

# 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

November, 2023

Volume 63, Issue 2 2023 - 2024

## Veterans Day November 11th

Veterans Day (originally known as Armistice Day) is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans of the United States Armed Forces (who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable). It coincides with other holidays including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day which are commemorated in other countries that mark the anniversary of the end of World War I. Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. At the urging of major U.S. veteran organizations, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

Veterans Day is distinct from Memorial Day, a U.S. public holiday in May. Veterans Day commemorated the service of all U.S. veterans, while Memorial Day honors those who have died while in military service. Another military holiday that also occurs in May, Armed Forces Day, honors those currently serving in the U.S. military. Additionally, Women Veterans Day is recognized by a growing number of U.S. states that specifically honor women who have served in the U.S. military.

### History

On November 11, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson issued a message to his countrymen on the first Armistice Day, in which he expressed what he felt the day meant to Americans:

A year ago today our enemies laid down their arms in accordance with an armistice which rendered them impotent to renew hostilities, and gave to the world an assured opportunity to reconstruct its shattered order and to work out in peace a new and more just set of international relations. The soldiers and people of the European Allies had fought and endured for more than four years to uphold the barrier of civilization against the aggressions of armed force. We ourselves had been in the conflict something more than a year and a half.

With splendid forgetfulness of mere personal concerns, we remodeled our industries, concentrated our financial resources, increased our

agricultural output, and assembled a great army, so that at the last our power was a decisive factor in the victory. We were able to bring the vast resources, material and moral, of a great and free people to the assistance of our associates in Europe who had suffered and sacrificed without limit in the cause for which we fought.

Out of this victory there arose new possibilities of political freedom and economic concert. The war showed us the strength of great nations acting together for high purposes, and the victory of arms foretells the enduring conquests which can be made in peace when nations act justly and in furtherance of the common interests of men.

To us in America the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service, and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of nations.

The United States Congress adopted a resolution on June 4, 1926, requesting that President Calvin Coolidge issue annual proclamations calling for the observance of November 11 with appropriate ceremonies. A Congressional Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U.S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made November 11 in each year a legal holiday: "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day'".

U.S. Army and Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets march during a Veterans Day parade in Baltimore, Maryland, 2016

In 1945, World War II veteran Raymond Weeks from Birmingham, Alabama, had the idea to expand Armistice Day to celebrate all veterans, not just those who died in World War I. Weeks led a delegation to Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, who supported the idea of National Veterans Day. Weeks led the first national celebration in 1947 in Alabama and annually until his death in 1985. President Reagan honored Weeks at the White House with the Presidential

Citizenship Medal in 1982 as the driving force for the national holiday. Elizabeth Dole, who prepared the briefing for President Reagan, determined Weeks as the "Father of Veterans Day".

US Representative Ed Rees from Emporia, Kansas, presented a bill establishing the holiday through Congress. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, also from Kansas, signed the bill into law on May 26, 1954. It had been eight and a half years since Weeks held his first Armistice Day celebration for all veterans.

Congress amended the bill on June 1, 1954, replacing "Armistice" with "Veterans," and it has been known as Veterans Day since.

The National Veterans Award was also created in 1954. Congressman Rees of Kansas received the first National Veterans Award in Birmingham, Alabama, for his support in offering legislation to make Veterans Day a federal holiday.

Although originally scheduled for celebration on November 11 of every year, starting in 1971 in accordance with the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, Veterans Day was moved to the fourth Monday of October (October 25, 1971; October 23, 1972; October 22, 1973; October 28, 1974; October 27, 1975; October 25, 1976, and October 24, 1977). In 1978, it was moved back to its original celebration on November 11. While the legal holiday remains on November 11, if that date happens to be on a Saturday or Sunday, then federal government employees and a number of organizations will instead take the day off on the adjacent Friday or Monday, respectively.

### Observance

Because it is a federal holiday, some American workers and many students have Veterans Day off from work or school. When Veterans Day falls on a Saturday then either Saturday or the preceding Friday may be designated as the holiday, whereas if it falls on a Sunday it is typically observed on the following Monday. When it falls on the weekend many private companies offer it as a floating holiday where employees can choose some other day.[citation needed] A Society for Human

Resource Management poll in 2010 found that 21 percent of employers planned to observe the holiday in 2011.

Legally, two minutes of silence is recommended to be observed at 2:11pm Eastern Standard Time.

Non-essential federal government offices are closed. No mail is delivered. All federal workers are paid for the holiday; those who are required to work on the holiday sometimes receive holiday pay for that day in addition to their wages.

### Armistice Day

In his Armistice Day address to Congress, Wilson was sensitive to the psychological toll of the lean War years: "Hunger does not breed reform; it breeds madness," he remarked. As Veterans Day and the birthday of the United States Marine Corps (November 10, 1775) are only one day apart, that branch of the Armed Forces customarily observes both occasions as a 96-hour liberty period.[citation needed]

Election Day is a regular working day, while Veterans Day, which typically falls the following week, is a federal holiday. The National Commission on Federal Election Reform called for the holidays to be merged, so citizens can have a day off to vote. They state this as a way to honor voting by exercising democratic rights.

### Spelling of Veterans Day

While the holiday is commonly printed as Veteran's Day or Veterans' Day in calendars and advertisements, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs website states that the attributive (no apostrophe) rather than the possessive case is the official spelling "because it is not a day that 'belongs' to veterans, it is a day for honoring all veterans.



**Colorado VFW Recruiters as of 10/01/2023**

**NOVEMBER DISTRICT MEETINGS**

3	11/19/23 Sunday	Post No. 1771 Lafayette	11:00 am Training 12:00 noon Lunch Meeting to follow	Todd Van Sant
5	11/18/23 Saturday	Post No. 3917 Security	12:00 noon Lunch 1:00 pm Memorial Srv Meeting to follow	Carol Thomas
6	11/18/23 Saturday	Post No. 336 Ordway	11:00 am Lunch Meeting to follow	John Keene
12	11/18/23 Saturday	Post No. 4031 Durango	10:00 AM Jnt Meeting 11:30 AM Lunch Meeting to Follow	Fred Scheck
13	11/19/23 Sunday	Post No. 3411 Kit Carson	2:30 PM Meeting Snack to Follow	Carol Thomas

\*\*\*\*\*Western Conference Nov 2 – Nov 5 Salt Lake City  
 \*\*\*\*\*Veterans Day NOV 11  
 \*\*\*\*\*Thanksgiving Nov 24 (Office closed Thursday and Friday)

**DECEMBER DISTRICT MEETING**

4	12/2/23 Saturday	Post No. 3551 Brush	2:00 PM Meeting Refreshments to follow	Fred Scheck
9	12/9/23 Saturday	Post No. 5843 Meeker	12:00 Noon Meeting	John Keene

**JANUARY DISTRICT MEETINGS**

1	1/06/24 Saturday	Post No. 5061 Denver	11:00 am Luncheon VOD & PP Meeting to follow	James Sheridan
2	1/13/24 Saturday	Post No. 2788 Penrose	11:30 am Jt Meeting 12:00 noon Meal Meeting to follow	Todd Van Sant
3		Post No. 1781 Fort Collins	2:00 pm Meeting 5:00 pm Banquet Voice of Democracy Patriot's Pen & Teacher Awards	Fred Scheck
10	1/14/2024 Sunday	Post No. 7945 Thornton	11:00 am Meeting 1:00 pm VOD Luncheon	Carol Thomas
13	1/21/2024 Sunday	Post No. 9700 Cheyenne Wells	2:30 pm Meeting Snack to follow	James Sheridan

- |                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Aarron M. Himes          | Joseph E. Gile               |
| Alfred M. Riedinger III  | Joseph K. Davis              |
| Anthony Johnson*         | Joseph V. Maloney            |
| Barbara A. Green*        | Juan G. Riofrio              |
| Bruce R. Dolan           | Julianne Robertson           |
| Carol J. Thomas          | Karen Vindelov Aux member    |
| Chad A. Ryan             | Kathy Avery Aux member       |
| Christopher M. Martinez  | Keith T. Wilson              |
| Curtis E. Moss           | Lance E. Starck              |
| Damien S. Berg           | Leon F. Bartholomay          |
| Darold J. Stafford       | Leonard P. Ladue             |
| Darrell V. Armstrong Jr. | Mark A. Lyons                |
| David A. Anthony         | Mark A. Martens              |
| David L. Stone           | Mathew E. Cummings           |
| David M. Latham          | Matthew A. Lewis             |
| Dennis M. Churgovich     | Michael R. Mcclure           |
| Edward T. Heffernan      | Michael S. Gardunio          |
| Eric R. Veed             | Michelle Sheridan Aux member |
| Frank P. Lobue III       | Milo D. Cress                |
| Gerald A. Loeb           | Rebecca L. McClain*          |
| Harold R. Heriford       | Robert Cordova*              |
| Jacob R. Upchurch        | Robert Derrerra*             |
| James J. Kruse           | Robert M. Gombos             |
| James Mavity*            | Robert M. Kidd               |
| James R. Penton          | Rolando E. Rodriguez         |
| James Sheridan           | Ronald L. Brown              |
| Jay J. Kajs              | Ross K. Watkins              |
| Jeffrey Quillen*         | Russell W. Boehm             |
| Jeffrey T. Buchwalter    | Scott Adams*                 |
| Jerry D. Collins         | Scott Evans*                 |
| Jesse L. Eastburn        | Scott T. Alexander           |
| Jim Whipple              | Smokey Adams                 |
| Jimmy Ray Henson*        | Steve Kjonaas                |
| Joe M. Young             | Steven W. Larsen             |
| John C. Davis III        | Terry D. Mullins             |
| John J. Holland          | Terry J. Golden              |
| John K. Breckenridge     | Thomas J. Cruz               |
| John Keene               | Todd A. Davidson             |
| John W. Schrage          | Todd W. VanSant*             |
| Joseph Camarillo*        | Travis J. Baker              |
|                          | Wayne R. Neumann             |

