

# COLORADO VETERAN

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



and VFW Auxiliary News

NO ONE DOES MORE **FOR VETERANS®**



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

February, 2024

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

Volume 63, Issue 3 2023 - 2024

## “What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy”

### What makes the perfect government?

For the entirety of civilized human history, societies have tried to answer this question. Direct democracy sprouted early on in Athens but was unable to amass enough power and lands to withstand the Romans, whose representative democracy was miles ahead of its time until its lack of constitution allowed popular leaders to transform the government to a dictatorship. The notion of a constitution first arose in 1215, when King John signed the Magna Carta, a novel idea that sparked the first Enlightenment. It was during this Enlightenment era that thirteen British colonies successfully staged a revolution against Great Britain with the goal of creating the closest thing to a perfect government they could.

The first draft of a new American government became the Articles of Confederation. The Articles were the spawn of a nation extremely fearful of central power; under the Articles, the Federal Government could not levy taxes, declare war, regulate trade, or create any foreign policies without the agreement of each and every state. Less than ten years after its enactment, a rebellion in Massachusetts, Shay Rebellion, exposed the extreme danger of the weak, clunky government formed by the Articles. As a response the Shay Rebellion, delegates from all thirteen states met in 1787 for a second try. In this second draft, the Founding Fathers looked back on historic mistakes. They separated the legislative, executive, and judicial branches to spread power equally and prevent a repeat of the Romans. They created a government that could respond efficiently to any issues, countering the problems of the Articles. They improved the voting system, creating a electoral college to prevent an overload of votes and giving the nation an ability to expand, a power that Ancient Athens never had. Combined, these political inventions formed the most advanced political system the world had ever seen. So, with all these ingenious solutions, a small article hidden in the middle of this revolutionary document is easily overlooked.

Consisting of only one paragraph, the fifth Article of the Constitution is simple and unremarkable. When two-thirds of Congress agree to propose an Amendment to the Constitution, and that amendment is ratified by three-quarters of State legislatures, the Amendment is treated as an addition to the Constitution. Unless the amendment removes the representation of an unconsenting state of levies a tax on any state.

### Straightforward, Uncomplicated.

Yet it is quite possible the most incredible and farsighted article in the entire Constitution. All civilizations make mistakes. The Song Dynasty neglected its military. The French monarchy abused their absolute power. A state ability to learn from these mistakes is what makes a civilization successful. After the Mongols invaded the Song Chinese, Zhu Yuanzhang found the Ming dynasty, which focused more on their military to prevent future invasion. Following the French Revolution and the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte, those at the forefront of the Bourbon Restoration made the clear choice to become a constitutional monarchy instead of restoring the absolute monarchy that caused the revolution.

It is obvious to the human mind to correct known errors. The genius of the Fifth Article comes in the fact that it allows for the correction of unknown errors. In 1787, very few knew that, eventually, women's suffrage would become a national movement. Thanks to the Fifth Article, a woman's right to vote came into being with almost no conflict whatsoever. In 1787, a poll tax seemed so similar to British rule that the founding fathers did not even consider that it would eventually have to be banned, but when the necessity arose, Congress simply had to pass the 24th amendment. The Fifth article provided Abraham Lincoln with a stable, established platform to abolish slavery that allowed him to focus on merely convincing a Republic to abolish it instead of having to restructure the entire government. Both the French and Chinese underwent large, bloody affairs before seeing any change.

Conversely, the U.S. has amended itself 27 times 247 years, only descending into national conflict once.

The U.S. has endured two and a half centuries of the most turbulent times in history, witnessing some of the most drastic social, political, economic, technological, and military changes humanity has ever seen. The reason we have been able to do this, to survive through a civil war, through not one but two world wars, through a Great Depression, through the invention of the most destructive weapon even known, is our nation's adaptability. We have seen many challenges. There are issues we are still tackling. And we will face new threats. But because of our nation's fluidity, we will overcome anything the world can throw at us, and like so many before us, we will continue to strive towards a perfect government.



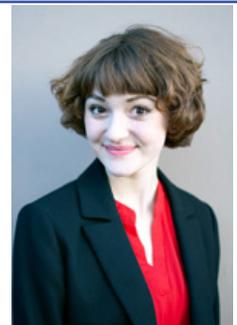
Megan Neton - Craig, CO  
District 9 - #4265 Post and Auxiliary



Ranye Ezenekwe - Lafayette, CO  
District 3 - #4334 Post and Auxiliary



Grace McCrady - Durango, CO  
District 12 - #4031 Post and Auxiliary



Leah Schiffmayer - Evergreen, CO  
District 8 - #12009 Post and Auxiliary



Noah Lorenz - Littleton, CO  
District 10 - #4171 Post and Auxiliary

## In Memoriam

PDC George Palmateer  
1988 - 1989

You Will be Missed - Rest in Peace

**FEBRUARY DISTRICT MEETINGS**

DISTRICT NO.	DATE	LOCATION	TIME	REPRESENTATIVE
4	2/10/2024 Saturday	Post No. 3541 Sterling	12:00 noon Meal 1:00 Jnt Meeting Meeting to follow	Fred Scheck VFW ON LY
5	2/17/2024 Saturday	Post No. 101 Colo. Sprgs	12:00 noon Lunch Meeting to follow	Todd Van Sant Nadia Flores
7	2/25/2024 Sunday	Post No. 8121 Del Norte	12:00 noon Lunch Meeting to follow	John Keene Sherri Wright
10	2/04/2024 Sunday	Post No. 7945 Thornton	11:00 am Meeting 1:00 pm VOD Luncheon	Bruce Dolan Nadia Flores
11	2/03/2024 Saturday	Post No. 3571 Delta	10:00 am Registration 11:00 am Jnt Meeting Voice of Democracy & Patriot Pen/Teacher 12:00 noon Lunch Meetings to follow	Carol Thomas Phil Reinpold

**MARCH DISTRICT MEETINGS**

1	3/23/2024 Saturday	Post No. 501 Denver	10:00 am -12:00 noon Meeting	Todd Van Sant Nadia Flores
3	3/10/24 Sunday	Post No. 41 Loveland	12:00 noon Meal 1:00 pm Mmrl. Service Meeting to follow	Jesse Eastburn Rena Cales
10	3/24/24 Sunday	Post No. 9644 Verle Huffman	11:00 am Mmrl. Service Lunch/Meeting to follow	John Keene Phil Reinpold

March 3rd - 6th Voice of Democracy Washington DC  
 March 3rd – 7th Legislative Conference Washington DC

March 16, 2024 Training - Denver VFW Post #1  
 March 17, 2024 COA - Denver VFW Post #1

**APRIL DISTRICT MEETINGS**

DISTRICT NO.	DATE	LOCATION	TIME	REPRESENTATIVE
2	4/13/2024 Saturday	Post No. 7305 Colorado City	11:00 am Jnt Mtg 12:00 noon Lunch Meeting to follow Election/Installation	Fred Scheck Nadia Flores
4	4/13/2024 Saturday	Post No. 8064 Akron	2:00 pm Meeting Election/Installation	John Keene VFW ONLY
6	4/20/2024 Saturday	Post No. 2411 Las Animas	11:00 am Jnt Meeting 12:00 pm Lunch Meeting to follow Election/Installation	John Keene Phil Reinpold
7	4/28/2024 Sunday	Post No. 899 Alamosa	12:00 noon Lunch 1:00 pm Jnt Meeting Meeting to follow Memorial Service Election/Installation	Carol Thomas Rena Cales
8	4/27/2024 Saturday	Post No. 12009 Conifer	11:30 am Lunch 12:30 pm Jnt Meeting Meeting to follow Memorial Service Election/Installation	Kirk Rosa Phil Reinpold
9	4/13/2024 Saturday	Post No. 4265 Craig	12:00 Noon Meeting Election/Installation	Todd Van Sant Nadia Flores
12	4/06/24 Saturday	Post 5181 Dove Creek	10:00 am Jnt Mtg 11:30 am Lunch Meeting to follow Election/Installation	Carol Thomas Phil Reinpold
13	4/21/2024 Sunday	Post No. 6612 Hugo	2:30 pm Meeting VOD & PP Memorial Service Election/Installation	James Sheridan Phil Reinpold

**District Meeting information available at [vfwco.org](http://vfwco.org)  
 Please send any changes to Department Headquarters.**

**Report ALL Program Reports On-Line  
[vfwco.org](http://vfwco.org)**

**Updated the First of every Month**

**Written Reports will not be accepted.  
 "It is Easy"**

**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 4171: George Palmateer PDC

**COLORADO VETERAN and AUXILIARY NEWS**

Official Publication of  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Colorado

Colorado Veteran is published quarterly Feb., May., Aug., Nov.  
 4 issues a year.

Send all correspondence, typewritten (double-spaced, upper and lower case to  
 Department Headquarters, 1400 Carr Street, Lakewood, CO 80214  
 Telephone 303-421-1630, 800-965-1630 (Colorado only - Denver Metro excluded) FAX 303-421-1727

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

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

Publication Committee  
 John Keene, commander  
 VFW Department Headquarters, editor  
 Ann Mauck, assoc. editor &  
 computer layout  
 For the Auxiliary  
 Phil Reinpold, president  
 Lennie Dolan, treasurer

Ann Mauck, auxiliary news chairman

[vfwco.org](http://vfwco.org)

Send address changes to:

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

**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,

It is award season and while there are celebrities out there looking for their EGOT (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony Awards) we all know hardworking dedicated members of our Posts, Auxiliaries, and communities who keep their heads down and don't seek recognition. Now is the time to thank them!

