jane Ziebarth's blog. In Jane's article she suggests that we ask ourselves questions such as "Have I been a mentor-a trusted friend and guide?" This article can be accessed in its entirety by going to the National VFW Auxiliary website <https://vfvvauxiliary->

members of your Auxiliary that haven't paid their dues. Remind them how important they are to our organization and that you don't want them to lose the benefits of being a member, especially the cancer grant.

At our March Parade of Programs, we will draw 3 names from those who have recruited new and rejoined members. Each one will receive \$25.00. The names from the drawing in October will remain in the drawing. If you recruit 3 members, your name will be entered three times, four members four times, etc.

We will remain "One Voice UNITED for Veterans and Their Families"

So we can "Catch the Dream For Our Veterans"

Loyally,
Rosie Mitchell
Department Membership Chairman

org. and clicking on the Blog tab, scroll down to Chief of Staff. If at all possible, print out and take to your next auxiliary meeting. Share this wonderful insightful article with our members.

Before the next publication of the Veteran newspaper, it will be time to have turned in your completed year end reports. Please be sure to look in advance at these reports and make plans to tie up any loose ends or complete these projects. I am looking forward to hearing from each auxiliary as we all should be filling out the "Are you Healthy" report. There will be a drawing for 2 cash awards for those auxiliaries that have filled out and returned the form to me before the meeting.

In closing, if you need assistance or just need to talk, please contact myself or Department President Caroline Gelatt.

Colleen Rylant, Chief of Staff
Ph: 970-669-1832 or e-mail:
cerylant@comcast.net

Scholarships

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen program. Having the opportunity to read the student speeches really touches your heart. America will be bright with lots of strong leaders passionate about the growth of America. Upcoming due dates for scholarships are listed below.

Continuing Education Scholarship

This scholarship is open to any Auxiliary member (who has belonged for a least a year), spouse, son or daughter with a financial need. Entrant must be at least 18 years old, complete the application and submit an essay of 300 words or less. Applications must be received at National Headquarters by February 15, 2018,

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

This contest is open to all students, including home-schooled students, in grades 9-12. No digital art will be accepted, and artwork must be on canvas or paper. It will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. One Department winner will be forwarded to the Auxiliary National Headquarters.

Deadlines:

March 31-Entries due to local Auxiliary
April 15-Entries due to Department
May 5-Entries due to National

Please remember, just as important as it is to get student participation, it is also equally important to recognize the students who participate and win in each one of these programs.

