

COLORADO VETERAN

and VFW Auxiliary News

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FOR UNCOMMON HEROES



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

August, 2023

Volume 63, Issue 1 2023 - 2024

Commander John Keene State Convention Installation Speech

Greetings Comrades, Auxiliary members, friends and family.

I want to start today with the story about, how over 20 years ago, my Post nearly lost its charter. Thankfully, three Desert Storm-era veterans stepped up and got involved. However, before they made any radical changes, they made it a point to sit down with Ray Starkey.

For those who never knew Ray, he was a WWII Navy veteran who joined the VFW in 1951. Rumor has it, he was sworn in by some of the Founders of our great organization: the Spanish-American War veterans who fought in Manila in 1899.

It was important to these new line officers—George Caulkins, Izzy Abbass, and Michael Mitchell—that they get buy-in from someone they considered to be a living part of VFW history. So, it was with Ray's blessing, that these "young guys" set off to reinvent their Post.

From this came the Veterans Arts Council, the yoga program, and an overall focus on wellness. At the time, these out-of-the-box ideas attracted the attention of then Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Brian Duffy. Chief, thank you for making a special trip to visit our Post and validating that we were on the right track.

Additionally, the leaders from that era have all told me, many times and very emphatically, that the Post would have never gotten that far if it weren't for the Post Auxiliary. During that period of transformation, it was the Auxiliary that kept the programs, and the Post itself alive.

Based on these stories, I learned three valuable lessons:

While this is a bottom-up organization, the leaders need to empower and support the members.

It is possible to innovate and grow, while still honoring those who came before us.

A well-integrated Auxiliary only makes our organization stronger.

To symbolize this last point, Past Department President and Auxiliary Installing Officer Linda Reinbold has provided my Council with her POW/MIA pin to wear in lieu of flowers. Thank you, Linda, for allowing them to do so.

I hope these lessons will inspire everyone in this room to work together as we "meet the challenge" given to us by our next Commander-in-Chief, Duane Sarmiento.

Duane, along with Al Lipphart and Carol Whitmore, have crunched the numbers and set the goal to grow membership by 102% each of the next three years, in order to get the VFW back over one million members.

Why is this important? Contrary to popular belief, it's not because Kansas City needs our dues...

It is because membership equals voice!

Whereas many veterans' organizations must testify as a panel in front of Congress, the Chief and his staff sit at the table alone. This gives the VFW a unique opportunity to advocate for things like the PACT Act, the Major Richard Star Act, the GUARD Act, and many others. It is only natural that the more members we have the more the elected officials will pay attention.

This is where I like to point out that when the Chief testifies, he states he is doing so on behalf of the 1.5 million VFW and *Auxiliary* members.

I honestly believe by utilizing our programs, getting out in the community, and doing good deeds, we will grow organically, as veterans and their family members will ask us how they can participate.

Not only am I confident the VFW in Colorado will "meet the challenge" of 102% for the next three years but with the **proper mindset, the proper skillset, and a plan of action** we will in fact beat the challenge.

Thanks to John Davis and his Veterans Trust Fund Grant Workshop, five Posts have a plan to spend over \$133,000 to assist needy veterans with things like rental and housing assistance, provide them with food and gas cards, help with vehicle repairs, and host stand-downs.

If your Post isn't a part of the VTF program, plan to attend the next workshop at the August COA. In the meantime, visit the National VFW website to see what grants are available to your Posts and Auxiliaries.

For example, last October, Post 3981 in Grand Junction utilized a #StillServing grant to enhance their participation in a standdown outside their



VA Hospital. They handed-out food and clothing to 285 veterans that day and were reimbursed \$1500 from our National Headquarters. Great job!

Don't wait for school to start to promote the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay contests. Have a plan to tap into your friends and families to get the word out about these scholarship opportunities. Be sure to take advantage of the Scholars App to make submitting and judging easier. And don't forget to reach out to home school organizations.

Which reminds me of my District's Patriot's Pen winner, who is home schooled. She mentioned a grandfather that fought in Korea. So, after the ceremony, I approached her mother, who, based on the essay, was eligible for the Auxiliary and got her to join.

Plan to acknowledge your local teachers, police officers, firefighters and EMS personnel. Don't get caught up in trying to find a candidate who you think will "win" at the national level. Treat these awards as a simple way to show your gratitude for those in your community doing the hardest jobs.

Team up with businesses in your community. Start with the national partners, like Humana, Sports Clips, and Burger King, as they directly support the big national programs. But also engage local organizations, like Quilts of Valor, who came to the Joint Opening and presented quilts to two of our members.

If your Post is near a Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steakburger, go in and introduce yourself to the manager. Thanks to State Surgeon Todd Van Sant, the VFW is now working to host Veteran Nights at the Littleton location, where we will set up an information and recruiting table.

Partner with other veterans' organizations, like Colorado Veterans Project, who donated \$4500 to three of our Posts at the COA, in order to support local food banks.

Finally, have a plan for when someone asks, "why should I join the VFW?"

I like to brag about the VFW legislative victories, and we don't get those victories without a strong membership. Promote our most recent victory, the PACT Act, and direct veterans to PactActInfo.org so they can be connected with an accredited VFW Service Officer, like Matt Cummings.

About 10-years ago, a Marine I deployed with during Desert Storm was diagnosed with bladder and colon cancer. Unfortunately, all the claims he filed after he first got sick were denied.

But with the passage of the PACT Act, his conditions are now considered presumptive and, thanks to Matt's help, my buddy Kent is now rated 100% service connected.

Matt, your efforts not only changed his life, but that of his wife. Once she is enrolled in CHAMPVA, Kathy is going to quit the job that she's been working strictly for the benefits, so she and Kent can travel and enjoy the time they have left together.

Kent, Kathy, and I are all grateful for your help. Thank you!

While I'm thanking people, how about a round of applause for my installation team: Adjutant Kristen Luevanos; Chief of Staff Kirk Rosa; Chaplain Kevin Reinhold; State Color Guard Captain Jerry Sallee, and members Queenie Barz, Jean and Alan Jaffe; and, of course, my Installing Officer John Holland.

Thank you, John, for always being a trusted resource and sounding board. You have been a mentor and a friend for many years, and I will continue to value your counsel throughout this year. Semper Fi!

Gerri, thank you for empowering me as your Senior Vice Commander. Congratulations on an outstanding year, and I look forward to being in Phoenix next month as you receive your All-American cover.

Phil, thank you for being such a great collaborator as we planned for this moment. I look forward to working with you on what I know will be an excellent year.

Ron Lattin, thank you for setting me on this journey by encouraging me to run for this position while we sat together at

(continued on Page 2)

(continued from Page 1)

the All-American Luncheon in Kansas City many years ago.

Barbara Green, I remember asking you if I could teach a class on member retention at your first COA, and you told me you didn't know exactly what I had in mind, but you gave me your blessing none the less. Your faith in me gave me the confidence to keep pushing new ideas. Thank you.

Dave Stone and Steve Kjonaas, you both always make time for me to pick your brains. Those conversations have been instrumental in helping me navigate this path. Thank you.

Bruce Dolan, thank you for sticking around one more year! I look forward to working with you and Lennie to recognize and thank all VFW and Auxiliary members that cross-recruit between our organizations.

Marsha Harrison, your passion for veterans is unwavering and contagious. Your leadership of our Post Auxiliary and the example that you set formed my opinion of what an auxiliary is and can be. You set a high bar. Thank you and I'm glad you are on my team.

I'm sorry if I missed anyone, but I want to end by thanking my family. Without their support I couldn't do this. While I'm only one member of the VFW, my wife, daughter, mother, and sister are all members of the Auxiliary. This is how we can exponentially add to our voice. As soon as any of us recruit a new VFW member we should immediately start signing up their eligible family members.

Before we leave today, I'd like all the newly installed Council members to see the Chief of Staff and get your copy of this book. It's called *The Go-Giver*.

Please read it before the August council meeting. I think the message of this book will set the tone for a successful year ahead. Once you finish the book, please give it to someone else in your Post, District, or community, and ask them to do the same.

Lastly, thank you Post 2121 and their Auxiliary for a wonderful Convention, and please join me and our State Auxiliary President Phil Reinpold for our reception.

I hope to see everyone there.

John Keene
Department Commander

Colorado VFW Foundation

We hope everyone are getting ready for winter.

The VFW Department of Colorado Foundation has gone through some changes in the past few months. Since the Administrator has left us, we no longer deal with the VTF. All grants will go directly through the Department Headquarters. The requirements are still the same, except you must now be a VFW or Auxiliary member in the Department of Colorado.

The amount has not changed. We still will grant up to \$500 on a one-time basis for emergencies. The applications are on the Department web site.

Our funds are fairly stable right now, but all donations are greatly accepted, and are tax deductible.

If you have any questions, please call Department Headquarters.