Recently I announced two new National Awards for which I need recommendations: VFW JROTC Cadet of the Year, and VFW Employer of the Year. The Commander in Chief is also looking for a National VFW Member of the Year. Department Headquarters needs all nominees for these new awards my March 31, 2024. The criteria and submission forms can all be found on the Department Website, [www.vfwco.org](http://www.vfwco.org).

But don't forget about our legacy awards, such as Salute to Service (due March 15), Scout of the Year (due April 1), and the Safety Awards (due date extended to April 1). Likewise, submit all your [Community Reports](#) prior to the March 31 cut-off date. Meeting these due dates allows Department to prepare everything for presentation at the State Convention in June.

I recently read in one of the Chairperson's Guides that "VFW awards

don't cost, they pay - BIG dividends."

Likewise, recognition should extend beyond National and Department awards and include more than just Post and Auxiliary members. That is why I encourage all Posts to consider becoming Certifying Organizations for the [Presidential Service Awards](#) and "recognizes exceptional volunteers whose work makes real and sustainable differences in (our) communities." These awards are reasonably priced and can pay off by raising awareness to the outside volunteers' project, enhancing the profile of the VFW in that community, and bringing in new members to our Posts and Auxiliaries.

Lastly, I want to congratulate our celebrities: the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen winners. Good luck to those who advanced to the National judging phase, and a heartfelt thank you to Post 9644, Chairman Todd Van Sant, and Chef Rachel Rodgers for all their hard work to put on an outstanding banquet.

Here is to a strong finish to the VFW year and setting the stage for an even better year for Senior Vice Commander Carol Thomas.

Semper Fi,  
John Keene  
Department Commander



## Surgeon Column Todd Van Sant



The 2024 VFW Airlift was a success! There is an article about it in this edition of the Veteran, please go read it. If your post wants to

be involved next year, please reach out to me and let's figure out how to do that! It can be anything from donating money from your post (and taking advantage of the VFW Uniting to Combat Hunger grant), donating food or toys (we collect them at post 9644), volunteering at the hanger to help sort food and toys and helping load planes, or being on the receiving end of the airlift and getting all the food and toys to needy families.

We had several hundred students sign up for Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen this year, and the judging was just as hard as any other year. As we look forward to next year, keep in mind that technology is here to stay in the VFW! Just like you, I hope it gets easier to use! Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to the kids this year!

The next Council of Administration is in Denver this year at VFW Post 1. I'm excited to see what they have planned. If you haven't visited Post 1, they have a beautiful building in the heart of Denver. We have a good convention coming up in Cripple Creek this year. I'm looking forward to attending and seeing the sights in Cripple Creek, the brand-new hotel, and hopefully all of you! This convention is special as we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the VFW Auxiliary in Colorado. There will be a ton to do and see at this convention, so please make plans to attend!

I'm sure you are all aware of the goal to hit 102% for the next few years. If you have family members or friends that qualify for the VFW, there has never been a better time to get them signed up as we try to grow as an organization. It's time to step up and get working on membership!

Todd Van Sant  
Department Surgeon

Salute to Service due to Department by March 15th  
Forms are on [www.vfwco.org](http://www.vfwco.org)

Plaques will be distributed to each individual at respective district meetings beginning in April

Previous Nominees are eligible  
Nominee must be a member of Post or Auxiliary

## Sr. Vice Column Carol Thomas



This time of year is always exciting with the holidays recently past, family get-togethers, parties and finally some time for rest. The daylight hours are now

getting longer each day to allow us to once again reflect why we belong to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Our mission is to foster camaraderie among United States Veterans of overseas conflicts, to serve our Veterans, the military and our communities. We are to advocate on behalf of all veterans. To be honest, the most common words heard as I travel the state is: "we need more new members to do the work". How then are we to promote patriotism, honor military service, serve our communities, and finally, ensure the care of veterans and their families?

The state of the Department of Colorado in my opinion is healthy and robust. Look at all the Community Service Reports for all the good work so many Posts and Auxiliaries are doing continuously. Look at the membership reports to see how those same posts are growing and working hard to increase our ranks. This VFW administrative year is now half over and already our Department is at 92.58% membership. The goal of course is 102%. This is excellent work by so many working not

only for the Department goal but their individual Post and District goals. As of this writing, we have 9 Districts over 90% and 4 Districts over 95% membership. District 5 is the present membership leader sitting at 95.22%. The Posts in the state are strong with 3 posts in the 70% and 22 posts in the 80% range. We have 10 posts over 100% and 51 in the 90% range. Leader today is at 108.10% and that honor goes to Post 8898 in Boone. Can our Department get to 102% in the next 5 months?

If you want to leave a legacy for your VFW Post, go to your Quartermaster and ask them if you can make phone calls to help get your unpaid members up to date with their dues. Don't lose your post membership base. Be a worthy comrade and call a buddy to the next meeting. Your post may have members serving overseas in the military. You can pay their dues with your relief fund. You may have elderly or physically impaired members who can't get into your meeting. They too should have their membership paid from your relief fund. Stay in touch with them in person and by phone.

Carol Thomas  
Department Sr. Vice Commander

## Jr. Vice Column Fred Scheck



Greetings Comrades,

I would like to wish you all a safe and prosperous New Year. As with every new year there will be changes,

that will require our attention. One such change is at the National Home in Eaton Rapids Michigan. They are remodeling one of the Administration buildings to contain a small convenience store. This is so the residents won't have to drive the 10 miles, round-trip, to pick up items

they may have overlooked. I will be soliciting donations from your post and membership, because as we all know remodeling costs money.

Again I wish you all a safe and prosperous New Year and look forward to all the great and amazing things the Department of Colorado will accomplish this year.

Faithfully yours,  
Fred Scheck  
Department Jr. Vice Commander

## Quartermaster's Column Bruce Dolan



Comrades.

I this finds everyone well. I also hope all who can have gotten your flu shot.

I am sure everyone has heard by now, one of the By-Law changes at the National level several years ago, was to do away with the dues reserve at the Post level. This is a good thing. Now the quarterly audits won't be coming back to the Posts that forget how and what it was. If you report a dues reserve, you should probably stop since it is not required and will save on some book work.

Speaking of quarterly audits, we are seeing a new trend. Signatures. The Quartermasters Manual on the National web site states the Trustees and Commander must sign the audit report. The Quartermasters name may be typed in, but the Trustees and Commander must sign. We are getting more and more audits without the Commanders signature. Please take the time to read

the material explaining how the audits are done, or call Headquarters and ask for a copy of how to fill out an audit. Because of the current Covid climate, a separate signature page may be used as long as the audit was viewed by the trustees and Commander.

**BONDS.** The By-Laws are very clear on this. Each officer that is accountable for funds must have a surety bond equal to the amount of liquid assets. This is normally the Quartermaster. Surety bonds are like an insurance policy paid for by the Post saying the Quartermaster will not steal from the Post. This is why we try and make sure the audits are done correctly. The bonding company requires the audits be done correctly in case a loss occurs. Believe me, it has happened in the past.

I hope everyone had great holidays.  
Bruce R. Dolan  
Department Adj./Quartermaster

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

**GENERAL ORDERS NO. 3**  
**February 1, 2024 2023-2024**  
**Please remind all Posts that you MUST**  
**be 102% to qualify for All State.**  
**Deadline is June 30, 2024. Entry forms**  
**will be e-mailed to all that qualify.**

**1. As prescribed** by Sec 217 & Sec 221 of the National Congressional Charter By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, Nominations of Post Officers shall open in March and remain open until the Post is ready to vote, provided, however, that when a poll system is used, as hereinafter described, nominations must be closed at the meeting prior to the election to allow the Adjutant to prepare a printed ballot. Post officers shall be elected in April.

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

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

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

**2. Proof of Eligibility Requirements for Officers:** All Posts, Districts and Department should be reminded of the provisions of Sec. 215 (Post), 415 (District), and 515 (Department) of the National Congressional Charter By-Laws and Manual or procedure that officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until such proof of eligibility has been submitted to the respective Commander and Adjutant for review.

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

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

**5. Attention of Post Commanders** is directed to Sec. 218 (a)(11), Manual of Procedure, Duty of Trustees. Trustees Report of Audit must be completed by the Trustees, in detail, at the close of each quarter, one of which ends March 31st. Commanders are reminded that all funds are to be under the custody and control of the Post Quartermaster. Persons other than the Post Quartermaster who may handle Post funds, such as club manager, bingo chairman, or committee chairmen are responsible to the Post Quartermaster to maintain accurate records and accounts and should be properly bonded. Post Trustees are to ensure that the financial records of these special funds are also audited in the same manner as the other accounts of the Post Quartermaster.

**6. Commanders on all levels** should begin organizing their 2024 Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Campaign. To qualify for Post All American, VFW Posts must purchase Three per member in the Post.

**7. All-State Commanders and Quartermasters.** Entry forms for All-State Commanders and Quartermasters **will be e-mailed to all qualified persons by July 3, 2024** Posts and Districts must be 102% in membership by **June 30, 2024**, advanced one Voice of Democracy and one Patriot's Pen winner to the next higher authority, and made a donation to the Department Service Office in order for the Commanders to be eligible for this award. Post and District Quartermasters will be eligible if their Post/District achieves 102% in membership by **June 30, 2024**. The entry form must be submitted to State Headquarters by suspense date provided on the notification letter. All State Teams will be presented at the August 2024 COA meeting during the Joint Opening.