**Thank You for Recruiting**

3 Auxiliary Members recruited a VFW Member  
 \* 12 VFW Members recruited an Auxiliary Member

**November VFW Roster Changes**

- Page 7  
 PATRIOTS PEN: John Grizzell, 2121, 3114 58<sup>th</sup> Ave Ct., Greeley 80634 970-459-0673
- Page 29  
 501 Ser. Off. Joseph E Gil, 1611 S Vrain St., Denver 80219 719-580-4057\
- Page 31  
 1781 Qm: Dennis L. Jensen, 1951 Mackinac St., Fort Collins 80524 970-581-3770  
 Ser. Off: Thomas A Roberts, 671 Cimarron Trl., Ault 80610 720-251-1431
- Page 32  
 2585 Ser Off: William Robards, 813 Crestone St., Johnstown 80534 303-720-9383
- Page43  
 7305 LTC Fred A. Ettleman
- Page 47  
 10649 Elizabeth 3rd Sat 9:00 am, 27534 Plainview Dr, Kiowa  
 Cmdr: Jess D Hood, 35595 Private Road 116, Agate 80101, 719-764-2375  
 Qm: Ric Morgan, P O Box 131, Elbert 80106 303-520-6088  
 Ser Off: Ric Morgan, P O Box 131, Elbert 80106 303-520-6088

**Report ALL Program Reports On-Line**  
**vfwco.org**  
**Updated the First of every Month**  
**Written Reports will not be accepted.**  
**“It is Easy”**

**COLORADO VETERAN and AUXILIARY NEWS**  
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Send address changes to:  
 VFW National Headquarters  
 406 W. 34th Street  
 Kansas City, MO 64111

Ann Mauck, auxiliary news chairman  
 vfwco.org

**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 John Keene



Comrades,

We are off to a great start this year having achieved the first membership goal set by Commander-in-Chief

Sarmiento, by exceeding 88% prior to November 1. Congratulations everyone on your efforts. Having met that goal, the Department of Colorado has earned a \$1250 recruiting bonus.

If you are interested in how we will spend those funds, I suggest all members review the Department's [Membership Program](#) on our website to see what awards can be earned. For example, at least two Recruiting Aces attended the COA in Durango last month and were reimbursed the same Per Diem as the District Commanders that were there. Furthermore, one of these Recruiting Aces is an Auxiliary member who has played an integral role in standing up the Post 12227 in Falcon. Since I recognize cross organization recruiting efforts, after Falcon Institutes their Auxiliary, I anticipate handing out even more t-shirts and inviting many members of that Post to attend the COA next March.

Speaking of COAs, thank you to all who participated in Durango. We had an excellent in-person turn out and it was great to be able to include remote

members via Zoom. The core classes and breakout sessions on Saturday were well received with a lot of positive feedback. Hopefully, we will have the recordings up on the website and members can watch them at their leisure. I'm really looking forward to seeing how many resolutions end up being submitted at the State Convention next summer.

I also want to complement our hosts, Post 4031 and their Auxiliary, on a well-run weekend. You have a beautiful Post and are doing great things in your community. Keep up the good work.

In closing, I want to remind everyone that I plan to host "Coffee with the Commander" meetups on the third Friday of every month at Post 1, 841 Santa Fe Drive, Denver, from 9 to 11 am. There will always be a virtual option as well. Check the Department Facebook page and look under "events" to find the link. I was previously the last Friday of the month but was rescheduled due to the upcoming holidays, so please make a note. I hope this will be an open forum to discuss anything on the mind of our Post and Auxiliary members, although non-members are welcome too.

Semper Fi,  
John Keene  
Department Commander



## Surgeon Column Todd Van Sant



Wow, what a year it's been as we learn and grow together in our roles. If you ever wondered if we have a great team supporting our state officers,

don't worry, we do! Thanks to all of you who have been patient and helped me learn the ropes.

Guess what? The seasons are changing, and that means holidays are coming up. This is a big deal for us in Colorado. We have individual post celebrations, the birthday of the first VFW Post, and the cool CABA airlift. Speaking of CABA, it's celebrating its 14th birthday! It's a time when we send food and toys to posts all over our state. It's also a great time to think about giving some money to CABA. You can use the Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant, which doubles every dollar you give, up to \$1,500. If

you want to learn more or help out, just get in touch with Ron Davies at 9644.

Now, about those grants! This year, there are three of them, including a new one called the Post Assistance Grant. This one can give posts up to \$2,500 to help with special projects. I bet your post could use some money for something good. You can start applying for grants by going to the VFW.ORG website here: [Grant Application Link](#).

Did you participate in the Voice of Democracy program this year? We can't wait to read the winning entries later this quarter. Also, keep an eye out for more information about the banquet happening at VFW Post 9644 on January 20th.

That's all from your State Surgeon for now. Have a fantastic and safe holiday season!

Todd Van Sant  
Department Surgeon

## Sr. Vice Column Carol Thomas



As I travel throughout the state doing visitations it is coming to light there are a lot of Posts & Auxiliaries doing great things within their communities.

The problem that I am finding is they are not submitting their community service reports so that everybody can see what a great job they are doing. Please use the Department web site. The Department Staff is working hard to keep it up to date with the information that everyone sends to them. I want to reach out to all of the Line officers in all the Posts and Districts within Colorado VFW. I know that we are doing great things. But we all need to work within the By-Laws, Manual of Procedures.

Here are a couple of the rules that everyone needs to brush up on. Post Commanders: Manual of Procedure Under Sec. 218 (a) (1) (k) Assure that the Commander or their representative attend all properly called District Conventions or meetings. District Commanders: Manual of Procedure under Sec. 418 (a)(1)(o) Serve as a member of the Department Council of Administration. By-Laws Sec 522 Council of Administration (a) Composition the District Commanders are part of the Council. With that being said, there needs to be a representative from all of the Districts at all Department Convention meetings per Sec 522 (f).

Carol Thomas  
Department Sr. Vice

## Jr. Vice Column Fred Scheck



Dear Comrades

Hope you are doing well. The Holiday season is upon us. November will bring us Thanksgiving and

December will bring us Christmas. With holidays upon us, I hope you can find it in your heart and pocketbook to donate to our National Home.

Our National Home provides housing, stability and an education to our fall-

en brothers and sisters families left behind. It also provides a stable environment for our brothers and sisters families that have fallen on hard times beyond their control. Comrades without your continued support our National Home will find it harder to help those in need.

I look forward to visiting with you at your District meeting.

Faithfully yours,  
Fred Scheck, Department Jr Vice

## Quartermaster's Column Bruce Dolan



Greetings,

I hope this finds everyone well. Especially our mountain Comrades.

There seems to be some confusion over fil-

ing claims for the Ralph Emerson/ Jack Gulden Memorial Blood/Cancer Fund reimbursement. These funds are to be used for out of pocket expenses for treatments of blood disorders or cancer treatments. You may apply once every 2 years with a maximum of 2 times for a grant of up to \$500. We must have receipts accompany the request. This also includes reimbursement for travel for gas for which a fuel receipt must be submitted. If you have any questions, please contact Headquarters at 303-421-1630, M-F 8am to 3pm.

Now is the time for Posts to clean up their rosters. Contact members you have not heard from in a while and see if they still have the same address, etc. If they are deceased, we need to remove them from the rosters as soon as possible. VFW Donor Services Department sends a message of condolence to the

family which always helps. The reason for doing this as soon as you can, there is nothing worse than to receive a sympathy card 6 to 12 months afterwards. Also, please check on older members. National now contacts a data base to find out if a member who is up there in age is still around. It is easier for the Post to do this and not find a shock when looking at memstats.

If you are member and are aware of another member moving, you need to contact a Post Officer to make the Post aware. Members have the responsibility to let the Post know their information is current. There is even a space in the Online Membership System for "snowbird" addresses. This is something new in the last few years, so if you know of someone who moves south for the winter, ask them to contact their Post so they can get communications and not have mail returned.

Looking forward to the next 250 some odd days.

Bruce Dolan  
Department Adj./Quartermaster

Please send all Deceased VFW Members to [vfw@vfwco.org](mailto:vfw@vfwco.org).

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



TAPS



Post 5231: Terry Daniels  
Post 11411: Donald P. Dupuis

### 2023 - 2024 Student Themes

**"What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy"**

**"How Are You Inspired by America"**

**DEADLINE TO DISTRICT - NOVEMBER 15, 2023**  
**DEADLINE TO DEPARTMENT - DECEMBER 15, 2023**

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

General Orders No. 2  
 November 1, 2022 Series: 2023-2024

1. Post & District Inspections should be completed by December 31, 2023. Send (1) copy to Department Headquarters for the Department Inspector to review. If he finds any irregularities, he will confer with the State Commander and a letter of recommendation will be written to the Post Commander.