Colorado VFW Foundation
Board of Directors

Professional BBQ Contest with an Attitude

The Kansas City Barbecue Society (KCBS) / Veterans of Foreign Wars Colorado BBQ contest is now an annual Memorial Day weekend event. This last event brought 37 professional BBQ Pitmasters and their crews from around the country. This contest brought the number one Pitmaster in the country who won \$10,000 at the contest in Castle Rock.

A professional Pitmaster BBQ contest includes ribs, chicken, brisket, and beef. The finished entries are judged on everything from appearance, to taste, and tenderness. The contest itself is intense, with teams working around the clock to ensure that everything is just right. Twenty-five judges painstakingly evaluate each submission and finally their tallies are added up and the winners are selected.

In addition to the contest itself, there are opportunities for the attendees to learn more about the work of the VFW Colorado and how they can get involved. Representatives from VFW were on hand to answer questions and provide information about our programs and services. This was a great opportunity to

learn more about the important work that the VFW does and how you can support their efforts.

In conclusion, the KCBS BBQ contest is an exciting event that celebrates all things barbecue while supporting a worthy cause. By donating all proceeds to the VFW Colorado, the organizers helped to provide support to veterans and their families. So, if you're a fan of barbecue and want to make a difference in the lives of those who have served our country, be sure to attend the KCBS BBQ contest next year.

Okay, I know I said "in conclusion" just above, but let me share these two take aways,

- Next year we will add the "Backyard Series" for the non-professionals this way you get to enter and prove your skills,
- (MOST IMPORTANT) We learnt never let your meat cook above the current altitude's boiling point. This leaves a delicious and tender meat for your meal.

PDC Steve Kjonaas
Department Legislative Chairman

2023 All American

Department Commander - Geraldine Rimpley

District 2 Commander - Raul Montano

District 3 Commander - Leon Bartholomay

VFW Posts in the Top 50 of their Division

VFW Post 1 Denver - Commander James C. Stevens

VFW Post 5231 Cortez - Commander Tommy Endres

VFW Post 6491 Burlington - Commander Eugene S. Feemster

VFW Posts not in the Top 50 of their Division

VFW Post 2121 Greeley - Commander Juan G. Riofrio

VFW Post 4061 Canon City - Commander Joshua C. Caverzagie

VFW Post 4171 Golden - Commander Zachery C. Bursnall

VFW Post 4666 Littleton - Commander Allan P. Stone

VFW Post 5061 Denver - Commander James J. Kruse

VFW Post 6624 Evans - Commander Mark A. Martens

CONGRATULATIONS

COLORADO VETERAN and AUXILIARY NEWS

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vfwco.org

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406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

Report ALL Program Reports On-Line vfwco.org

**Updated the First of every Month
Written Reports will not be
accepted**

It is Easy

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

Chaplain Column Kevin Reinhold



Blessings to all, now that our convention and elections are over, we can focus on the new year. We need to learn our positions and teach and mentor each

other.

I would like to go over “What the Chaplain Provides” from the VFW Chaplain’s Handbook dated March 2023.

This information is for VFW and Auxiliary Chaplain’s. And information for our membership.

The Chaplain is there to provide:

1. Spiritual Guidance: The Chaplain is available to help individuals and their families with their spiritual needs.

2. Assistance in Emergency Situations: In times of crises such as hospitalization, injury, or death, the Chaplain will help and provide assistance to veterans and their families.

3. Conducting/Assisting at Funerals: The Chaplain is available to assist families with funeral arrangements, to officiate at the service, or to assist the family minister. Additionally, the Chaplain can help with organizing and honor guard, having a bugler present at the cemetery, and having a presentation of the flag as a token of service and honor on behalf of the local Post and fellow veterans of military service.

4. Counseling: The Chaplain is available to provide pastoral care and counsel, and when necessary, to help veterans and their families find appropriate resources for dealing with such issues as post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, or other critical incident stress management problems.

5. Visitation: Visitation with veterans and their families to provide comfort and encouragement is an important function of the Chaplain.

6. Attending Functions: The Chaplain

may be called upon to represent the Post at official functions or public meetings, and the Chaplain may be asked to give invocations, dedicatory prayers, or benedictions.

We must be reminded that the veterans of Foreign Wars is comprehensive in nature, embracing all religions and faith groups within its ranks. The Chaplaincy, being non-sectarian, must seek to minister to the needs of all, without regard to either church/synagogue/mosque affiliation or non-affiliation.

VFW National By-Laws, Ritual, General Rules, 13 (a) All members who are able, will stand during the offering of the prayers; (b) members will follow the actions of the Chaplain or presiding officer relative to removal of caps during prayers; if uncovering, the hat shall be placed on the extended closed fingers of the right hand in such a way that the Cross of Malta is exposed and held over the heart; (c) official caps will not be worn during luncheons, banquets or other meals; (d) Official caps will be the only head covering allowed to be worn at regular meetings of the VFW.

(No member should be announcing, uncover)

National Chaplain Deb Halter has been having zoom training for chaplains. After the National Convention she will be starting the training again. I will let you know when the training starts again. The training is geared toward the Chaplains but anyone officer can attend.

If you would like the State Chaplain to attend any of your events this year, please let the Department know and the State Chaplain.

Have a blessed and eventful year helping our veterans and families.

“Doing our Lords work for all Veterans.”

Kevin Reinhold
Department Chaplain

Please send all Deceased VFW Members to vfw@vfwco.org.

They will be saved for the Joint Memorial State Convention Book.
Our deadline is May 20, 2024

Surgeon Column Todd Van Sant



First off, I’d like to thank you all for the trust you have shown me by electing me as Department Surgeon. I’m fortunate that you have

elected a group of excellent officers above me to show me the ropes as I begin my journey! I have a tremendous amount of “drinking from the fire hose” ahead of me over the next several months, and I’m anxious to start! I’m also looking forward to my journey around the department to as many posts as I can to better acquaint myself with who you are, and how you do what you do.

We have a huge membership goal ahead of us this year, and the All-State requirements are a little tougher this year with that increased membership number and the scholarships and programs that are mandated. It is our pleasure as your elected officers to assist you in achieving

these goals. I know I speak for all of us at Department and your District level – if you need something, let us know! We’re in this together!

Voice of Democracy – Reach out to me if you are having issues with, or are confused about Scholars App. Remember, we are fully digital this year. I’ve sent out a couple of emails to your Post Commander explaining the process – but I want to ensure that I’m going the extra mile to get the word out to everyone. If you need, grab my email address from the Department or my phone number from the book and let me know how I can help you get your post or district going for the year. Remember, all entries are due to your districts by October 31st.

Again, thank YOU! I’m looking forward to the new year with the leadership you’ve elected. I’m here for you. I’ll see you at COA!

Todd Van Sant
Department Surgeon

Sr. Vice Column Carol Thomas



We have come to the time of year once again to face a new challenge of a new year with new officers in our VFW and Auxiliary. It can be a year

of exciting times for Colorado, and it is so easy to have that happen. We all know there is a driving purpose for what we do. That purpose is to “focus on Veterans.” We all should take a moment to re-dedicate ourselves and remember not only all the new veterans joining our elite organization but look at our own Post to see if we might find in our heart to forgive the past and look forward to renewing our friendships so we can focus our time on service to Veterans.

We all need to hold our posts to ensure required reports are submitted timely as well as audits and inspections. Give us good hours of community service this year, do youth programs so we can talk to our elected representatives from Colorado this coming March at the Legislative Conference in Washington DC. We can proudly stand for you when showing them what the VFW of Colorado do for our communities and the hours you all volunteer.

Thank you all for your confidence in me and I look forward to serving each of you this coming year.

Carol Thomas
Department Sr. Vice Commander

Jr. Vice Column Fred Scheck



Dear Comrades,
Congratulation to our newest All American Commander Gerri Rimpley. Congratulations to all of

our newly elected Department, District, and Post officers. Its because of individuals like you that our organization continue to thrive.

This being the start of a new year it will be your responsibility, to lead this organization to even greater heights. Its

not just learning your responsibilities but teaching them to the officer and members following you. One of the best pieces of advice I received in my life was “ Knowledge not shared is knowledge wasted”. I have taken that advice to heart and as some of you know I apply it every chance I get. If you call my number, I will do everything I can to get you the correct answer.

Faithfully yours,
Fred Scheck
Department Jr. Vice Commander

Quartermaster’s Column Bruce Dolan



Greetings,
I hope this finds everyone well.

As we start a new year which will find me not around in 341 days,

I would like to congratulate our All American Post and District Commanders and Quartermasters. The top 50 Posts in each Division will receive a VFW hat, citation, flag streamer, Commanders hat, Commanders name badge, Commanders lapel pin, and a package of All American Post Member lapel pins. The Posts that meet the All American criteria and are not in the top 50 will receive a citation and streamer. Quartermasters in qualifying Posts may purchase a hat.

We had 3 Posts in the top 50 in their Division that earned All American; Post 1, Post 5231, and Post 6491. We had 6 Post earn All American not in the top 50; Post 2121, Post 4061, Post 4171, Post 4666, Post 5061, Post 6624. Congratulations to all of you.