**8. Council of Administration** meeting will be March 17, 2024 at John S. Stewart VFW Post #1, 8:30 AM for Joint Meeting. **Workshops** will be on March 16, 2024.

**9. State Convention** is scheduled for June 05 through June 08, 2024, hosted by Department of Colorado VFW. **Information will be posted on the Department of Colorado Web Page.** ([www.vfwco.org](http://www.vfwco.org))

**10. The Department of Colorado** Veterans of Foreign Wars Loyalty Day Parade will be in Calhan, CO., Saturday May 4, 2024 10:00 AM line-up time.

**11. Applications for the Department State Convention Site for 2025** can be obtained by contacting State Qm. Bruce Dolan, 1400 Carr St., Lakewood, CO. 80214, (303) 421-1630. A check for \$300.00 deposit must accompany the bid application.

ATTEST BY:  
 Bruce Dolan, State Adjutant

BY COMMAND:  
 John Keene, State Commander

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



Comrades,

We pray that everyone had a joyous and happy Holiday season with family and friends. We hope no one was alone during this

time. As we go into the coming year, I was planning on stepping down as your State Chaplain with the thought of taking classes, but it has been weighing on my heart and soul to continue helping and serving our Chaplains, veterans, and family members. I would like to announce that I will be running for Colorado State Chaplain in the coming year (2024-2025). So, I ask for your support to continue serving in this ministry.

Some of the things we have been working on for our Chaplains ministry are: National Chaplain Training, this started last year and continued into this year and will be continuing in future years. VFW and Auxiliary members are invited. We strongly encourage our Chaplains for both VFW and Auxiliary to attend. For information about attending the training send me an email at [chaplainreinhold@yahoo.com](mailto:chaplainreinhold@yahoo.com). The VFW Chaplain's Handbook has been revised (dated 14 August 2023) and can be found on the Colorado web page, on the Colorado VFW Chaplaincy page. VFW Resource Manual is there also. Armed Services Ministry provides resources to the VFW at no cost. Some of the resources are The Warfighters Study Bible, this is more than the bible, you will find "God Understands", articles that fo-

cus on topics like relationship, finance, deployment, handling stress and grief, and much more. Other assorted bibles. Apps: Operation Recon, Military Bible Challenge. Faith Comes by Hearing. Plus Nothing, a small book with a big impact. Dog Tags 4 Life, metal dog tag with imprint, "Veterans Crisis Line Dial 988 Press 1 You're Not Alone". The 1687 Foundation Ministry. The Jewish Publication Society. GriefShare Ministry. These are just a few of the ministry resources available to you and your Chaplains. For more information on these and other resources please send me an email.

At the next COA I will be giving Post Chaplain Training.

I believe that the above resources and ministry are what our State Chaplain needs to be and do in serving our District and Post Chaplains while serving our members and all veterans. Along with keeping them informed and helping when needed. I pray that our next State Chaplain that is voted in by our membership will continue moving forward in serving our veterans and families with these resources and finding other resources.

May the New Year bring everyone Joy and Blessings as we continue serving veterans and families.

"Doing Our Lord's Work for All Veterans"

Kevin Reinhold  
 Department Chaplain

**February VFW Roster Changes**

Page 7

Patriot's Pen: Todd Van Sant, #9644, 3650 S Fdrl Blvd #106, Englwd 480-399-8273

Page 14

Peter Buchanan, #1771, 12604 Ulster St., Thornton 80602

Page 31 Fort Collins #1781

Qm: Dennis Jenson,  
 Ser Off: Thomas Roberts,

Page 31 Greeley #2121 2<sup>nd</sup> Thur 6:30pm

Qm: Steven A/ Drapeau, 250 Todd Ave., La Salle 80645 970-567-1211

Page 32 Johnstown #2585

Ser Off: William D. Robards, 813 Crestone St., Johnstown 303-720-9383

Page 32 Longmont #2601

Qm: Jenny M Santucci, 446 Dickson St., Longmont 80504 970-219-2667

Page 36 Durango #4031

Cmdr: David M Latham, 429 Valley Pl, Durango 81303 970-238-1438  
 Ser Off: vacant

Page 43

LTC Fred A. Ettleman #7305 Colo City

Page 46 Nucla #9058

Qm: John D Reed, P O Box 647, Nucla 81424 970-428-7430

Page 47 Elizabeth #10649 3rd Sat 9:00 am, Elbert County Veterans Hall

5437 CO RD 82, Elbert CO  
 Qm: Daniel J. Riley, 27534 Plainview Dr., Kiowa 80117

Page 49

Platte River Post #12226, 12101 Hwy 61, Sterling, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday 2 PM

Cmdr: Thomas M. Stewart, Attn: #129528, Sterling 80751  
 Qm: Timothy M Alberts, P O Box 6000, Sterling 80751  
 Ser Off: Brandon D. Allen, Attn: #142805, Sterling 8751

SGM James "Ryan" Gregory Sartor Post #12227, 7030 Old Meridian Rd., Peyton 80831, 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 6 PM

Cmdr: Ricardo M. Chavez, 10373 Capital Peak Way, Peyton 80831 760-553-5258

Qm: William G. Gessner, 9815 Kings Canyon Dr., Peyton 80831 719-651-7479

Ser Off: Thomas T. Lawand, 6725 Backcountry Loop, Colo Spgs 80927 518-605-1815

**VFW Post Membership by District as of January 31, 2024**

Number/ City	2023	2024	%	Number/City	2023	2024	%
<b>DISTRICT #1</b>				<b>DISTRICT #8</b>			
1 Denver	925	856	93	859 Leadville	27	24	89
501 Denver	255	228	89	1166 Buena Vista	111	103	93
5061 Denver	249	216	87	3820 Salida	68	64	94
TOTAL	1429	1300	91%	8661 Bailey	111	103	93
<b>DISTRICT #2</b>				<b>DISTRICT #9</b>			
2788 Penrose	104	86	83	10721 Minturn	109	93	85
3641 Pueblo	82	74	90	11411 Lake George	43	43	100*
4061 Canon City	243	205	84	12009 Conifer	109	110	101*
5812 Pueblo West	188	185	98	TOTAL	578	540	93%
7305 Colo. City	46	44	96	<b>DISTRICT #10</b>			
8898 Boone	37	40	108*	322 Englewood	98	89	91
12063 Westcliffe	56	53	95	3471 Morrison	64	58	91
TOTAL	756	687	91%	3631 Aurora	280	258	92
<b>DISTRICT #3</b>				<b>DISTRICT #11</b>			
41 Loveland	275	251	91	4171 Golden	373	350	94
807 Boulder	30	29	97	4266 Parker	77	77	100*
1771 Lafayette	224	213	95	4331 Arvada	221	210	95
1781 Ft. Collins	287	272	95	4444 Cmmrc Cty	157	149	95
2121 Greeley	160	148	93	4666 Littleton	113	99	88
2585 Johnstown	175	159	91	7563 Black Hawk	32	24	75
2601 Longmont	290	267	92	7945 Thornton	266	251	94
4334 Ault	66	55	83	8449 Bennett	39	34	87
6624 Evans	203	195	96	9644 Fort Logan	395	372	94
9565 Broomfield	93	79	85	TOTAL	2115	1971	93%
12174 Brighton	33	31	94	<b>DISTRICT #12</b>			
12189 Berthoud	39	37	95	4031 Durango	254	228	90
TOTAL	1875	1736	93%	4181 Dove Creek	41	39	95
<b>DISTRICT #4</b>				<b>DISTRICT #13</b>			
2551 Ft. Morgan	147	128	87	3411 Kit Carson	20	19	95
3378 Yuma	51	48	94	6491 Burlington	54	49	91
3541 Sterling	75	69	92	6612 Hugo	29	25	86
3551 Brush	39	34	87	9700 Chynn Wlls	23	22	96
4671 Wray	50	41	82	TOTAL	126	115	91%
6482 Holyoke	35	29	83	15006 MAL	2658	2418	91%
7153 Fleming	13	12	92	TOTAL DEPT	13965	12959	93%
8064 Akron	52	38	73	<b>2024 dues are now DUE</b>			
12226 Sterling	0	21	0	<b>Be 100% +1 in 2023-2024</b>			
TOTAL	462	420	91%	<b>Help Colorado be 100%+</b>			
<b>DISTRICT #5</b>				<b>DISTRICT #7</b>			
101 Colo. Spgs.	442	426	96	899 Alamosa	74	65	87
3917 Security	512	483	94	4849 La Jara	43	41	95
4051 Colo. Spgs	502	475	95	6101 San Luis	46	40	87
5221 Calhan	86	82	95	8121 Del Norte	38	36	95
6051 Wldnd Park	41	41	100*	TOTAL	201	182	91%
6461 Fountain	360	326	91				
7829 Monument	140	141	100*				
10649 Elizabeth	31	30	97				
12227 Falcon	0	16	0				
TOTAL	2114	2020	96%				
<b>DISTRICT #6</b>							
336 Ordway	67	65	97				
2411 LasAnimas	65	61	94				
4001 Springfield	26	22	85				
4281 Holly	23	24	104*				
TOTAL	181	172	95%				

**IMPORTANT! - No Credential and Delegate Cards Will be Mailed**

Please note that the Department HQ will not print and mail paper convention credentials for Delegates, Post Commanders, District Commanders, and State Officers. Instead, all Post, District, and State Officers will be identified with official VFW and Department rosters and Post Adjutant's or Quartermasters are asked to report the Post's elected delegates via the Department website. Credentials will then be "stamped" on the individuals name badge when they register at the convention.

