



VFW NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO
Land of Enchantment



Official Publication of the Department of New Mexico Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary

December 2019

Vol. 44 Issue 2

Access to Exchanges



Important notice! Some Veterans will not have access to military installations starting January 1, 2020.

The Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018 expanded eligibility for commissary, military exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) services to include Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, and veterans with VA documented service-connected disability ratings of 0-90 percent.

Veterans who are 100 percent service-connected already had access to commissary and MWR

services. Eligible persons will need to have a Veteran Health Identification Card (VHID) from the VA in order to gain entry to Department of Defense and/or Coast Guard installations. Those who are covered under this act and do not have a VHID will not be allowed access to the installations starting January 1, 2020, but will have access to online exchanges and American Forces Travel. Caregiver eligibility will be limited to caregivers who are designated as the primary family caregiver of an eligible veteran under the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, and will need to show an acceptable credential, along with their eligibility letter.

Commander's Corner



Rich Nutt

Comrades, Sisters and Brothers,

It's hard to believe that we are almost halfway through this VFW year and it has been a whirlwind tour so far. I would like to thank everyone on both the VFW and VFWA sides for all of your dedication and hard work to date. Our Department would not and could not be successful without your efforts. Although

we have accomplished much, we still have more work to do when it comes to supporting our Veterans, their families and our individual communities.

Even though Veterans Day 2019 has come and gone, every day should be Veterans Day in our local areas and it is up to us to make this happen.

Continue to promote not only the Veterans of Foreign Wars at various community events, but also promote the work that each of our Posts perform on a daily basis. Our Posts need to participate in as many community events as possible and provide information on our VFW programs and scholarships, along with conducting membership drives. Speaking of membership, currently our Department is doing very well, but we still have work to do so that we can reach the 100% level. To date we are ahead of last year in new and reinstated members, new life members and continuous members who have extended their annual membership. Continue to reach out to your continuous members as well as those whose dues may have expired to renew their memberships and also inform them of upcoming events your Post may be having to help increase participation. Also, as of this writing we have two Posts who have achieved 100% membership. Congratulations to Posts 2587 and 12184.

I have had the pleasure to travel to many Posts and Districts around the Department, and will continue to get to the remainder. Some may be official visits and

others may be to help support your Posts with events you are having. If you are having an event that you would like a Department Officer to attend, please reach out to me and we can arrange for someone to be there. In addition to traveling around the state, I was also able to attend the VFW Commander-in-Chiefs Homecoming which was held in Albany, New York, and have traveled to Anchorage, Alaska to represent our Department at the 2019 Western Conference.

I look forward to seeing as many VFW and Auxiliary members as possible at our 2020 Mid-Winter Conference, where we will once again be recognizing our Department winners in the Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen and Teacher award programs. We will also have in attendance as our National representative, Past Commander-in-Chief and current Executive Director of the VFW Washington D.C. office, our own B.J. Lawrence.

Keep up the outstanding work that you've performed so far this year, and remember to submit your Community Service reports, and promote the VFW and your Post in ways that will help in recruiting new members and continue to take care of our Veterans and their family members.



Senior Vice Commander's Message



Cynthia Archuleta

Western Conference was a great conference. I enjoyed seeing all of you that made it to Alaska. This year is already going by very quickly. Hope to see you all at the Mid-Winter Conference in January. If any Posts need anything or any help, please let me know. I went to Hobbs a few weeks ago and assisted a few

Veterans with their disability claims. I am willing to go to your Post or wherever you may need me to help in your area also.

VFW Post 5890 had great Veterans Day and Marine Corps birthdays.



Quartermaster's Message



Dave Fouse

October was a busy month. We enjoyed our President & Commander's Homecoming at Post 7686 in Alamogordo; travelled to Kansas City for the Senior Vice & Quartermaster Conference, and then off to Alaska to attend the Western Conference. They both were good conferences, where we met some new people and visited with some long time

friends.

The holiday season is just around the corner. It is a hard time for some Veterans who live alone. Please invite them or even bring them to your Post for a good meal and conversation. This goes for those living in barracks away from home; long term care facilities and others down on their luck. Compassion goes a long way.

Let's keep up the good work on your audits, membership, Buddy Poppy orders, donations and inspections. Scholarship Chairman Brian Ravak will probably touch on this, but hopefully we have a good selection of scholarship applications and teacher nominations. Be sure to update the All-American dashboard with your entries. If you need help with this, please call me and I will walk you through the process. This not only will help your Posts, but also the Districts and Department with attaining our annual goal of being an All-American Department.

Our Mid-Winter Conference is fast approaching. Commander Rich and President Kelly have included some important information on the cover sheet of our registration packet. It is imperative that this gets briefed to all members who are attending or may want to attend. The biggest item is our Scholarship Luncheon. DO NOT forget to order meal requests for your scholarship winners and family who will be attending, and let them know to reserve their rooms if needed. Dress will be BUSINESS (collared shirt and coat/jacket). Hope to see you all at the Mid-Winter Conference!