Sabrina Feagaiga
Department Scholarship Chairman

Auxiliary Membership by District as of January 22, 2018

Number	City	2017	2018	%	Number	City	2017	2018	%					
DISTRICT #1														
1	Denver	184	176	96	4849	La Jara	46	43	93					
501	Denver	142	130	92	6101	San Luis	28	0	0					
2461	Denver	120	101	84	8121	So Fork	109	105	96					
2797	Denver	42	38	90	TOTAL		318	276	87%					
3971	Denver	32	0	0	DISTRICT #8									
5061	Denver	132	113	86	859	Leadville	26	26	100*					
TOTAL		652	558	86%	1166	Buena Vista	88	62	70					
DISTRICT #2														
2788	Penrose	35	30	86	11411	Lake George	51	48	94					
3641	Pueblo	79	70	89	12009	Conifer	36	33	92					
4061	Canon City	144	135	94	TOTAL		201	169	84%					
5121	Pueblo West	51	43	84	DISTRICT #9									
7305	Colo. City	24	27	113*	4264	Stmbt Spgs	33	32	97					
TOTAL		333	305	92%	4265	Craig	47	47	100*					
DISTRICT #3														
41	Loveland	124	116	94	5843	Meeker	31	30	97					
1771	Lafayette	319	293	92	9374	Kremmling	22	20	91					
1781	Ft. Collins	107	105	98	TOTAL		133	129	97%					
2121	Greeley	102	88	86	DISTRICT #10									
2585	Johnstown	75	74	99	322	Englewood	106	76	72					
2601	Longmont	228	218	96	3471	Morrison	49	44	90					
4334	Ault	35	33	94	3631	Aurora	113	94	83					
6624	Evans	217	204	94	4171	Golden	326	304	93					
9565	Broomfield	44	39	89	4331	Arvada	142	136	96					
9741	Dacono	22	19	86	4444	Cmmrc City	192	183	95					
TOTAL		1273	1189	93%	7945	Thornton	258	243	94					
DISTRICT #4														
2551	Ft. Morgan	127	117	92	9644	Fort Logan	343	328	96					
3541	Sterling	72	66	92	TOTAL		1529	1408	92%					
4671	Wray	30	28	93	DISTRICT #11									
8064	Akron	9	0	0	784	Montrose	47	0	0					
TOTAL		238	211	89%	1247	Grnd Jcnctn	88	76	86					
DISTRICT #5														
101	Colo. Spgs.	84	76	90	3571	Delta	60	64	107*					
3917	Security	215	189	88	3981	Grnd Jcnctn	18	24	133*					
4051	Colo. Spgs	286	263	92	4663	Clifton	54	55	102*					
5221	Calhan	28	26	93	9221	Cedaredge	59	58	98					
6461	Fountain	133	136	102*	9304	Silt	13	0	0					
7829	Monument	35	40	114*	9333	Hotchkiss	20	23	115*					
TOTAL		781	730	93%	TOTAL		359	300	84%					
DISTRICT #6														
336	Ordway	82	75	91	DISTRICT #12									
2411	LasAnimas	114	101	89	4031	Durango	98	81	83					
4001	Springfield	26	0	0	5181	Dove Creek	40	35	88					
4281	Holly	9	0	0	5231	Mancos	64	61	95					
TOTAL		231	176	76%	9058	Nucla	20	0	0					
DISTRICT #7														
899	Alamosa	85	77	91	TOTAL		222	177	80%					
3228	Monte Vista	50	51	102*	DISTRICT #13									
TOTAL DEPT.														
							6,697	6,160	92%					

Buddy Poppy

For more than 90 years the Poppy has been assembled by disabled and needy Veterans, and over 40 million are made every year.

Remember that from Buddy Poppy purchased by post/auxiliaries;

5 cents go to the department's Veterans Service Fund.

1 cent goes to VFW National Headquarters Veterans Service Fund.

1 cent goes to VFW National home for Children.

The disabled and needed Veteran workers are also paid.

Other money raised from donations

goes to support veteran's programs across the nation, for additional information go to the VFW and VFW Auxiliary web sites.

Please think about your order of the Buddy Poppies, we are lagging in our orders by both post and auxiliaries, so please think about filling up your stock, and keep on promoting the word and history behind the poppy and the good the donations do to help veterans and their families.

Ron Boone
Department Buddy Poppy Chairperson

VFW National Home for Children

As you know this year I have been actively recruiting life memberships for our VFW National Home. This is an excellent way to show your commitment to veteran and military families. You will remain informed of their mission and successes of this wonderful VFW benevolent organization. The VFW National Home exists only through the charitable contributions of others. If you are planning on becoming a life member you need to know that the fees

will be increasing in 2019. Please join soon and avoid paying the increase.

More Information can be obtained at: vfnationalhome.org

Any questions, ideas or comments can be e-mailed to raymond.moelder@gmail.com

Raymond Moelder
Department VFW National Home for Children Chairman



TAPS

Aux 1771: Theresa Gremel, Lois Beasley, Ethel Melton, Josephine Minor
Aux 2411: Kitty Ann Long
Aux 2797: Jaqueline Cloutier, Jennie Salas
Aux 8121: Le Shepherd Jefferson, Vivian Clark, Connie Moreland, Betty Griego DeLucia
Aux 9644: Judy Stewart, Kathie Millison, Carol Bryant Robbins, Norma Mayotte

Americanism

Even though Mar. 31st is the cut-off for the Auxiliary reporting information that gets sent to National, keep reporting! The VFW reports cut-off date is Apr 30. Then, keep sending in those reports as they are the start of the next yr.