Under Section 222 of the Manual of Procedures, "Delegates and alternates for the District Convention and Meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting in April." Posts are entitled to 1 delegate for every 30 members or fraction thereof based on the number of members in good standing as of March 31st. The Department Headquarters will notify each post in writing what their delegate strength is along with the delegate registration fee which must be paid no later than 15 days before the convening of the Department Convention.

The on-line delegate report form will be available starting 1 April through the day before the convention opening date.

COA March 16th & 17th at VFW Post 1, 841 Sante Fe Dr, Denver, CO 80204

State Convention June 5th - June 8th

**13th Annual VFW Holiday Airlift  
Spreads Festive Cheer Across Colorado**

Englewood, Colorado played host to the heartwarming 13th Annual VFW Holiday Airlift, a collaborative endeavor spearheaded by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Colorado, VFW Post 9644, and the Colorado Aviation Business Association (CABA). Over the weekends of December 10th and 17th, 2023, this remarkable event saw thirty-two aircraft take flight from Signature Flight Support South at Centennial Airport (APA) to transport an impressive 10,000 pounds of food and toys to 12 airports, primarily located in smaller or rural communities throughout Colorado.

The Holiday Airlift initiative, which runs year-round, accepts monetary donations for food, shifting its focus to physical donations of food and toys as Thanksgiving approaches. The journey commenced on Friday, December 8th, 2023, as dedicated volunteers purchased food and toys from local supermarkets and deliver to a hangar at Centennial Airport in Englewood, Colorado. On December 9th, volunteers diligently weighed and palletized the donated goods, preparing them for distribution to the 12 cities scheduled to receive assistance through this airlift.

Mother Nature threw a curveball on December 10th, with high winds affecting some of the aircraft's delivery plans. Nevertheless, approximately half of the food was successfully distributed, primarily to areas along the front range of the Rocky Mountains. Finally, on December 17th, the remaining aircraft completed their deliveries.

The donated goods made their way to destinations such as Grand Junction, Montrose, Durango, Cortez, Alamosa, Pueblo, Las Animas, Sterling, Greeley, Northern Colorado Regional, Longmont,

and Lafayette, spanning both the western and eastern sides of the mountains. At these locations, VFW volunteers welcomed the aircraft, assisting with unloading and, in many cases, providing lunch and discounted fuel to the generous pilots who contributed their time and resources to the cause.

This year's Holiday Airlift is projected to benefit 25-30 VFW Posts, which, in turn, will serve over 1,600 veterans in need and their families, ensuring they have a special holiday season.

The mission was made possible thanks to the dedication of nearly 100 volunteers, including pilots and ground support teams. Among these volunteers were members of the Precision and Aerobatic Flight Teams of Metropolitan State University of Denver, alongside commercial, corporate, and private pilots from the Front Range region of Colorado. All participants generously donated their time and covered aircraft expenses to make this charitable event a success. A wide variety of aircraft were utilized for the Airlift, including a Varga Kachina, a Glasair GlaStar, Cessna 172s and 182s, a Lancair 360, Piper Cherokees, Cirruses, Beechcraft Bonanzas, and a Pilatus PC-12.

Since its inception in 2011, the CABA-VFW Holiday Airlift has delivered a total of more than 90,000 pounds of food and toys, benefiting approximately 12,000 veterans and their family members. Beyond its significant impact on veterans during the holiday season, this initiative exemplifies the vital role of light aircraft in delivering essential supplies to rural areas and underserved communities, highlighting the remarkable spirit of the general aviation community when called upon to assist others.



2023 - 2024 VFW Airlift with CABA and Metro State University, in Centennial, CO to load the planes for distribution to other counties across Colorado.

### 2023 - 2024 Membership

#### Honoring Our Heroes: The Importance of Recruiting and Retaining VFW Members Introduction

As the Membership Chair of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in Colorado, it is my privilege to address you today about the utmost importance of recruiting and retaining VFW members. Our organization has served as a pillar of support, camaraderie, and advocacy for veterans and service members for over a century. However, we must continue to adapt and grow to meet the evolving needs of our remarkable community. Let us explore why it is vital to engage and retain VFW members, ensuring that the legacy of our brave servicemen and women thrives for generations to come.

The greater the number of VFW members, the stronger our collective voice becomes. Recruiting new members expands our ability to advocate for the rights and benefits of veterans, both locally and nationally. As we face a rapidly changing world, it is critical to have a robust membership base that represents the interests of veterans and exerts influence on crucial policy matters.

The VFW is built on the foundation of brotherhood and sisterhood. By increasing our membership, we foster an environment that offers veterans the opportunity to connect with one another, share their experiences, and find solace in the camaraderie that only those who have served can truly understand. Through social events, community service, and shared interests, we create a support system that eases the challenges faced by veterans transitioning to civilian life.

The VFW provides an array of benefits and services to its members, ranging from advocacy and assistance programs to scholarships and employment opportunities. By recruiting and retaining members, we ensure that this support system remains accessible to all veterans.

Together, we can work towards improving healthcare, securing legislative support, and enhancing career opportunities, leaving no soldier behind.

Veterans possess a wealth of knowledge, garnered through their unique experiences and dedication to duty. By attracting new members, we create an environment where this expertise can be shared, passed down, and used to benefit all. Whether it is providing guidance to younger veterans or offering insight into issues faced by current servicemen and women, the VFW serves as a repository of invaluable wisdom.

As the custodians of our country's military heritage, we have a duty to preserve the legacy of our fallen comrades. By recruiting new members, we ensure that the stories and sacrifices of those who have gone before us are remembered with reverence. Each new member strengthens our ability to educate the public, share history, and advocate for the support our veterans deserve.

Recruiting and retaining VFW members is paramount to the future of our organization and, more importantly, to the well-being of our veterans and their families. Upholding the legacy of honor, service, and sacrifice demands that we continually strive to engage new members, extending the helping hand of brotherhood to those who need it most. Together, we can amplify our voices, provide unwavering support, and honor the brave men and women who have dedicated their lives to protecting our freedom.

Join us in preserving our legacy, fostering camaraderie, and making a difference in the lives of our veterans. Together, we can ensure that the spirit of service and sacrifice burns brightly throughout the great state of Colorado.

In unity,  
Jesse Eastburn  
Department Membership Chair



2023-2024 Voice of Democracy Top 5 Winners & Patriot's Pen 1st Place Winner with Phil Reinbold, John Keene, & Todd Van Sant at VFW Post 9644.



Hugo Auxiliary 6612 had their 1st Annual Family Night New Year's Dance for HS Students & their parents/siblings. Students pictured with their hand up enjoying a song to dance to. The event was held at Lincoln County Fairgrounds in Hugo, CO

### March Madness (Membership Challenge)

Comrades, I am happy to announce a Department wide recruiting incentive for March targeting annual renewals and reinstates. Please reach out to any expired member and all members set to expire between March 1 and June 30, and encourage them to renew early.

On April Fool's Day, I will study each Post's results and award **\$500 each** to the Post with the largest increase in renewals/reinstates and the Post with the highest percentage increase. No joke!

Before you pick up the phone, however, come up with a strategy:

March is when the VFW "Storms the Hill" in DC and every member lends their voice to the Commander in Chief when he testifies before Congress.

- Become familiar with the VFW legislative priorities and direct members to <https://vfw.org/advocacy/> where they can find a list.
- Pick out something you are passionate about and ask members to join you with their support.
- For example, I support the [HR 6197](#) which was introduced directly from a Resolution Colorado passed at the National Convention to help surviving spouses stay in their homes.

Did you know the Relief Fund can be

used to pay member dues?

- Per Sec 219 (g) of the MOP, "Remission of dues of sick, needy or disabled members" is an authorized expenditure.
  - Some members may have lapsed due to illness or financial problems and were too proud to ask for help. Hearing your voice and an offer to assist with their dues may be the nudge they need to reengage.
- Pass a motion in your February meeting to establish your own incentive program.
- Set a budget and run a BOGO special. When a member pays for one year, the Post will pay for the second, or
  - Set a budget to provide gift cards to anyone who renews early. Many vendors, like [Starbucks](#), make it easy by offering email delivery, or
  - Pass the hat and use the collected funds to reinstate lapsed members as a gesture of comradery and welcome those members back to your Post.
  - Be creative!

Good luck in your efforts.

Thank you, John



Todd Van Sant, Mathew Cummings, and Fred Scheck were recognized at Military Appreciation Night at the National Western Stock Show & Rodeo on January 16, 2024



VFW Post 2411 & Auxiliary, Las Animas helped lay over 700 wreaths at Fort Lyon National Cemetery, Las Animas Cemetery and Peaceful Valley Cemetery on December 16th.



VFW Post 2411 & Auxiliary, Las Animas celebrated Veterans Day by putting up nearly 200 flags along Highway 50 and various location in town. Followed by the 15th Annual Veteran's Day Ceremony at the Community Center.