We had 2 District earning All

American honors: District 2 and 3. On the District level you must be in the top 25 to receive the Commanders awards. You will still receive a certificate and streamer and may purchase a hat.

And finally, Our Department earned All American honors. Congratulations Commander Rimpley on a job well done. And for more good news.

Audits. Quartermasters, please go to the National web site, vfw.org, and download the training manual to learn how to do a quarterly Audit. NOTICE-YOU ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A RELIEF FUND. A negative balance is not having a relief fund. Also, you are no longer required to have a Dues Reserve. You may if you like, but it’s just more figuring which you don’t need.

Finally, I am looking to hire and Assistant Quartermaster that would be willing and able to do the QM job and run the Headquarters and Service Office. The number to call is 303-421-1630. One down and three to go.

Bruce Dolan
Department Adj./Quartermaster

2023 - 2024 Student Themes

“What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy”

“How are You Inspired by America”



TAPS



Post 3820: Leonard J. Kapushion, James A. Alloy
Post 4266: Robert C. White

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

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 1
June 7-10, 2023 SERIES: 2023-2024

1. Having been duly elected and installed into the office of Commander, Department of Colorado, according to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I hereby assume command of the Department of Colorado. All previously appointed officers' and committee persons' term of office is hereby declared expired and now ineffective.

The following officers have been duly elected and installed at the 103rd Annual Convention held June 07-10, 2023, Greeley, CO., and will have full authority to act and shall be obeyed accordingly:

COMMANDER:

John Keene, #1

3496 Ulster St.

Denver 80238

SR. VICE COMMANDER:

Carol Thomas, #2551

32 Lake St.

Hillrose 80733

JR. VICE COMMANDER:

Fredric Scheck, #6624

110 Juneberry St.

Milliken 80543

QUARTERMASTER:

Bruce Dolan, #7945

1400 Carr St.

Lakewood 80214

CHAPLAIN:

Kevin Reinhold, #6461

9705 Bar B Rd.

Fountain 80817

JUDGE ADVOCATE:

Kirk Rosa, #12009

416 S Pine Dr.

Bailey 80421

SURGEON:

Todd W. Van Sant, #9644

3650 S Federal Blvd, Lot 106

Englewood, 80110

ADJUTANT:

Bruce Dolan, #7945

1400 Carr St.

Lakewood 80214

CHIEF OF STAFF:

James Sheridan, #2788

1385 7th Street

Penrose 81240

INSPECTOR:

Eric Hutchins, #3917

2713 Ferber Dr.

Colorado Springs 80916

Jr. PAST DEPT. COMMANDER:

Geraldine Rimpley, #2788

1220 Q Street

Penrose 81240

SERVICE OFFICER:

Mathew Cummings, #6624

155 Van Gordon Ste. 205

Lakewood 80228

ASST SERVICE OFFICER:

Ralph Overhelman, #1771

155 Van Gordon Ste. 205

Lakewood 80228

DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER:

James Kruse, #5061

2442 S Chase Ln.

Lakewood 80227

DISTRICT 2 COMMANDER:

James Sheridan, #2788

1385 7th Street

Penrose 81240

DISTRICT 3 COMMANDER:

Ryan Armagost, #12189

817 Douglas Place

Berthoud, 80513

DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER:

Michael Stevens, #3541

200 Villa Vista St.

Sterling 80751

DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER:

Travis J. Baker, #6461

6806 Simcoe Dr

Colorado Springs, 80925

DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER:

Jesus Garcia, #2411

P O Box 423

Las Animas 81054

DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER:

William Flores, #899

6039 State Hwy 15

La Jara 81140

DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER:

Kirk Rosa, #12009

416 S Pine Dr.

Bailey 80421

DISTRICT 9 COMMANDER:

Gary Hinaman, #5261

138 Pinyon Cir.

Rangely, 81648

DISTRICT 10 COMMANDER:

Ron Davies, #9644

3999 W. Hillside Pl.

Littleton, 80123

DISTRICT 11 COMMANDER:

Leonard Ladue, #3981

648 Grand View Dr.

Grand Junction 81506

DISTRICT 12 COMMANDER:

Tommy Endres, #5231

1813 Aldridge Rd.

Cortez, 81321

DISTRICT 13 COMMANDER:

Bob Renfrew #6491

450 4th Street

Burlington, 80807

1. COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION:

The next Council of Administration meeting will be Sunday, August 20, 2023, in Burlington. Joint Opening will be at 8:30 A.M. SHARP. **ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS OR THEIR PROPER REPRESENTATIVE MUST BE PRESENT.**

Any and all District and Post Officers and members are invited to attend. Uniform of the day will be black and white. All Council members must sign the roster with the Department Adjutant to record your presence at the Council of Administration meeting and workshops. **Training Sessions will be on Saturday August 19, 2023 at Spices on the Green, 48680 Snead Dr, Burlington, CO 80807.**

2. PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY: All Department Officers are instructed to comply with Sections 416 and 516 - Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees, by providing proof of eligibility to Department Headquarters **by July 09, 2023.** Failure to comply will cause the office to be forfeited and the office to be declared vacant. District Sr. Vice Commanders and District Jr. Vice Commanders are required to submit proof of eligibility to the Department Adjutant. Sec 416 and 516 of the Manual of Procedure.

3. 2023 SPRING SWEEPSTAKES: Prize winners of the Spring Sweepstakes will be listed in the August Colorado Veteran.

4. SUBSCRIPTION DUES notices will be mailed to the membership by National Headquarters. Call Department Headquarters with any questions.

5. 2023-2024 POST OFFICERS: Posts that did not submit an election report by July 1, 2023, were suspended for a peri-



124th National Convention Hospitality Room, Phoenix, AZ. Volunteers from two States, Colorado and Arizona, manned the room during off meeting hours. Many of our Officers, VFW Members, VFW Auxiliary Officers, and members made the trip to Phoenix and needed a room to relax in and be in out of the heat of Phoenix. They have averaged 350 visitors a night, and have been holding Fundraisers for the Colorado Service Office, and Military Services. Monday July 24th, was Open House night and guests were greeted by our Department Officers, and VFW Auxiliary Officers. If you have never attended a National Convention, plan on making the trip to Louisville, KY for the next one, July 27 - August 1, 2024.

(continued General Orders #1)

od of ninety (90) days by the Department Commander. Posts that did not submitted their Election Report to Department will not be listed in the Department roster. The suspensions will automatically terminate when a properly completed Election Report is received at National Headquarters. **Please also send a copy of the Election Report to Department Headquarters.** At the end of ninety (90) days, the Commander-in-Chief may cancel the charter of any Post not properly submitting an Election Report to National Headquarters.

6. NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE: All Posts are reminded of the provision of the National By-Laws, which requires at least one registration from each Post. The registration fee of \$25.00 for the first Delegate and \$10.00 for the rest of the Delegates and a completed registration form must be sent to the Quartermaster General, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

7. QUARTERMASTER BONDS - AUDITS: It is the duty of Commander to see that the office of Quartermaster is bonded and that Trustees Reports of Audits are completed, signed by the Commander and Trustees, and mailed or emailed to Department Headquarters no later than 25 days following the close of each quarter. All Quartermaster bonds carried through Department expire **August 31, 2023. Quartermaster Bonds are required per Article VII, Sec 703 of the National Bylaws.** Bond Applications have been mailed to the Post Quartermasters and District Commanders.

8. DEPARTMENT COLOR GUARD: All requests for the State Color Guard Units will be directed by the State Commander to Jerry Sallee and will be handled in order of priority established by the Commander and recommendations from the District being considered. All requests will be submitted in writing to the State Commander, and it is requested that a copy be sent to Captain Jerry Sallee at HC63, Box 101, Monticello, UT 84535.

9. COMMUNITY SERVICE and OTHER REPORTS: Post Commanders are advised that all **Community Service, Youth Activity, Americanism, Loyalty**

Day, Hospital and others pertaining to the Department Program report - REPORT DIRECTLY on the Department Web Site, vfwco.org. The reporting year commences April 1, 2023. Do not report programs completed prior to that date for the reporting year 2023-2024. Go to VFW Members, on the right side click on Reporting and all the instructions and Programs are listed. Do Not send to Department Headquarters. VFW Program Chairman will be notified that you have reported and will record your cash, hours and miles for the Program year. Report, Report, Report.

10. VFW CAPS, OFFICIAL: All personnel are advised that there is only one official cap of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a cap of the overseas type, lettered with VFW initials, Post numerals, State, rank of office (when applicable), and bearing the Cross of Malta emblem. The color shall be regulation Army Shade 51. Organizational echelons will be designated by the appropriate color of the braid and lettering on the cap. **Caps will not be worn while eating or seated during meals.** All other types of headgear, i.e., baseball types, western types, sporting types, are not official headgear and will not be worn at meetings of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

11. 2022-2023 AWARDS: Posts or individuals who have not received the appropriate awards they earned from the Department of Colorado in the 2022-2023 year, please notify Department in writing.