Chaplain's Message



Hello Comrades,

It's that time of the year again when we remember dates that we were deployed or lost our brothers and sisters in battle, or here at home fighting a different battle, PTSD. Let us join together in helping one another and our families get through these difficult times now and always. Together we can and will make a difference.

Christopher Archuleta

Always remember that a simple act of kindness can change a persons' whole day.

Remember that my phone is always on if you wish to talk because you are struggling or just wish to say hi and check on me.



New Mexico VFW News

Official Publication of the Department of New Mexico Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Three issues: September, December, and May. News items and photographs, etc., should be sent to VFW Dept. Editor, vfnmeditor@yahoo.com no later than the 10th day of the month preceding the month of publication. Editor is Mark Decker.

VFW

Veterans of Foreign Wars

New Mexico VFW State Officers 2019-2020

National Council Member - Kathie Schiebel 401 *Albuquerque*
 Commander - Richard Nutt 7686 *Alamogordo*
 Sr. Vice Commander - Cynthia Archuleta 5890 *Rio Rancho*
 Jr. Vice Commander - Roy Maldonado 4384 *Anthony*
 Quartermaster - Dave Fouse 7686 *Alamogordo*
 Chaplain - Christopher Archuleta 5610 *Espanola*
 Judge Advocate - Cathy Brock 3274 *Hobbs*
 Surgeon - Victoria Haddox 5890 *Rio Rancho*
 Past State Cmdr - Mark Decker 9517 *Shiprock*
 Inspector - Lawrence Vargas 3259 *Taos*
 Chief of Staff - Kathie Schiebel 401 *Albuquerque*
 Service Officer - Cynthia Archuleta 5890 *Rio Rancho*

District Commanders

District 1 - Eloy Howard 614 *Aztec*
 District 2 - James Haddox 5890 *Rio Rancho*
 District 3 - Brian Ravak 6917 *Las Cruces*
 District 4 - Jack Doil 1389 *Elephant Butte*
 District 5 - Eusebio "Joe" Esparza 3271 *Clayton*
 District 6 - Joseph DeVargas 3259 *Taos*
 District 7 - Michael Grimeson II 3274 *Hobbs*
 District 8 - Joe Bob Mann 3280 *Clovis*

Surgeon's Message



Victoria Haddox

In this newspaper I am going to talk about two important topics here in New Mexico for Veterans. The first is the Veterans Integration Center, and the second is Veteran suicide. These both are affecting Veterans in New Mexico.

Have you heard of The Veterans Integration Center (VIC)? They provide transitional housing to get

homeless veterans off the streets. They're preparing to move from an extended-stay hotel into an apartment complex that they will be based out of, so they're launching "Operation Welcome Home" to collect donations. The VIC needs everything from spatulas and dishes to TVs and microwaves for the Veterans homes. The complex will have 19 total units, and they're hoping to have 15-16 finished for Veterans to move into by Christmas. If you are looking for a worthy cause to support this holiday season, please look more into this organization.

We are in the holiday season, and as we know suicide is a real thing. Instead of talking about it, I'm going to throw some real data at you. New Mexico's suicide rate among Veterans was "significantly higher" than the regional and national rates, according to the 2014 state data report. According to the report, an average of twenty Veterans are lost to suicide every day in the U.S.,

despite the efforts of organizations working to lower the number. The biggest issue is getting Veterans to come in and seek help.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, there were ninety one Veteran suicides throughout the state in 2014, with a majority of the deaths being between the ages of 55 and 74. In the diagram below, in 2016, we are down to 711, but that was a short victory.

Last year in New Mexico, more people killed themselves than during any other year in at least two decades. According to data provided by the state's Department of Health, five hundred thirty five people died by suicide. That's a 6.7% increase over the 2017 rate, but I couldn't find Veteran-specific data.

Please consider this a safety brief. Keep your phones on and your ears open for that friend in need. Veteran or not, we all have dark thoughts and we all need that one person to listen. Be that one person!!!

New Mexico Veteran Suicide Data Sheet, 2016



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is leading efforts to understand suicide risk factors, develop evidence-based prevention programs, and prevent Veteran suicide through a public health approach. As part of its work, VA analyzes data at the national and state levels to guide the design and execution of the most effective strategies to prevent Veteran suicide.

The 2016 state data sheets present the latest findings from VA's ongoing analysis of suicide rates and include the most up-to-date state-level suicide information for the United States. This data sheet includes information about New Mexico Veteran suicides by age, sex, and suicide method and compares this with regional and national data.

After accounting for age differences,* the Veteran suicide rate in New Mexico:

- Was significantly higher than the national Veteran suicide rate
- Was significantly higher than the national suicide rate

Western Region

- Alaska
- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Montana
- Nevada
- New Mexico
- Oregon
- Utah
- Washington
- Wyoming

New Mexico Veteran Suicide Deaths, 2016

Sex	Veteran Suicides
Total	71
Male	60-70
Female	<10

To protect confidentiality, suicide death counts are presented in ranges when the number of deaths in any one category was lower than 10.