### Colorado VFW New Recruiters as of 2/1/2024

Alan W. Smith  
 Ardon H. Barnes  
 Arnold M. Grimm  
 Brittany Bartges  
 Calvin J Melcher  
 Crystal A. Johnson  
 Daniel Shake\*  
 Danielle L. Depaolis  
 Darren J. Schultz  
 David Absolon Pratt  
 David E. Gelatt  
 David F. Bigelow  
 Dennis M. Churgovich  
 Donald D. Andrick Jr.  
 Edward H. Williamson  
 Fred C. Gribble  
 Fred Guana Jr.  
 Fredrick Jahn Jr.  
 Geraldine Rimpley  
 Harold D. Louder  
 James A. Winney  
 James F. Sloan  
 James W. Morris  
 James W. Stanko  
 Jason M. Gray  
 Jeffrey N. Panches  
 Jerry M. Rael  
 Jesse Larsen\*  
 Joe H. Gallegos  
 John Breckenbridge\*  
 John D. Benedict  
 John D. Seeley  
 John Leist\*  
 John M. McHenry III  
 John S. Evans  
 Joseph Camarillo

Joshua Flenner  
 Kevin M. Reinhold  
 Kevin W. Burgess  
 Kirk R. Rosa  
 Kristen K. Luevanos  
 Larry L. Johnson  
 Leonard Shaw\*  
 Linda Reinhold Aux Member  
 Lynn E. Peterson  
 Marc K. Malin  
 Margaret M. Vanasse  
 Matthew A. Lewis\*  
 Matthew Breckenbridge\*  
 Neil W. Schaal  
 Patrick E. O'toole  
 Paul C. Gremse  
 Phil Reinhold Aux Member  
 Rachel Rodgers Aux Member  
 Ralph Curtis Oberhelman  
 Raymond R. Poblano  
 Rick McLatchie  
 Robert F. Bouslaugh  
 Ron Schlieman\*  
 Ronald E. Reneker  
 Scott A. Redmond  
 Scott Alexander\*  
 Stephen J. Urbany  
 Tara L. Garber  
 Terrance D. Jacobson  
 Theodore P. Rigo  
 Thomas A. Roberts  
 Thomas Coffield\*  
 Thomas P. Dowd III  
 Toby J. Handy  
 Tommy Endres  
 Zachary C. Bursnall

3 Auxiliary Members recruited a VFW Member  
 \* 10 VFW Members recruited an Auxiliary Member

### Thank You for Recruiting

**We are in the Office and here to assist you!**

Due to the increased volume of claimants for the PACT Act, we are only seeing individuals with appointments. Please call the office of your choice to schedule an appointment.

We do understand the importance of your claim, benefits, or questions you have. We ask for your patience and understanding regarding wait times, returning of phone calls, and scheduling. Thank you!

**VFW Department of Colorado Service Office – Lakewood**  
**Phone number – 303-914-5595**  
**Address: 155 Van Gordon Ste 205, Lakewood CO 80228**

Office hours are Monday – Thursday  
 7:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Matt Cummings, Department Service Officer  
 Ralph “Obie” Oberhelman, Assistant Department Service Officer  
 Ginny Rosa, Office Manager/Claims Consultant

**VFW Department of Colorado Service Officer – Grand Junction**

**Phone number – 970-245-4156**  
**Address: 561 25 Road, Ste 101, Grand Junction CO 81505**

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday  
 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Dick Ball, Assistant Department Service Officer

**VFW Department of Colorado Service Officer – Security**  
**Phone number – 720-840-1422**  
**Address: VFW Post 3917, 4715 Clearview Drive, Security CO 80931**

Office Hours: Sunday – Thursday  
 Sunday 8:00 a – 12:00 p  
 Monday 7:30 a – 3:30 p  
 Tuesday 11:00 a – 5:00 p  
 Wednesday 9:00 a – 5:00 p  
 Thursday 9:00 a – 5:00 p

Matthew Lewis, Assistant Department Service Officer

### COA March 16th & 17th at VFW Post 1, 841 Sante Fe Dr, Denver, CO 80204

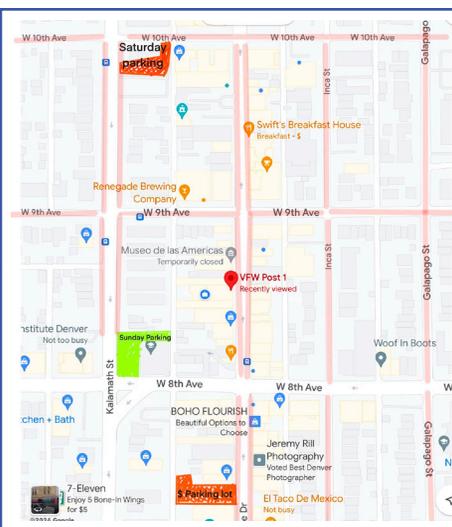
Saturday, 3/16 - Training  
 Sunday - Council Meeting

Dress Code: Saturday Casual, Sunday Black & Whites

Saturday - Drinks at 5pm & Dinner at 6pm - Chef Jorge Luevanos will be whipping up Guinness Stew, Corn Beef & Cabbage, Potatoes and Green Chile Nachos - \$25.00

### COA Parking at VFW Post 1

Saturday - Street, Uber/Lyft, Limited spots in rear of the building.  
 Sunday - Street, Uber/Lyft, MSU Green Building



## 2024 Convention Menus

### Warriors Luncheon - \$40.00

#### Buffet:

- Smoked Brisket Sandwich Station
- (Shredded Smoked Brisket, Crispy Onion Straws, Chamonix BBQ Sauce, & Brioche Buns)
- Red Skin Potato Salad
- Macaroni Salad
- Sliced Watermelon
- Seasonal Homemade Pies and Ice Cream
- Coffee and Tea

### Commander/President Thank You Luncheon - No Charge

#### Buffet:

- Salad Station
  - Shredded Cheese
  - Sliced Tomatoes
  - Sliced Cucumbers
  - Shredded Carrots
  - Red Cherry Peppers
  - Croutons
  - Choice of Dressing
- Loaded Potato Bar
  - Shredded Cheese
  - Bacon Bits
  - Sour Cream
  - Butter
- Homemade Chili with Shredded Cheese, Diced Onions & Corn Bread
- Mousse Cups
- Coffee and Tea

### Military Banquet - \$40.00

#### Plated:

- Chamonix Wedge Salad (Iceberg Lettuce, Parmesan Peppercorn Dressing, Shaved Parmesan, Crispy Bacon & Sun Dried Tomato)
- Choice of:
  - Braised Beef Short Ribs with Confit Garlic Potatoes and Blackberry Demi Glace
  - Alpine Chicken Breast with Confit Garlic Potatoes and Brown Butter Sage Cream Sauce
  - Almond Rosemary Crusted Salmon with Saffron Rice and Grilled Lemon Aioli
- Seasonal Vegetables
- Rolls & Butter
- Cake
- Coffee or Tea



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 big "Thank You" goes out to all Auxiliary members as we begin 2024 -- your commitment and hard work last year has assured that our programs and efforts to support our veterans will continue to be successful! It is my sincere hope that everyone took some time for much needed rest and enjoyed the holidays with family and friends.

So, here we go in a new year with new challenges and opportunities. So many of our efforts have already been successful: Membership statewide is already at nearly 96%, quality participation and input into our many programs has definitely increased, hospital visits are scheduled and are underway, struggling Auxiliaries are being supported and mentored, Boone Auxiliary (8898) has been instituted, other new Auxiliaries are being formed, and our contributions to our communities have increased in many new and creative ways. I have seen a big increase in the number and quality of training and mentoring events this past year and this has already proven to be of benefit to many members and Auxiliaries. If you have not already become involved with one of our great programs, please make it a priority this year. Find the cause that matters most to you and throw your energy behind it – contact your program chair and contribute the skills and passion that only you have.

There are still a few areas that need work and improvement and much of this work has already begun. Several auxiliary visits are still outstanding and those that have been completed need to be reported to Dept. Chief of Staff as soon as possible. Also, completed audits need to be sent to Dept. Treasurer as quickly as possible. Various Auxiliary paperwork needs to be updated and brought into compliance – please give this your attention right away this year so that we can move beyond this and devote our time to serving and supporting our veteran community. We have a wealth of dedicated and experienced mentors in Colorado – if you need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out for some support.

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 continue to celebrate this exciting milestone over this 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. Please make arrangements to get these items to the March COA in Denver or sooner if you can. We will ensure the safety of your items.

Lastly, I am so happy to announce that the long-promised Suicide Awareness and Prevention Resource is available and on our Colorado website for all Auxiliary members to download either to their phone or to print and distribute to membership. It is located right under my picture on the webpage and is the result of over 2 years of work and coordination with other partner Veterans Service and Support Agencies and the Colorado Office of Suicide Prevention. Please take some time to look this over, to download, and to make a central part of your efforts this year. Do not hesitate to contact me directly if I can assist you in any way making this resource work for you.

With gratitude,  
Phil Reinpold  
Department President



## Mentoring for Leadership

Welcome to the beginning of a new year. Can you believe that it is already February? In less than two months we will be completing our end of year reports.

We are going into the end of the year for Auxiliary purposes, have you established your Mentoring Program? We will have new officers and members coming on board soon. Did you have members that were willing to step up and become the Mentor for these new officers and members? Every time we answer a question that helps a member understand the bylaws or traditions of the

organization we are mentoring.

I am very proud of every one of the members of this organization – we all are Mentors.

See you all soon at the Parade of Programs in March. I look forward to reading your reports on how your Mentoring Program worked and how you recognized those Mentors in your Auxiliary.

Loyally,  
Ginny Rosa  
Department Mentoring for Leadership



## Mount Blanca VFW 899 Auxiliary

Endorse

## Nadia Flores Department President 2024-2025

We, the members of Mount Blanca VFW Post 899 Auxiliary, are proud to endorse one of our most cherished members, Nadia Flores, for the office of Department President.