12. MEMBERSHIP: The new membership year has started. Sign up a new and/or reinstated member and earn awards from Department.

13. To VFW Auxiliary President Phil Reinhold, Department Officers and Auxiliary, I hereby pledge the continued support of all the members of the Department of Colorado Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

ATTESTED BY:

ls\ Bruce R. Dolan

Bruce R. Dolan

Department Adjutant

BY COMMAND OF:

ls\ John Keene

John Keene

Department Commander

VFW Post Membership by District as of June 30, 2023

Number/ City	2022	2023	%	Number/City	2022	2023	%
DISTRICT #1							
1 Denver	894	925	103*	859 Leadville	30	27	90
501 Denver	261	255	98	1166 Buena Vista	113	111	98
2461 Denver	106	100	94	3820 Salida	67	68	101*
5061 Denver	239	249	104*	8661 Bailey	110	111	101*
TOTAL	1500	1529	102%*	10721 Minturn	109	109	100*
DISTRICT #2							
2788 Penrose	94	104	111*	11411 Lake George	40	43	108*
3641 Pueblo	79	82	104*	12009 Conifer	108	109	101*
4061 Canon City	239	243	102*	TOTAL	577	578	100%*
5812 Pueblo West	195	188	96	DISTRICT #9			
7305 Colo. City	47	46	98	4264 Steambt Spgs	90	87	97
8898 Boone	34	37	109*	4265 Craig	96	95	99
12063 Westcliffe	49	56	114*	5261 Rangely	18	20	111*
TOTAL	737	756	103%*	5843 Meeker	42	41	98
DISTRICT #3				9374 Kremmling	26	26	100*
41 Loveland	271	275	101*	TOTAL	272	269	99%
807 Boulder	32	30	94	DISTRICT #10			
1771 Lafayette	224	224	100*	322 Englewood	89	98	110*
1781 Ft. Collins	285	287	101*	3471 Morrison	66	64	97
2121 Greeley	157	160	102*	3631 Aurora	269	280	104*
2585 Johnstown	175	175	100*	4171 Golden	361	373	103*
2601 Longmont	276	290	105*	4266 Parker	74	77	104*
4334 Ault	73	66	90	4331 Arvada	225	221	98
6624 Evans	201	203	101*	4444 Cmmrc Cty	162	157	97
9565 Broomfield	93	93	100*	4666 Littleton	111	113	102*
12174 Brighton	34	33	97	7563 Black Hawk	25	32	128*
12189 Berthoud	39	39	100*	7945 Thornton	281	266	95
TOTAL	1860	1875	101%*	8449 Bennett	55	39	71
DISTRICT #4				9644 Fort Logan	387	395	102*
2551 Ft. Morgan	145	147	101*	TOTAL	2105	2115	100%*
3378 Yuma	52	51	98	DISTRICT #11			
3541 Sterling	73	75	103*	784 Montrose	118	118	100*
3551 Brush	35	39	111*	1247 Grnd Jcnctn	205	203	99
4671 Wray	49	50	102*	3571 Delta	49	45	92
6482 Holyoke	35	35	100*	3981 Grnd Jcnctn	152	142	93
7153 Fleming	13	13	100*	4663 Clifton	48	45	94
8064 Akron	51	52	102*	5485 Parachute	34	34	100*
TOTAL	453	462	102%*	9221 Cedaredge	90	94	104*
DISTRICT #5				9304 Rifle	23	21	91
101 Colo. Spgs.	444	442	99	TOTAL	719	702	98%
3917 Security	521	512	98	DISTRICT #12			
4051 Colo. Spgs	516	502	97	4031 Durango	222	254	114*
5221 Calhan	88	86	98	4181 Dove Creek	40	41	103*
6051 Wldnd Park	40	41	103*	5231 Cortez	149	176	118*
6461 Fountain	339	360	106*	9058 Nucla	28	28	100*
7829 Monument	146	140	96	TOTAL	439	499	114%*
10649 Elizabeth	32	31	97	DISTRICT #13			
TOTAL	2126	2114	99%	3411 Kit Carson	19	20	105*
DISTRICT #6				6491 Burlington	53	54	102*
336 Ordway	68	67	99	6612 Hugo	28	29	104*
2411 LasAnimas	63	65	103*	9700 Chynn Wlls	23	23	100*
4001 Springfield	27	26	96	TOTAL	123	126	102%*
4281 Holly	21	23	110*	15006 MAL	2517	2558	102%*
TOTAL	179	181	101%*	TOTAL DEPT	13811	13965	101%*
DISTRICT #7				2024 dues are now DUE			
899 Alamosa	75	74	99	Be 100% +1 in 2023-2024			
4849 La Jara	45	43	96	Help Colorado be 100%+			
6101 San Luis	47	46	98				
8121 Del Norte	37	38	103*				
TOTAL	204	201	99%				



National Convention, Phoenix, AZ, Tuesday July 25, 2023. VFW Members and VFW Auxiliary members gather and march into the main hall to represent their State. This is one of the highlights of attending National Convention. Lots of Red, White and Blue! Soon they will gather by State and be proud to say "I am from Colorado and a VFW Member or VFW Auxiliary member". Can you find some of our members in the crowd? I see Lucille Chavez, Linda Reinhold, Ellie Ford, Jane Keene.

2023 Spring Sweepstakes Winners

1st Place	D. Stansbury	Thornton	\$2,500.00
2nd Place	Edward Aitken	Loveland	\$1,000.00
3rd Place	Louis M. Lesser	Chandler, AZ	\$ 500.00
4th Place	Michael J. Hudson	Thornton	\$ 300.00
5th Place	Alfonso Garcia	La Junta	\$ 200.00
6th Place	Donald Cluxton	Evergreen	\$ 100.00
7th Place	Albert Nelson	Thornton	\$ 100.00
8th Place	Paul Neal	Englewood	\$ 100.00
9th Place	James K. McDonald	Loveland	\$ 100.00
10th Place	Aaron Barnes	Englewood	\$ 100.00

Congratulations

Council of Administration Weekend August 18-20, 2023

Hosted by: William Hogate VFW Post 6491
884 Rose Ave, Burlington, CO 80808
See Directions and Hotel Information below

All events for Saturday and Sunday will be held at Spices On The Green,
48680 Snead Drive, Burlington CO 80807

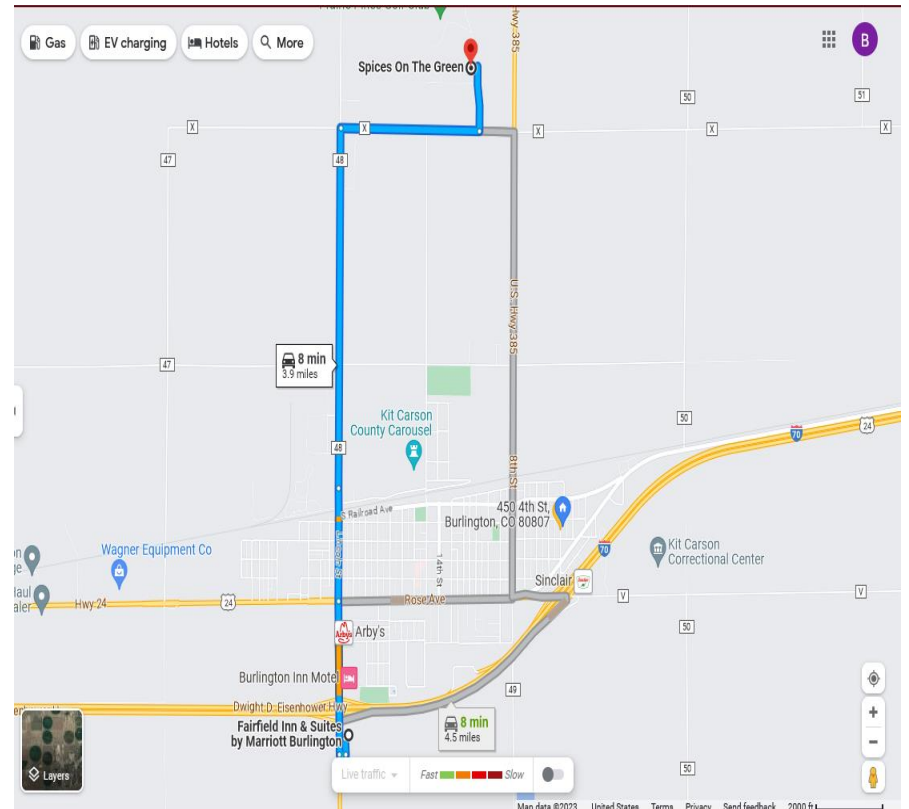
FRIDAY August 18, 2023
Agenda to be announced

Saturday August 19, 2023
Buffet Lunch \$15.00

Post Restaurant will be open Saturday for
breakfast, lunch and supper

HOTEL INFORMATION
Fairfield Inn & Suites, Burlington \$134 USD per night
Book your group rate for VFW (marriott.com)

Last day to Book Friday August 4, 2023



Turn right onto US-385 N/S Lincoln St
Go 0.7 miles
Continue straight onto Lincoln St through stop light
Go 0.5 miles
Continue straight onto Co Rd 48 across railroad tracks
Go 1.6 miles
Turn right onto Co Rd X
Go 0.8 miles
Turn left onto Snead Dr. Parking lot and building will be on the left
Go 0.3 miles



On Sunday Jun 1, 2023, VFW Auxiliary #322 held a Quilts of Valor event. A personalized quilt was presented to each of the 15 veterans. The quilts are made to honor and comfort each veteran for his or her military service.