New Mexico, Western Region, and National Veteran Suicide Deaths by Age Group, 2016*

Age Group	New Mexico Veteran Suicides	Western Region Veteran Suicides	National Veteran Suicides	New Mexico Veteran Suicide Rate	Western Region Veteran Suicide Rate	National Veteran Suicide Rate
Total	71	1,376	4,079	44.1	35.0	30.1
18-34	11	224	895	78.6*	47.9	45.0
35-54	17	418	1,648	44.7*	38.8	33.1
55-74	27	595	2,259	37.0	30.6	25.9
75+	16	317	1,274	44.4*	33.4	28.3

New Mexico Veteran and Total New Mexico, Western Region, and National Suicide Deaths by Age Group, 2016*

Age Group	New Mexico Veteran Suicides	New Mexico Total Suicides	Western Region Total Suicides	National Total Suicides	New Mexico Veteran Suicide Rate	New Mexico Suicide Rate	Western Region Suicide Rate	National Suicide Rate
Total	71	456	11,105	43,427	44.1	28.8	19.0	17.5
18-34	11	129	3,061	11,997	78.6*	27.5	16.6	16.1
35-54	17	160	3,854	15,467	44.7*	32.2	19.5	18.6
55-74	27	127	3,155	12,162	37.0	26.7	19.9	17.3
75+	16	40	1,035	3,801	44.4*	28.7	23.0	18.5

District 2 Notes



Welcome, Comrades, to another update from District 2!

I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of the Posts that are working hard to make our organization thrive! Nothing in this organization can prosper without the work that each member does to make our mission work.

Jim Haddox

Our District has been fortunate to have one of the Posts awarded as All-American which was presented at the Commander's Homecoming!

Congratulations to Post 401 and Past Commander Christina Zamora!

We were also blessed to have our Corrales Post receive a Veterans memorial dedication on Veterans Day! Thanks so much to these Comrades that have put so much work into making

this a reality!

We had many celebrations for the US Air Force, US Navy, and USMC service birthdays! Thanks to our Posts for remembering that we can still win and have fun! Never forget to celebrate ourselves and our mission.

I look forward to the holiday season and seeing everyone once again at our Mid-Winter Conference!



FREEDOM ISN'T FREE
IN HONOR OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN ALL WARS PAST AND PRESENT.
GOD BLESS AMERICA

DEDICATED
NOVEMBER 11, 2019
BY
CORRALES VFW
HORACIO MARTINEZ
POST 5432

President's Corner



Kelly Fouse

Wow, it is hard to believe half of the 2019/2020 year is almost over! It has already been an amazing journey!

Thank you to everyone who helped make me and Commander Rich's Homecoming such a memorable experience, It truly was a team effort! Post 7686, Post 6917 and all the members across the state touched my heart and it is extremely appreciated! What a phenomenal group of people in the VFW/VFWA NM!

than get a call that we lost someone. We do care!!! I feel safe in saying that all of the VFW/VFWA Line Officers, and 99% of our members feel this way. Again, we are family!

Mid-Year is upon us! Please read the packets, especially the cover sheet thoroughly! It has all the information you need, including deadlines, and dress code. Commander Rich and I want this to be a wonderful time for each of you; and our students, teachers and their families. We have changed the luncheon to a served plate with options to choose from. We hope to see a great turn out at Mid-Year to celebrate our Scholarship winners and teachers. Not to mention; learning at our meetings, camaraderie, and yes, the administrative responsibilities of taking care of the Legacy that we have been given!

After Mid-Year was a trip to Kansas City for the QM/Jr. Vice training, which as always, new things were learned. It is obvious National puts a lot of time and effort into making it a worthwhile experience.

From Kansas City we went to Alaska for Western Conference. Congratulations to Janet Huft, she is now the Western Conference Chaplain. Nevada and New Mexico had Veterans and Family Support as our skit/presentation. There are no words for how blessed I feel to be President of VFWA NM, with the people that were in this skit/presentation! Every one of those that could attended were awesome! The Conference itself was fantastic! Alaska did a great job, the camaraderie, as always was phenomenal and the National Line Officers did a great Q and A. I must add that some of the best presentations/skits I got to see over the years, were done at this years Conference!

