

# COLORADO VETERAN



and VFW Auxiliary News

NO ONE DOES MORE **FOR VETERANS®**

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

February, 2023

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

Volume 62, Issue 3 (2) 2022 - 2023

## “Why is the Veteran Important”



### 1st Place Voice of Democracy

**Amara A. Fancher**

Senior - Cedaredege High School  
Cedaredge

District #11  
Grand Mesa VFW Post #9221  
and  
VFW Auxiliary, Cedaredge

I am going to tell you a story. Not about a fair maiden and a dashing prince. No, I'd like to tell you a story about the hidden heroes in our communities. The men and women who clean their plates, because they know what hunger is. Men and women who double check their blind spots, and hold loved ones with hardened hands. Who are haunted by things unseen, and go into battle each day to experience sweet normality.

In reality, I am telling you a story about my dad.

I didn't pay much attention to things when I was little. I would play with bugs and dolls, using my imagination to pass the time. My mom would watch me and my sisters play, worries concealed. I had always known that my momma was there. And I knew that dad was at work.

No, he was not deployed. Not anymore. He was in the mines. Hundreds of feet below, breathing coal dust and bearing equipment easily as heavy as he was. I remember his eyes more than anything, the sharp blue gray shrouded in black. How tall he was. His smile, tired, but tender.

I remember seeing him limp sometimes, his body waging battles that were older than I am now. He tells me about his time in service. About the places he saw, the people he learned from and lived with. About being beaten. About being hungry.

He tells me these things, but there is no way that I could ever know how deep and how true it all is. And I pray that my loved ones and I won't need to. From the deepest regions of my heart, I wish I could know just what to say, just what to do, to solve the conflicts that rage around our world. To take back all the pain.

But the reality is this.

Our world is harsh, and everyday millions of people go through war to stay alive. Millions of people go out into chaos for the hope of freedom. For peace. For families, friends, loved ones, and strangers. For land, resources, religion, and power. Whatever the reason, people fly into conflicts in hopes of diffusing the situation. Because, for every soldier on the front lines, there is a family far behind them, hoping and praying that they will come home alive.

My dad came home. Everyday,

he carries his experiences with him. Everyday, bits and pieces of him are changed because of the efforts he committed himself to.

I love my dad, and I could never imagine losing him.

Not here at home, and not across the world either.

When a soldier comes home, we pray they are the same as they were when they left. But the trials they face change them. Not entirely. But in the way they will hold themselves. How they will take in information, process sensations and react to conflicts.

Combat changes people. The honor, medals, and recognition are bitter fruits of labor. There is no way to articulate what it takes to give yourself over to the greater good. It is not impossible, but you must first walk through the flames of war to understand the burden.

There is no easy way of coming back from war. No easy way to go back to everyday life. The transition from combat to cardio, bullets to bills, is something I can only imagine. The anxieties, injuries, and fear don't just go away.

The psychology of it is different for everyone. Thus, the cities, hometowns, jobs, and people that veterans return to can be both a relief and a struggle. In many cases there is little accommodation for veterans when they come home. In spite of this, the adversity and the challenges, veterans are pushed into old patterns of life. Many struggle, and many fall into mental and physical distress.

These people have walked through hellfire for our freedom.

My dad, a veteran, has been through it all. He is my inspiration. He is why I believe, with my whole heart, that veterans are not just important, but monumentally brave in what they have faced. These are the men and women who have built our foundations, supported us, and protected us through trial after trial. These people, who you see on the corner with cardboard signs. Who you see wounded. Who you see living and electrifying our communities... They are the pillars of our society. And it is our duty to serve them as best as we can, because they have served us in ways that we cannot hope to repay.

## Voice of Democracy 2022-2023 Students



### 2nd Place Voice of Democracy

**Benjamin A. Rebis**  
Senior - Wray High School - Wray

District #4  
Republican Valley VFW Post #4671  
and VFW Auxiliary, Wray



### 3rd Place Voice of Democracy

**Leo M. Veatch**  
Senior - Agate High School - Agate

District #5  
Clarence D. Dzuris VFW Post #5221  
and VFW Auxiliary, Calhan



### 4th Place Voice of Democracy

**Samuel R. Densmore**  
Sophomore - Home Schooled - Denver

District #13  
John S. Stewart VFW #1 and VFW  
Auxiliary, Denver



### 5th Place Voice of Democracy

**Sky R. Richards**  
Freshman - Hi Plains High School  
Seibert

District #13  
William Hogate VFW Post #6491  
Burlington

## Presentation of Awards

**Fifth Place - Mile High #1771 VFW Auxiliary, Lafayette**

**Fourth Place - Past Commanders Club, Charles Cooper & Melissa Dawson**

**Third Place - Longs Peak VFW Post #2601 and VFW Auxiliary, Longmont**

**Second Place - Ron Boone, Department President VFW Auxiliary**

**First Place - Commander Geraldine Rimpley, and Joseph J. Jacques Jr., VFW Post #7945 and VFW Auxiliary, Thornton**

*Thank You Everyone*

**“My Pledge to Our Veterans”**

As my parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and many more relatives are veterans, I have always had a lot of respect for those who have served and fought for our country. According to the United States Census Bureau of 2020, there have been around 41 million Americans who have served in the United States Military. The Department of Veteran Affairs reports that there are currently around 19 million living United States Veterans. While the veterans have been impacted by their service, their friends and families have been affected as well. My sincerest gratitude goes to all the veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much. This is my pledge to you:

I pledge to never forget. I will never forget the sacrifices you made. You risked your lives and spent time far away from family. Many of you returned with physical and psychological disabilities, or had friends who did. I will never forget the long, harsh days of service and the days, months, and even years of recovering. You served our country so that we may have the rights that so many take for granted.

I pledge to respect. I will respect you and what you fought for. I will stand during the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance. I will stay informed of policies and uphold the principles of our country by voting as soon as I am of age.



I pledge to be a good steward to my community, my state, and my country. I will represent the United States well when traveling abroad. I will uphold a positive image and reputation of the United States and speak positively about my country. Should the need arise, I pledge to do my part to defend the United States from all enemies, foreign and domestic.

I pledge to never forget the sacrifices and service that you and your families endured and to forever respect your hard work, devotion, and patriotism. As Elmer Davis, the Director of the United States Office of War Information during World War II said, “This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave”.

**1st Place Patriot’s Pen  
Dulaney Uyemura  
7th Grade, Kersey, CO**

*Presentation of Patriot’s Pen Award*

**Department Chairman Todd Van Sant  
Engelwood VFW Post #322 and VFW Auxiliary  
in Memory of Past Department President, Jean Carter**

- 1st Place Dulaney Uyemura, 7th Grade, Greeley  
District 3, Pioneer #2121 and VFW Auxiliary, Greeley**
- 2nd Place Patrick Liles, 7th Grade, Colorado Springs  
District 5, Cheyenne Mountain VFW #3917 and  
VFW Auxiliary, Security**
- 3rd Place Andrew Carr, 8th Grade, Highlands Ranch  
District 10, VFW #4666, Littleton**
- 4th Place Leah Miller, 7th Grade, Steamboat Springs  
District 9, Schubring-Cruse VFW #4264 and VFW Auxiliary,  
Steamboat Springs**
- 5th Place Sarah Grace Densmore, 7th Grade, Denver  
District 1, John S. Stewart VFW #1 and VFW Auxiliary, Denver**

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Publication Committee  
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VFW Department Headquarters, editor  
Ann Mauck, assoc. editor &  
computer layout  
For the Auxiliary  
Ron Boone, president  
Lennie Dolan, treasurer

Ann Mauck, auxiliary news chairman

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Send address changes to:

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Kansas City, MO 64111



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**Alfred J. "Al" Lipphardt**  
**Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief**  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

**National Representative to**  
**February COA**  
**Cheyenne Mountain #3917**

Alfred J. "Al" Lipphardt was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. on July 21, 2022, at the 123rd VFW National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.



Al served in the United States Army from 1965 to 1979, earning his VFW eligibility by serving in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968, and from 1970 to 1971. In recognition of his service, he received the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star with Valor device, Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service, Purple Heart Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with Silver Star and two Bronze Stars, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Medal, and the Vietnam Staff Service Medal First Class.

He joined the VFW in 2002 at Post 12002 in North Fulton, Georgia, where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department Levels, culminating with his election as the VFW Department of Georgia Commander from 2014 to 2015, in which he achieved Triple Crown All-American Commander status. On the national level, he has served on the Legislative Committee, the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee, and the Council of Administration.

Al is retired. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Pacific Western University in 1990.

He is a member of the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain, Georgia, American Legion, and life member of the Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, the VFW National Home for Children, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, and an inductee to the United States Army Officer Candidate School Alumni Association Hall of Fame.

Al and his wife, Carol were married on Feb. 24, 1967, and reside in Stone Mountain, Georgia.



Fort Carson Christmas for Gold Star Families: PDC Ron Lattin, Charlie & Donna Watkins, PDP Charlotte Lattin, Santa and helpers brought a lot of joy with presents for everyone.

**Lois Callahan**  
**National Chaplain**  
**National VFW Auxiliary**

**National Representative to**  
**February COA**  
**Cheyenne Mountain #3917**

Lois Callahan of Little Rock, Arkansas, was elected to the office of National Chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) Auxiliary at its 109th National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. She is now in the third of five offices leading to the National Presidency, which she is expected to hold in 2025-2026.

A Life Member of Thaddeus H. Caraway Auxiliary 2278 in Hot Springs, Arkansas, she has served the organization in many capacities including Auxiliary, District and Department President, National Youth Activities Ambassador and National Legislative Ambassador.