National Convention Buddy Poppy Directors Award awarded to Colorado 1st Place from VFW Post #2551 Fort Morgan. Buddy Poppy Displays are always amazing to spend an afternoon, or even a whole day while attending National Convention. Some of them from other States were spectacular. But there is only one Directors Award from all the Displays and Colorado, District #4 and VFW Post #2551 Fort Morgan are to be Congratulated. Penelope, who is reining on the horse to guide veterans towards the right path for today and into a bright wonderful future.



State Commander John Keene and the Colorado delegation at the Patriotic Rally, Tuesday evening at National Convention. Everyone always looks forward to marching in, meeting friends from other States, and having a great time. Lots of Red, White and Blue and Flags all over the arena. Looking Good Colorado!



PDP Patsy Gilmore, PDP Linda Reinpold, Ellie Ford, PDP Lucille Chavez, PDP Ron Boone, Jane Keene, Jean Jaffe, at the Patriotic Rally, Tuesday evening at National Convention.

Community Outreach Program

Greetings all my Auxiliary friends!

First of all, I would like to thank President Phil Reinpold for having faith in me by allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Auxiliary Outreach Chairman this year.

This program has always been around, National has just changed the name and added a few requirements to the program in the past couple years. Our organization has always been active in our communities, we just need to remember to report it differently.

The VFW Auxiliary Outreach Program involves your Auxiliary volunteering to help other non-profit organizations, local groups and others with needs in your community. Auxiliary Outreach is time given to help, not monetary or in-kind donations. It is a partnership where in one or more of your Auxiliary members help another organization or group make their project successful. Like us, many organizations are short on volunteers, so if we all join forces and work together, just imagine what great things we can accomplish!

Ask what your Auxiliary can do to help the community, not what they can do to help us! Form a partnership to help other organizations by reaching out into your communities, local groups and organizations and offer to assist, then present the opportunity to your Auxiliary for a vote and then report it.

Where does your Auxiliary find these partnership opportunities?

- Ask your Auxiliary members: Most members belong to more than one organization.
- Look in your local new newspaper for upcoming events.
- Check local community bulletin boards.
- Check your local and surrounding town/city websites for their calendar of events.

Suggestions for VFW Auxiliary Outreach

- Work with local police, fire and EMT on their activities (Child ID, fire safety and fire prevention activities at the local schools.)
- Work with local parks and recreation departments to plant trees, clear trails and beautify parks.
- Serve food at soup kitchens or distribute food at food banks/cupboards.

- Drive for Meals on Wheels to help prepare food for delivery.
- Assist with local fundraising walks as a volunteer, not an entrant.
- Help your local library by working at book fairs.
- Assist local youth activities and at senior centers.
- Help during your local town or city during elections by remain non-partisan.
- Partnerships can be a single day event or ongoing events throughout the year.

Benefits of the Auxiliary Outreach Program

- Helping others
- Learn new skills
- Meeting new people & possibly getting new Auxiliary members
- Developing a sense of purpose
- Personal growth

Keys to making your Auxiliary Outreach Program successful

- Find organizations that need your help
- Vote on the activity at your meetings
- One or more Auxiliary member(s) must participate
- Wear your VFW Auxiliary attire (name badge, shirt, hat, jacket, etc.)
- Report, report, report your hours volunteered

I know that all of our Auxiliaries are busy in our communities, helping with other organizations. This year, Phil has asked that we share stories about our activities in our communities at our COA meetings. So PLEASE, PLEASE report to me what you are doing and tell me what made your event with another organization a success. Tell us what you did, how you participated and any fun things that happened. We want to learn from you what made the event a success so we can steal your ideas and make our events better!

I look forward to hearing from each and every auxiliary with lots of exciting and fun stories. I can be reached at gbarz@hotmail.com or by phone 970-749-9320. If I don't answer, please leave me a message and I will return your call.

See you all at COA in Burlington in August!!

Queenie Barz
Auxiliary Outreach Chairman



Four Bent County veterans were honored and presented with quilts of valor on Flag Day, June 14th at the VFW Post #2411. Pam Valdez organized the event on behalf of VFW Auxiliary. Cathy Moore, a quilter for Colorado Prairie Quilters, interviewed the four veterans, wrote their stories, and then read them to those attending. Thank you, Cathy, for your many hours of dedicated service to veterans! Each veteran was wrapped in a beautifully made, patriotic quilt. Copies of the veteran's stories are filed in the Heritage Library at the John W. Rawlings Heritage Center & Museum. You may nominate veterans for quilts of valor on the Colorado Quilts of Valor website. Thank you to those that took the time to attend and the families that supported the veterans. We thank all our veterans for their service, God Bless them, and God Bless America!!!

submitted by Kathleen Tomlin, VFW Auxiliary #2411

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 Phil Reinpold



Good Afternoon
I would like to thank all the servicemen and women, including members of my family, who have served our country.

My thanks also to all of the Auxiliary members (reaching back to my Men's Auxiliary days) who have mentored and worked alongside me over the years. Thank you to my family, brothers and nephews, Ellie Ford, and certainly to my wife Linda Reinpold. And my Thanks to our visiting National Representative and Past National President Colette Bishop for the advice and encouragement that she has provided.

I think everyone knows that my mission this year is to increase Suicide / Depression Awareness and to work actively to aid our members in Suicide Prevention by giving them the tools to combat these events in our families and communities. This will tie directly into my theme: WE VALUE EVERY VETERAN (They have served us, now we can serve them). We value every veteran no matter what their situation and pledge to help them transition into their new life. We will endeavor to be there when they are at low points in life and help them to realize how valuable they are to their fellow comrades, auxiliary teammates, and to their family.

All State Achievement

Thank you, Department President Phil, for appointing me as the All-State Achievement Program Chairperson. Also, congratulations to all our Auxiliary and District Presidents on your recent election. As a nationally recognized organization, guidelines have been established to assist you in having an effective and productive year as an Auxiliary/District President and to give you the confidence and knowledge to successfully perform your duties and obligations. As your Department of Colorado leadership team, we want to encourage you to work closely with your membership; take time to mentor new members, reach out to long standing members who have quietly disappeared and maintain a positive attitude throughout your year.

Upon completion of our program year, April 1, 2023, through March 30, 2024, you will have the opportunity to let us know that you have completed tasks that are required in the VFW Auxiliary By-laws. This form continues to be a one-page report that has been used since the 2020-2021 program year and has been reviewed for changes to improve the program. Our membership works hard to promote our VFW Auxiliary National Programs and our own Colorado Veteran and Family Programs. Each Auxiliary/District submitting an All-State Achievement Report will receive recognition at our

I will be donating the funds raised from my Veteran's Pin to Operation Veteran Strong – an organization dedicated to helping veterans transition and succeed as they move back into civilian life. This organization also gives considerable help and support to those veterans who are experiencing deep depression and considering suicide.

My other exciting missions are to work closely with the VFW to improve and increase the relationship between the VFW and the Auxiliary, to discover the many talents possessed by members of our Auxiliary and to find ways to develop these talents for the benefit of the Auxiliary. I also plan to renew the tradition of visiting all of the Veteran's Hospitals and CLCs in Colorado as we used to do. The next Convention will be the 100th convention for the Auxiliary in Colorado, and I plan to highlight and celebrate this exciting milestone over the next year. I am excited and humbled to serve as Auxiliary President for the next year and I ask you to join with me in making it a huge success!

Respectfully,
Phil Reinpold
Department VFW Auxiliary President

Speech given at State
Convention Installation

Department Convention in June 2024.
Those Auxiliaries and Districts will earn All State Achievement that:

1. Reach the minimum points required, which will be announced at the August Council of Administration in Burlington on August 19th & 20th.
2. Have submitted All State Achievement Report by the deadline.
3. Report is signed by the President, Secretary and Treasurer, not a computer-generated signature.

The new forms will be available on the Department website, vfwco.org and in the Colorado Program Book. The President, Secretary and Treasurer of each Auxiliary/District that earns All State Achievement will receive an All-State Achievement pin and medalion. The Auxiliary/District will receive a certificate of All State Achievement Recognition. If you, your Auxiliary and/or District have any questions or concerns please feel to contact myself or any of our committee members listed below. So, let's come together as "WE VALUE EVERY VETERAN." They have served us (some are still serving), now we can serve them!