As the holidays approach, please think of those that may have a hard time. Those that may not have family close, are in long term care facilities, or are homeless. Reach out to the families who may have lost their veteran this year. We are a family, and even if someone does not belong to the VFW/VFWA, our mission should always be to reach out to all veterans and their families; and let them know, they are not alone! What we do makes a difference, sometimes it can be life changing; and/or can actually save a life. It has been proven the holidays bring more suicides, and makes depression even darker for some. If you are having a hard time, please reach out to Dave, myself, or someone! We would rather get a 0200 call, and let someone vent, or just know that someone will listen,

New Mexico VFW Auxiliary State Officers 2019-2020

National Councilwoman - Kim Harney *Arizona*
 President - Kelly Fouse 7686 *Alamogordo*
 Sr. Vice President - Kandy Brazell 401 *Albuquerque*
 Jr. Vice President - Betty Decker 614 *Aztec*
 Treasurer - Penney Howard 614 *Aztec*
 Secretary - Jeanette Garcia 401 *Albuquerque*
 Chaplain - Dominique Garcia 401 *Albuquerque*
 Conductress - Danielle Garcia 401 *Albuquerque*
 Assistant Conductress -
 Guard - Elaine Mitchell 3015 *Clovis*
 Assistant Guard - Dela Sanchez 4384 *Anthony*
 Chief of Staff - Beth Miller 6917 *Las Cruces*
 Past State Pres. - Mary Sanchez 4384 *Anthony*
 Color Bearer #1 - Gina Bonhorst 7686 *Alamogordo*
 Color Bearer #2 - Crystal Sweeney 6917 *Las Cruces*
 Color Bearer #3 - Clara Montano 3015 *Clovis*
 Color Bearer #4 - Lawrence John 614 *Aztec*
 Flag Bearer - Louise Salas 401 *Albuquerque*
 Banner Bearer - Nancy Tabb 5890 *Rio Rancho*
 Musician/Soloist - Diana Wong 401 *Albuquerque*

District President

District 1 - Vickey Westbrook 614 *Aztec*
 District 2 - Shirlee Frias 401 *Albuquerque*
 District 3 - Pamela Calkin 6917 *Las Cruces*
 District 4 - Nancy Evans 1389 *Elephant Butte*
 District 5 - Penny Esparza 3271 *Clayton*
 District 6 - Margie Carrillo 2951 *Sante Fe*
 District 7 - Angel Martinez 3274 *Hobbs*
 District 8 - Vondale Mann 3280 *Clovis*

VFWA Senior Vice President



Kandy Brazell

Here we are approaching the holidays, and one thing keeps running through my mind and that is – how are our veterans and active military celebrating? Do they have someone to share the holidays with, or are they spending them alone? So, let's take care of them! If you are able, please open either your hearts or your homes and invite them to be a part of your holiday celebration.

Thank you for everything you do, and have the happiest of holidays. See you all at Mid-Winter!

MOCA Grand Treasurer

Please remember to get your dues paid before the end of December in order to remain a member in good standing. Also, if you are an officer, your dues must be paid before the end of December, or you will no longer be able to hold that office.

VFWA Membership Chairman



Janis Wimmer

Goals:

Invite Others to Join
Include All Members
Invest in the Future of Our Organization!

You need to remember to **Invite, Include, and Invest** in your Auxiliary membership to make your Auxiliary a stronger and a greater working partner with your VFW Post. You should have been **inviting** prospective new members to your Auxiliary functions so

that they get to know the members and feel **INCLUDED** in your Auxiliary. By the invitation and inclusion, that is your **"INVESTMENT"** in your Auxiliary. Remember that it is as simple as **"ASKING"** (inviting) someone to join. Remember that **"MEMBERSHIP MATTERS"** and that we need **"MORE MEMBERS"**. The more working members that we have, the better our Auxiliary will be able to help all our Veterans.

I hope that your Auxiliary has taken advantage of all the extra cash that your Auxiliary could earn from National!!! Remember that your Auxiliary can still earn **\$50** by reaching 100% Plus by January 31, 2020, based on the June 30, 2019, total membership numbers.

The year is not over. It takes everyone getting out there and working your membership program. Remember to **invite** (ask) new members to join and **invite** (ask) members who have left the VFWA for some reason to rejoin your Auxiliary. Give a nice holiday gift by paying for someone's membership or life membership in your auxiliary. I know that they will greatly appreciate it.

Don't forget to fill out your Membership Mid-Winter Report Form and get it to me no later than December 31, 2019. If your dues are not paid and received by National Headquarters by December 31, 2019, you are no longer a member in good standing and cannot hold an officer or chairmanship position.

"Serving our Veterans with Aloha" by "Honoring Their Sacrifice"

VFWA Legislative

YES! YOU CAN!

YES, YOU CAN...

CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSMEN!

YES, YOU CAN...

ASK THEM TO PROTECT OUR VETERANS RIGHTS!

YES, YOU CAN...

NEVER GIVE UP ON AN ISSUE!

YES, YOU DID...

Answer the call to get the blue water bill passed and signed into law!

NOW...

CONTINUE WORKING AND...

ASK CONGRESS TO ELIMINATE THE "WIDOW'S TAX"...

NOW!

YOU, CAN DO IT AGAIN!

Please sign up at www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts for the VFW Action Corps Weekly and respond to the ALERTS!

Thanks!

know the five signs.