2. Section 709 of the VFW National By-Laws concerns Disposition of Real Property, i.e. Post Homes. Written notice of such proposal has first to be given to each member of said unit at least ten (10) days prior to such regular or special meeting and at least 30 days to the Department Commander prior to the regular or special meeting, at which the proposal is to be considered. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval of those present and voting at such regular or special meeting.

3. It is the obligation of every member to GET OUT AND VOTE for the candidates of their choice. Take a friend or friends with you to the voting place. Election Day is November 7th and you must be registered to exercise your right to vote.

4. Section 218 (a) (11), Duty of Trustees, Trustees shall not be eligible to serve on committees or as officers whose books, records and accounts are audited by the Trustees.

Post Commanders and Post Trustees are reminded that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Post Trustee Report of Audit is due to Department Headquarters by October 25, 2023 to meet All State requirements. Please see your Post Quartermaster for forms and records.

5. Please be informed that any Post or District requesting a Department Officer to attend a VFW function should make such request in writing to the State Commander. Please allow sufficient time, at least three (3) weeks, for Department to make arrangements.

6. All VFW Posts are required to have the revised 2024-year By-Laws and Ritual books from the VFW National Emblem and Supply Department. Please see your Post Quartermaster and ask them to order for you. All members should be informed that the Post Quartermaster has a current supply catalog, and they can assist you with your order. It can also be downloaded from the National VFW website at <https://vfw.org/my-vfw-training-and-support/bylaws-training-forms-and-templates> for free.

**Colorado VFW Foundation**

Are you in a financial bind because a pipe sprung a leak? A utility bill drained your budget? Did you have an unexpected repair on a vehicle you use to get to work? Emergencies happen with no regard to your paycheck or monthly expenses.

Colorado Veteran VFW Foundation grants of up to \$500 are available to Post and Auxiliary members on a one-time basis for the purpose of meeting an essential basic need for utilities and/or health care. Grants are not made for items that are discretionary in nature ("wants"), and are made on a first come, first serve basis.

Some of the requirements have been updated. For instance, the grants are available only to Post and Auxiliary members now. You or someone authorized by you to assist can apply directly to the Department. Grant applications are available online at the Department website [vfwco.org](http://vfwco.org). Or you can call: 303-421-1630. Of course, in some cases this may be just a stopgap. When more financial help is needed, referrals to other resources are available.

Colorado VFW Foundation Board of Directors

7. An annual income tax return (Form 990) is required of each Post, or District exempt from tax under section 501 (c) 19 of the Federal Code. Starting in 2008 ALL VFW POSTS, and DISTRICTS with gross receipts of \$50,000 or less have to E-FILE, EVERY YEAR. All Posts exceeding \$50,000 in gross receipts must file on Form 990 or Form 990EZ. Forms and instructions are available from [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

Gross receipts include income from all sources, including membership dues, bar or restaurant receipts, etc. Some of this may be unrelated business income, in which case filing of Form 990-T may be required.

**Exempt organizations that are under section 501(c) and have gross receipts greater than \$50,000 but less than \$200,000 and assets less than \$500,000, may file Form 990EZ instead of Form 990.** If an organization eligible to submit the Form 990N or file the Form 990EZ chooses to file the Form 990, it must file a complete return.

This return must be filed on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the fifth month after the end of the accounting year (November 15 for June 30 year end or May 15 for calendar year end).

Request for extension of time to file may be made by submitting form 8868, Application for Extension of Time to File. If a Post, or District fails to file the return on or before the due date, or the extended date, a penalty of \$20 for each day the return is late (not to exceed the smaller of \$10,000 or 5% of the gross receipts of the organization for the year) may be imposed, unless the organization can show that the late filing was due to reasonable cause.

**If you do not file for three (3) consecutive years your Post, or District will lose their non-profit standing with IRS and have to re-apply for non-profit standing and pay to file the application.**

8. All Posts are reminded that they are responsible for filing of State Compensation Insurance, State and Federal Unemployment, State and Federal Withholding Tax and any local employee/employer tax, if you have one or more employees.

Attest:  
 Bruce R. Dolan  
 State Adjutant

By Command Of:  
 John Keene  
 State Commander

**Chaplain Column**  
**Kevin Reinhold**



Comrades,  
 We hope everyone is enjoying the remainder of the beautiful days we have before winter snows arrive. In this article I would like

to let you know that the Past National Chaplain's Deb Halter, Peter Hook, and Jim Jelks are hosting zoom training sessions. I have sent the link to all the Chaplains in our state that I have an email for. If you are a Chaplain in the state and you did not receive the link, email me and I will send it to you. I have also invited our Auxiliary to the training. Post and District Commanders are also invited. If you have any questions let me know.

Training sessions will be held every month on the third Wednesday, until May 15, 2024. The times on this column are Mountain Time.

September 20, 2023	6:30 PM, MNT
October 18, 2023	6:30 PM, MNT
November 15, 2023	6:30 PM, MNT
January 17, 2024	6:30 PM, MNT
February 21, 2024	6:30 PM, MNT
March 20, 2024	6:30 PM, MNT
April 17, 2024	6:30 PM, MNT
May 15, 2024	6:30 PM, MNT

Join Zoom Meeting with this link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337342658?pwd=bVI4RUMyNi9HUEYvckFJZk43V-3VkZz09>

The Role and responsibility of a District Chaplain: Manual of Procedure, page 84 states, "During the annual District Convention, the District Chaplain shall see that a fitting tribute is paid to our departed comrades. The Chaplain shall perform such other duties as may be incident to the office or as may from time to time be required

**Flag Etiquette**

The American flag has a long history, and the members of our organization have spent nearly as long defending and honoring our nation's most iconic symbol of freedom. Whether you're looking for the historic details of how the U.S. flag came to be, or the rules and regulations that encompass her daily flight, we're here to ensure you can find the information you need.

**Displaying the Flag**

On Same Staff  
 U.S. flag at peak, above any other flag.

**Grouped**

U.S. flag goes to its own right. Flags of other nations are flown at same height.

**Marching**

U.S. flag to marchers right (observer's left).

**On Speaker's Platform**

When displayed with a speaker's platform, it must be above and behind the speaker. If mounted on a staff it is on the speaker's right.

**Decoration**

Never use the flag for decoration. Use bunting with the blue on top, then white, then red.

**Salute**

All persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the armed forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons

by the laws and usage of this organization or lawful orders from proper authority."

The District Chaplain should take the lead and reach-out and attempt to establish a collaborative relationship with each of the Post Chaplains within their district. Developing relationships takes time. Begin by calling each Post Chaplain in your district. Be genuine and honest. First introduce yourself and then explain that you recently learned that as District Chaplain you want to make yourself available to support and help them, if and when they may need it. Ask them how they are doing and try to find out how they view their role and responsibility as a Post Chaplain.

- Be available to answer questions and provide advice when appropriate.
- Help them become familiar with the resources that are available at [vfwpa.org](http://vfwpa.org).
- Respond to e-mails and texts in a timely fashion when questions are asked.
- Encourage them to attend the district meeting and set a time to meet with them.

In almost every organization, and particularly within the Veterans of Foreign Wars, those in leadership positions are expected to work with those under them to provide support and encouragement, serving as their "coach" or "mentor."

Have a blessed and safe Holiday season.

"Doing our Lord's Work for All Veterans"

Kevin Reinhold  
 Department Chaplain  
 (719) 425-0807  
[chaplainreinhold@yahoo.com](mailto:chaplainreinhold@yahoo.com)

present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.

Over a Street Union (stars) face north or east depending on the direction of the street.

**Half Staff**

On special days, the flag may be flown at half-staff. On Memorial Day it is flown at half-staff until noon and then raised.

**Special Rules**

- Do not let the flag touch the ground.
- Do not fly flag upside down unless there is an emergency.
- Do not carry the flag flat, or carry things in it.
- Do not use the flag as clothing.
- Do not store the flag where it can get dirty.
- Do not use it as a cover.
- Do not fasten it or tie it back. Always allow it to fall free.
- Do not draw on, or otherwise mark the flag.

**Illumination Guidelines**

Per Federal Flag Code, Section 2, paragraph (a), it is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaves in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.