Nadia Flores has been a life member of VFW Post #899 Auxiliary since 2012. She joined under the eligibility of her father, Christopher M. Martinez, who served in the Marine Corps 3<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion. Nadia has been active since becoming a member serving at the Auxiliary, District and Department levels. She has served as Auxiliary President since 2014 to current, District 7 Junior Vice, District 7 President, District 7 Sr Vice, District 7 Secretary/Treasurer, Department Color Bearer #1, Department Youth Activities Chair, Department Legislative Chairman, Department Jr Vice and is currently serving as Department Senior Vice.

Nadia is committed to helping our veterans and their families, never hesi-

tating to volunteer for VFW, Auxiliary, and community activities and events. When she is in the community she shares with them the importance of caring for our Veterans and their families. She is willing to share any information she gains, gives encouragement, and is committed to fairness. She continually learns and grows in her duties with the Auxiliary, striving to help members of her local Auxiliary and District 7 as well as to all Auxiliaries she comes in contact with, to learn and grow as members and servants to our veterans. Her leadership and dedication goes above and beyond.

We respectfully ask you to join us in supporting Nadia at the Colorado Convention with your vote.

Sincerely,  
Rowena Martinez  
VFW 899 Auxiliary Treasurer

## All State Achievement

As our 2023 year rounds the corner into a new year, 2024 we all continue to "Value Every Veteran." What a wonderful year it has been with our President Phil Reinpold leading us every step of the way! District and Auxiliary Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers: it's time to review your All State Reports to be sure that all areas have been covered.

This opportunity is for all Auxiliaries and District Auxiliaries to be rewarded and recognized for completing tasks that are already required in the VFW Auxiliary By-laws. Some examples are completing tasks on time i.e. Installation reports, audits, purchasing bonds, filing the IRS 990 form and Officer dues paid. Other tasks that are in the report that we feel will have helped to improve your Auxiliary or District was to attend the Council of Administration weekends to share program information and updates.

The President, Secretary and Treasurer of each Auxiliary or District that earns All State Achievement will receive an All-State Achievement pin and medallion. The Auxiliary or District will receive a certificate of All State Achievement Recognition.

If you have questions do not hesitate to call me at 970-396-3275 or email [caroline.gelatt@comcast.net](mailto:caroline.gelatt@comcast.net). (IMPORTANT DEADLINE: All Achievements reports must be in my hands NO LATER than MAY 16, 2024.)

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the March 16th Parade of Programs. Encourage as many of our members to attend so we can establish new and renew old friendships, as we review our current programs together.

Caroline Gelatt  
Department All State Achievement

## Salute to Service due to Department by March 15th

Forms are on [www.vfwco.org](http://www.vfwco.org)

Plaques will be distributed to each individual at respective district meetings beginning in April

Previous Nominees are eligible

Nominee must be a member of Post or Auxiliary

## Auxiliary Outreach

Greetings all my Auxiliary friends!

The holidays are over and we are starting the downhill road for the 2023/2024 year. I hope you all had wonderful times with your families and friends over Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. Now we need to get busy and accomplish all the tasks that we want to finish and make sure that President Phil makes it to the Circle of Excellence at National Convention.

And now that the holidays are over, let's look at what our Auxiliary did to help other organizations in our communities with their projects and report it.

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

The VFW Auxiliary Outreach Program involves your Auxiliary volunteering to help other non-profit organizations, local groups and others with needs in your community. Auxiliary Outreach is time given to help, not monetary or in-kind donations. It is a partnership 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!

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. It has to be approved by vote at an Auxiliary meeting.

### Suggestions for VFW Auxiliary Outreach

- Join with the local Chamber of Commerce and have your members volunteer to serve as Santa Clause and Mrs. Clause and provide candy for the youth.
- Serve food at soup kitchens or distribute food at food banks/cupboards.
- Join with the local school Booster Club and have auxiliary members work the concession stand at the local basketball games.
- Join with the local Lions Club to

## Historian / Media Relations

To All Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters,  
Here is to a New Year, let's Rock 2024!

This is a time to reflect and refocus. Know what is working or not working in your Auxiliary. Start planning the upcoming year of events, fundraisers, etc. Brainstorm and Swap ideas with different Auxiliaries.

I truly see commitment, dedication and passion each of you have to your Post, Auxiliary and Community. We are Auxiliaries in action, Colorado strong!

Can you imagine when our next generations see what we have done to support our veterans. You all are making VFW Auxiliary history. Always remember to share your story. The memory keeping and collecting the five W's: the who-what-where-when and-why of an Auxiliary. Capture special memories

call bingo at a senior center or nursing home

- 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
- Must be voted on by the Auxiliary to count

This year, Phil has asked that we share stories about our activities in our communities at our COA meetings. So PLEASE, PLEASE report to me what you are doing and tell me what made your event with another organization a success. Tell us what you did, how you participated and any fun things that happened. We want to learn from you what made the event a success so we can steal your ideas and make our events better! I look forward to hearing from each and every auxiliary with lots of exciting and fun stories. I can be reached at [gbarz@hotmail.com](mailto:gbarz@hotmail.com) or by phone 970-749-9320. If I don't answer, please leave me a message and I will return your call.

Good luck with all the activities in your communities.

Queenie Barz  
Department Auxiliary Outreach

## Americanism

Happy New Year!! What an amazing job you have all done in 2023 celebrating Americanism. July thru December, all Colorado auxiliaries brought great spotlights on Americanism thru distribution of flags, educating students and communities.

Many of you shared your activities and promotions via emails, Facebook, and Instagram. Please keep all this going as we go into 2024. I share often with National Ambassador, Linda Roloff. I can tell you she is loving it! We have many opportunities to celebrate our military successes and history of all our branches of service.

- January 25 – Anniversary of the US and Allied Victory at the Battle of the Bulge.
- February 9 – Anniversary of the US Victory of the Battle of Guadalcanal
- February 19 – Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
- February 28 – Anniversary of the US led Victory in the Persian Gulf War
- March 3 – Navy Reserve Birthday
- March 5 – Seabee Birthday. Yes, they are still active. United States Naval Construction Battalions, better known as the Navy Seabees, form the US Naval Construction Force (NCF)
- March 13 – K-9 Veterans Day
- March 25 – Medal of Honor Day
- March 26 – Anniversary of the US Victory at the Battle of Iwo Jima
- March 29 – Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day

What are the anniversaries of your local Post side and Auxiliary side? What are the anniversaries of your local veterans memorial sites? Put a spotlight on all these dates. Educate, celebrate, and be present to your veterans and communities.

The reporting is coming in pretty well by some auxiliaries. I know more of you have activities completed not reported yet. Please put on your follow up

to do list to complete your report before going on to your next project. This ensures all your work and projects are included in your auxiliary's total numbers at the end of our auxiliary year.

I want to highlight and encourage all auxiliaries to be sure to include all of our US branches of service. Space Force previously existed within the Air Force since 1982, as the Air Force Space Command. Space Force was established on December 20, 2019. The branch's motto is Semper Supra "Always Above". Air Force Academy's class of 2020 included 86 graduates to become the Space Force's 1st company-grade officers. September 15, 2020, a virtual mass swearing-in was held for about 2,400 troops transferring into the Space Force from locations around the world. December 10, 2020, the 1st 7 people to enlist directly in the Space Force graduated from basic training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in Texas. Space Force flag was unveiled at the White House in May 2020. Official Space Force song is also called Semper Supra unveiled in September, 2022.

What grouping of flags do you have on your Post's Missing Man Table display? What branches of service insignias do you have hanging on your wall today? It is our Auxiliary's responsibility to educate our Post and Auxiliary members, our students, and community about all branches of service. Share your love of USA and how VFW Auxiliary of Colorado is doing just this.

Amazing Americanism Audrey is ready to share all your wonderful work doing the best your auxiliary can do celebrating and honoring the amazing Americanism traditions and history we all need to know and participate in! FYI – There will be a reward for knowing some facts about our newest branch of service .....Space Force.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Peters  
Department Americanism



## Veterans and Family Support

Greetings Auxiliary Sisters, Brothers, Post members and all others reading I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season, time with family and friends. I know we all took a minute to check on someone. It is now time to continue all the amazing things we do for our veterans and their families. By the time you are reading this it will be February which leaves 8 short weeks before this reporting year is complete.

Please remember March is our last COA, time to get the last little bit of important information from all the wonderful chairman and women. Bring your questions and comments and I promise to leave tears at home this time.

Continue doing a great job of supporting 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 informa-

tion on each of these programs on the national website [VFWAuxiliary.org](http://VFWAuxiliary.org)

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.

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, [bmdolan@live.com](mailto:bmdolan@live.com). 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

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO  
GENERAL ORDERS #3 February 1, 2024

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

1. **The Department of Colorado VFW Auxiliary Parade of Programs, Workshops, and Council of Administration meeting** is scheduled for March 16-17, 2024, at John S. Stewart Post #1, 841 Santa Fe Dr. Denver, CO 80204. A complete schedule of programs and workshops will be available on the Department website. A Joint Council of Administration meeting to be held on Sunday, March 17, 2024, and the Auxiliary Council meeting will follow. Please watch for further details coming out soon.

2. **Department President Phil Reinpold's special project** is Operation Veteran Strong. Please forward all donations to Department Treasurer, Lennie Dolan.

3. **Members in Good Standing** are those who are life members or those who hold a 2024 annual membership card as of January 1, 2024. A member who is not in good standing is not eligible to attend meetings, vote, or hold an office or chairmanship. They are also not eligible for a cancer grant from National. All rights and benefits are restored immediately upon payment of the current year's dues. Proof of payment may include a paper or digital copy from MALTA.