Nearly one in every five people, 42.5 million Americans, have a diagnosable mental health condition. Our friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family members may be suffering emotionally. They may not recognize the symptoms or ask for help.



Not feeling like yourself?



Are you feeling agitated?



Are you feeling withdrawn?



Taking care of yourself?



Are you feeling hopeless?



Mid-Winter National Representative



Vincent “B.J.” Lawrence
Assistant Adjutant General and Executive Director
Washington Office
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Vincent “B.J.” Lawrence was appointed Assistant Adjutant General and Executive Director of the VFW Washington Office of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. on July 24, 2019, at the 120th VFW National Convention in Orlando, Fla. Prior to this appointment he served as Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars from 2018 to 2019.

B.J. served in the United States Army from 1983 to 1986, earning his VFW eligibility by serving in South Korea as an air defense artilleryman, where he earned the Korean Defense Service Medal.

Upon joining VFW Post 7686 in Alamogordo, N.M., in 2000, he immediately began to dedicate his efforts toward moving the organization forward into the new millennium and beyond. He has proven to be a highly effective and dynamic leader, serving in a myriad of critical leadership positions, to include being elected to command his Post, District and the VFW Department of New Mexico, as well as serving on the National Appeals Committee, and as Vice Chairman of the National Legislative Committee. He was also elected to the VFW National Council of Administration in 2009.

During the 2010 VFW National Convention, he joined the ranks of a select few when he was recognized for his distinctive membership recruiting achievements on the Post, District and Department levels by earning the coveted designation of “VFW Triple Crown Winner.”

B.J. attended the New Mexico State Law Enforcement Academy, New Mexico Firefighters Academy, and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration Narcotics Enforcement School. He served his community as a police officer for several years, including time as an undercover agent. Prior to his retirement in 2015, he was a private investigator and owner of Lawrence Investigations.

In 2008 he became a Gold Legacy Life member. He is also a life member of the VFW National Home for Children and the Military Order of the Cootie, and is a member of the American Legion.

B.J. and his wife, Mary, reside in Alamogordo, N.M., and the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.



-VFW-

Mid-Winter National Representative



Kim Harney

National District Council Member Area #15 2019-2021

Kim Harney of Sierra Vista, AZ, represents Arizona and New Mexico on the National Council of Administration, which governs the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary between National Conventions.



Installed at the 106th National Convention in Orlando, Florida, she is serving a two-year term as one of 28 representatives who make up the Council along with the top seven National Officers, the National Chief of Staff and the four Junior Past National Presidents.

A Life Member of James R. "Bob" Currie Auxiliary 9972, Kim joined on the eligibility of her father Allen Kent, who served as a Marine during Vietnam. She has served the organization in many roles including District President, 2013-2014, Department President, 2018-2019, and was a National Recruiter Trainer, 2014-2018.

In her spare time, Kim enjoys watching college sports, reading, traveling, and spending time with her family. She is employed as a Special Education Teacher.

Kim's family includes her husband Jim.



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AND ITS AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO
MID-WINTER CONFERENCE AND
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS LUNCHEON
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
JANUARY 17-18, 2020**



IMPORTANT INFORMATION, PLEASE READ!

Hotel Information:

Sheraton Albuquerque Airport Hotel
2910 Yale Blvd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106

Online Reservation: [Book your group rate for VFW Mid Winter 2020](#)

Website: <http://www.sheratonalbuquerqueairport.com/>

Local # 1-505-843-7000 (reference: VFW January Conference)

Fax at front desk: 1-505-843-6307

Please read all information, and disseminate to your VFW and VFWA Members as soon as possible.

We are meeting at the Sheraton Albuquerque Airport Hotel, at 2910 Yale Blvd S.E., this year!

Room Rates are: Single/Doubles: \$109.00 per night plus 13.875% in local and state taxes.

Reservations must be made prior to 5:00 PM, January 2, 2020 to get the VFW rate. Don't forget the Post is responsible to ensure their winners and families have their award luncheon tickets and rooms reserved! Commander Rich and Scholarship Chairman Brian Ravak are working diligently to get the Posts notified of the winners asap! After this date, room rates will be based on current hotel rates.

The amenities for the Sheraton Albuquerque Airport Hotel are:

- ❖ Breakfast is included in your room rate-please don't forget to take care of your servers!
- ❖ You can get the group rate 3 days prior, and 3 days post event
- ❖ Complimentary Gated Parking for those that have a room
- ❖ Complimentary Internet in Sleeping Rooms
- ❖ Dedicated Shuttle Service to Uptown, Old Town and Nob Hill (Each location on a scheduled night-check with front desk)

The **registration and Awards Luncheon ticket request deadline** for the VFW and the VFWA is **January 3, 2020**, the VFW and VFWA registration and agenda is a part of this packet, as well as the agendas.