She joined on the eligibility of her father, Ruben Tamariz, who served in the U.S. Army in Korea and Vietnam. Lois has been a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary since 1990.

Lois retired after a twenty-six-year career as a Pediatric Occupational Therapist. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, cooking and baking, and DIY home improvement projects. She is a Life Member of the VFW National Home for Children, a member of the University of Central Arkansas Alumni Association and Rock Creek Family Church.

Lois and husband Terry's family includes two adult children and four grandchildren.



## Voice of Democracy 2022-2023 Students in Alphabetical Order



**Samuel R. Densmore - Sophomore - Home Schooled - Denver**  
**District #1 and John S. Stewart VFW #1 and VFW Auxiliary**  
**Denver**



**Amara A. Fancher - Senior - Cedaredge High School - Cedaredge**  
**District #11 and Grand Mesa VFW Post #9221 and VFW**  
**Auxiliary, Cedaredge**



**Benjamin A. Rebis - Senior - Wray High School - Wray**  
**District #4 and Republican Valley VFW Post #4671 and VFW**  
**Auxiliary, Wray**



**Sky R. Richards - Freshman - Hi Plains High School - Seibert**  
**District #13 and William Hogate VFW Post #6491, Burlington**



**Leo M. Veatch - Senior - Agate High School - Agate**  
**District #5 and Clarence D. Dzuris VFW Post #5221 and**  
**VFW Auxiliary, Calhan**

**FEBRUARY DISTRICT MEETINGS**

DISTRICT NO.	DATE	LOCATION	TIME	REPRESENTATIVE
5	2/12/2023 Sunday	Post No. 101 Colorado Springs	12:00 noon Lunch Meeting to follow	Steve Kjonaas Nadia Flores
7	2/26/2023 Sunday	Post No. 6101 Fort Garland Community Center	12:00 noon Lunch Meeting to follow	Gerri Rimpley Pat Cooper
9	2/04/2023 Saturday	Post No. 4264 Steamboat Spgs	12:00 noon Lunch Meeting to follow	Carol Thomas Pat Cooper
11	2/04/2023 Saturday	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	James Sheridan Phil Reinhold
13	2/12/2023 Sunday	Post No. 9700 Cheyenne Wells	2:00 pm Meeting Snack after meeting	Gerri Rimpley Pat Cooper
Feb 18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb 18 <sup>th</sup> -		COA Cheyenne Mountain #3917 Security Voice of Democracy Banquet		

**MARCH DISTRICT MEETINGS**

3	3/19/23 Sunday	Post No. 6624 Evans (Host Berthoud)	12:00 noon Meal 1:00 Memorial Service Meeting to follow	TBD Ron Boone
10	3/19/23 Sunday	Post No. 9644 Verle Huffman	11:00 am Memorial Service Lunch Meeting to follow	Carol Thomas Nadia Flores

March 3rd - 8th Voice of Democracy Washington DC  
 March 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Legislative Conference Washington DC

**District Meeting Schedule - Subject to Change**



Post 1771: Andy Garcia  
 Post 4051: Frank Armstrong, Paul Banks, Robert Barr Jr., Hans Becker, James Boland, Alfred Burgess, Cecil Charles, Clyde Cortez, Scott Defebaugh, Leslie Frey, John Gaston, Merlin Jans, David A. Nuss, David Oliver, George Patterson, Michael Proctor, Danat L. Provencher, Milford Prothe, Eligio Rodriguez, Lloyd Sheaffer, Floyd Strauss, Felciano Yapit, H Warren Youngquist  
 Post 4171: John F. Conger, Edward A. Dinges, Lawrence E. Fanning, Ruben Pacheco, John Stathis, Alle N. Stieduhar

**2022 - 2023 Student Themes**

**“Why is the Veteran Important”**  
**“My Pledge to Our Veterans”.**

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**Chaplain Column  
 Kevin Reinhold**



Good Day,  
 We would like to let you know that on the Department web page there is a Colorado VFW Chaplaincy page. Go to tab VFW Members / News for VFW Members / scroll to the bottom of the page. Please go to the page and if you have any questions please reach out to the Department Chaplain.

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE  
 CHAPLAINCY,**

**VFW CHAPLAINS HANDBOOK**

During times of turmoil and war, mankind always looks to religion and religious figures for comfort. Both ancient and modern societies have turned to religion and communities have extended the comfort of religion to those serving in the heat of battle. Priests and other religious figures petition gods and spirits for victory in war. The Scriptures often refers to priests accompanying troops into battle. (see: Deut. 20:2-4; Joshua 6:2-5).

The modern chaplaincy's roots and origin are essentially in the medieval church. The word chaplain dates from this period. A fourth century story tells of the pagan Roman soldier called Martin of Tours. One day as he and his soldiers were approaching the gates of the city of Amiens, he met a scantily clad beggar. He impulsively cut his military cloak in half to share with the man. That night, Martin dreamed of Christ wearing the half-cloak he had given away. He heard Christ say to the angels: "Martin, who is still but a catechumen, clothed me with this robe." When Martin woke, he found his cloak restored to wholeness.

As a result, Martin converted to Christianity. Martin's commitment to Christianity enraged Emperor Julian by saying, "Hitherto I have served you as a soldier; allow me now to become a soldier to God." The Emperor later released

him from the Army. He was baptized and in 371, the people of Tours were so impressed by his holy life and miracles, they made him their Bishop.

Martin of Tours later became the patron saint of France and his cloak, considered a holy relic, was carried into battle by Frankish kings. This cloak was called in Latin the "cappa." Its portable shrine was called the "cappalla" and its caretaker priest, the "cappellanus". Eventually, all clergy affiliated with the military were called "capellani," or in French, "chaplains, hence chaplains. The Council of Ratisbon (742), first officially authorized the use of chaplains for armies, but prohibited "the servants of God" from bearing arms or fighting.

However, religious figures in this era often went into battle as fighting men with the army. The conflict between the religious function and the military role can be seen in the career of the patron saint of military chaplains, St. John Capistrano, who besides serving as a Church Diplomat led the army at the Battle of Belgrade in 1456. This European tradition extended to colonial America where the chaplain both fought alongside and ministered to his neighbors in the militia. The tradition in colonial America of the fighting chaplain began changing. After the Civil War, chaplains were no longer permitted to carry weapons. And today, chaplains are supposed to be issued a Geneva Convention Identity Card. Chaplains are ordained clergy, endorsed by their faith group to serve all people, regardless of religious or non-religious affiliation.

"Doing our Lord's work  
 for all Veterans"

Kevin Reinhold  
 Department Chaplain

**Please send in all Deceased VFW members to**

**ann@vfwco.org or vfw@vfwco.org.**

**They will be saved for the Joint Memorial State Convention Book.**

**Our deadline is May 20, 2023**

**You still need to notify National Headquarters**

**POST & AUXILIARY CHANGE OF E-MAIL FORM**

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

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

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

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

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

CURRENT E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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

EDITOR



## Commander's Column Geraldine Rimpley



I have had so much fun these last six months and it is all because of each and every one of you!

Thank you Rita Fama for all your support

as you made the administration part of my responsibilities a whole heck of a lot easier. You were an angel, we are all going to miss you greatly and wish you the best of luck in your new community and Post.

Thank you District Commanders that took the time to conduct Schools of Instruction for your Post Commanders. The presentations provided helped all of them better understand a myriad of their responsibilities and set them on the right track to achieve All State and maybe even All American. I hope you have noticed how insightful the Dept. officers have been as they visited your meetings. A big thanks goes out to PDC Kirk Rosa for holding classes for the line officers not only to prepare us to accomplish our duties but more importantly, endorsing my mantra (handed down from PDC Don Smith) of teach, coach and mentor.

Thank you to all the Post Commanders that sponsored District meetings not only ensuring they followed National By-Laws but also added time for many discussions of various topics to help your Posts accomplish greater things and also recruit new members along the way. I truly appreciated how each of you displayed an open mind for new ideas as many of them I took to other Posts with the same hopes.

I know my happiest moments were being invited to VFW events that I was not aware even occurred. One in mind, Christmas for Soldiers, held at Ft. Carson with the support of CSM (R) James Kilpatrick Jr., was something

new to me. I had the pleasure of watching PDC Ron Lattin and his lovely wife, Charlotte, and numerous other volunteers, provide food boxes and individual Christmas gifts for 15 families that included 32 children. These Gold Star or Wounded Warrior Families were given a time slot for the children to meet with Santa who took the time to listen to their wishes and also read a story to them. The numerous volunteers that raised funds and purchased gifts not only took some of the load off Ft. Carson's need to provide for families but also demonstrated to the installation that the VFW and other local Veterans organizations exist not only to help themselves but their surrounding communities. This program is so inspirational that I challenge at least 15 posts to sign up to support the efforts for next year. In my mind, the more support available, the more families we can help, following one of the Soldier's Creeds instilled in all soldiers: No Soldier is left behind. Please contact PDC Allen Stone, Post #4666 at (303) 521-4688 to volunteer your Post.

With the five months remaining, my hopes are we continue to develop and grow as a Veteran organization accomplishing more great things within our communities so much so that other Veterans get excited about our success and join our ranks. We are on the right track but may hit some speed bumps. Should that happen, reach out to your fellow Posts or us, as I'm sure all of us have experienced a bad fall before but always got back up with the help of our fellow VFW members. I'm very proud to call each and every one of you not only a fellow Comrade, but also a dear friend. Thank you for all your support.