**VFW Post Membership by District as of Oct 30, 2023**

Number/ City	2023	2024	%	Number/City	2023	2024	%
<b>DISTRICT #1</b>							
1 Denver	925	792	86	<b>DISTRICT #8</b>			
501 Denver	255	217	85	859 Leadville	27	21	78
5061 Denver	249	204	82	1166 Buena Vista	111	98	88
TOTAL	1429	1213	85%	3820 Salida	68	60	88
<b>DISTRICT #2</b>							
2788 Penrose	104	77	74	8661 Bailey	111	99	89
3641 Pueblo	82	69	84	10721 Minturn	109	89	82
4061 Canon City	243	202	83	11411 Lake George	43	42	98
5812 Pueblo West	188	178	95	12009 Conifer	109	104	95
7305 Colo. City	46	41	89	TOTAL	578	513	89%
8898 Boone	37	38	103*	<b>DISTRICT #9</b>			
12063 Westcliffe	56	50	89	4264 Steambt Spgs	87	78	90
TOTAL	756	655	87%	4265 Craig	95	88	93
<b>DISTRICT #3</b>							
41 Loveland	275	244	89	5261 Rangely	20	15	75
807 Boulder	30	28	93	5843 Meeker	41	37	90
1771 Lafayette	224	201	90	9374 Kremmling	26	24	92
1781 Ft. Collins	287	243	85	TOTAL	269	242	90%
2121 Greeley	160	139	87	<b>DISTRICT #10</b>			
2585 Johnstown	175	149	85	322 Englewood	98	81	83
2601 Longmont	290	256	88	3471 Morrison	64	57	89
4334 Ault	66	53	80	3631 Aurora	280	253	90
6624 Evans	203	182	90	4171 Golden	373	338	91
9565 Broomfield	93	76	82	4266 Parker	77	71	92
12174 Brighton	33	28	85	4331 Arvada	221	207	94
12189 Berthoud	39	36	92	4444 Cmmrc Cty	157	148	94
TOTAL	1875	1635	87%	4666 Littleton	113	97	86
<b>DISTRICT #4</b>							
2551 Ft. Morgan	147	128	87	7563 Black Hawk	32	24	75
3378 Yuma	51	48	94	7945 Thornton	266	245	92
3541 Sterling	75	67	89	8449 Bennett	39	30	77
3551 Brush	39	33	85	9644 Fort Logan	395	342	87
4671 Wray	50	41	82	TOTAL	2115	2893	90%
6482 Holyoke	35	27	77	<b>DISTRICT #11</b>			
7153 Fleming	13	12	92	784 Montrose	118	109	92
8064 Akron	52	37	71	1247 Grnd Jnctn	203	186	92
12226 Sterling	0	20	0	3571 Delta	45	34	76
TOTAL	462	413	89%	3981 Grnd Jnctn	142	131	92
<b>DISTRICT #5</b>							
101 Colo. Spgs.	442	412	93	4663 Clifton	45	42	93
3917 Security	512	467	91	5485 Parachute	34	31	91
4051 Colo. Spgs	502	454	90	9221 Cedaredge	94	78	83
5221 Calhan	86	76	88	9304 Rifle	21	18	86
6051 Wdln Park	41	39	95	TOTAL	702	629	90%
6461 Fountain	360	309	86	<b>DISTRICT #12</b>			
7829 Monument	140	128	91	4031 Durango	254	213	84
10649 Elizabeth	31	28	90	4181 Dove Creek	41	35	85
12227 Falcon	0	11	0	5231 Cortez	176	176	100*
TOTAL	2114	1924	91%	9058 Nucla	28	24	86
<b>DISTRICT #6</b>							
336 Ordway	67	63	94	TOTAL	499	448	90%
2411 LasAnimas	65	60	92	<b>DISTRICT #13</b>			
4001 Springfield	26	19	73	3411 Kit Carson	20	19	95
4281 Holly	23	23	100*	6491 Burlington	54	47	87
TOTAL	181	165	91%	6612 Hugo	29	22	76
<b>DISTRICT #7</b>							
899 Alamosa	74	64	86	9700 Chynn Wlls	23	20	87
4849 La Jara	43	40	93	TOTAL	126	108	86%
6101 San Luis	46	40	87	15006 MAL	2658	2289	86%
8121 Del Norte	38	34	89	<b>TOTAL DEPT</b>	<b>13965</b>	<b>12305</b>	<b>88%</b>
TOTAL	201	178	89%	<b>2024 dues are now DUE</b>			
<b>Be 100% +1 in 2023-2024</b>							
<b>Help Colorado be 100%+</b>							



**VFW POST #12227 FALCON WAS INSTITUTED OCTOBER 28, 2023  
BY DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN KEENE AND VFW OFFICERS**



State Jr. Vice Commander Fred Scheck, and Jr Vice Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore at Denver VA. Carol was the National Rep. for Burlington Council Meeting, October 22nd. Fred met her at DIA and drove to and from Burlington.



State Surgeon Todd Van Sant presented a Donation Check to Spanish Peaks CLC, Walsenburg. As Surgeon Todd visits all the Colorado Community Living Centers and presents a check for Resident needs. Thank You Todd.



PDC Geraldine Rimpley, State Commander John Keene presenting VFW Post #4061 Canon City their All American Award.



National Jr Vice Commander Carol Whitmore and State Commander John Keene presenting VFW Post #3917 with their 2022-2023 National Outstanding Community Service Award.



VFW Post 9644 participated in the Sheridan Celebration Festival, September 30th. "Medieval Magic" was the Theme this year. Both Post and Auxiliary members rode on the float. Rachel Rodgers, Auxiliary Jr. Vice and Todd Van Sant, Commander completed Auxiliary Outreach by assisting and volunteering with the festival. Rachel was the Ambassador to the Queen and Grand Marshal of the parade. Todd helped with coordinating the booths with loading in and out for multiple vendors and also a Judge for the Grand Parade.

## VFW Buddy Poppy - National Home for Children

### Buddy Poppy

Hope everyone is getting ready for Veterans Day and have your Buddy Poppy ideas ready. Now is the time to be talking to businesses to see if you can set window displays or have a table outside of their business. I also want to see those poppy reports coming in, and I know that all of you are out there working hard. Remember, keep a couple Buddy Poppies in your pocket, or purse, and give it to a veteran, or buy them a cup of coffee and put a Buddy Poppy with it. You also need to be thinking about what kind of display your going to have for state convention in June. Let's have more than just a few displays this year because I know that you guys are talented and creative. Oh, and don't forget to order your Buddy Poppies for the year.

### National Home

With the holidays coming, it's time to be thinking about how you can help

support the National Home. There are many ways to support them, and one of the best ways is to use Amazon Smiles. When you order anything on Amazon Smiles, choose National Home as your charity, and 0.5% of your eligible purchase is donated to them. Another good idea to raise money would be to hand out baby bottles to each of your Auxiliaries. Have them put them on the bar so that they can put change in them or pass them around at your meeting and they can put money in them then. This is just a couple of ideas for your Auxiliaries to try. Remember also, there is also a Santa's wish list listed on their website. Those are items they can always use for the families in the different homes. Good luck with your fundraising and I will see all of you at the next COA.

Patty Rowley-Wilson  
Department Buddy Poppy/  
National Home Chairman

## Please Note

There are two (2) NEW Buddy Poppy Order Forms on the Colorado Web Site.

- One order form is for the Traditional Red Cloth Poppy.
- One order form is for the NEW TIN RED METAL POPPY, that is available.

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.

VFW will get credit for their Poppy Order.  
Auxiliary will get credit for their Poppy Order.



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



Please use the New Order Forms

## Veterans and Family Support

Greetings Auxiliary Sisters, Brothers, Post members and all others reading this, can you believe it is November?

Time for the cooler weather, sweaters, warm blankets and yes for the pumpkin lovers, it is that time. Let us not forget it is also a great time to check on your neighbor, friend, comrade, your family or even a stranger on the street or in the store. We truly never know what someone is going through and a kind gesture towards someone could amazingly be what they need. A kind word costs you zero dollars and yet so many people are not willing to give them.

Please remember, we are focusing on Suicide Awareness and Mental Health of our veterans. Our veterans gave so much for us, selfishly at that, let's give back by checking on them as we come into the holiday season, a season of sadness for many.

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.

I am receiving a lot of reports for the wonderful activities, donations, projects we do supporting our veterans. Please remember to report the number of people your coffee hours, clothing drives, bingo games, etc. are assisting. Let's give National a phenomenal number of veterans that Colorado assists.

Continue doing a great job of sup-

porting all our Veterans and Family Support programs such as National Veterans Service (NVS), Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs, VFW "Sports Clips" Help a Hero Scholarship program, Our Women Veterans, and Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness.

There are tons of information on each of these programs on the national website [VFWAuxiliary.org](http://VFWAuxiliary.org). Click on "What we do", scroll down to Veterans and Family Support. Some great ideas. This is also where you would find Auxiliary National Website Resources. When reporting if you noticed it asked if you used it, if you go on and use something from there, you can report.

Thank you for all you do for our veterans. Please remember if you need anything or have a question you can always reach out to me, email is always the best way.

As we are **Banding Together for Our Veterans**, let us remember **We Value Every Veteran** and do all we can to help each one of our veterans, especially in their time of need. Colorado let's take a stand and change the stigma of mental health.

Happiest of the holiday season to each one of you! I look forward to seeing you in 2024.

Brigitte Dolan  
Department Veterans and Family  
Support Chairman

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



A sincere thank you to all of my Auxiliary teammates that have joined with such energy and support as I have begun my year as President.

Your continued support and hard work will make this a successful year for us all. We do have many hills yet to climb and issues to solve, but with your help, I have no doubt that we will conquer most of the problems that we face. I have been blessed with a dedicated team of mentors and individual mentors who are even now working to assist several Auxiliaries with issues and problems that they are encountering. This effort has benefited several Auxiliaries already. If you have issues or just questions regarding a situation you may be facing, or you require additional information to help you more effectively conduct the affairs of your Auxiliary, reach out for answers. If you are not getting the help that you need from one source, go somewhere else in our chain. We are all here to assist one another; let's get our Auxiliaries and Districts working smoothly. Solve the issues and petty grievances that you can, but don't keep problems to yourself; if we don't know about them, we can't fix them. When we have our issues corrected, we can be more effective in our real mission – supporting and giving aid to our veterans and their families.