4. **Membership:** Members who have not yet paid their dues for 2024 are requested to send dues to your Auxiliary Treasurer or pay them directly through the MALTA system with an activated account. Membership cards will be sent to paid annual members from National Headquarters within 2 to 4 weeks. Members should always carry an application to recruit new members. The VFW Auxiliary may fix an admission fee. This entitles each new member to a membership pin, a copy of the current Podium Edition Bylaws and Ritual or have the choice to access behind the MALTA login. (See Section 102 of the Bylaws)

5. **Audits** for the months of October, November and December 2023 were to be completed by January 31, 2024. Audits must be read on the Auxiliary floor and voted to be approved before sending them to the Department Treasurer by February 28, 2024.

6. **District Presidents:** Annual official visits to the Auxiliaries should continue only as it is possible to do that safely for all. A copy of the visitation report

is to be sent to the Department President and Department Chief of Staff. District Officer making the visit should sign the Secretary and Treasurer books to verify that they are being kept in accordance with procedures. Copies of bonds, audits, and verification of 990 filings should be available for review. All questions on the visit form should be completed.

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

8. **Hospitalized Veterans** will receive special recognition during the week of February 12 through 16, 2024. Consider planning a special event or activity to honor our hospitalized veterans during this time.

9. **Salute to Service** nominations from the Auxiliaries are due to VFW Department Headquarters by March 15, 2024. There will not be an annual Department Award Banquet this year. Awards will be forwarded to the Districts to be presented at a District meeting to the members to be recognized. Forms are available on the Department website.

10. **Program Report Forms** should be filed with the VFW Department Headquarters in a timely manner so that Auxiliaries will receive credit for their hard work. The reporting year is April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024. All reports are due to Department Headquarters by April 15, 2024.

11. **Supplementary Report Forms** should be completed by all Auxiliaries and sent to Department Secretary Cindy Anderson by the April 15, 2024 deadline. This form provides program information that is not included on the program reporting website but is needed by the Department Chairman for year end reporting to National. The form can be found on the Department website in the Program Book and under Forms and Documents.

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

BY ORDER OF: Phil Reinpold  
Department President

ATTESTED BY: Cindy Anderson  
Department Secretary

## Chief of Staff - Extension & Revitalization

Hope everyone had a great Christmas holiday and a Happy New Year with your friends and families! The year is now almost half-way over – hard to believe! I have enjoyed talking with you at your Auxiliary, District, Council of Administration and training meetings. Thank you for all you are doing for our veterans and their families.

We have a new Auxiliary to Boone Post #8898! They were instituted on November 12, 2023 and we would like to welcome all new members. We are looking forward to meeting you at District and Council of Administration meetings. Congratulations!

It is time to look at the "Healthy Auxiliary Checklist" to ensure that by year end all your audit reports are up-to-date and forwarded to Department Treasurer (Section 814); an Auxiliary is required to have a minimum of ten members and dues paid to maintain the Auxiliary Charter by February 1 (Section 207-A); and hold at least 10 meetings per year (Section 210-A).

Be sure to continue presenting Good Job Award to your members throughout the next few months. This award provides acknowledgment and gives them recognition for all their volunteer work. This Award form can be found at [www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources).

Nominations and elections will be in April which is only a few months away. Now is the time to encourage

members you have been working with throughout the year and those you have seen with leadership abilities to run for an office or program chair. If a member is unsure about a position talk with them, refer them to "Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation" to find duties and responsibilities of an Officer or Program Chair and recommend that they talk with current or past Officers or Program Chairs.

Thank you to District Presidents who completed their visitations by December 31, 2023. Also, thank you to those who tried so hard but were unable due to changing or extenuating circumstances. There are only a few visitations left that are scheduled and I look forward to receiving them by the end of January. Thank you to Auxiliary Presidents for working closely with District Presidents to ensure that the reporting information was complete and informative.

To all members thank you for supporting our mission to our veterans and their families. By working together as a team, we can accomplish much. Remember – **"We Value Every Veteran" and are "Banding Together for our Veterans"**.

Please feel free to contact me any time – [linkareinpold@centurylink.net](mailto:linkareinpold@centurylink.net) or 719-320-1394.

Linda Reinpold  
Department Chief of Staff

## Youth Program

Hello Auxiliary brothers and sisters,

I hope this finds you well and you all had a peaceful and joyous holiday season filled with family and friends. As we head into the new year, my wish for all of you is a healthy, happy, and prosperous 2024.

It's hard to believe that we're in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of this program year. You have stepped up to assist our youth in so many ways and it's exciting to see and hear so keep the reports coming. But, the 2023-2024 Auxiliary Program Year is not over, so continue your work with our youth in establishing classroom libraries, providing patriotic books for school libraries, teaching our youth about patriotism, and rewarding them with our own R.A.P. cards or other forms of patriotic prizes.

The deadline for our national anthem singing contest, Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! is fast approaching. It is so inspiring to listen to our youth sing our National Anthem! There are two grade divisions: K-8 and 9-12. Entries will be judged on vocal ability, mastery of lyrics, interpretation and originality, and entertainment value. The deadline for entries to your Auxiliary is March 31 with the Department first-place winner from each division to be forwarded to Auxiliary Headquarters by May 5th. National winners will be notified via email address provided on the entry form and announced at the

VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Entry forms are located on MALTA Member Resources, Youth Activities.

Finally, the Illustrating America art contest for the 2023-2024 getting our youth involved in showing patriotism is open to any student in grades K-8. There are three grade divisions: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. All entries are due to your Auxiliary by March 31 with the Department first-place winner in each grade division forwarded to Auxiliary Headquarters on or before May 5th. National winners will be notified via email provided on the entry form. First through third place winners in each grade division will be displayed at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Further, all entries received will be returned to the address on the entry form. Entry forms are located on MALTA Member Resources, Youth Activities.

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 [kmlt-wood10@msn.com](mailto:kmlt-wood10@msn.com) and phone (720) 201-4062, should you need assistance or want to discuss any of these programs.

Respectfully,  
Kristi Wood  
Department Youth Activities

### Council of Administration - March 16th & 17th VFW Post 1, 841 Santa Fe Dr, Denver, 80204

Due to St. Patty's Day Weekend, there is no hotel block. We recommend the following hotels:

- Hilton Garden Inn at Union Station, 1999 Chestnut Pl, Denver, 80202 720-643-1999 \$98 per night
- Courtyard by Marriott Cherry Creek 1475 S Colorado Blvd, Denver 80222 303-757-8797 \$84 per night
- Days Inn Downtown Denver, 930 E Colfax Ave, Denver 80218 303-785-8562 \$98 per night

Parking at VFW Post 1: Street or Uber/Lyft or MSU (Green Building on Kalamath & 8th Ave after 1pm, Piper Fitters Union Building on Kalamath & 10th Ave

VFW Department of Colorado  
State Convention June 5th to June 8th

### Membership 2023-2024

Greetings Sisters and Brothers, Here's hoping y'all had a Happy Holiday! **Lights, Camera, Action: And ACTION you have!**

I want to thank each of you again for making the Department of Colorado over 95% + which you all did by December 15<sup>th</sup> and the percentage goes up each day as dues are entered. The deadline was December 31, 2023. As of December 31, 2023, the Department of Colorado was at 96.15% and then on January 1, 2024, Department of Colorado was at 96.20%! Here's taking Colorado to 100% and your Auxiliary to be done by the time you read this!

We have 21 Auxiliary's at 100% and so many Auxiliaries that are so close to being 100%, So let's get those dues paid and in Malta as you get them. There are still some Auxiliaries that are below the 90% but they have been working hard on their membership, Keep going strong, you will git-r-done! You all are Stars in my eyes!

**Lights, Camera Action:**

You LIGHT up your Auxiliary, CAMERA pics have been sent from some and you have all been in ACTION, so you are the Stars of this movie for Colorado. I jump with joy every time I see our membership percentage go up. I know I may have hounded everyone a bit, but Producers need to jump start their STARS occasionally.

**Here is a Movie script that I hope you all will be looking at and participate in:**

"Auxiliaries who make 100% going



VFW Auxiliary 1771 Mile High at Eric King Soopers doing a Membership Drive. (Pictured left is Ellen Cook and Right is Lynette Sipe)

forward, will be in a drawing. I will be doing the drawing at our March Council of Administration (COA). I am hoping that you all will push your membership to get into the drawing as well. Must have **100% by March 13th** to enter the drawing. I will do 4 drawings, so 4 lucky Auxiliaries will be drawn and receive \$50.00 each."

**Have you seen the Movie "True Grit" which is our Western Conference movie theme?**

**Does anyone know what "TRUE GRIT" means?**

It means "A person with true grit has Passion and Perseverance Goals that are set and followed through. A person who works hard to follow through on commitments."

**5 Characteristics of True Grit are:**

- Perseverance
- Resilience
- Courage
- Passion
- Conscientiousness

Which is what our AUXILIARIES here in Colorado have, we have passion, Courage, and Goals to make every day. We are here for our Veterans, and we do everything to help our Veterans.

So let us continue to get our Membership up and continue to make Colorado "The Best in the West" and thank you so very much for all you do.

Thank you,  
Lucille Chavez  
Department Membership Chairman

VFW Post 9644 & Auxiliary hosting a membership drive at Sheridan Celebrates Festival on September 30, 2023



### Legislative Program

I'm filling in for Pat who is taking care of her husband. Many thoughts and Prayers for both of you.