Geraldine Rimpley  
Department Commander

## Surgeon Column Fredric Scheck



Greetings Comrades;

I hope you all had a happy and joyous time with family and friends.

I know I've been preaching about visiting

veterans in Nursing homes or homebound, and hopefully you did. If you are homebound or in a nursing home, please let someone know, we can't visit you if we don't know where you are.

With the New Year upon us, stop and think of the great things we, as an or-

ganization, can do.

I will challenge all members to get involved with your Post, attend a meeting or meetings. Get involved with one project your Post is doing, or better yet pick a project that you would like to see your Post do, become the chairperson and make that project become a reality.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for this opportunity to serve you.

Fred Scheck  
Department Surgeon

## Sr. Vice Column John Keene



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I hope your New Year is off to a good start and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Council Of Administration week-

end at the Security Post. Commander Rimpley and I are working to bring you valuable content, so I encourage all members to attend the various Schools of Instruction on Saturday. Likewise, I want to invite all District Commanders and Committee Chairs who are seeking to return to your positions next year, or any members that are interested in taking on a role within the Council, to attend my "listening session" on Saturday afternoon. I hope to get feedback and buy-in as I develop next year's Membership Program.

As you may have realized by now, I am passionate about grants. Coming from a Post without a canteen, I have experienced the power of grants firsthand. Grants can provide much needed funds to Posts that struggle to generate revenue and boost the coffers of a Post that simply wants to do more in their community.

I often speak of the various grants offered by our National Organization (#StillServing grants, Uniting To Combat Hunger, MAP grants, etc.). However, the Colorado Department of Military and Veteran Affairs also offers grants to Veteran Service Organizations under the

Veterans Trust Fund.

VTF Funds can be used to provide emergency assist to veterans in need for things like utility bills, propane, firewood, auto repairs, car insurance, food, gas, and rental/mortgage assistance. In other words, this grant can help supplement your Relief Fund. Moreover, your Post can create its own programs with VTF Funds, such as organizing a Veterans Standdown.

The DMVA is specifically looking for Posts in remote areas of the State to apply, especially on the plains.

All Post Commanders should have received an email inviting them to attend a Grant Writing Workshop that is being put on by John C. Davis III, out of the Montezuma County Post #5231, on Saturday, Feb 18, during the COA. This will be a breakout session, separate from the SOI, where Posts that participate will walk away with a complete VTF Grant application. The workshop will begin at 10 am, and there are some steps participants will need to take prior to arrival. If your Post did not receive the invitation and you want to participate, reach out to me directly at [john@vfwpost1.org](mailto:john@vfwpost1.org) and I will make sure you get the necessary information.

Semper Fi,  
John Keene  
Department Sr. Vice Commander

## Quartermaster's Column Bruce Dolan



Greetings, I hope this finds everyone well this new year.

I notice on the Quarterly Audits that there are still Posts that have

a Dues Reserve Fund on line 5. This is something National did away with years ago. A Post may have one if they want, but to me that is just more numbers to try and keep balanced.

Something that does bother me though is balancing the whole audit. Box 15 on the form is required to balance with Box 17. There is no carry over or waiting for a check to come in. If you need a step by step procedure, please contact me and I'll get one for you. Or you can go to the National web site and download the copy they have there.

And speaking of Audits, the Commander and Trustees are required to sign it. I will return Audits not signed. In the past few years I have accepted audits with two signatures of trustees because

of the Covid dynamics. If the QM is having trouble getting the Trustees to sign, try to set up an electronic way of doing it. There are several Posts who do this and it works very well. Also, the Commander must sign the form.

I have noticed a trend going on and growing. COMMUNICATIONS. Posts and members are letting Department Headquarters know less and less of what is going on. With the computer age, you don't even have to talk to anyone. Just a little "hi, things are fine here", or "I have a question."

For those of you that don't know, our long time receptionist, Rita Fama, has moved to Idaho. We are looking for a replacement but with a different job description.

Everyone please stay warm and I'm looking forward to seeing people in a few weeks.

Bruce Dolan  
Department Quartermaster

## Jr. Vice Column Carol Thomas



To all my brothers and sisters, we have all worked hard in the past and present, and now is the time to relax and have some fun.

Are you aware of the Armed Forces Vacation Club (AFVC)? Its vacations for Heroes. AVFC offers the U.S. military (active duty, reserve, guard, retired), as well as civilian employees of the DoD affordable vacation rentals in numerous destination worldwide.

Free membership is one small way AFVC thanks you for your service. That is correct membership is FREE. AFVC provides a one-stop shop for all your vacation needs with exclusive discounts on resorts, hotels and so much more. Visit <https://www.afvclub.com> or 1-800-724-9988.

Carol Thomas  
Department Jr. Vice Commander

**Have You Registered for June State Convention?**

**June 7 - 10, 2023**

**Greeley, CO**

**See Page 6 of This Colorado Veteran**

**Complete Schedule for VFW & Auxiliary**

**Subject to Change**



**VFW Post Membership by District as of February 6, 2023**

Number/ City	2022	2023	%	Number/City	2022	2023	%
<b>DISTRICT #1</b>							
1 Denver	894	845	95	859 Leadville	30	27	90
501 Denver	261	241	92	1166 Buena Vista	113	109	96
2461 Denver	106	97	92	3820 Salida	67	66	99
5061 Denver	239	225	94	8661 Bailey	110	105	95
TOTAL	1500	1408	94%	10721 Minturn	109	103	94
<b>DISTRICT #2</b>							
2788 Penrose	94	88	94	11411 Lake George	40	41	103*
3641 Pueblo	79	78	99	12009 Conifer	108	107	99
4061 Canon City	239	214	90	TOTAL	577	558	97%
5812 Pueblo West	195	176	90	<b>DISTRICT #9</b>			
7305 Colo. City	47	44	94	4264 Steamt Spgs	90	85	91
8898 Boone	34	34	100*	4265 Craig	96	89	93
12063 Westcliffe	49	51	104*	5261 Rangely	18	19	106*
TOTAL	737	685	93%	5843 Meeker	42	39	93
<b>DISTRICT #3</b>				9374 Kremmling	26	26	100*
41 Loveland	271	257	95	TOTAL	272	255	94%
807 Boulder	32	30	94	<b>DISTRICT #10</b>			
1771 Lafayette	224	216	96	322 Englewood	89	81	91
1781 Ft. Collins	285	265	93	3471 Morrison	66	60	91
2121 Greeley	157	148	94	3631 Aurora	269	269	100*
2585 Johnstown	175	162	93	4171 Golden	361	366	101*
2601 Longmont	276	272	99	4266 Parker	74	72	97
4334 Ault	73	61	84	4331 Arvada	225	211	94
6624 Evans	201	190	95	4444 Cmmrc Cty	162	148	91
9565 Broomfield	93	82	88	4666 Littleton	111	107	96
12174 Brighton	34	32	94	7563 Black Hawk	25	29	116*
12189 Berthoud	39	36	92	7945 Thornton	281	262	93
TOTAL	1860	1751	94%	8449 Bennett	55	34	62
<b>DISTRICT #4</b>				9644 Fort Logan	387	376	97
2551 Ft. Morgan	145	146	101*	TOTAL	2105	2015	96%
3378 Yuma	52	51	98	<b>DISTRICT #11</b>			
3541 Sterling	73	74	101*	784 Montrose	118	113	96
3551 Brush	35	37	106*	1247 Grnd Jnctn	205	196	96
4671 Wray	49	46	94	3571 Delta	49	39	80
6482 Holyoke	35	35	100*	3981 Grnd Jnctn	152	134	88
7153 Fleming	13	13	100*	4663 Clifton	48	45	94
8064 Akron	51	42	82	5485 Parachute	34	33	97
TOTAL	453	444	98%	9221 Cedaredge	90	90	100*
<b>DISTRICT #5</b>				9304 Rifle	23	20	87
101 Colo. Spgs.	444	429	97	TOTAL	719	670	93%
3917 Security	521	492	94	<b>DISTRICT #12</b>			
4051 Colo. Spgs	516	491	95	4031 Durango	222	225	101*
5221 Calhan	88	84	95	4181 Dove Creek	40	40	100*
6051 Wldnd Park	40	38	95	5231 Mancos	149	165	111*
6461 Fountain	339	325	96	9058 Nucla	28	27	96
7829 Monument	146	130	89	TOTAL	439	457	104%*
10649 Elizabeth	32	31	97	<b>DISTRICT #13</b>			
TOTAL	2126	2020	95%	3411 Kit Carson	19	20	105*
<b>DISTRICT #6</b>				6491 Burlington	53	53	100*
336 Ordway	68	67	99	6612 Hugo	28	28	100*
2411 LasAnimas	63	64	102*	9700 Chynn Wlls	23	23	100*
4001 Springfield	27	26	96	TOTAL	123	123	101%*
4281 Holly	21	22	105*	15006 MAL	2517	2365	94%
TOTAL	179	179	100%*	TOTAL DEPT	13811	13124	95%
<b>DISTRICT #7</b>				<b>2023 dues are now DUE</b>			
899 Alamosa	75	69	92	<b>Be 100% +1 in 2022-2023</b>			
4849 La Jara	45	42	93	<b>Help Colorado be 100%+</b>			
6101 San Luis	47	44	94				
8121 Del Norte	37	38	103*				
TOTAL	204	193	95%				

**Membership Mission**

To recruit, retain and mentor a stable membership base including all generations of veterans. To cultivate a membership that is well versed in institutional knowledge and actively involved at all levels of the organization and in the local community. To establish Posts with an established vision of service, leadership and community outreach.