I think everyone knows that my mission this year is to increase Suicide / Depression Awareness and to work actively to aid our Veterans with Suicide Prevention by giving them the tools to combat these events in their 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 in life, and pledge to help them transition into their new life. We want to be there when they are at low points (and high points) in their lives and help them to realize how valuable they are to their fellow comrades, auxiliary teammates, and to their family. Be there when you can see

that someone is suffering or having difficulty dealing with things – reach out if you need assistance, but don't let someone's issues become critical. Let them know that you are there for them, that they are not alone.

You are busy working the Programs for the benefit of our Veterans and their families and I have seen some pretty exciting, valuable and fun events that you are hosting. All of our Programs and events are important – join in and give your energies to the cause that you value the most!

Our programs are the meat and potatoes of what we do to support and give aid to the Veteran community – please get involved if you are not already. Send us photos and stories of your events so that we can share your successes with all of our other members.

Several Districts and Auxiliaries have started to offer training during their meetings, and I am very pleased about that. Remember, training does not have to be long or complex – anything that you think could be valuable for the Auxiliary or its members is a candidate for a short and informative (5-10 minute) training session. Appoint a member (or ask if they would be willing) to give instruction on an interesting topic at the next meeting, then have a brief discussion afterward. This could be mentoring at its best for all of us!

The next Convention is June 2024 and will be the 100<sup>th</sup> Convention for the Auxiliary in Colorado. I plan to highlight and celebrate this exciting milestone over the next year. Please, if you have some interesting memorabilia (Auxiliary uniforms and records, photos, newspaper history pieces, etc.) that you think would be great to display, contact me and I will include this in our tribute to the Colorado Auxiliary. We will assure the safety of your items.

Thank you again for all that you do and for being such a great group to work with!

Phil Reinpold  
Department President

## Roster Corrections

- Page 1: Sr. Vice President Nadia Flores phone 719-849-9428
- Page 7: Parliamentarian email should be [jmtsadler51@gmail.com](mailto:jmtsadler51@gmail.com)
- Page 12: Change District 6 Treasurer to Patricia Gonzales (2411) 719-456-0532, PO Box 156, Las Animas, CO 81054, no email
- Page 17: Aux 101 Treasurer phone should be 719-244-2228
- Page 19: Aux 501 meeting time changed to 4:00 PM
- Page 35: 6461 Treasurer email should be [romero.rosalene19@gmail.com](mailto:romero.rosalene19@gmail.com)
- Page 39: 9644 President email should be [johnpwhisler@yahoo.com](mailto:johnpwhisler@yahoo.com)
- Page 45: Helen Lenehan - Room number 218

## Mentoring for Leadership

I hope everyone enjoyed the fall colors and I want to wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving.

In July I sent out a questionnaire to all Auxiliary and District Presidents with a new member form. I was hoping to get some questions back in regards to how you felt when you first joined the VFW Auxiliary. However, I only received 6 back and one was more of a statement rather than a question. I am glad that you have found someone in your Auxiliary that you can ask those questions of.

At the Parade of Programs in August we had a fun "Rock and Roll" handout. Did you get them right? If not, here are the answers:

Row A1 – Elvis Presley  
Row A2 – Eric Clapton  
Row A3 – Jimmie Hedricks  
Row A4 – Our State Commander, John Keene

Row B1 – Sonny & Cher  
Row B2 – The Beatles  
Row B3 – Kris Kristopherson and Barbara Streisand  
Row B4 – The Beach Boys

Row C1 – Mama Cass  
Row C2 – Aretha Franklin  
Row C3 – Janet Jackson  
Row C4 – Brenda Lee

Row D1 – Our State President, Phil Reinpold  
Row D2 – Dick Clark  
Row D3 – Johnny Cash  
Row D4 – James Brown

Bonus Question – Alan Freed

It was fun to hear – "Oh my, I wasn't even alive with some of these people." I haven't sent out any more emails but had more handouts at the Parade of Programs in Durango. The person with the most correct was Brigitte Dolan and the funniest answers was Janna Kjonaas. Please keep up the good work of mentoring our new members and treating all with respect.

Yours in sisterhood,  
Ginny Rosa  
Department Mentoring for Leadership  
=

## Ralph Emerson Jack Gulden Memorial Blood/Cancer Fund

You haven't been feeling like yourself or you are going for your annual checkup or you have found something somewhere that shouldn't be there. Sounds pretty routine until you get the diagnosis that you have Cancer. Doesn't make any difference what kind, what stage, where it is, your age. You have Cancer! Now the change in your life and pocketbook starts.

It has been said that insurance pays the bills. If you are very lucky that may be true. Many of us have private insurance or Medicare Advantage that have an out of pocket yearly maximum or copays which can be substantial for the average person. No one has a Cancer savings account.

The Ralph Emerson Jack Gulden Memorial Blood/Cancer Fund can help with the expenses, OUT OF POCKET, paid by our Colorado VFW and VFW Auxiliary members. What are some of the expenses covered:

Over the counter medications to have at home for reaction to treatment or to take prior to treatment. Your doctor will give you what to have on hand at home. **Keep Your Receipts and be prepared to provide an explanation**

Gas Receipts to get to chemotherapy, radiation etc. Gas is expensive. Trips to the infusion center or radiation center can be expensive especially if you have multiple trips in a week or multiple weeks of treatment. There are other tests, procedures your doctor will want throughout your treatment to monitor your Cancer. **Keep Your Receipts**

Copays for doctor visits, prescriptions, lab work (blood draws), imaging scans, chemotherapy, radiation, other procedures ordered by your doctor to treat your Cancer. **Keep Your Receipts**  
Maximum yearly out of pocket expenses. You must pay this before everything for treatment is 100% covered by insurance.

**Keep Your Receipt**  
**ANYTIME YOU WRITE A CHECK OR USE A CREDIT CARD OR CASH TO PAY FOR A CANCER TREATMENT EXPENSE KEEP THE RECEIPTS. CANCER IS EXPENSIVE!**

The Ralph Emerson Jack Gulden Memorial Blood/Cancer Fund will reimburse up to \$500.00 for your out of pocket expenses, twice in your lifetime, twelve months apart.

Your responsibility is to follow the policy and application form found on the VFW Department of Colorado website.

VFW Commanders and VFW Auxiliary Presidents please provide this information to your membership. Help them apply for their grant and support the Ralph Emerson Jack Gulden Memorial Blood/Cancer Fund with your contributions. Members of Lambert Wright Roy VFW Post 8661, Ralph a Korean War Veteran and Jack a Vietnam War Veteran both passed from cancer. Your support is vital to helping current members and honoring those who came before.

**Thank you for all you do!**

Ruth Gulden  
Past Department President

**Ralph Emerson / Jack Gulden Memorial Fund**

**Open to Colorado VFW and VFW Auxiliary Members Only**

## Auxiliary Outreach

Greetings all my Auxiliary friends!

I don't know about you – but Fall is one of my favorite seasons! I love the fall colors, the smell of cinnamon, pumpkins on the porches, the cool mornings and evenings. Along with Fall coming now, that means the holidays are upon us. And now is the time to reach out to the several non-profit organizations in your area and help them with their activities.

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 re-member 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 wherein 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.

In our area, most organizations plan things spontaneously – so make a blanket motion that your Auxiliary can help other organizations. It seems that the call for help always comes after our meeting and without the motion, we can help but not get credit for it, so plan ahead with a blanket motion.

### Suggestions for VFW Auxiliary Outreach

- Join with the local Lion's Club and volunteer at their Halloween Carnival or Christmas Party for the youth of your community
- Serve food at soup kitchens or distribute food at food banks/cupboards.

### VFW Auxiliary Outreach Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q.: Every year my Auxiliary participates in a walk in our area that raises awareness about suicide prevention. Members walk in the event and donate \$100 to the organization. Can the number of hours and members who walked in the event count toward Auxiliary Outreach?

A.: This is a great team-building activity for your Auxiliary, however, walking or running in an event/race may not be reported under Auxiliary Outreach. This example may be reported under Veterans & Family Support as that's where Veteran & Military Suicide Awareness and Prevention falls.

2. Q.: Members of a local Auxiliary were asked to sit on their county board to help raise money and volunteer to work at a dedication of a memorial that honors veterans. Since it was not a VFW- or VFW Auxiliary-sponsored event, can this be reported under Auxiliary Outreach?

A.: No, it cannot be reported under Auxiliary Outreach. It's for veterans and the betterment of the community, therefore, it should be reported under Americanism.

3. Q.: A few of the ways listed to participate in Auxiliary Outreach involve youth. Wouldn't this be reported under the Auxiliary's Youth Activities Program?

A.: It depends on the project. For example, if you are putting on a patriotic program at a school with your Auxiliary, that is reported under Americanism and/or Youth Activities. If your Auxiliary volunteers with the Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts to teach them the Folds of the Flag, that is reported under Americanism and/or Youth Activities. If your Auxiliary partners at the Boys & Girls Club to tutor a group of kids, that is reported under Auxiliary Outreach.