Loyally,
Your 2023-2024 Committee Members
Caroline Gelatt, Chairman
Patsy Gilmore, Lennie Dolan

Mentoring for Leadership

Welcome to a New VFW Auxiliary Year!!!!

My name is Ginny Rosa and I am so excited and thrilled that President Phil has asked me to serve as the Mentoring for Leadership Chairman. This year we will be "Banding Together for our Veterans" by making sure that "We Value Every Veteran."

I hope that you are as excited about Mentoring as I am. I would like to work with frequently asked questions and give good answers to those. I am sending every District and Auxiliary President a questionnaire to be completed by their members and returned to me. If you will send me questions that you have been asked, I will work on getting you good answers. These will be compiled into

FAQ's and shared with everyone. New Members have questions also because they are learning the traditions and parts of the ritual that are very confusing.

Watch for the program book to learn more about this program and for awards from National and Department. If you have an idea for Mentoring that you would like to suggest to others, please let me know. We can definitely share with other Auxiliaries.

I look forward to working with all of you and know that we are going to help put Phil in the Circle of Excellence.

Respectfully yours,
Ginny Rosa
Department Mentoring for Leadership

Historian / Media Relations

To All Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters,
2023-2024 program year has arrived! A special thank you to President Phil Reinpold for appointing me this chair position for a 2nd year. This year will be an emphasis on Suicide Prevention. Let's help spread the word out on social media.

I can't believe how fast this year went by. This is a good time to reflect on what we as an auxiliary accomplished over the past year. Look back on the last program year to see what worked or what your Auxiliary can do differently.

I have met a lot of members, but still need to meet more of you at the August COA in Burlington. This is also a great way to brainstorm with different auxiliaries to get some creative ideas for your social media platforms. Also, I will be able to go over more on how to report back to Dept. You don't want to miss out on receiving awards at the end of the program year.

I have been truly excited and proud to see everyone's post on social media and what is happening around our State of Colorado throughout the VFW community for our Veterans. Let us be proud, share and brag about our Auxiliaries here in CO. Let's capture special memories

and activities through photos and videos. Just have some fun!

Always remember the 5 W's-the who-what-where-when-and why of an Auxiliary.

Keep up the great work! "We Value Every Veteran"

Please email me anything from your Auxiliary that you would like to be shared to on our Department FB page. If you have not followed our page, below is a QR code. Just scan with your phone and press like on our page. I am available to all Auxiliaries for any help, suggestions, questions or concerns. My contact information is 970-313-6960 and email is kgrizzell@live.com

Respectfully,
Karrie Grizzell
Department Historian/Media Relations
Dept Facebook QR Code / www.facebook.com/ColoradoVFWAuxiliary



Legislative Program

Thank you President Phil for selecting me to be your new Legislative chairman. This year I hope to keep all our Veterans informed of the important Issues concerning them in Congress. Please call or e-mail your representatives to let them know you are watching the progress of them getting bills passed that benefit the Veteran. I will be letting you know about bills needing your support and what is being done about those important pieces of information. I will be stepping into big shoes that Nadia Flores left for me to fill. I hope I will do her proud as well as our Veterans.

Pat Garcia
Department Legislative Chairman

Please send all Deceased VFW Auxiliary members to ann@vfwco.org.
They will be saved for the Joint Memorial State Convention Book.
Our deadline is May 20, 2024

You still need to notify National and that can be done on MALTA.

VFW Buddy Poppy - National Home for Children

I want to thank Department President Phil Reinbold for asking me to be Department Chairman for the Buddy Poppy-National Home for Children program for the 2023-2024 year. This, like all the programs that the VFW Auxiliary does throughout the year, supports our veterans in many ways.

This little red flower, the “Buddy Poppy”, is a mighty powerful flower. All the money that is gathered from the donations of our poppies goes to the different programs that our organization supports. The flower as we know it know is changing, but the purpose and aim of the poppy remains the same.

I mentioned that the money raised by the Buddy Poppies goes, to our different programs, so I wanted to give you the percentages that go to the different programs.

- 1.5 cents goes to the Department’s Veterans Service Fund
- 1 cent goes to VFW National Headquarters Service Fund
- 1 cent goes to National Home for Children

The money the Auxiliary raises also goes into the Auxiliary Relief Fund. This fund is for helping Auxiliary members in need of financial assistance, sending monetary gifts to the VFW National Home for Children, National Auxiliary Cancer Aid & Research Fund, just to name a few.

National Home for Children

The National Home for Children has been a place for Veterans and their families to heal since 1925. They started out with just an old farm house, but today they have a sprawling campus of 42 single homes that are rent free, a free day care if needed, gymnasium, library, an administration office and much, much more. They rely entirely on donations with no other funding. So, besides the money from the Buddy Poppy sales, there are two other ways you can help support the home. When you buy online at Amazon-Smiles, you can pick a charity of choice and 0.5% of your purchase will be donated to them. Another way is to become a life member which is only \$50.00, purchase a brick for \$100.00, or do a monthly donation for what ever amount your comfortable with. The National Home over the years has evolved to meet the ever-changing needs of our military veterans and their families. They are committed to providing help to them and hope to their children. To learn more about how the National home works go to the website vfnationalhome.org.

My goals this year are to have fun, educate, and promote our programs to the public and to those who don’t really know what our poppies are about, what the National Home is all about, and what we are all about.

God Bless,
Patty Rowley-Wilson
Department Chairman
Buddy Poppy-National Home for Children

Please Note

There is a NEW Buddy Poppy Order Form on the Colorado Web.

You must include a VFW Membership #, since we have to order thru the VFW and they have access to that Data Base. If you do not include a VFW Membership #, we can look up the Post Quartermaster and use your address for Delivery.

Orders still have to be placed with VFW Department Headquarters.

Auxiliary will still get credit for the Poppy Order.

**You must include Shipping charges when you order.
Rates are on the Order Form.**

Please use the New Order Form

Veterans and Family Support

Hello everyone and welcome to the new year! I am your Veterans and Family Support chairman again. I want to thank Department President Phil for asking me to do this chair, like him, mental health and suicide awareness is a strong passion for me. The three top priorities for this year are: Veterans and Military Support Programs, National Veterans Service Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness. Please take a moment to go to the National website vfwauxiliary.org click on “What we do” and scroll down to “Veterans and Family Support”. This is going to give details of all the wonderful stuff we do and are going to do this upcoming year.

Veterans and Military Support Programs we support and are set in place to assist our veterans and their families. They have and continue to do so much for us, these are little things we can do for them. We have National Veterans Service (NVS), Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs, and the VFW “Sports Clips Help a Hero

Scholarship”.

We are also going to focus on Veteran and Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness. There are warning signs we should be aware of along with resources to assist with. The Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available. There is also the new number 988. Also available are many resources to assist someone with mental health. *Together let’s change the stigma surrounding mental health!*

I am excited to bring the members’ information to the 1st COA in Burlington. Please plan to attend, you never know what I have up my sleeve and what I can see if our President Phil can keep track of this year, 😊 Until we meet again, have great days.

Brigitte Dolan
Department Veterans and Family Support

Youth Program

Hello Auxiliary brothers and sisters,

I am honored that President Phil has asked me to serve as your Youth Activities Chair for 2023-2024. I am looking forward to working with all of you in support of our youth.

How do we define patriotism for youth? It is the love for or devotion to one’s country. When was the first time you remember being introduced to patriotism and its meaning? Was it reciting the pledge of allegiance in school? Your parents flying a flag at home? Or was it listening to your parents or grandparents’ stories about serving in the military?

Our youth today are our leaders of tomorrow. Focusing attention on our youth beginning at a young age is vital for them to appreciate our history and our veterans’ sacrifices. Now, more than ever, we need to be actively promoting patriotism at an early age.

Let’s kick this year off right by focusing on some key areas in this program year:

- Patriotism through Literacy
- Supporting and working with youth groups
- Get excited for the Red, White, and Blue
- Illustrating America
- R.A.P Cards

Patriotism through Literacy:

One of the easiest ways to promote patriotism is through reading with our youth. It is simple, fun, and free (if using a library). We need to educate our youth at an early age about who our historical figures were that helped to build this great country, the United States of America. Teaching patriotism through literature is just one step toward understanding and learning about patriotism. I will have a list of books that are appropriate for different age groups available at our COA meetings.

Supporting and Working with Youth Groups:

Activities that assist and work with veterans and their families provide a vital source of community involvement for youth groups. The Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, church youth groups, Boys and Girls Clubs of America and school sponsored clubs are just a few groups that can benefit from our involvement.

Invite youth groups to join in on auxiliary functions such as delivering groceries to disabled veterans, helping a veteran with yard work, take trash out for curbside pickup for veterans, visit nurs-

ing homes or VA hospitals, or participating in card writing campaigns to active military or hospitals and nursing homes. The possibilities are endless so get creative with how to get youth groups involved.

Get Excited for the Red, White, and Blue:

It is so inspiring to listen to our youth sing our national anthem. This singing contest is divided into two grade divisions, K-8 and 9-12. Encourage youth to participate in this contest. Make a plan to promote this contest in schools and/or churches. I look forward to hearing all the great entries.