Without question, our membership numbers have decreased every year except for two years in the last 30 years. Yes, we have been successful in recruiting new members. However, the effort across the organization needs to improve if we want our influence in Congress to be noticed.

Today, the Veterans of Foreign Wars is 123 years old. During those years, we have had WWI, WWII, Korean, Vietnam and other veterans joining en masse. Today, however, we have lost many of these honorable men and women. As history has proven, the Post-9/11 veterans will join our organization like others have when they are ready, however usually not until their kids grow or their retirements are in place.

We must not stereotype any of our future members regardless of sex, color or personal beliefs. If a member qualifies, bring them in. The only way to make this success permanent is to retain those members, recover past members, and continue to recruit new veterans into

our ranks. There are still many veterans eligible to join and at all ages. However, our focus needs to be on our Post-9/11 veterans, for they will be our future.

You might ask, how do we build our organization? It's simple, leadership by example. If you are a Commander of a Post, District, Department or the National Commander, then get out there and recruit members yourself and show your team that if you can do it, so can they. A good way to do this is to improve the way we communicate with our members at all levels of the organization. Posts, Districts, Departments and our National Officers need to use all methods available to convey information for news and training to our membership through newsletters, emails, social media, recruiting booths and outreach teams.

We need to know who our members are and how we can address their needs and concerns. It's time to step it up and recruit post-9/11 veterans. Each of us needs to do our part and recruit at least one new member. Think about it. If we all recruit one each, we would show substantial growth in membership in just one year. If we repeated that same scenario again next year and the year after, we could be easily back over 2,000,000 members strong. When you are out there recruiting, remember this one thing: Every Veteran Counts!

**DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**  
**1400 CARR STREET**  
**LAKEWOOD, COLORADO 80214**

**GENERAL ORDERS NO. 3**  
**February 1, 2023 2022-2023**

**Please remind all Posts that you MUST be 100% +1 to qualify for All State. Deadline is June 30, 2023. Entry forms will be e-mailed to all that qualify.**

**1. As prescribed** by Sec 217 & Sec 221 of the National Congressional Charter 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 second meeting 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. 215 (Post), 415 (District), and 515 (Department) of the National Congressional Charter 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 Commander and 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 (d) of the National Congressional 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 Congressional Charter 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 (a)(11), 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 31<sup>st</sup>. 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 2023 Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Campaign. To qualify for Post All American, VFW Posts must purchase 5 Buddy Poppies per member in the post. To qualify for Colorado All State, VFW Posts must increase their Post's Buddy Poppy purchase by 10% over the previous year from Department Headquarters.

**7. All-State Commanders and Quartermasters.** Entry forms for All-State Commanders and Quartermasters **will be e-mailed to all qualified persons by July 1, 2023** Posts and Districts must be 100% + 1 in membership by June 30, 2023, in order for the Commanders and/or Quartermasters to be eligible for this award. The entry form, must be submitted to State Headquarters by suspense date provided in notification letter. Post Quartermasters need only submit the entry form by the same suspense date. All State Teams will be presented at the August 2023 COA meeting at Joint Opening.

**8. Council of Administration** meeting will be February 19, 2023 at Cheyenne Mountain VFW Post 3917, 4715 Clearview Dr. Security, 8:30 am for Joint Meeting. **Workshops** will begin Saturday February 18, 2023.

**9. State Convention** is scheduled for June 07 through June 10, 2023, hosted by Pioneer VFW 2121 Greeley. **Information will be posted on the Colorado Web Page.**

**10. The Department of Colorado** Veterans of Foreign Wars Loyalty Day Parade will be in Penrose, CO., Saturday May 6, 2023 10:00 am line-up time. Please contact Geraldine Rimpley 719-372-3719 for further information.

**11. Applications for the Department State Convention Site for 2024** 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:  
 Bruce Dolan, State Adjutant

BY COMMAND:  
 Geraldine Rimpley, State Commander

**Reservations are required for the Voice of Democracy Banquet**  
**February 18, 2023. Deadline is February 10th.**



**EARLY CHRISTMAS FOR VETERANS**  
By Pam Valdez & Kathleen Tomlin

Christmas came early for many veterans and their families thanks to a CABA toys and food drop at Las Animas Airport on December 4<sup>th</sup>. CABA is the Colorado Aviation Business Association who provides Christmas gifts for veterans in need all over Colorado consisting of food and toys. This was our sixth year of participating. Six planes and nine pilots from the CABA project from Denver landed in perfect weather. Our little airport was filled with the different styles and colors of planes. We are uncertain how many pounds were sent to this area. The food and toys were unloaded by five Post VFW members, nine Auxiliary members, and 11 community workers including Santa Claus. A meal was prepared by Auxiliary members and 34 people were served a delicious sloppy joe sandwich, with chips, salad, and dessert. The following day we had five Auxiliary members, and 4 non-members help us break down, distribute, and deliver the boxes of food and toys. Some remaining food was donated to the local Helping Hands food bank and will target Senior Veterans when possible. Las Animas: 47 people assisted, and 15 kids were given toys; La Junta: 26 people assisted, and 14 kids were given toys; Hasty: 4 people assisted, and 2 kids; and Lamar: 10 people assisted. This was a total of 41 veterans and 46 family members for a grand total of 86 assisted. Thank you for supporting our local veterans in need. It is greatly appreciated and growing each year. This year we were featured in the SECO News on YouTube to help spread the word. We are being blessed from your generosity. God Bless our Veterans and God Bless America!



VFW Post 4051, Colorado Springs, Jr Vice Commander Ron Reneker presents \$1,000 check to National MS Society, 2023 Walk MS: Colorado Springs Manager Beverly Baker. This annual walk will take place May 20, 2023 at Acacia Park.



VFW Post 4051, Colorado Springs, Jr Vice Commander Ron Reneker presents \$1,000 check to Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado President and CEO Nate Springer to help with the holiday season food Distribution.



VFW Auxiliary 6461 75th Anniversary, November 12, 2022. L-R: PP Cheryl Foley, Patsy Urbany, Dept. Sr Vice Phil Reinbold, Dept. President Ron Boone, Loni Butler, President Jenn Hardy, District 5 President Deb Hutchins, PP Belinda Skibba, Dept. Secretary Linda Reinbold, PDP Sue Tartaglione, PP Cindy Daugherty, Sharon Lee, Tom Ruppel.



Englewood VFW Post #322 and VFW Auxiliary did a POW/MIA Missing Man Table Program at Wolhurst Mobile Home Park on November 12th with 10 Veterans present. They handed out 10 U S Flags and 26 Buddy Poppies. Picture submitted by Dee Espinoza.



VFW Convention Pre-Registration – June 7<sup>th</sup> thru 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
 VFW Department of Colorado 103rd Convention  
 Host: VFW Pioneer Post 2121 & VFW Auxiliary



PLEASE PRINT

VFW Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ **PLEASE USE THE REGISTRATION FORM ON THE** Post # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ **DEPARTMENT WEBSITE**

2022-2023 VFW Officer Title \_\_\_\_\_ **2023 CONVENTION TAB**

Pre-registration Fee \$20.00- must be Paid by 5/13/2023, (Registration at the Door \$25.00)

Mail to: VFW Pioneer Post 2121 • 2514 7th Ave, Greeley, Co 80631

(June 7th Arrival & Check in) Pre- Registration Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Military Banquet Friday 6/09/2023 \$30.00, RSVP and Payment must be received by 5/13/2023  
 (Not available for purchase at the door must be Reserved and Paid) \*Seating Capacity 200

<b>CONVENTION HOTEL</b>		# Tickets
Best Western ph: 970-330-7495	Beef _____ x \$30.00 = \$ _____	
2563 W 29th St	Chicken _____ x \$30.00 = \$ _____	
Greeley, Co 80634	Special Diet /Allergy: ATTACH NOTE FOR POST	
Starting Rate at \$141.00+Tax	<b>TOTAL \$</b> <b>DRAFT</b>	
Book by Feb 28th, 2023		

\*\*\*\*\*

VFW Auxiliary Convention Pre-Registration – June 7<sup>th</sup> thru 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

VFW Department of Colorado 103rd Convention

Host: VFW Pioneer Post 2121 & VFW Auxiliary



PLEASE PRINT

VFW Auxiliary Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ **PLEASE USE THE REGISTRATION FORM ON THE** Post # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ **DEPARTMENT WEBSITE**

2022-2023 VFW Officer Title \_\_\_\_\_ **2023 CONVENTION TAB**

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Starting Rate at \$141.00+Tax	<b>TOTAL \$</b> <b>DRAFT</b>	
Book by Feb 28th, 2023		

**2023 VFW State Convention Ad Sheet**

**FULL PAGE \$175.00** PLEASE USE THE REGISTRATION FORM ON THE **8 1/4" X 10 3/4"**  
**HALF PAGE \$100.00** **DEPARTMENT WEBSITE** **8 1/4" X 5 1/4"**  
**FOURTH PAGE \$75.00** **2023 CONVENTION TAB** **8 1/4" X 2 3/4"**  
**BUSINESS CARD AD \$50.00** **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 \$** **DRAFT**

Submit : Copy this form along with your Ad (PDF FILE ONLY) to: [VFW2121convad@gmail.com](mailto:VFW2121convad@gmail.com) (Cindy Brekke)

Payment and Ad must be received by May 1, 2023  
 (Ad will not be printed if payment is not received)

Make Checks Payable to: VFW Pioneer Post 2121  
 Mail Form & Payment to: 2514 7th Ave, Greeley, Co 80631