4. Q.: Our Auxiliary purchases and delivers turkeys for a food pantry every Thanksgiving. Does this get reported under Auxiliary Outreach?

A.: No, it does not. Dropping off turkeys for a Thanksgiving meal is not the same as volunteering time in the food pantry organizing food, serving meals, bussing tables, etc.

5. Q.: Our Auxiliary partners with another organization to host a sock collection at our local Walmart. Does this qualify as Auxiliary Outreach?

A.: It depends. If you stay and man the collection, then yes. If you drop off a collection bin and leave, then no.

**If you are unsure of whether your project will count toward the Auxiliary Outreach Program, contact your Department Chairman with your questions.**

- Assist local youth activities and at senior centers.
- Help during your local town or city during elections but remain non-partisan.
- Partnerships can be a single day event or ongoing events throughout the year.

### Benefits of the Auxiliary Outreach Program

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

### 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.

### Keys to making your Auxiliary Outreach Program successful

- Find organizations that need your help.
- 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 [qbarz@hotmail.com](mailto:qbarz@hotmail.com) or by phone 970-749-9320. If I don't answer, please leave me a message and I will return your call.

Good luck with all the activities in your communities.

Queenie Barz  
Department Outreach Chairman

## Americanism

"Fall" into the Autumn life in Colorful Colorado! We have our days changing: less sunlight, leaves changing color – golden aspen telling us trees going dormant and gardens ending their harvest products. Does it amaze you when you "fall" into a really cool find traveling around our great state? That happened to me during the travels with our National Aux. President, Carla Martinez, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. Our Dept. VFW Aux. President, Phil Reinpold chose to show Carla and all traveling with her a highlight in Pueblo. Along the Pueblo river walk is the Center for American Values. It holds an awesome collection of pictures and stories of many Congressional Medal of Honor recipients.

As I listened to the presentation, watched the videos, walked along the room reading and looking at many of our USA heroes, I was in awe. I learned about extraordinary military heroes who did incredible feats during so many wars and conflicts of our nation's history. This is the Americanism, we as the VFW Aux. must share with our communities, our students and to our veterans and their families.

Where are your American heroes in your city or town? Seek them out, hear their stories and invite them to share their stories in your posts or schools, or at community events. Patriotism is Contagious! Keep alive the belief that "Ordinary Americans will always step forward to defend freedom and protect our liberties." Alfred V. Rascon, US Army, WWII, Medal of Honor recipient.

October brings many events exclusive to this month, October Fests, German Food Dinners, Trunk or Treats, Halloween parties, Craft/Bake sales. Highlight your love of country. Put your patriotism on display. Visit and participate in your community's high schools and colleges. Does your college or university have an SVA (Student Veterans of America) charter on campus? Do some shared events, take food/snacks, visit with our ROTCs and student veterans. Show your patriotism by how supportive you are to them and their families.

Touring the Center of American Values, seeing those pictures name, branch of service, conflict or war they

served in fills you with admiration for all who served in our USA military. I found a new display in Pueblo honoring love of country and the importance of sharing and remembering their stories. What, in your community, will you put a spotlight on, honoring these men and women?

"I always remember the day I took the oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. That really meant a lot to me." John W. Finn, US Navy, Medal of Honor.

"When something needs to be done, push ahead and overcome all obstacles because there is always a way." Jay Zeamer, Jr. US Army Air Corp., Medal of Honor recipient.

"As a 6 year prisoner of war, I learned that freedom is our most important commodity. We keep it through personal responsibility. Freedom is the flipside of responsibility." Leo Thorsness, US Air Force, Medal of Honor recipient.

"There is only one way to go; full speed ahead for God and Country." Joseph J. Foss, US Marine, Medal of Honor recipient.

The only US Coast Guard recipient of the Medal of Honor, is Signalman Douglass Munro, 1942, Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. His last words were, "Did they get off?" He was told, yes. He smiled, then died.

After Munro's death, his mother wanted to join the Coast Guard female auxiliary, SPARS (Semper Paratus, Always Ready.) She was commissioned as an officer. She insisted on completing basic training at age 48. She successfully completed this training and became the 1<sup>st</sup> female officer on a Coast Guard District Staff.

"Freedom, patriotism and choice are your inalienable rights given to us by the sacrifices of the men and women who serve in the armed forces. In wartime, ordinary Americans will always step forward to defend freedom and protect our liberties." Alfred V. Rascon, US Army, Medal of Honor recipient.

Honor our veterans in all your auxiliary activities! I am here to help, encourage and support you this Aux. year. Call, text, mail to me, email me.

See you all at COA in Durango, CO.

Marilyn Peters  
Department Americanism Chairman



## Historian / Media Relations

To All Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters, Happy Fall!

I hope you are all getting prepared for all your exciting events, fundraisers and helping your communities. I have seen so many exciting posts and events on social media thus far. Y'all are rocking it! Keep up the magnificent work in your Auxiliary. Again, I want to express that it does not go unnoticed even if you are not chosen to do social media currently. Whatever method that is working well for your Auxiliary, keep doing it and just have some fun!

However, if you do want to learn more about the media aspect and how incorporate it into your Aux, then please reach out to me or a different auxiliary to brainstorm some creative ideas for your social media platforms. If your Historian cannot capture all the events, see if a

member is willing to take some pictures for you. Capture special memories and activities through photos, videos, and reels. Also, share the National or Dept FB post.

Always remember the VFW Auxiliary has strived to improve the lives and wellbeing of veteran service members and their families. Let us show them through ACTION!

Please email me anything from your Auxiliary that you would like to be shared to on our Department FB page, I am available to all Auxiliaries for any help, suggestions, questions, or concerns. My contact information is in the Auxiliary Roster.

Respectfully,  
Karrie Grizzell  
Department Historian/Media Relations



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO  
GENERAL ORDERS #2 November 1, 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. Presidents on all levels** are reminded that their duties in accordance with Section 810 of the National Bylaws are to preside and maintain order and enforce a strict observance of the Bylaws and ritual of the organization, appoint all officers and committees not otherwise provided for, see that there is no disruption during the meeting and if so, has the right to have the member causing the disruption removed.

**2. Members should address** all remarks to the President, not to other members in attendance. Members should stand and be recognized by the President and, if two stand at the same time, the President will decide who is recognized first.

**3. No member** will disrespect or embarrass any member of this organization at any time.

**4. Department President Phil Reinbold's Special Project** is Operation Veteran Strong. Proceeds from the sale of the Veteran Pin and donations will go to support this fund.

**5. Suggested donations** to Health & Happiness should be processed through MALTA or mailed directly to National Auxiliary Headquarters in Kansas City earmarked for Health and Happiness. Department Hospital donations should be mailed to Department Treasurer Lennie Dolan. The suggested Department Hospital donation is \$.75 per member. Both donations are based on your June 30, 2023, membership number.

**6. District Presidents and Auxiliary Presidents:** Please be sure that all Districts and Auxiliaries have filed their 990N or other appropriate 990 return by November 15, 2023. A copy of the acceptance confirmation for the 990N should be sent to Department Treasurer, Lennie Dolan.

**7. Standing Rules:** In accordance with Section 211 of the National Bylaws, Auxiliaries and Districts may establish Standing Rules to provide for specified operations, activities, events, expenses, and disbursements between meetings provided such rules do not conflict with the National or Department Bylaws. Standing Rules should be reviewed annually.

**8. VOD and Patriot Pen Entries** are due to the Post/Auxiliaries by October 31, 2023. Judging of these entries at the Post/Auxiliary level should be completed by November 15 and the results forwarded to the District. Judging at the District level should be completed, and winners forwarded to Department by December 15, 2023.

**9. Change in Officers:** Using the Officer Change Form, please notify National Headquarters and Department Secretary Cindy Anderson of any changes in Auxiliary or District Officers. The above should also be notified of any changes of meeting dates, places, times,

and dues amounts. This form is available on the Colorado Department website at [www.vfwco.org](http://www.vfwco.org).

**10. District and Auxiliary Officers:** All officers must hold a 2024 dues card or life dues card by December 31, 2023. Any officer or chairman who has not renewed their membership ceases to be a member in good standing on January 1, 2024, and cannot hold an office or chairmanship unless dues are paid.

**11. Buddy Poppy Orders:** Please place your orders for the new Metal Poppy and the Original Red Cloth Poppy with the Department of Colorado VFW, 1400 Carr Street, Lakewood CO 80214. The minimum order is 500 poppies. If the Auxiliary and Post order together, be sure to note on the order form the amount purchased by each. There are now two Poppy Order forms that can be found on the Department website at [www.vfwco.org](http://www.vfwco.org) and in the Colorado Program Book. Please be sure to use the correct form for the style you are ordering. Poppies can be ordered by the Auxiliaries but must include a VFW members membership number on the order. You must include freight in your payment as required per the order form.

**12. Special Events:** Please notify Department Secretary Cindy Anderson of an upcoming special event or celebration so that the Department and District Officers may attend if available.

**13. Auxiliary Treasurers:** Membership Chairman Lucille Chavez asks that you please process 2024 dues for continuous members at least weekly. Send all new, rejoin and transfer applications to the Department Treasurer as soon as they have been accepted. Be sure that all applications are filled out and include the signatures of the investigating committee and the date elected.