To quote National Legislative chairman Sherry Howland "One of the main objectives of the Legislative program is to improve the lives of our veterans, service members and their families through advocacy".

What "things" should we be extra concerned about? The VFW Priority Goals and signing up for Action Corps which you can do both by signing into MALTA, Member Resources, Legislative can give you direction. The

Priority Goals show the main issues the VFW is working on. The weekly Action Corps gives weekly input and updates on what our Congressmen are doing and other important info.

Many have been reporting, but I hope many more are and have been being proactive. Report what you are doing and if it concerns "bills" please tell what bills you are doing things about.

Hope to see everyone March 16-17 at COA, hosted by Post 1.

Rena Cales  
Department Legislative Chairman

### Auxiliary Membership by District as of January 31, 2024

Number	City	2023	2024	%	Number	City	2023	2024	%
<b>DISTRICT #1</b>					<b>DISTRICT #7</b>				
1	Denver	183	186	102*	899	Alamosa	40	40	100*
501	Denver	146	139	95	8121	So Fork	106	107	101*
5061	Denver	167	159	95	TOTAL	146	147	101%*	
TOTAL		496	484	98%	<b>DISTRICT #8</b>				
<b>DISTRICT #2</b>					<b>DISTRICT #9</b>				
2788	Penrose	42	47	112*	859	Leadville	18	19	106*
3641	Pueblo	72	57	79	11411	Lake George	48	49	102*
4061	Canon City	104	98	94	12009	Conifer	32	32	100*
5812	Pueblo West	41	41	100*	TOTAL	98	101	102%*	
7305	Colo. City	21	22	105*	<b>DISTRICT #10</b>				
8898	Boone	0	17	0	4264	Stmbt Spgs	28	28	100*
TOTAL		280	282	101%*	4265	Craig	35	40	114*
<b>DISTRICT #3</b>					<b>DISTRICT #11</b>				
41	Loveland	123	118	96	5843	Meeker	30	30	100*
1771	Lafayette	240	246	103*	9374	Kremmling	20	22	110*
1781	Ft. Collins	132	122	92	TOTAL	113	120	106%*	
2121	Greeley	112	113	101*	<b>DISTRICT #12</b>				
2585	Johnstown	78	79	101*	322	Englewood	78	78	100*
2601	Longmont	182	172	95	3631	Aurora	109	106	97
4334	Ault	46	45	98	4171	Golden	282	281	99.6
6624	Evans	194	186	96	4331	Arvada	132	130	98
12189	Berthoud	19	18	95	4444	Cmmrc City	164	149	91
TOTAL		1126	1099	98%	7945	Thornton	269	259	96
<b>DISTRICT #4</b>					<b>DISTRICT #13</b>				
3541	Sterling	58	45	78	3411	Kit Carson	18	18	100*
4671	Wray	20	20	100*	6612	Hugo	37	33	89
TOTAL		78	65	83%	TOTAL	55	51	93%	
<b>DISTRICT #5</b>					<b>Time to pay your 2024 Dues</b>				
101	Colo. Spgs.	75	67	89	15006	At Large	802	780	97%
3917	Security	192	179	93	<b>Be 100% in 2023-2024</b>				
4051	Colo. Spgs	226	230	102*	TOTAL DEPT.	5,895	5,773	98%	
5221	Calhan	25	25	100*	<b>Scholarship Program</b>				
6461	Fountain	150	143	95	Greetings Auxiliary Members,				
7829	Monument	43	44	102*	Welcome to another fun and exciting year! Thus far, 2024, seems to be a year full of amazing things that our auxiliaries are doing to support the mission of the Scholarship Programs. The Continuing Education Scholarship deadline is fast approaching and entries are due to National Headquarters by February 15, 2024.				
TOTAL		711	688	97%	March is a very busy month as the Young American Patriotic Art and the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Scholarships entries are due to your local auxiliaries by March 31, 2024. More information, including promotional materials for these scholarships, can be found at <a href="http://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships">vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships</a> , and in MALTA Membership Resources. March is also the end of				

Greetings Auxiliary Members,

Welcome to another fun and exciting year! Thus far, 2024, seems to be a year full of amazing things that our auxiliaries are doing to support the mission of the Scholarship Programs. The Continuing Education Scholarship deadline is fast approaching and entries are due to National Headquarters by February 15, 2024.

March is a very busy month as the Young American Patriotic Art and the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Scholarships entries are due to your local auxiliaries by March 31, 2024. More information, including promotional materials for these scholarships, can be found at [vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships](http://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships), and in MALTA Membership Resources. March is also the end of

the reporting period for all programs so please make the time to turn in your reports!

Please remember my current promotion focuses on recipient recognition and student participation. I am looking forward to the next COA where I am hopeful that many auxiliaries will share how they recognized their scholarship participants and winners. As always, thank you for all that you do! Remember, the best way to ensure the continuing growth and support of our organization is by continuing to support and encourage our younger generations through these scholarship opportunities.

Sincerely,  
Crystal Proffitt  
Department Scholarship

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

**You must also notify MALTA and Colorado Department Treasurer.**

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

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

Greetings!

The holidays are over and I know our Auxiliaries have been very active supporting our Veterans during the holidays. Let's get more involved and support President Phil's special project Operation Veteran Strong in the remaining months of the 2023/2024 year

The holidays were tough for me after losing a special friend by suicide just before the holidays last year and then our community lost a police officer just before Thanksgiving in the line of duty. The police officer was also a Veteran. I found myself reaching out to Phil's Special Project, Operation Veteran Strong, for help, and they were very helpful. 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.

As a nation, we 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.

President Phil's special project pin

is a beautiful purple and teal ribbon pin, 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."

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. Currently there are 28 Auxiliaries that HAVE NOT purchased any pins. I will be sending letters to those Auxiliaries within the next couple of weeks.

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.

Do you all know that we have 5,292 Auxiliary members in the state of Colorado, not counting At Large membership. I am 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!! If every member met my challenge, we could make **\$63,504** for our Veterans!! Just imagine how much we could donate if we all just gave up one coke or one coffee a month! Your \$12 a year challenge money can be sent directly to Department Treasurer Lennie Dolan, just mark in the memo line that is for the \$12 challenge for Phil's Special Project.

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

Queenie Barz

## Hospital Program

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

Happy 2024! Hope you all had wonderful holidays and are ready to not only finish out this reporting year strong but also continue with your great work during the upcoming year. National Salute to Veteran Patients Week is February 11-17 this year. It's always the week of Valentine's Day, so it's a perfect time to get out into facilities and plan Valentine's Day events, or if you are unable to do that, send cards! Valentine's for Veterans is one of our goals from national this year, so if you haven't planned something yet, you still have time to do it! As has been the case the last several years, please make sure you check with the facility first to make sure they don't have any COVID restrictions in place.

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

this is the time to make your push on trying to do those things you haven't yet.

Have you recruited volunteers to help with your hospital events or sending cards? If you have, have you thought of ways to recognize them (and, have you reported it)?

Have you researched and found information regarding women's health and provided that information to those who need it?

How about Honors Escorts in hospitals? Have you looked into that yet?

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

Loyally,  
Brandi Dolan  
Department Hospital

## VFW Buddy Poppy - National Home for Children

Greetings and Happy 2024. It's hard to believe that we are just two months off of our end of the year reporting. I am proud of all the hard work that each and every one of you have done to support the Buddy Poppy/National Home program. I hope you are still doing all you can to support these two programs and the veterans they help. I'm not going to break down where all the money goes that we raise, but I am going to emphasize the fact that we need to keep doing our fund raising to support these programs.

On January 7<sup>th</sup> the National Home turned 99 years old, and for the next year they are gearing up for many events to celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Please check their website at [www.vfwnation-](http://www.vfwnation-)

[alhome.org](http://alhome.org), where they will be announcing the Formal Gala in February and sending out invitations for the Birthday party and community celebration. They just had their Annual Meeting of Life Members, where they thanked the outgoing trustees hose terms have ended and welcomed in the new incoming trustees. If you visit the website, you will be able to see whose term ended and who came in to take their place.

I will see all of you at the next COA. In the meantime, keep those numbers coming in.

God Bless,  
Patricia Rowley-Wilson  
Department Buddy Poppy/National Home

## 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

## Roster Corrections

Page 6 Change Legislative Chairman to Rena Cales (6461) 7461 Fortman Ave. Fountain 80817 719-290-0164 [rLcales88@yahoo.com](mailto:rLcales88@yahoo.com)

Page18 Aux 322 change secretary to Anita Sherrill 740 W Jefferson Ave. Englewood 80110 720-323-1055 [asherrill51@gmail.com](mailto:asherrill51@gmail.com)

Page 27 Aux 4031 President's email [jvvl250@gmail.com](mailto:jvvl250@gmail.com)

Page 38 Add new Aux 8898 (2) Henry A Hess Post 8898 Boone 106 Russell Ave Boone 81025 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, 11:00am  
Add Aux 8898 President Diane Clark 502 6<sup>th</sup> St. Fowler 81039 269-512-2982 [plantationgirl@hotmail.com](mailto:plantationgirl@hotmail.com)  
Add Aux 8898 Treasurer Regina Coffield 1663 Boone Rd, Boone 81025 719-568-1638 [coffield\\_reginam@yahoo.com](mailto:coffield_reginam@yahoo.com)  
Add Aux 8898 Secretary Laure Frank 56501 Apple Rd Boone 81025 719-221-1629 [53laure@gmail.com](mailto:53laure@gmail.com)

Page 39 Aux 9644 change meeting day to 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, 11:00am



### 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**