**State Convention - VFW**  
 Hosted by Pioneer VFW #2121 and VFW Auxiliary

**Wednesday June 07**

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Golf Tournament	TBD
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Lunch	Post 2121
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Service Office Claims	Post 2121
4:00 pm	VFW Registration	Post 2121
6:00 pm	Memorial Service Practice	Our Saviors Church
	VFW Council of Administration	City Comm. Center

**Thursday June 08**

7:00 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast	
7:00 am – 9:00 am	VFW Registration	Post 2121
8:30 am – 11:00 am	Joint Opening Session	Post 2121
12:00 noon	Dept Commanders Luncheon	Post 2121

**Friday June 09**

1:30 pm	(by invitation only)	
1:30 pm	<b>OR Lunch on your own</b>	
1:30 pm	General Resolutions	
1:30 pm	Service/Rehab Resolutions	
1:30 pm	Time & Place Committee	
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Warriors Meeting	
4:30 pm	VFW Registration	Post 2121
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Joint Memorial Service	Our Saviors Church
???	Past Commanders Banquet	
	Entertainment	Post 2121

**Saturday June 10**

7:00 am - 8:00 am	Breakfast	
7:00 am - 9:00 am	VFW Registration	Post 2121
8:30 am – 11:30 am	VFW Business Session	City Comm Center
12:00 pm	Patriotic Rally & Lunch	
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	VFW Business Session	City Comm Center
	(Election of Officers)	
5:00 pm – 7:30 pm	Military Banquet	Post 2121
???	Entertainment	Post 2121

**BUDDY POPPY / SCRAPBOOK ROOM AT POST 2121**  
 AGENDA SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**State Convention – VFW Auxiliary**  
 Hosted by Pioneer VFW #2121 and VFW Auxiliary

**Wednesday, June 07**

10:00 am	Golf Tournament	TBD
11:00 am	Auxiliary Dept. Audit	
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Auxiliary Dept. Staff Meeting	
2:00-3:30 pm	Lunch	Post 2121
4:00-6:00 pm	Auxiliary Floor Team Practice	Post 2121
4:00 pm	Auxiliary Registration	Post 2121
6:00 pm	Memorial Service Practice	Our Saviors Church
	Auxiliary Council of Administration	Post 2121

**Thursday, June 08**

7:00 -9:00 am	Breakfast	
7:00-9:00 am	Auxiliary Registration	Post 2121
8:30-11:00 am	Joint Opening Session	Post 2121
11:30 am	Auxiliary Dept. Thank You Luncheon	TBD
	(by invitation only)	
	<b>OR Lunch on your own</b>	
1:00-2:30 pm	Auxiliary Registration	Post 2121
1:00-3:30 pm	Auxiliary Business Session	Post 2121
4:30 pm	Joint Memorial Service	Our Saviors Church
6:00 pm	Past Dept. President Dinner (by invitation)	TBD
???	Entertainment	Post 2121

**Friday, June 09**

7:00-8:00 am	Breakfast	
7:00-9:00 am	Auxiliary Registration	Post 2121
8:30-12:00 pm	Auxiliary Business Session	Post 2121
12:00 pm	Patriotic Rally & Lunch	
1:30-4:00 pm	Auxiliary Business Session (Elections)	Post 2121
5:00 pm-7:30 pm	Military Banquet	Post 2121
???	Entertainment	Post 2121

**Saturday, June 10**

10:00 am	Installation Practice	City Comm Center
	Lunch on your own	
2:00 pm	Joint Installation of Officers	City Comm Center
4:00 pm	State Commander/President Reception	Post 2121

**BUDDY POPPY / SCRAPBOOK/ PATRIOTIC ART / POST 2121 -**  
 AGENDA SUBJECT TO CHANGE



UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

# Auxiliary News

Published by Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary  
Department of Colorado

Ann Mauck, Auxiliary News Chairman

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

## President's Column Ron Boone



### Greetings

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and enjoyed their time with family and friends.

Even with the

holiday season a lot of our Auxiliaries continued their hard work for the Veterans, Family, and Communities. Such as the great job the Posts and Auxiliaries do with CABA, Wreathes Across America, Children Christmas parties, food boxes, care packages, visits to the hospitals, nursing homes, cards sent out for get well, thinking of you and even all the Christmas cards sent out. There were even Post and Auxiliaries that had Stand downs to help our veterans in need and homeless veterans.

Another event happening will be the starting of VOD and Patriot Pen Banquets at the Post and District levels. On November 11th a lot of our Post and Auxiliaries had programs to honor all of our Country's Veterans.

Thanks goes out to all Auxiliaries for reporting all your activities. We need to have activities reported, it helps our organization keep our tax exemption with the IRS, so REPORT. REPORT, REPORT.

My president's theme for the year is WE ARE FAMILY, I feel we have come a long way in how we are learning to work as a great organization and working for the goals of taking care of our Veterans, Families, Communities, and most important ourselves, the better we work as a family, the more we do for our cause.

## VFW Buddy Poppy - National Home for Children

### BUDDY POPPY

Wow! It's hard to believe we are half-way through already and we have our last COA coming up by the time you receive this newsletter. I hope all of you are working hard on you Poppy sales, and getting your poppy displays for our state Buddy Poppy Contest. There are three categories:

1. Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign-Window, booth, poster display, campaign promotions.
2. Memorial or Inspirational Displays-Wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes. They must honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the Buddy Poppy.
3. Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies-Post Home displays, table centerpieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, hats, novelty pieces, etc.

Any display not meeting the qualifications for the first two categories shall automatically be entered into Category 3. At least one Poppy must be in original form. So get those thinking caps on and start working on those displays, I am

We still have a long way to go, we still have some members and Auxiliaries that do a lot of bullying, intimidation to some Auxiliaries stating my way, or the hi-way. Our By-Laws and Ritual are clear on how we are to work together and have respect for each other.

We have also taken steps in the relationship between Post and Auxiliaries, a very good article on this was provided by Kirk Rosa, it has helped to smooth out some of the misunderstanding that took place earlier this year and some that are still going on. Just remember our goal for both organizations is helping our Veterans and Families and our Communities.

Our 3rd COA for the year and the Voice of Democracy Banquet will be at Cheyenne Mountain Post 3917 in Security, Colorado on February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Registration, hotels, and agenda are on the Department Website.

The State Convention will be at Pioneer Post 2121 in Greeley Colorado from June 7th through June 10. This is going to be a great convention and lots of things to learn and fun for all, plan on coming to see the great town of Greeley.

The National Convention, this year will be July 22 through July 27<sup>th</sup> in Phoenix AZ. If you have never been to a National Convention, they are a great way to learn what is going on Nationally with the Auxiliary, meeting other state members and new friends. We will also learn changes in our by-laws and changes to the National programs.

Stay safe till we meet again.

Ron Boone  
Department Auxiliary President

excited to see all the different ideas that you come up with.

I want to say how much I appreciate all the hard work all of you are doing with your Buddy Poppies, especially with the cost of living as high as it is. Let's make this year one that puts Ron in the Circle of Excellence at National Convention. Keep doing your best, and that's all I can ask of any of you.

### National Home

The National Home got a new surface makeover on their playground. Team Rubicon, the VFW Department of Illinois, and the VFW National Home joined forces to put down a new rubber mulch safety playground covering for a safer play area. Besides the new play surface, they started a new tradition. This year they unveiled a living testament, The Veteran Tribute Tree. This tree is to honor veterans who are living, deceased, or deployed. The tree is placed at the entrance of the VFW National Home's Tribute Park.

Patricia Rowley-Wilson  
Department Buddy Poppy/  
National Home Chairman

## Pueblo West VFW Auxiliary to Post 5812 and District 2 Proudly Endorse Phil Reinbold For the Office of Department VFW Auxiliary President 2023-2024



Pueblo West VFW Post and Auxiliary 5812 and District 2 proudly support Phil Reinbold for VFW Auxiliary Department of Colorado President. He is a Life Member and has held a wide range of Auxiliary, District and Department Offices. Phil helped charter the VFW Pueblo West Men's Auxiliary and served as Quartermaster for 5 years. He serves on the POW/MIA Ceremony Team at Auxiliary 5812 and is a Department of CO Color Guard. Phil served as Department Auxiliary Hospital Chairman for 3 years and received the Western Division National Hospital 1<sup>st</sup> Place Award. Presently, he serves as Department Sr. Vice and District 2 Auxiliary President. Previously, he served as Department Auxiliary Chaplain and Programs Chairman. Phil is also the District 2 Coordinator for the annual CABA Christmas Fly In.

Phil has received the Salute to Service Award and a National Award as Department Hospital Chair. He has been active in de-

veloping and presenting a Suicide Prevention and Awareness program at the state and local levels. This presentation has been now expanded to include the VFW, the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Wounded Warriors.

Phil is a committed and energetic member, takes on multiple tasks, and is committed to supporting the VFW, Auxiliary, veterans, and their families. We believe that he will continue to serve the Department of Colorado in a dedicated and conscientious manner, and respectfully ask for your vote and support at the Department Convention June 7-10, 2023.

Respectfully,  
Heidi Nolen  
President VFW Auxiliary #5812

Danny Daffron  
Sr. Vice President District 2

## Veterans and Family Support

I have had the pleasure of receiving reporting from Auxiliary's who are letting me know what their Auxiliary have been doing each month for our Veterans. Unfortunately, not everyone has reported, and I know that all Auxiliary's have been doing their best for all our Veterans out there. Please remember that we take your reporting each day, weekly or monthly. Chairmen have 54 Auxiliaries here in Colorado to get reporting from. You all deserve awards at Convention, so please report, report report.