Illustrating America:

Another way to encourage patriotism in youth is to participate in Illustrating America. The contest is open to any student grades K-8 who is enrolled in public, private, or parochial school, or a home study program in the United States, its territories, and possessions; or who are dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. There are 3 grade divisions, K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. This is another contest that you can begin to promote as school is getting back in session.

R.A.P Cards:

One of the easiest and most rewarding actions is to catch youth being patriotic. Everyone loves to be rewarded for a job well done and our youth are no exception. What better way to reward them then by handing out R.A.P Cards.

- Have you observed youth showing patriotism?
- Have you seen a child thanking a veteran?
- Have you witnessed a child or youth place their hand over their heart correctly?
- Have you seen a child or youth show respect to our American flag?

If so, give them a R.A.P Card. You can explain what the R.A.P acronym means, Random Acts of Patriotism.

I’m looking forward to working with you all. I am available through email km-ltwood10@msn.com and phone (720) 201-4062, if you need anything or want to discuss any of these programs, please don’t hesitate to reach out.

Let’s all get excited about promoting patriotism in our youth!

Sincerely,
Kristi Wood
Department Youth Activities Chairman

Report ALL Program Reports On-Line
vfwco.org

Updated the First of every Month

Written Reports will not be accepted

It is Easy

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO
GENERAL ORDERS #1

June 10, 2023

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

1. Having been duly elected and installed into the office of President, Department of Colorado, according to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary, I hereby assume command on June 10, 2023. All previously elected, appointed and committeeman's term of office is hereby declared expired and now ineffective.

The following officers have been duly elected and installed at the 99th Annual Convention held in Greeley, CO on June 7-9, 2023, and will have full authority to act and shall be obeyed accordingly:

PRESIDENT: Phil Reinbold (5812)
834 W. El Portal Dr., Pueblo West, CO 81007

SR. VICE PRESIDENT: Nadia Flores (899) 20024 County Road 6, La Jara, CO 81140

JR. VICE PRESIDENT: Rena Cales (6461) 7461 Fortman Ave., Fountain, CO 80817

SECRETARY: Cindy Anderson (7945)
8281 Clay St Unit A, Westminster, CO 80031

TREASURER: Arline "Lennie" Dolan (7945) 1170 Fulton St., Aurora, CO 80010

CHAPLAIN: Sherri Wright (5231)
23620 Road M, Cortez, CO 81321

CONDUCTRESS: Crystal Proffitt (5181) PO Box 564, Dove Creek, CO 81324

GUARD: Heidi Bishop (3917) 4321 County Road 114 S, Alamosa, CO 81101

2. Department Officers, Department Chairmen, District Presidents, and Auxiliary Presidents:

All communications must be answered promptly, using the proper channels as listed on page 15 of the Booklet of Instructions.

3. Following are the Program Chairs for the 2023-24 year:

Program Coordinator – Shelley Schlieman (7945), 10001 Alcott St, Federal Heights, CO 80260

All State Achievement – Caroline Gelatt (6624) 3201 Claremont Ave, Evans, CO 80620

Americanism – Marilyn Peters (2121), P.O. Box 740, Kersey, CO 80644

Auxiliary News/Colorado Veteran – Ann Mauck (2601), 2583 W 82nd Way Unit A, Westminster, CO 80031

Auxiliary Outreach – Queenie Barz (5231), P. O. Box 533, Mancos, CO 81328

Auxiliary Website – Ann Mauck (2601), 2583 W 82nd Way Unit A, Westminster, CO 80031

Buddy Poppy/National Home – Patricia Rowley-Wilson (2601), 406 S Francis St, Longmont, CO 80501

Chief of Staff - Ext/Revitalization – Linda Reinbold (5812) 834 W El Portal Dr, Pueblo West, CO 81007

Courtesy – Sherri Wright (5231) 23620 Road M, Cortez, CO 81321

Historian/Media Relations – Karrie Grizzell, (2121), 3114 58th Ave, Greeley, CO 80634

Hospital – Brandi Dolan (7945) 16439 E Center Dr, Aurora, CO 80017

Legislative – Pat Garcia (7945) 11299 E 159th St, Brighton, CO 80602

Membership /Recruitment – Lucille Chavez (4171), 1710 Pierce St, Unit 206, Lakewood, CO 80214

Mentoring for Leadership – Ginny Rosa (12009) 416 S Pine Dr, Bailey, CO 80421

President's Project – Queenie Barz (5231), P. O. Box 533, Mancos, CO 81328

Scholarships – Crystal Proffitt (5181) PO Box 564, Dove Creek, CO 81324

Veterans/Family Support – Brigitte Dolan (7945), 2314 S Fundy Way, Aurora, CO 80013

Youth Activities – Kristi Wood (7945) 11097 E 162nd Pl, Brighton, CO 80602

Ways & Means – Alice Smith (4171), 4592 S. Deviny St, Morrison, CO 80465

4. Department Officers, Department Chairmen, District Presidents, and Auxiliary Presidents:

Please place the names of Phil Reinbold, Department President and Cindy Anderson, Department Secretary on your mailing list so all activities will be reported to this office.

5. All Auxiliary Presidents, District Presidents, and Treasurers: In accordance with the Bylaws, all Presidents and Treasurers must be bonded no later than August 31, 2023.

6. Auxiliary Presidents and Treasurers: In accordance with the change to Department Standing Rules dues notices will be sent by the Department Treasurer to all unpaid annual members and the cost of postage billed to the Auxiliary unless the Auxiliary Treasurer has notified the Department Treasurer in advance that they have sent out their own Auxiliary Dues Notices.

7. Auxiliary Secretary and District Secretary: Please send the names and addresses of the Auxiliary and District Chairmen to the corresponding Department Chairman and Department Secretary using the 2023-2024 Form provided on the VFW Department website.

8. District Presidents: Please send a complete schedule of your District meetings including dates, time, and location to Department Secretary Cindy Anderson, 8281 Clay St. Unit A, Westminster, CO 80031. Please do not schedule any District Meetings during Western Conference to be held November 2-5, Salt Lake City, Utah.

9. District Presidents: Annual Official Visits are very important and must be conducted. The Visiting Official should sign the Secretary's and Treasurer's books only if they are kept according to the procedures outlined in the Booklet of Instructions. Every question on the Official Visit Report should be answered. A copy of the W-9 sent to National Headquarters and a copy of the filed 990 or 990-N should be provided to the Visiting Official. Inspections should be completed by December 31, 2023.

10. Auxiliary Treasurers: Membership dues should be processed promptly through Malta or sent to the Department Treasurer for processing. Do not hold dues. A copy of the application for all new and rejoined members should be sent to the Department Treasurer for processing.

11. Auxiliary and District Trustees: Audits for the quarter ends of June, September, December, and March are

Americanism

Welcome to our Colorado Auxiliary 2023-2024. Our Department Auxiliary President, Phil Reinbold asked me to be this year's Department Americanism Chair. Thank you, President Phil Reinbold. I am honored.

This year our National Americanism Ambassador is Linda Roloff, roloff3@outlook.com. Americanism encompasses honoring, celebrating all Patriotic holidays. Let's find new ways to honor, celebrate, and teach our members and our community about this amazing United States of America. Host events at your post. Take it on the road to community events, clubs, business gatherings. Most importantly, educate students. Our youth is our future for the USA. They need a base of knowledge about what it means to be an American. Your presentations, displays, sharing resources always creates the "ripple effect".

Share and show your enthusiasm and compassion about Americanism. Ask to place displays at community events, senior centers, all gathering sites to be that amazing example of the meaning of being an American.

This year our ambassador wants our focus to be on acronyms and abbreviated titles. These cloud the true meaning of what is being referred to: #morethanletters. This year use this tag for all of your Facebook postings, reels, instagrams, tiktoks, and email distributions.

Our society, military, government use just letters and often those abbreviations minimize what is behind them. #pow/mia/kia is used often. Many of our community have no idea what that says. Coming up in September is POW/MIA

Remembrance Day. These individuals deserve honor and recognition. Host a special program, have a dedication ceremony, write about them in your newsletter, share their stories, meet their families, acknowledge them. Ask our governor to issue a proclamation acknowledging the 3rd Friday in September as POW/MIA Remembrance Day. Then continue thru the next months being that awesome example of what Americanism really means.

Encourage and enhance the duty of your Patriotic Instructors with presenting schools of instructions, verbiage definitions, meaning of gavel taps, addressing the membership at a meeting. #morethanletters: PTS stands for Post Traumatic Stress. Consider these letters being – Post Tribal Separation. Our country is immersed in the extremes of life: climate change, inflated costs of food, rent, fuel.

When our veterans come home, they experience extremes too: being out of uniform, without comrades, lack of specific mission. This is VFW Auxiliary Americanism charge for 2023-2024. We become their #AuxTribe. Think about it. Our auxiliary traditions, uniforms, mission to serve veterans and their families are very similar to what they have left. Honor and present the traditions they are yearning for.