- ❖ Your registration and Awards Luncheon Request is attached
- ❖ Dress for the VFW is **Business Dress** for all of Saturday's meetings and the Luncheon. VFW caps in the meetings only-not during the awards luncheon
- ❖ Dress for the VFWA is the, "Official Look", if you have it, if not, it is Business Dress. VFWA Department Officers - Black jackets for the luncheon if you have one. VFWA caps are to be worn in the meetings only-not during the luncheon
- ❖ **All awards luncheon ticket forms and monies are to be sent to VFW Headquarters by 1/3/2020** As this is a served Luncheon, we need an accurate head count!
- ❖ VFW Registration is to be sent to VFW Headquarters
- ❖ **VFWA Registration is to be sent to Penney Howard, every year VFW HQ receives registration from an Auxiliary member-please, don't do this**
- ❖ **Please follow the instructions on each form, it costs both Department's money, time and makes for inaccurate food and seating counts when you do not!**

We look forward to seeing each of you at our Mid-Year Conference and Scholarship AWARDS LUNCHEON!!



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DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO
MID-WINTER CONFERENCE AND
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS LUNCHEON
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
JANUARY 17-18, 2020



VFW National Representative: Director of the VFW Washington D.C. Office,
and Past C-I-C, Vincent "B.J." Lawrence

VFWA National Representative: Kim Harney, District 15, National Council Member

State Commander: Rich Nutt

State President: Kelly Fouse

VFW Conference Chairman: David Fouse

VFW Co-Chairmen: Kelly Fouse

VFWA Conference Chairman: Jeanette Garcia

VFWA Co-Chairmen: Louise Salas

VFW'S AGENDA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2020

(Note: All meetings rooms are subject to change)

4:00 PM - 8:00 PM VFW & Auxiliary Registration	Alvarado Ballroom
4:00 PM – 11:00 PM Hospitality Room	Alvarado Ballroom

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2020

7:00 AM - 1:00 PM VFW & Auxiliary Registration	Alvarado Ballroom
8:00 AM - 8:30 AM Audit	Vista Norte Boardroom
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM VFW & Auxiliary Joint Session	Chaco/Bandelier/Tijeras (Anasazi Ballroom)
Noon - 1:30 PM Scholarship Award Luncheon	Chaco/Bandelier/Tijeras (Anasazi Ballroom)
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM VFW Council of Administration	Alvarado Ballroom
3:00 PM – 4:30 Training by Commander Nutt & QM/ADJ Fouse	Alvarado Ballroom
5:00 PM – ??? PM Cocktails in Hospitality Room	Alvarado Ballroom
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM PSC Dinner	TBA



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VFWA Conference Chairman: Jeanette Garcia
VFWA Co-Chairman: Louise Salas

VFW AUXILIARY'S AGENDA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2020

(Note: All meetings rooms are subject to change)

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM VFW & Auxiliary Registration	Alvarado Ballroom
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM Budget Meeting – Budget Committee	Rio Grande (2 nd Floor)
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Department Line Officers & District President's	Rio Grande (2 nd Floor)
4:00 PM – 11:00 PM Hospitality Room	Alvarado Ballroom

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2020

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM VFW & Auxiliary Registration	Alvarado Ballroom
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM Council of Administration	Chaco/Bandelier/Tijeras (Anasazi Ballroom)
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM VFW & Auxiliary Joint Session	Chaco/Bandelier/Tijeras (Anasazi Ballroom)
Noon - 1:30 PM Scholarship Award Luncheon	Chaco/Bandelier/Tijeras (Anasazi Ballroom)
5:00 PM – ??? PM Cocktails in Hospitality Room	Alvarado Ballroom

**MID-WINTER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM****VFW MEMBERS ONLY****DEADLINE FOR MAILING FORM is January 3, 2020**

Name: _____ Post: _____

Official VFW

Title/Position: _____ Membership #: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Ck# _____

\$8.00 for VFW members (\$15.00 after 1/3/2020 and at the Door)

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER!!**If Paying by check or cash, send this completed Registration Form and Payment to:****VFW Dept of NM HQ****PO Box 1084****Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346****WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS!****(ONLY FILL OUT BELOW IF USING DEBIT/CREDIT CARDS)****Please print clearly!**

Name as appears on card: _____

Card #: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration date: _____ Ccv Code: _____ Amount: _____

Authorized Card Signature: _____

Do you want a receipt emailed? (Circle One) Y or N

Email Address: _____

Print neatly

These forms may be faxed to: 575-653-4207 or emailed to vfwnmhq@gmail.com



MID-WINTER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERS

ONLY

DEADLINE FOR MAILING FORM

January 3, 2020



Name: _____ AUX#: _____

Title/Position: _____ PDP: YES or NO (circle one)
(as you want to appear on name tag)

Membership #: _____ Ck# _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

\$10.00 for Auxiliary Members (\$15.00 after 1/3/2020 and at the Door) Amount Enclosed \$ _____

or Paid by Auxiliary # _____

**THIS FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR PRE-PRINTED NAME TAG TO BE MADE
(Make checks payable to DEPT of NM AUXILIARY)**

Auxiliary Members, send your registration to:

Penney Howard
P O Box 34
Flora Vista, NM 87415-0034

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER!!