With the winter now setting in, how can we help our Veterans and Community? We can help the homeless, with blankets, sack lunches, clothing and even a heart-to-heart talk with them. Homelessness has gone up so much here in Colorado and as we can't do as much as we want to, but we can definitely help.

Are you a caregiver? Do you take care of your Parents, Grandparents or any family or friends that need help? If you are, be sure to take care of yourself as well and have someone care for them at least 1 day out of the week to give yourself some free time for you. If you know of anyone who is a caregiver, please as I just stated, take the time to help this caregiver even for 1 hour but hopefully 1 day for them to do errands, and just to enjoy a day to themselves.

Suicide Awareness, a subject that is so hard to even speak about. If you know any Veteran or family member that has been very quiet, not spoken to anyone

or just having so much trouble with life, talk with them, give them support. We lose to many Veterans and even family members who as well need help.

There are so many programs under Veterans and Family Support and hope that we all can take the time that we at least worked on all of them or even a few. I thank you all for the reporting that you send to me and for all you do for our Veterans.

I had a challenge, in October, to all Auxiliaries, to report how many Holiday, Valentine, or even just get-well cards or even thinking of you cards (any card) to be sent out to our Veterans. Your deadline is February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, to submit them to me and at our February COA, we will announce the Auxiliary that won. Good Luck everyone, thank you so much for your entries, and I am excited to see the counts and pictures. Remember our prize went up to \$150.00 as our Hospital Chairman Brandi Dolan and I are working together so that you are able to report for Hospital and Veterans and Family Support. The count and pictures are for Veterans and Family Support to see how many cards went directly to Veterans who you helped smile and brighten their day. So, let's get the count and pictures to me and then be sure to report for Hospital if sent to the Hospitals or Facilities.

Lucille Chavez  
Veterans and Family Support Chairman



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO  
GENERAL ORDERS #3 February 1, 2023**

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** Parade of Programs, Workshops, and Council of Administration meeting is scheduled for February 18-19, 2023 at Cheyenne Mountain Post #3917, 4715 Clearview Dr., Security, CO 80911. A complete schedule of programs and workshops will be available on the Department website. A Joint Council of Administration meeting to be held on Sunday, February 19, 2023 at 8:30 am and the Auxiliary Council meeting will follow. Please watch for further details coming out soon.

**2. Department President Ron Boone's special project** is the Colorado Fisher House located at 1700 N. Wheeling St., Aurora, CO. Please forward all donations to Department Treasurer, Lennie Dolan.

**3. Members in Good Standing** are those who are life members or those who hold a 2023 annual membership card as of January 1, 2023. A member who is not in good standing is not eligible to attend meetings, vote, or hold an office or chairmanship. They are also not eligible for a cancer grant from National. All rights and benefits are restored immediately upon payment of the current year dues. Proof of payment may include a paper or digital copy from MALTA.

**4. Membership:** Members who have not yet paid their dues for 2023 are requested to send dues to your Auxiliary Treasurer or pay them directly through the MALTA system with an activated account. Membership cards will be sent to paid annual members from National Headquarters within 2 to 4 weeks. Members should always carry an application in order to recruit new members. The VFW Auxiliary may fix an admission fee. This entitles each new member to a copy of the National Bylaws and Booklet of Instructions and a membership pin. (See Section 102 of the Bylaws)

**5. Audits** for the months of October, November and December 2022 were to be completed by January 31, 2023. Audits must be read on the Auxiliary floor and voted to be approved before sending them to the Department

Treasurer by February 28, 2023.

**6. District Presidents:** Annual official visits to the Auxiliaries should continue only as it is possible to do that safely for all. A copy of the visitation report is to be sent to the Department Secretary and Department Chief of Staff. District Officer making the visit should sign the Secretary and Treasurer books to verify that they are being kept in accordance with procedures. Copies of bonds, audits, and verification of 990 filings should be available for review. All questions on the visit form should be completed.

**7. Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen:** The Department VFW Auxiliary would like to extend congratulations to all the winners throughout the state and to thank all Auxiliaries for their hard work to promote these programs.

**8. Hospitalized Veterans** will receive special recognition during the week of February 13 through 19, 2023. Consider planning a special event or activity to honor our hospitalized veterans during this time.

**9. Salute to Service** nominations from the Auxiliaries are due to VFW Department Headquarters by March 31, 2023. The annual Department Award Banquet will be held on April 22, 2023 at Joseph J Jacques, Jr. VFW Post 7945, 10217 Quivas Street, Thornton CO 80260. Forms are available on the Department website.

**10. Program Report Forms** should be filed with the VFW Department Headquarters in a timely manner so that Auxiliaries will receive credit for their hard work. The reporting year is April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. All reports are due to Department Headquarters by April 15, 2023.

**11. A special thank you** to all of those that attended the Parade of Programs in Golden. The Program Chairmen did an outstanding job of promoting their programs and I am sure that each of you were able to take some good information back to your Auxiliaries.

BY ORDER OF:  
Ron Boone  
Department President

ATTESTED BY:  
Linda Reinbold  
Department Secretary

**Mentoring for Leadership**

2023 has arrived in a flurry of snow and fireworks, some brighter than ever before. I like to think it's a sign that our membership is positively glowing with new leadership skills. Of course, it's due to all the special attention you have paid to mentoring over the past months.

We all share the responsibility to identify the future leaders of our auxiliaries, to provide opportunities to learn, and to foster a positive auxiliary experience. I urge you to check out all the valuable VFW Auxiliary videos on YouTube. Most are brief, yet informative on programs like Buddy Poppies. I encourage

you to play them at your meetings and share the learning. It's easy to use your laptop to stream the videos.

Before we know it, March will be here. Report time! Soon I will be emailing you a report form to document all your mentoring activities for the Department. I would love to do a School of Instruction for your District or Auxiliary. I look forward to hearing from you.

Victoria Nevins  
Department Mentoring for Leadership Chairman

**Youth Program**

Hello Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers!

The holidays are over and the 2022/2023 "We Are Family" year is rushing by way too fast. I hope you all had wonderful family times for Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year. Now that they are over, time seems to be running short to accomplish all the tasks that we would like to finish and make sure that President Ron Boone makes it to the Circle of Excellence at National Convention.

A HUGE Thank You to all those Auxiliaries that have already reported some amazing activities working with our Youth! Please remember to report everything that you do, even if you are not sure if it qualifies. Keep the momentum going and keep having fun!

But 2023 is a New Year and we have big things to accomplish before March!!

February 25<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to turn in your entries for the **Outstanding Young Volunteer of the Year Award**.

If you know a Colorado youth between the ages of 12-15, who shows what it means to exemplify the volunteer spirit, this award is the perfect opportunity for that young individual to be recognized for their hard work. Criteria for this award is as follows; Youth must be recommended by a Colorado VFW Auxiliary member in the form of a recommendation letter which is signed by the President and the Secretary; the youth must provide a handwritten essay of "Why I am a Volunteer;" submit at least one letter of recommendation for each organization that they volunteer with, and volunteer service must have been completed between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021. The recipient of this award will be awarded \$200 at the 2023 State Convention.

The **Outstanding Youth Group of the Year Award** is also due February 25<sup>th</sup>. This award is an excellent way to recognize a youth group for all their volunteer efforts. The youth group must be recommended by a Colorado VFW Auxiliary member in the form of a recommendation letter signed by the President and Secretary. There are a few differences in the criteria for youth groups which are outlined in the application. Application can be found in the National Program Book. The youth group recipient will be awarded \$300 at the 2023 State Convention.

We had no applications last year for either of these awards. I would sure like to award out Youth this year. Get your

thinking caps on.

The youngsters are all back in school after the holidays and energized. Give them some crayons, colored pencils, paints, markers or magazines and let them explore their imaginations on how they see America. I bet we will be pleasantly surprised with the entries for **Illustrating America**. I know my granddaughter has been coloring and drawing her whole holiday break – my refrigerator is covered with her pictures!

Our youth are involved in basketball, volleyball and wrestling right now and baseball season is just around the corner. I am hearing some great voices singing the Star Spangled Banner at every game or match I attend. Convince those young students to sing into a recorder and enter it in the **Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue** contest. I know Colorado has some great talent out there!

Currently we are enjoying some yucky winter weather, lots of snow and cold, perfect for staying in where it is warm, curling up on the couch with a blanket and a good book. Promote and support reading among our youth with **Patriotism through Literacy**. Provide the teachers with the lists of books; ask the teachers if you could join their classroom and read to the kids or do a Zoom meeting and read a book.

There are many more opportunities in which we will be able to work with our youth by involving them in more projects and helping to build a stronger bond with them. Taking the time to mentor our youth today will create quality leadership skills for them tomorrow.

Remember **March 31<sup>st</sup>** is the deadline for the Illustrating America and Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue entries to be in the hands of the Auxiliary Youth Chairmen. They then need to get their entries judged and sent to me as Department Chairman by **April 15<sup>th</sup>**. The Auxiliaries can send me ALL entries if they don't want to judge them. I will then get them judged and our 1<sup>st</sup> place entries sent to National by **May 15<sup>th</sup>**. All entries will be on display at the State Convention in June. I hope to have lots and lots of pictures and songs on display! We have soooo much talent here in Colorado.

I look forward to seeing all of you at COA in February!