I am here for you. Contact me for questions, comments, resources. Remember we are #AuxTribe.

Marilyn Peters
Department Americanism Chairman



(continued General Orders #1)

are sent to the Department Treasurer. Audits must be accepted by vote of the Auxiliary before being placed on file with the Department Treasurer within 60 days after the end of the quarter.

12. Auxiliary Presidents and District Presidents: Within 30 days after induction into office, the President shall submit to the Commander of the respective District or Post a copy of the last quarterly audit, membership status report and such additional reports as may be required by the liaison committee as soon as it has been accepted by the membership. See Section 810.

13. Program Reporting: Reporting for the current program year is from April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024. All activities reported must take place during that period. All reporting must be done through the VFW Department website at vfwco.org. No paper reports will be accepted. Program chairman will be notified that you have reported and will record your cash, hours, and miles for the year.

14. Minutes of the 99th Department Convention held in Greeley, CO, June 7-10, 2023 will be mailed or emailed to the members of the Convention Composition, except for the Delegates. See Section 812B.

15. Fall Council of Administration Meeting and Parade of Programs: are scheduled for August 19-20 at Burlington hosted by Post 6491. The full sched-

ule will be posted on the Colorado Department website. Workshops will be held on August 19 beginning at 8:30 AM. The Parade of Programs will begin at 1:30 PM on Saturday August 19. The Joint Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 20 starting at 8:30 at Spices on the Green, 46860 Snead Dr, Burlington. Separate meetings to follow. Meals will be on your own. **ALL AUXILIARY MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND ALL FUNCTIONS.**

16. Council of Administration members please try to attend the Council of Administration meetings. We must have a majority of the Council present to have a quorum and be able to conduct any business.

17. Homecoming details are to be determined at a later date.

18. To Department Commander John Keene, Department Officers, and VFW, I hereby pledge the continued support of all the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary, Department of Colorado.

BY ORDER OF:
Phil Reinbold
Department President

ATTESTED TO:
Cindy Anderson
Department Secretary

Hospital Program

Greetings Brothers and Sisters!

Welcome to the start of a new year! I would like to thank President Phil for asking me to be his Hospital Chair. I am looking forward to working with all of you, learning, and making this a very special year!

Please be on the lookout throughout the year for information from me. Look here in the veteran, attend COA's, provide your email so I can send you information, and peruse the national website for more resources. I'll provide lots of information on all of our national goals, but I'm just going to start out with a few here -

Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support –

As we all know, volunteers are vital to the success of everything that we do in the auxiliary. This year let us not only go out and try to find more people interested in serving veterans, but once we have them let us give them the recognition and support they deserve. This also goes to the volunteers we already have, whether they've been volunteering for a year or 30 years.

Women Veterans Health Care –

Are you aware of all of the resources that are available for women veterans when it comes to receiving health care tailored specifically to them? I know I'm not, and I'd ask that if you are, please share your knowledge with all of us! If you are not, please join me in fully researching and understanding this important issue so we will be well equipped to assist in any way possible.

Celebrating Non-Traditional Holidays

We've all had events and visits with

our veterans on Christmas, Veteran's Day, Valentine's Day, etc.

But what if we made a big deal out of other non-traditional holidays as well? Every single day of the year is some kind of holiday. As an example, we'll use August 1st - the first holiday that comes to mind is Colorado Day. Depending on the facility you are visiting and what they'll allow, you could take them goodies like Colorado stickers, socks, or other Colorado themed items. Or you could set up a BBQ and have Colorado themed games like trivia with Colorado prizes.

August 1st is also homemade pie day, so that can be your food and you have celebrated two non-traditional holidays in one.

The possibilities are endless and I can't wait to see what you all come up with. As I noted before, be sure to check in with the facility you'd like to go to as most facilities still have differing levels of what they'll allow.

While these are just a couple of the goals we've been provided, please get creative, think outside of the box, and know that supporting our veterans through the hospital program has no limits!

I look forward to working with you to come up with new ways to help bring a little light to someone's day. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, ideas or just need an ear to listen. My email is purpleseals@comcast.net and my phone number is 720-495-7773.

Loyally,
Brandi Dolan
Department Hospital Chairman

Scholarship

Greetings Auxiliary Members,

I would like to thank Department President Phil Reinbold for appointing me as the Scholarship Chair for the 2023-2024 program year. I am very eager and excited to take on this new role! I look forward to working with each and every one of you throughout this year! My number one goal for this year is REPORTING, REPORTING, REPORTING!!! We have many auxiliaries out there doing amazing things and want to make sure you are capturing what you are doing!

This is the first year that ALL REPORTING must be done ONLINE!! With that in mind, please contact me if you have any questions or need any support in submitting your online paperwork.

National Scholarship Ambassador, Tina Hicks, will be focusing on the following areas for the Scholarships Program: student participation, recipient recognition, community awareness, and increasing the Escrow Funds available for the Patriotic and 3-Dimensional Art Contests.

These are the four areas that will be included for each auxiliary, in my year-end report to National.

I will announce the promotions/awards for auxiliaries for the Scholarships Program at the Parade of Programs at the Council of Administration, on August 19-20, 2023, in Burlington, CO.

Below is a list of the contests that we need your help in promoting for this program year.

Continuing Education Scholarship Contest Deadline: Due to National Headquarters by February 15, 2024:

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest (Two-dimensional art entries) Deadline: Entries to Local Auxiliary – March 31, 2024

3-Dimensional Creative Patriotic Art Contest Deadline: Entries to Local Auxiliary – March 31, 2024

2023-2024 Patriot's Pen Essay Contest Theme: "How are You Inspired by America?" Deadline: Entries to VFW Post – Midnight, October 31, 2023

2023-2024 Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest Theme: "What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?" Deadline: Entries to VFW Post – Midnight, October 31, 2023

Applications and brochures with more information/requirements for each contest are available at vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships, in MALTA Membership Resources, or you may contact me directly for more information.

I look forward to working with you in promoting these scholarship opportunities! Remember, the best way to ensure the continuing growth and support of our organization is by continuing to support and encourage our younger generations through these scholarship opportunities.

Sincerely,
Crystal Proffitt
Department Auxiliary Scholarship Chair

TAPS

Aux 1771: Anna Aaberg
Aux 2411: Kathleen Tomlin

Please send all Deceased VFW Auxiliary Members to ann@vfwco.org for TAPS
You must also notify MALTA and Colorado Department Treasurer
They will be saved for the Joint Memorial State Convention Book
Our deadline is May 20, 2024

President's Special Project "Operation Veteran Strong"

Greetings!

A huge thank you to President Phil Reinbold for entrusting me with the honor of serving as his Special Project Chairman. Phil has chosen Operation Veteran Strong as his special project.

Operation Veteran Strong is a Colorado based non-profit set up as a useful tool just for U.S.

Veterans navigating civilian life. They (and you) can find inspiring stories from other Veterans, information on accessing benefits, helpful self-assessments, and a wide range of free, innovative and practical support services. This help to our Veterans is 100% FREE and confidential.

Here, at Operation Veteran Strong, Veterans get the tools they need to get things done. With their free, confidential account, they can connect on their own terms with: Veteran benefits, VSO contacts, outdoor recreation, employment, financial support, education, family and spouse supports, vet groups, VFW's, community support, and so much more. And most importantly both medical and non-medicalized solutions for Veterans returning to civilian life. They also specialize in mental health programs and help with Suicide Awareness.

We, as a nation, are losing our Veterans by Suicide at an average of 22 a day. This includes Veterans that are just returning home and can't cope with returning to civilian life and our World War II, Korean and Vietnam Veterans. This organization has free help for them.

For anyone who has experienced a suicide of a friend or family member, it is traumatic. This great organization also has help and resources for family members who are seeking resources to combat the many questions suicide leaves behind.

My main focus is ensuring every Post and Auxiliary member purchase a special project pin. The proceeds from these pins goes towards Phil's special project. The money that is raised this year will go to help our military and veterans in their time of need.

You can purchase these beautiful purple and teal ribbon pins, with the Auxiliary emblem in the middle. The pin's colors are from the suicide prevention ribbon. They signify hope and courage for those who have attempted suicide and remembrance for those who lost their battle. They truly represent Phil's special project that is dear and true to him – Suicide Awareness by proving "WE VALUE EVERY VETERAN."

You can order these beautiful pins by mailing an order (located in this Veteran) along with the monies to pay for the requested 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 Operation Veteran Strong.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at our Parade of Programs in Burlington, CO on August 19th & 20, 2023. We will be discussing all of the Auxiliary programs and I will have more information on the many projects of Operation Veteran Strong.

Queenie Barz
Department President's
Special Project Chairman
"Operation Veteran Strong"

2023-2024 Veteran's Pin Order Form Department of Colorado Auxiliary Presidents Special Project

"Operation Veteran Strong"

Post or Auxiliary Name and Number _____
Ship to (Name of a Person) _____
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