**VFW MID-WINTER LUNCHEON TICKET(S) REQUEST****DUE BY January 3, 2020**

No tickets sold after above date-no exceptions



Name: _____ Post/Aux#: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux# _____

Phone: _____

All meals are \$30.00; please put how many of each plate in the space provided.

_____ Mesilla Valley Pecan Crusted Chicken Breast, Garden Salad, Roasted Baby Red Potatoes and Corn

_____ Lasagna, Garden Salad, and Corn

_____ Smoked Beef Brisket, Garden Salad, Potatoes and Corn

SPECIAL MEAL REQUEST: i.e. - Vegetarian, vegan, lactose free, gluten free etc.)**Special Diet Plate: (Please Specify your name and request)******Name(s) & request:** _____

Amount Enclosed at \$30.00 per Person: _____ Ck# _____

(Make checks payable to VFW DEPT of NM HQ)

VFW and Auxiliary! If Paying by check or cash, send this completed Registration Form and Payment to:**VFW Dept of NM HQ****PO Box 1084****Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346****WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS!****(ONLY FILL OUT BELOW IF USING DEBIT/CREDIT CARDS PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!!!)**

Name as it Appears on Card: _____

Card #: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration Date: _____ CCV Code: _____ Amount: _____

Authorized Card Signature: _____

Do you want a receipt emailed? (Circle One) Y or N

Email Address: _____

Print neatly

VFW NM Website

Department of New Mexico Website (vfwnm.org), your Department website, provides information and resources for all to see and use. Under the Program heading you will find a list of our core programs and their deadlines.

Did you know that you can honor a Comrade or Sister that has passed by including them on the Taps page? Click on Taps under Programs or News & Events, complete and submit the TAPS Request. It's just that easy!

Our Resources heading includes a page titled Directory, which lists your Post website address, your Post home address and map location. I am requesting that all Post Adjutants verify the information on this page to be current and up to date. Please send updates to: mixedcompany2@hotmail.com.

Thank you for taking the time to read and reply to this article.

Post 9517 Events

On Saturday, October 26, VFW 9517 had our 1st Annual Trunk or Treat event. We had about 12 entries handing out treats to about 200 people that came out for the event. It lasted for 2 hours and everyone had a good time. Most of the people that came out want this to become an annual event.. They also asked if VFW 9517 had a Facebook page to post these events.

On Monday, November 11, VFW 9517 did the Posting of colors at the Farmington Public Library. The members that participated were Tommie Yazzie with rifle guard, Lester Light with the US flag, Jonas John with the New Mexico flag, John Charles with the Post flag, Lavern Marshall with the

rifle guard, Mark Decker as honor guard Commander, and Sam Sandoval talking to people. The library then played the documentary "They Shall Not Grow Old". After the posting of colors, many library patrons came up and talked to the VFW members, and thanked us for our service.



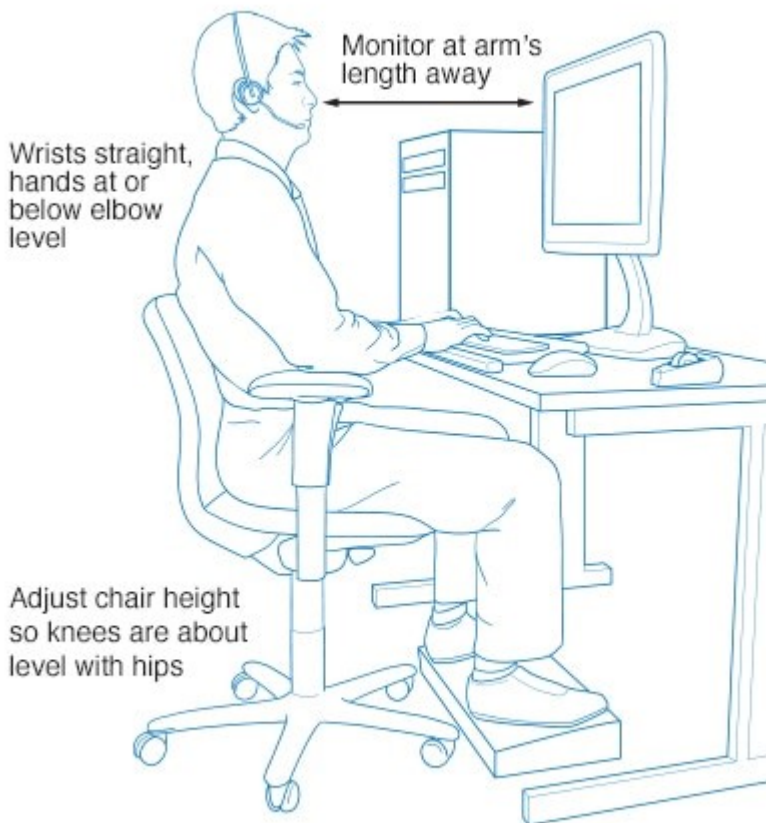
Ergonomics at Computer

A comfortable work space can help you feel your best. Give your sitting work area a makeover with this visual guide to office ergonomics.