Queenie Barz  
Department Youth Chairman

**All State Achievement**

The All State Achievement Program is an opportunity for all Auxiliaries and District Auxiliaries to be rewarded who have earned the award by completing tasks that are required in the VFW Auxiliary By-laws. Examples are completing tasks on time, Installation reports, audits, purchasing bonds, filing the IRS 990 form and Officer dues paid. Other tasks that are on the report that we feel will help improve the Auxiliary or District is attending the Council of Administration weekends to share program information/updates and other Department information. The form will remain a one-page report that has been used the last couple years. Those Auxiliaries and Districts will earn All State Achievement that:

- 1) Reach the minimum points required.
- 2) Have submitted All State Report by the deadline.

3) Report is signed by the President, Secretary and Treasurer, not a computer generated signature.

The forms are available on the Department website, vfwco.org and in the Colorado Program Book. The President, Secretary and Treasurer of each Auxiliary or District that earns All State Achievement will receive an All State Achievement pin and medallion. The Auxiliary or District will receive a certificate of All State Achievement Recognition. If you, your Auxiliary and/or District has questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. So come on Colorado, "We Are Family" with "Hands that Serve, Hearts That Care".

Hugs  
Patsy Gilmore  
All State Achievement Chairman



Aux 1247: Joan Peterson  
Aux 1771: Bernice Thoele, Mary Garcia, Marcia Konold, Wilma Ericson  
Aux 2411: Lillian Laney  
Aux 5812: Larry Ford



### Membership 2022-2023

#### New Members and Retention

By now we have some new members, and we would like to keep them active. Hopefully by now you know some core strengths of this new member. Try to include them in activities that mirror their strengths. Try to couple them with an active member that does the same things and same interests. This will help develop a sense of belonging and inclusion. Some of our new members may need a little encouragement to get involved, be supportive and acknowledge their efforts. A heartfelt thank you goes a long way in doing that.

Insure you are inviting them to the meetings, a copy of the By-Laws and the standing rules would help them as well. Be prepared to gently explain procedures when they occur since this may be the first organization, they are a member of. We need to nurture these acorns into

#### Chief of Staff and Extension

I hope that all of you have had a great holiday season and were able to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas with friends and family. We had a blast from the North Pole over Christmas and winter came to us with a roar, so cozy fireplaces, hot beverages, comfort food, and warm, snuggly blankets were a sign of the season. That said, a big thank you to everyone who attended our Auxiliary Parade of Programs and COA in October. The training on Healthy and Unhealthy Auxiliaries was sure fun and I appreciate the attention and participation that you all gave. We are still having some struggles with coming out of our Covid 19 two year strangeness. Continue to reach out to your membership to get meetings back on track, get reporting done, and get your audits up to date.

District President visits to your Auxiliaries should have been completed by December 31<sup>st</sup> and if the visits were unable to be scheduled, they will carry on into January. These visits are to enable the District Presidents to look at your paperwork, attend a meeting, congratulate you on work you are doing and

mighty oaks. If we do this effectively then they may become future leaders in the VFW Auxiliary. Our continued success depends on this.

I am wishing everyone continued success in 2023. I would like to recognize the following auxiliaries for reaching 100% membership by January 1, 2023. Auxiliaries 859 in Leadville, 3411 in Kit Carson, 4264 in Steamboat Springs, 4334 in Ault, 4671 in Wray, and 5221 in Calhan. I would like to also acknowledge the extra effort of the following auxiliaries for exceeding 100% by one or more members by January 1, 2023. Auxiliaries 336 in Ordway, 1781 in Fort Collins, 2121 in Greeley, 2411 in Las Animas, 2585 in Johnstown, 6612 in Hugo, and 9644 in Englewood.

Raymond Moelder  
Department Membership Chairman

mentor you in areas of concern. They report these visits to Department so we can help you all be healthy Auxiliaries.

Auxiliary Presidents, please remember to hand out Good Job awards to your members. This recognizes them for the good work they are doing and let everyone know how much they are appreciated for their work for our Veterans, our active duty, their families and our communities. These award forms can be found on the National website when you log into Malta. Go to member resources and then to Extension and Revitalization.

If you know of any Post that would like to have an Auxiliary, please reach out to me. We have one Post that has expressed an interest and we will be working with them to bring a new Auxiliary to our "We are Family" home. I am here for anything you may need, questions answered, procedures to follow, or just to chit chat!

Loyally  
Shelley Schlieman  
Department Chief of Staff

#### Americanism

2023 Greetings!!

Here we go starting 2023! All of you have done amazing things with your auxiliary to honor and assist our veterans.

To start off 2023 think of the places you have yet to share the love of our country and the story and care of our USA flag. Students are back in classrooms. Visit from elementary to high school classes to share the instruction and history of our flag, the understanding of our VFW programs that need their help to assist veterans and show their love of our country and how much we appreciate them protecting us and our rights.

Many groups and facilities share their time and money during Thanksgiving through Christmas. Our VFW Auxiliaries need to be present in their space during the quiet winter months especially! Be a part of an Americanism program and invite those community members who honor our flag in their yards with appropriate light-

ing and replacing worn flags with new ones when needed.

Invite scouts, boys and girls troops to a retirement ceremony at your post, include community and veterans in the area to attend. SVA, Student Veterans of America have charters at many college campuses. Reach out and help them with their veteran awareness events and invite those veterans and their families to your events.

Holidays coming up in Feb.: 19<sup>th</sup> - Coast Guard Reserve Day, 20<sup>th</sup> - President's Day. March: 3<sup>rd</sup> - Navy Reserve Day, 13<sup>th</sup> - K-9 Veterans Day, 29<sup>th</sup> - Vietnam Veteran's Day, April - 23<sup>rd</sup> - Army Reserve Birthday. Celebrate these days and any other special day of your post this winter.

And always a reminder....report it all....timely....and post to social media with #auxiliarpatriotism!

Marilyn Peters  
Department Americanism Chairman

Please send all Deceased VFW Auxiliary members to [ann@vfwco.org](mailto:ann@vfwco.org). They will be saved for the Joint Memorial State Convention Book. Our deadline is May 20, 2023  
**You still need to notify National and that can be done on MALTA.**

### Auxiliary Membership by District as of February 6, 2023

Number	City	2022	2023	%	Number	City	2022	2023	%
<b>DISTRICT #1</b>					<b>DISTRICT #8</b>				
I	Denver	182	180	99	859	Leadville	20	21	100*
501	Denver	162	129	80	11411	Lake George	47	48	102*
2461	Denver	99	84	85	12009	Conifer	35	36	113*
5061	Denver	149	149	100*	TOTAL	102	105	105%*	
TOTAL		592	542	92%	<b>DISTRICT #9</b>				
<b>DISTRICT #2</b>					4264	Stmbt Spgs	28	28	100*
2788	Penrose	42	41	98	4265	Craig	37	37	88
3641	Pueblo	74	48	65	5843	Meeker	31	31	97
4061	Canon City	119	115	97	9374	Kremmling	21	23	105*
5812	Pueblo West	39	37	95	TOTAL	117	119	96%	
7305	Colo. City	22	19	86	<b>DISTRICT #10</b>				
TOTAL		296	260	88%	322	Englewood	73	68	93
<b>DISTRICT #3</b>					3471	Morrison	40	0	0
41	Loveland	122	122	100*	3631	Aurora	101	103	102*
1771	Lafayette	252	247	98	4171	Golden	282	271	96
1781	Ft. Collins	110	115	105*	4331	Arvada	134	123	92
2121	Greeley	107	110	103*	4444	Cmmrc City	170	159	94
2585	Johnstown	73	76	104*	7945	Thornton	269	260	97
2601	Longmont	191	187	98	9644	Fort Logan	327	337	103*
4334	Ault	45	46	102*	TOTAL	1396	1321	95%	
6624	Evans	197	190	96	<b>DISTRICT #11</b>				
12189	Berthoud	20	12	60	1247	Grnd Jcnctn	82	74	90
TOTAL		1117	1105	99%	3571	Delta	51	51	100*
<b>DISTRICT #4</b>					3981	Grnd Jcnctn	46	37	80
3541	Sterling	59	50	85	9221	Cedaredge	52	50	96
4671	Wray	23	24	104*	TOTAL	231	212	92%	
TOTAL		82	74	90%	<b>DISTRICT #12</b>				
<b>DISTRICT #5</b>					4031	Durango	111	114	103*
101	Colo. Spgs.	74	74	100*	5181	Dove Creek	36	35	97
3917	Security	197	178	90	5231	Mancos	62	52	84
4051	Colo. Spgs	231	225	97	TOTAL	209	201	96%	
5221	Calhan	25	25	100*	<b>DISTRICT #13</b>				
6461	Fountain	142	139	98	3411	Kit Carson	19	19	100*
7829	Monument	60	40	67	6612	Hugo	36	37	103*
TOTAL		729	681	93%	TOTAL	55	56	102%*	
<b>DISTRICT #6</b>					15006	At Large	712	682	96%
336	Ordway	67	71	106*	=				
2411	Las Animas	106	107	101*	<b>TOTAL DEPT.</b>	<b>6,003</b>	<b>5,696</b>	<b>95%</b>	
TOTAL		173	173	103%*	<b>Time to send in your 2023 Dues!</b>				
<b>DISTRICT #7</b>					<b>OR GO LIFE</b>				
899	Alamosa	46	28	61	<b>Be 100% in 2022 - 2023</b>				
4849	La Jara	41	37	90					
8121	So Fork	105	104	99					
TOTAL		192	169	88%					

### DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY ROSTER CHANGES

- Page 1 Secretary Linda Reinpold (5812), Email: [lindareinpold@centurylink.net](mailto:lindareinpold@centurylink.net)
  - Page 17 Secretary Dorothy Newsome (101) 720-219-8666, 5390 Diamond Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80918, [ddvelas@comcast.net](mailto:ddvelas@comcast.net)
  - Page 32 Treasurer David "Mike" McClain (4334) 303-907-3200, 47369 County Road 43, Pierce, CO 80650, [mikeandbeckymcclain@gmail.com](mailto:mikeandbeckymcclain@gmail.com)
  - Page 36 President Heidi Nolen, (5812) 427 E. Scandia Dr., Pueblo West, CO 81007, 719-569-6180, [heidisworld74@gmail.com](mailto:heidisworld74@gmail.com)
- Treasurer Connie Quaduor, (5812) 52 S. Golfwood Dr., Pueblo West, CO, 719-252-0519, [cquaduor@yahoo.com](mailto:cquaduor@yahoo.com)

### THANK YOU COLORADO

We wish to thank all of you who sent Sympathy and Thinking of You cards for the passing of Dorothy Wood (5812), daughter of Ellie Ford and sister of Linda Reinpold. Your thoughts and wishes were very much appreciated.