**14. District and Auxiliary Treasurers and Trustees:** The second quarter audit for the period July 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023, should be completed by October 31. The audit must be accepted by motion within 60 days after the end of the quarter and a copy sent to the Department Treasurer.

**15. District Dues** are to be remitted to the District Treasurer by September 30, 2023, of the current Auxiliary year or as established by the District Standing Rules based on the June 30 membership of the preceding year.

**16. A Special Thank You** to all of those who attended the Parade of Programs. The Program Chairmen did an exceptional job of promoting their programs and in providing information. Also, a special thank you to the Council Members and Auxiliary members who attended the Council Meeting on August 20, 2023. Remember that all members are encouraged to attend these events.

BY ORDER OF:  
Phil Reinbold  
Department President

ATTESTED TO:  
Cindy Anderson  
Department Secretary

## Chief of Staff - Extension & Revitalization

Thank you to the Districts and Auxiliaries for Election of Officers and your installation reports by June 30 and your Bonds by August 31. You are on the way to meeting the 5 Essentials for a Healthy Auxiliary. Please keep your Audits up-to-date, 10 business meetings per year and minimum of 10 paid members by February 1, 2024.

As we continue through the year and work for this great organization, let's remember to share our knowledge and experiences among each other, encourage our members to be actively involved to have a better understanding of how we support our Veterans and families, and work together in a cohesive manner. Also, learn about our traditions, Bylaws and rituals to further increase your knowledge. An excellent resource is the "Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation" to educate members and officers. A few subjects to mention are programs, officer duties, and Standing Rules. It is full of great information and can help strengthen the Auxiliary.

We can revitalize and rejuvenate our Auxiliaries by remembering to be kind, honest, listening, encouraging, being respectful, giving compliments, learning how to effectively deal with different personalities, having faith in each other, being open to learning from others and using our own unique abilities so our organization may become even stronger to attain our mission. Remember "None of us is as smart as all of us." –

Ken Blanchard and "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller.

A new Auxiliary has been approved by National Auxiliary – Boone #8898 in Boone, CO and it should be chartered by the end of October. We are looking forward to welcoming them! We are also working with several other Posts that may have a new Auxiliary to become instituted sometime during the year. Thank you to the Posts who are wanting to welcome an Auxiliary.

Please remember to acknowledge and recognize those members who volunteer for the organization. This can be done through Good Job Awards, Auxiliary Certificates, special award ceremonies at the Auxiliary meeting to mention a few ideas. Also, for those that cannot be members but help as advocates for the Auxiliary throughout the year this can be a great opportunity to build relationships in the community.

To all members, thank you for supporting our mission to our Veterans and their families. By working together in a positive way and as a team we can accomplish so much!

Please feel free to contact me at any time. Remember – **"We Value Every Veteran"** and we are **"Banding Together for Our Veterans"**.

Linda Reinbold  
Department Chief of Staff – Extension & Revitalization

## Youth Program

Hello Auxiliary brothers and sisters,

I hope this finds you well and you're all enjoying the fall season and the cooler weather. It's hard to believe we're heading into the holiday season. Wasn't it just yesterday we were making summer plans?

As we continue into the program year, please continue to support our 4 main youth programs.

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

**Get excited for the Red, White, and Blue** – consider putting out social media posts to encourage youth to participate. Head to Malta and the Youth Activities link under the Member Resources section for suggested posts.

**Illustrating America** – are your kids or grandkids budding artists? If so, encourage them to participate in the Illustrating America Art contest. For an info sheet and entry application head to Malta and the Youth Activities link under the Member Resources section.

The 4 main program areas are not the only way to work with our youth. Now that school is back in session, many older students are tasked with selling items to help achieve goals set out for them in groups such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, basketball, football or baseball teams, marching bands, school choirs, dance students—so many youth activities that we can help. Did you know that purchasing just one box of Girl Scout cookies results in a portion of the cost being given back to that scout for camp? Purchasing a discount food card from youth teams helps them to purchase much needed safety

equipment or uniforms. Parents and other individuals working in marching band concession stands during football games also help with transportation costs, uniforms, and other needed items for competitions. So, let's think about the many ways that we can help our older youth.

Also, with schools in session it brings our attention to much needed school supplies, not only by our youth but our teachers; teachers are having to spend their own dollars for items needed in their classrooms. Could your Auxiliary help in any way? Ever thought of adopting a classroom? Obviously, you will want to talk with a teacher to determine if she/he would like that assistance, however, I doubt you will be turned down. Teachers truly appreciate any assistance with supplies which would help their students learn during the school year. Adopting a classroom could also help you in getting our Patriotism Through Literacy started which could lead to other teachers wanting assistance in their classrooms. The younger elementary youth have designated reading time and you could volunteer by reading to them a book on patriotism and then donating that book to the teacher classroom library or the school library.

I am looking forward to hearing about the creative ways you are helping our youth so keep up the great work!

I am available through email and phone 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!

Respectfully,  
Kristi Wood  
Department Youth Activities Chairman

**Membership 2023-2024**

Greeting Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,  
 What great weather we have been having. Fall is in the air, but still feels like summer. Guess we better hug these days as we know what kind of winter weather we can have here in Colorado. Stay safe and warm this winter.  
 Lights, Camera Action:

I have to say Thank you to my helpers at our last COA in Burlington. Thank you, Lennie Dolan, Karrie Grizzell, Valinda Eberle and Ron Boone for participating in our “True Grit” Skit. Members, thank you for participating in the song that I had all of you sing. You all were great at participating and wanted you to know that our Ambassador at National was wondering when the Department would cut a CD out for us!! Well, we know that isn’t happening, but we did have fun singing. Thank you all for being the BEST STARS EVER!  
 Now to Business:

Annual members (the Stars of all movies) , why are you not going life? Cost too much, can’t afford it, we understand this, but think about it. The cost you pay every year rather \$30.00 or whatever your membership cost adds up each year and going Life, you will never have to worry about losing your membership by forgetting to pay or having to start over if you miss the deadline of June 30<sup>th</sup>. Proof of eligibility does NOT have to be shown again. You deserve to go life and maybe as an idea, your Auxiliary can pay 1 life membership for a member as a drawing and give them the best gift ever if the funds are available. (Think about it)

Lights, Camera Action:  
 I hope that all Auxiliary Treasurers and Presidents, have started to call, mail, and contact your annual members to pay their dues. Sure, the deadline is June 30, 2024, but if you start now, you will have your members paid and in good standing which could get you to 100% in membership. Also remember to pay the dues in MALTA, so that it is done.

Remember if you have a membership drive or event, send me a 1–2-minute video (no longer than that) or pictures to share of what your Auxiliary does for membership to recruit and retain members, so that you can be recognized. I would love to get them to Ann for our next Colorado Veteran and send them to our National Membership Ambassador.

Officers of the Auxiliary, if you are annual, please pay your dues by December 31<sup>st</sup>, or you will not be in good standing and will lose your office in the Auxiliary as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, until paid. Nonpayment of dues prior to December 31. The member may not be re-elected or appointed to any position until the member’s dues are paid.

Annual members not paid by December 31, you will be able to attend meetings in January and future months, but you will have no voice at meetings, until your dues are paid.

So, let’s continue to strive for membership going forward. We have 8 Auxiliary’s who are at 100%, Wouldn’t you like your Auxiliary to be one of them?

My plan for me this October and going forward is to:

- Contact current annual members.
- Reach out to former members.
- Visit any Auxiliary that would like me to come out to show how to pay dues in Malta.
- Attending any membership events, once invited.

When and if invited, I will be the producer and get a video of all the events I attend to be sure that you are recognized for a job well done.

Remember, without new members and existing members we may not be able to help our Veterans. We must stay strong, go out and recruit new members and retain former members. Show them what our Auxiliary is all about and what our goals are.

Let’s have fun this year, make a few movies, appoint your Producer, Director etc., in helping your Auxiliary to be 100%.

Lights, Camera Action:  
 In our March Council of Administration, I will have a surprise for all Auxiliaries to participate IF you have reached 100% by then, so continue to do what you do to get your membership up. My movie Skit could be: “Cat in the Hat skit” maybe?? “Let’s make a Deal skit” maybe? “Jeopardy” Hmmm we shall see!

Thank you all for going strong on your membership, as of today 09/27/2023 our Colorado Membership is at 86.38%. This definitely will get higher in days to come as National changes the percentage every day.

Thank you all for everything you do for our membership. We appreciate you all and Membership is the “Life Support” of our Auxiliary.

Here are our awards that members and Auxiliary can receive:

**MEMBERSHIP AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES, DEPARTMENTS AND CONFERENCES WILL BE BASED ON THE PAID TOTAL LISTED ON THE CMR-PAID, CANCELED & DECEASED REPORT IN MALTA.**

Awards for Members

1. Lights, Camera, Action! pin to each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits five (5) new members to the VFW Auxiliary from July 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024. Department Treasurer must enter membership in MALTA with credit given to the recruiter by June 10, 2024. Lights, Camera, Action! pin will be mailed directly to the members from National Headquarters.