Definitions from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary: 1. Americanism: a. attachment or allegiance to the traditions, interests, or ideals of the U.S. b. a custom or trait peculiar to America. 2. Patriotism: love for or devotion to one's country.

We show out Patriotism through Americanism! How? By passing on the lessons we have and are still learning. When we salute while our U.S. Flag passes by, say The Pledge of Allegiance, hear The Star Spangled Banner our National Anthem, we are teaching our youth and others the correctness of what we should be doing. When we hold or participate in the special Ceremonies,

fly our great Flag every day, give out the Flags, we are again, showing our love for our Country and it's traditions.

Take a Veteran to School! Include the Veterans in your patriotic programs at the schools or youth groups. Honor our Veterans by letting them help to pass on much of this information.

Have you Thanked your local businesses or citizens with Certificates for flying the Flag? I personally know of at least three of our local citizens that we presented with a framed Certificate to, a few yrs back, that still have it hung in a place of prominence.

"Patriotism is not a short and frenzied outburst of emotion but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime"- Adlai Stevenson

Rena Cales
Department Americanism Chairman

Veterans And Military Support

Wow!!! Hard to believe it!! A brand New Year—2018!! Probably, the reason that I get so excited about a brand New Year is that I can begin fresh!!! I can look at what I have done (or NOT done-UGH!) and make a plan to improve!! That thinking, I believe, works on a personal level, a committee level, or an Auxiliary level.

The beginning of 2018 is a perfect time for our Auxiliaries to reflect on what we have accomplished and what positive things our Auxiliaries did!! Always, always focus on the positive. Then talk as a group on improvements for your Auxiliaries. Write them down...how will you accomplish these improvements...who could facilitate that change? Once again, write it down...refresh your commitment to our veterans and be the very best that you

can be. Please look at your program reporting and ask what has been completed and what has not been completed. Please try to commit, as an Auxiliary, to each category. Try to do your commitment early in the new year and remember to report, report, report!!

A huge Thank you to Ray Moelder for doing my presentation at the last COA. That meant the world that I could count on Ray...plus, I bet he was ten times funnier than I could ever be!! Ray has gone above and beyond on his chairmanship of National Home!! Happiness, Joy, and Good Health to ALL of you. Thank You for ALL you do for our veterans, your community, and your auxiliary. Here's to an incredible 2018!

Rosie Naughton,
Dept. Veterans and Military Support Chair

Legislative

First I would like to thank everyone for their efforts and hard work. 2017 was a year filled with Legislative Victories. Victories like the Forever GI Bill, The VA Appeals Reform, Accountability and Whistleblower Protection, and Choice Extension and VA Workforce Improvements. These victories were specifically highlighted in the January 2018 VFW Auxiliary Magazine (pgs 16-18). All of you have played a significant role in these accomplishments! I have included the link in case you would like access to it.

<http://content.digitalpub.blue-soho.com/web/y5b2/0A1q55e/VFWAuxiliary-Jan18/html/index.html?page=18&origin=reader>

We have reached a little over half of our reporting period. However, there is still much work to be done and many challenges to be faced in the legislative arena.

"Sequestration and budgetary constraints are still a major impediment to our military force structure and the readiness and sustainability of our armed forces to defend our nation from an array of international bad actors who threaten our national security.

In addition, the Department of Defense's and the VA's ability to provide quality health care and the promised benefits to our veterans is still a major issue. Our National Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman recently met

with VA Secretary David Shulkin to discuss the continued implementation and refinement of the Veterans Choice Act, as well as helping veterans gain easier access to quality care both inside the VA and through contract providers." (Carmelita Jones - January 2018 Promotion #4)

To accomplish all of our goals, it is important to stay active in legislative activities. Now is a great time to focus on **Submitting Auxiliary Legislative Reports**. Let our state and national Auxiliary know what you are doing - how you are contacting your legislators (phone calls, emails, letters, social media, personal contacts).

Continue your Grass Roots Advocacy. Reach out to your legislators and ask them to support legislation that benefits our active duty military as well as veterans and their families.

Join the VFW Action Corps! Stay up to date with what is going on - the current legislation that will affect our military, veterans and families. You can be a legislative warrior by responding to the special action alerts that the Action Corps puts out. Let your voice be heard!