Dorothy Wood Family, Ellie Ford, Linda and Phil Reinpold

We would like to thank everyone who sent Sympathy and Thinking of You cards for the unexpected passing of Larry Ford (7945), husband of Dolores Ford, son of Ellie Ford and brother of Linda Reinpold. Thank you for all of your thoughts and prayers.

Dolores Ford Family, Ellie Ford, Linda and Phil Reinpold



## Scholarship

Greetings Auxiliary Members,

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I'm so excited to see what we can accomplish in 2023! Great job for all your participation in the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy programs. Please remember to report all that your Auxiliary and members have done for these scholarship programs. I would like to also encourage you all to participate and promote the Continuing Education Scholarship, the Young American Creative Patriotic Art contest and the 3-Dimensional Young American Creative Patriotic Art contests. These scholarship contest deadlines are quickly approaching, they are:

### Continuing Education Scholarship Contest

Open to any Auxiliary member (who has been a member for at least a year), their 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.

### Deadline:

Due to National Headquarters by February 15, 2023:

Program Awards Administrator  
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters  
406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor  
Kansas City, MO 64111

Or email it to [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org)

### Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

This contest is open to all students, including home - schooled students, in grades 9-12. Student must be a resident of the state where entered. One Department winner will be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters.

## Legislative Program

Hello & Merry New Year!

It seems as though the years seem to fly by at a quicker pace and the beginning of a new year is here before we know it. 2023 has already arrived and we are coming upon the end of our reporting year. For a quick reminder, our reporting year ends on March 31, 2023, so make sure to keep reporting and submit them to Department.

I want to have a quick recap of our year so far, and everything that we have accomplished and learned. During the first COA, what could and couldn't be done under the Legislative program was discussed, which will also help when filling out those reports.

### DO's

- Do attend candidate town hall meetings and other events and ask candidates where they stand on our issues.
- Do set up voter registration drives/Get Out the Vote Campaigns on the local level.
- Do provide carpool service on Election Day and town hall meeting days, to help the elderly and disabled get to voting booths and be able to participate within their community.
- Do support and work for your favorite candidates as an individual voting constituent.
- Do wear your VFW cap at public events such as town halls, rallies, forums, or debates.

### Deadlines:

Entries to Local Auxiliary – March 31, 2023

Entries to Department – April 15, 2023  
Department Winner to National Headquarters – May 5, 2023

### 3-Dimensional Creative Patriotic Art Contest

This is the newest Auxiliary contest. Art entries may be paper, papier-mache, pottery, sculpture, fabric, wood, metalwork etc. It may NOT be larger than 18" in any direction, weigh more than 5lbs, be digital art, photography or jewelry. This contest is open to all students, including home - schooled students, in grades 9-12. Student must be a resident of the state where entered. One Department winner will be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters.

### Deadlines:

Entries to Local Auxiliary – March 31, 2023

Entries to Department – April 15, 2023  
Department Winner to National Headquarters – May 5, 2023

Applications and brochures with more information/ requirements for each contest are available at: [vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships](http://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships). For more information or questions about each contest's rules/regulations, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you all for the hard work and all the volunteering you do to support our Veterans and their families. So, come on Colorado, "We Are Family" with "Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care"!

Hugs,  
Patsy Gilmore  
Scholarship Chairman

### DON'Ts

- Don't endorse candidates on behalf of the VFW National Organization, Department, District or Post.
- Don't wear your VFW cap when actively campaigning for a candidate, such as soliciting donations or knocking on doors asking people to pledge their vote for a candidate.

During each of the first two COAs, we learned about the accomplishments that have been hard fought and won at our Nation's Capital, which wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of all of the VFW advocates who spoke with candidates, made phone calls, wrote letters, and sent emails to make sure that the Legislature did not forget about our mission to take care of our nation's veterans. One way this was made possible, was with that of President Biden signing the *Honoring our PACT Act*, this was signed on August 10, 2022! What a historic legislative victory, a victory that will help millions of toxic-exposed veterans, and their families, receive the services and care that they need and deserve. Our work is not done yet though, there is much more to continue advocating and fighting for, for our veterans.

Thank you to every single one of you who continue putting forth the effort to make sure the voices of our veterans are heard and that they are never forgotten!

Warmest Wishes,  
Nadia Flores  
Department Legislative Chairman

## Hospital Program

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

Happy 2023! Hope you all had wonderful holidays and are ready to not only finish out this reporting year strong but also continue with your great work during the upcoming year.

National Salute to Veteran Patients Week is February 12-18 this year. It's always the week of Valentine's Day, so it's a perfect time to get out into facilities and plan Valentine's Day events, or if you are unable to do that, send cards! Valentine's for Veterans is one of our goals from national this year, so if you haven't planned something yet, you still have time to do it! As has been the case the last several years, please make sure you check with the facility first to make sure they don't have any COVID restrictions in place.

Skimming through the things that have been reported this year, we are lacking in a couple of areas. We have two months still in this reporting year,

so this is the time to make your push on trying to do those things you haven't yet. Have you recruited volunteers to help with your hospital events or sending cards? If you have, have you thought of ways to recognize them? Have you researched and found information regarding women's health and provided that information to those who need it? How about Honors Escorts in hospitals? Have you looked into that yet? As these are a couple areas that need some work, I have been sending out more information on these and will continue to do so over the next two months.

As you plan out your hospital projects, please contact me if you have any questions at all. I'm here to help you! I would also love to see pictures of your events, so please send those to me.

Loyally,  
Brandi Dolan  
Department Hospital Chairman

**Report ALL Program Reports On-Line  
Updated the First of every Month  
Written Reports will soon, not be accepted  
It is Easy**

## President's Special Project Rocky Mountain Regional VA Fisher House

Greetings Auxiliary Members!

"WE ARE FAMILY" and by every Auxiliary purchasing pins we can help in providing FREE services to our veterans and their families in a time of need,

Ron has chosen the Rocky Mountain Regional Fisher House as his special project.

The Rocky Mountain Regional Fisher House is located behind the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado at 1700 N. Wheeling Street, Building R. They are conveniently located near the VA, so that our families can easily visit their loved ones. At the local Fisher House they believe "a family's love is good medicine." That is why they provide a FREE "home-away-from-home" for families of active duty military and veterans getting medical care. This service also provides transportation if the patient is receiving care at a facility other than the VA Clinic.

Our local Fisher House has 16 suites and can accommodate 16 to 32 family members. It features a large kitchen, laundry facilities, a spacious dining room and an inviting living room with a library. Our new home also has an elevator to easily access the second floor.

You can purchase these beautiful red, white and blue pins, with Ron's theme "WE ARE FAMILY", and sporting the Auxiliary emblem surrounded by our beautiful Rocky Mountains by mailing an order (provided on this page) along with the monies to pay for the re-

quested number of pins. Once I receive the order form, I will send your requested number of pins to you via USPS. The cost per pin is \$3 and you are allowed to resell the pins for \$3. **If you resell the pins at a higher cost, you are required to send the extra monies into Department of Colorado VFW Auxiliary.** All monies raised from this pin are to go to the Rocky Mountain Regional Fisher House. Each Auxiliary is required to purchase at least 10 pins. Let's get those orders turned in and support Ron's Special Project.

I CHALLENGE each and every Auxiliary member to save \$0.25, \$7.75 a month or \$91.25 a year, and donate to Ron's Special Project. Bring your quarters to the February COA and let's fill the Fisher House birdhouse with our quarters!!! It is already getting heavy.

I also know that we all drink soda or beer – did you know that those pop tops off those cans can be turned in for money for Fisher House? Collect the pop tops and bring them to me at COA and I will get them to the proper channels.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Parade of Programs this year and learning how you are raising money for Ron's Special Project, Rocky Mountain Fisher House!!! We will be discussing all of the Auxiliary programs and I will have more information on the Fisher House.

Queenie Barz  
President's Special Project Chairman

**2022—2023 Veterans Pin Order Form  
This years Department of Colorado Auxiliary  
Presidents Special Project:  
Colorado Fisher House**



Post or Auxiliary Name and Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ship to (Name of a Person) \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Pins x \$3.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total money enclosed  
You can pay via check or money order — please do not send cash  
Make check payable to **Department of Colorado VFW Auxiliary**  
Mail Veteran's Pin order to: Queenie Barz  
P.O. Box 533  
Mancos, CO 81328  
970-749-9320