2. National Membership Achievement Award to each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits twenty (20) new members to the VFW Auxiliary from July 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024. Department Treasurer must enter membership in MALTA with credit given to the recruiter by June 10, 2024. NMA Award to be presented at the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. If a member is not in attendance, the award to be mailed directly to the member from National Headquarters after the National Convention.

3. Lights, Camera, Action! VFW Auxiliary Recruiter Drawing. Each VFW Auxiliary National Membership Achievement Award recipient will be entered into a drawing to receive a \$500 Visa Gift Card.

(VFW Recruiters are not eligible). Recruiter Award Forms are no longer needed for VFW Auxiliary members. Reports are compiled by VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters from information entered in MALTA.

VFW members who recruit new VFW Auxiliary members will need to fill out the required VFW members-only form that is available on MALTA Member Resources. Completed form must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters and Department

**Auxiliary Membership by District as of June 30, 2023**

Number	City	2023	2024	%	Number	City	2023	2024	%
<b>DISTRICT #1</b>					<b>DISTRICT #7</b>				
1	Denver	183	176	96	899	Alamosa	40	38	95
501	Denver	146	133	90	8121	So Fork	106	101	95
5061	Denver	167	144	86	TOTAL		146	139	95%
TOTAL 496 453 91%					TOTAL 146 139 95%				
<b>DISTRICT #2</b>					<b>DISTRICT #8</b>				
2788	Penrose	42	26	62	859	Leadville	18	18	100*
3641	Pueblo	72	35	49	11411	Lake George	48	49	102*
4061	Canon City	104	70	67	12009	Conifer	32	32	100*
5812	Pueblo West	41	28	68	TOTAL		98	99	101%*
7305	Colo. City	21	15	71	<b>DISTRICT #9</b>				
TOTAL 280 174 62%					4264	Stmbt Spgs	28	28	100*
<b>DISTRICT #3</b>					4265	Craig	35	35	100*
41	Loveland	123	86	70	5843	Meeker	30	30	100*
1771	Lafayette	240	233	97	9374	Kremmling	20	21	105*
1781	Ft. Collins	132	85	62	TOTAL		113	114	101%*
2121	Greeley	112	98	88	<b>DISTRICT #10</b>				
2585	Johnstown	78	75	96	322	Englewood	78	66	85
2601	Longmont	182	158	87	3631	Aurora	109	99	91
4334	Ault	46	43	93	4171	Golden	282	263	93
6624	Evans	14	176	91	4331	Arvada	132	125	95
12189	Berthoud	19	11	58	4444	Cmmrc City	164	145	88
TOTAL 1126 962 85%					7945	Thornton	269	250	93
<b>DISTRICT #4</b>					9644	Fort Logan	336	330	98*
3541	Sterling	58	42	72	TOTAL		1370	1278	93%
4671	Wray	20	13	65	<b>DISTRICT #11</b>				
TOTAL 78 55 71%					1247	Grnd Jcnctn	76	71	93
<b>DISTRICT #5</b>					3571	Delta	51	50	98
101	Colo. Spgs.	75	65	87	3981	Grnd Jcnctn	45	17	38
3917	Security	192	168	88	9221	Cedaredge	50	47	94
4051	Colo. Spgs	226	210	93	TOTAL		222	185	83%
5221	Calhan	25	25	100*	<b>DISTRICT #12</b>				
6461	Fountain	150	135	90	4031	Durango	1129	105	81
7829	Monument	43	38	88	5181	Dove Creek	33	24	73
TOTAL 711 641 90%					5231	Mancos	61	51	84
<b>DISTRICT #6</b>					TOTAL		223	180	81%
336	Ordway	68	63	93	<b>DISTRICT #13</b>				
2411	Las Animas	107	102	95	3411	Kit Carson	18	16	89
TOTAL 175 165 94%					6612	Hugo	37	17	46
<b>Time to pay your 2024 Dues</b>					TOTAL		55	33	60%
<b>Be 100% in 2023-2024</b>					15006	At Large	802	768	96%
					TOTAL DEPT.		5,895	5,246	89%

(Membership continued)

Treasurer must enter membership in MALTA by June 10, 2024.

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. \$25 to each Auxiliary that reaches 98% Plus in Membership by March 31, 2024.
2. \$25 to each Auxiliary that reaches 100% Plus in Membership by June 30, 2024.
3. Lights, Camera, Action! VFW Auxiliary Drawing. Each VFW Auxiliary that reaches 101% Plus by June 30, 2024, will be entered into a onetime drawing to receive \$500.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our October 21-22<sup>nd</sup> Council of Administration in Durango.

Until we meet again, stay safe, stay healthy and God Bless.

With Loyalty,  
 Lucille Chavez  
 Department Membership Chairman

**Legislative Program**

Thank you to President Phil for selecting me to be your Legislative Chairman for this year. I hope to keep all of 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 Veterans.

I will be letting you know about



bills needing your support and what is being done about those important pieces of legislation. I will be stepping into big shoes that Nadia Flores left for me to fill. I hope to do her proud as well as our Veterans.

Pat Garcia,  
 Department Legislative Chairman

**Everyone Needs To Vote  
 November 7th**

## President's Special Project "Operation Veteran Strong"

Greetings!

The months are speeding by fast and fall and the holidays are upon us. Now is the time for our Auxiliaries to be active in supporting our Veterans.

September was Suicide Awareness Month and has always been something that I supported but didn't really realize the impacts until I experienced it myself. In December of 2022, I had a dear friend commit suicide in my front yard. I still have no idea why and I wonder what I could have done to possibly prevent it or help in some way. I found myself reaching out to Phil's Special Project, Operation Veteran Strong, as a veteran's family member for help. 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.

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. Operation Veteran Strong has free help for them and their families.

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.

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.

I'm also challenging each and every Auxiliary member to give \$12 (a dollar a month) to support Operation Veteran Strong. My small Auxiliary has 60 members – that would equal \$720!! Just imagine how much we could donate if we just gave up one coke or one coffee a month!

I hope to see you all at the COA's and share more stories and information how we can help our Veterans.

Queenie Barz  
Department Presidents Special Project  
Chairman

## Hospital Program

Greetings brothers and sisters!

I hope you are all enjoying the fall and all it has to offer. I personally love the changing of the leaves, the chilly weather, and all things pumpkin. As we move into November and the holiday season, it's so important to remember our hospitalized veterans. A lot of us plan events for Christmas, but let's remember the goal that we were given to also celebrate non-traditional holidays with our veterans so we can bring them some joy all throughout the year.

Here are a couple examples of things you could do in November and December – 11/1 is Stress Awareness Day (make up goodie bags with soft stress relief balls, puzzle books, etc.); 11/3 is National Sandwich Day; 11/4 is National Candy Day; 11/5 is Donut Day; 11/6 is Nachos Day; 11/18 is Mickey Mouse's Birthday (have a Disney themed celebration; 11/19 is Play Monopoly Day and 11/24 is National Flossing Day (put together a goodie bag with floss, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.); 12/1 is National Pie Day; 12/4 is National Cookie Day; 12/12 National Gingerbread House Day; 12/21 is Crossword Puzzle Day.

Remember that even though a lot of times events involve food, you can still celebrate non-food related national days by getting giveaways related to the day, decorations, cards – you can find cards for almost anything online. Be creative! Every single day is a non-traditional holiday of some kind

I would love for us to work on recruiting volunteers this year. Someone said to be once that they didn't think they could volunteer because a couple people in their auxiliary had a "lock" on hospital things. NOT TRUE! Anyone and everyone can volunteer for any of the programs. Ask fellow auxiliary members to volunteer, ask your kids and their friends, ask everyone you know! They don't have to be members.

If you have not yet sent me your auxiliary or district chairman list, please remember to do that so I can continue getting information out to everyone!

Happy Holidays to all!  
Stay safe and warm.

Loyally,  
Brandi Dolan  
Department Hospital Chairman

## Scholarship Program

Greetings Auxiliary Members,


We are well on our way into the holiday season. The Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy winners for each participating VFW Post should be on their way to District judging by November 15, 2023, and those District winners should be forwarded to the Department for judging by December 15, 2023. I want to send out a sincere thank you for all of the hard work that I know each Auxiliary does to help support these programs. Please remember to REPORT all of your hard work!

As we look forward to the next few months, many scholarship opportunities are on the horizon. The Continuing Education Scholarship, the Young American Patriotic Art and the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Scholarships are all important scholarships for our Auxiliaries to promote over these next few months. The Continuing Education Scholarship is due to National Headquarters by February 15, 2024. The Patriotic Art Contests are due to your local auxiliaries by March 31, 2024. More information for these scholarships can be found at [vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships](http://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships),

in MALTA Membership Resources, or you may contact me directly for more information.


Please remember, that National Ambassador Tina Hicks would like Auxiliaries to focus 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. With that in mind, I will be sending out information very soon to all Auxiliary Scholarship chairs about my next promotion which will focus on recipient recognition and student participation. Please remind all members of your Auxiliary to REPORT, REPORT, REPORT!! 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



**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**



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



Aux 1: Josephine Wilson  
Aux 1247: Jeanne Weston  
Aux 2411: Clara Taber  
Aux 3541: Norma Timmerman  
Aux 4265: Maxine Howe, Elaine Weber, Janice K. Mischke, Flora G. Clemit