Let us work together to advance our legislative agenda. Let us work together to be heard by our Congress men and women. Let us work together to be "One Voice for Veterans."

Sara Robley
Department Legislative Chair

MALTA Update

While some of us have gotten into the groove of using the new MALTA system for membership, there are many of you who still have not taken advantage of all that this system has to offer. I want to encourage all of you who are computer literate to be sure and activate your account. This is a very simple process asking only for your name, membership number, and zip code. Then you set up a password and you are in. You will find MALTA in the National web site which is vfwauxiliary.org. You click on Member Log In and you are there.

One of the best things about MALTA is that you can pay your dues or convert to life if you are an annual member right there without having to pay them to your Auxiliary Treasurer. You can also change your information such as your address, phone and e-mail.

While you are there, don't forget to check out the resources tab. If you are an officer, or chairman this is where you will find everything National has provided for your program. Members, here you can really learn about all that we do as a VFW Auxiliary.

There have been many questions about receiving annual membership cards since MALTA went into effect. Your Auxiliary Treasurer no longer has cards to give members when they pay their dues. All cards come from Nation-

al and they have advised us that it is taking six to eight weeks for the cards to reach the members after payment. If you have allowed that time and still don't have your card, please check the address that is on file with MALTA and if it is correct, contact your Department Treasurer, (that's me) and I will check with National Headquarters to see when it went out and re-order if necessary. If your address has changed and you have not notified your Treasurer or changed it yourself, there will be a charge for a second card. In the meantime, if you have activated you account, you can see your card there and print a copy if you want. Here is something new for the smart phone users. You can bring up your card on your phone and show it there just like having the card in your hand. This is acceptable anywhere that it is necessary to show your membership card.

I hope that you will take advantage of all the MALTA has to offer. Whether you are an officer, chairman, or member there is something good for you in MALTA. If you have questions or need help to get your account set up, you can contact your Auxiliary Treasurer or myself.

Cindy Anderson
VFW Dept. CO Treasurer

Department Fundraising

Welcome to 2018!!

All year you have heard me talk about our special red, white, blue and gold Veterans pins that have been purchased by a lot of you. As a reminder, the funds raised from these pins are to go towards the Colorado Veterans Foundation which is right here at our own Colorado Department. Please know there is a limited supply remaining of these pins and once we are out, we are O-U-T! Attention: Auxiliary Presidents and/or Auxiliary Treasurers if you are not sure if your Auxiliary has purchased any pins, please feel free to contact me and I'll check my records. Also, if your Auxiliary has purchased pins, make sure you notate it on your monthly reports under Section Membership Benefits, Sub-Section Colorado VFW Foundation Donation (Dept. President's Special Proj.)

This is the last "plug" you will here in regards to the Patriotic King Size Quilt that is up for grabs at the C.O.A.

in March. If you have not made a \$5 donation for your single chance or a \$20 donation which gives you five (5) chances at winning the quilt, then I highly suggest you contact me ASAP. You do not want to be left out in the cold and miss out on the chance to take this beautiful quilt home...that's if I am not the chosen one (ha ha). As always I will have calendars, cards, a couple cookbooks, and few other items available for purchase at our next C.O.A. I do believe we will have one more door prize drawing of goodies I'm sure you will all love.

I can't wait to see all of you in Pueblo West and hear all your holiday stories. Here's to making 2018 and the remaining part of this year a great success. See you all soon!

Stephanee Trujillo
Department Fundraising Chairman



2017 - 2018 Veteran's Pins Order Form

Auxiliary Name and Number: _____

Ship To: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

City _____ Zip: _____

Quantity: _____ Pins x \$3.00 each=\$ _____ Enclosed (Check, Money Order)

Ordered by: _____ Phone: _____

Make check payable to **Department of Colorado VFW Auxiliary**

Mail Veteran's Pin order to:

Stephanee Trujillo
636 S. Ursula Ave,
Milliken, CO 80543
(970) 396-4197
stephanee.trujillo@gmail.com