By Mayo Clinic Staff

If you sit behind a desk for hours at a time, you're not doomed to a career of neck and back pain or sore wrists and fingers. Proper office ergonomics — including correct chair height, adequate equipment spacing and good desk posture — can help you and your joints stay comfortable at work.

Ready to give your work space a makeover? Get started making your sitting workstation comfortable with this visual guide to sitting workstation ergonomics.



MAYO FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Chair

Choose a chair that supports your spinal curves. Adjust the height of your chair so that your feet rest flat on the floor or on a footrest and your thighs are parallel to the floor. Adjust armrests so your arms gently rest on them

with your shoulders relaxed.

Key objects

Keep key objects — such as your telephone, stapler or printed materials — close to your body to minimize reaching. Stand up to reach anything that can't be comfortably reached while sitting.

Keyboard and mouse

Place your mouse within easy reach and on the same surface as your keyboard. While typing or using your mouse, keep your wrists straight, your upper arms close to your body, and your hands at or slightly below the level of your elbows. Use keyboard shortcuts to reduce extended mouse use. If possible, adjust the sensitivity of the mouse so you can use a light touch to operate it. Alternate the hand you use to operate the mouse by moving the mouse to the other side of your keyboard.

Telephone

If you frequently talk on the phone and type or write at the same time, place your phone on speaker or use a headset rather than cradling the phone between your head and neck.

Footrest

If your chair is too high for you to rest your feet flat on the floor — or the height of your desk requires you to raise the height of your chair — use a footrest. If a footrest is not available, try using a small stool or a stack of sturdy books instead.

Desk

Under the desk, make sure there's clearance for your knees, thighs and feet. If the desk is too low and can't be adjusted, place sturdy boards or blocks under the desk legs. If the desk is too high and can't be adjusted, raise your chair. Use a footrest to support your feet as needed. If your desk has a hard edge, pad the edge or use a wrist rest. Don't store items under your desk.

Monitor

Place the monitor directly in front of you, about an arm's length away. The top of the screen should be at or slightly below eye level. The monitor should be directly behind your keyboard. If you wear bifocals, lower the monitor an additional 1 to 2 inches for more comfortable viewing. Place your monitor so that the brightest light source is to the side.

War Dog Memorial Dedicated

Clovis, New Mexico, is the new site for the War Dog Memorial sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 3280. On Saturday, November 2, 2019, a crowd gathered for the dedication and unveiling of the monument in honor of all dogs dedicated to serving others within the military and civilian venues.

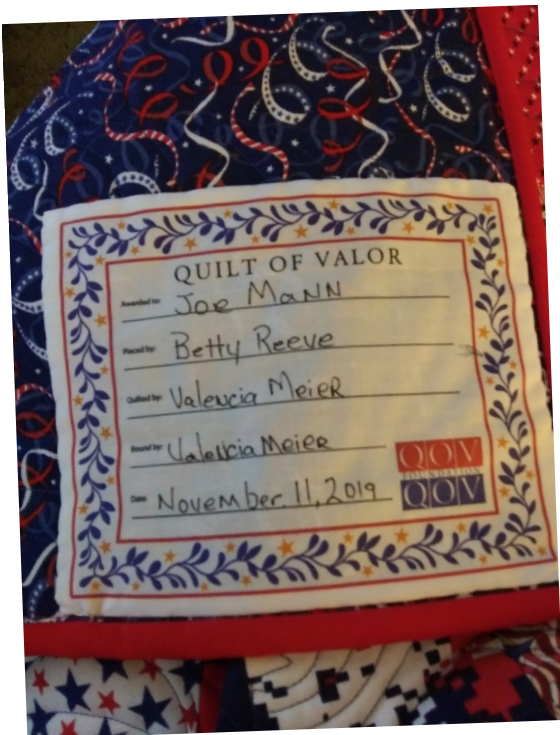
Attending the ceremony were two service dogs from Cannon Air Force Base, one from the City of Clovis Police, another one from the Curry County Sheriff's Department, and their handlers. Post 3280 Commander Vernon Luce was Master of Ceremony and Auxiliary President Vanessa Nieves was instrumental in making it a special event. President Nieves and Secretary/Treasurer Suzan Willis presented the dog handlers with a plaque in appreciation for their service to the community. The monument which includes a stone and a statue of a War Dog is centered in the "Ring of Honor" at Lawn Haven Memorial Gardens cemetery on Llano Estacado Boulevard in Clovis. The stone reads, "War Dog Memorial. Dedicated to all war dogs & their handlers. Your deeds & sacrifices will always be remembered. Donated by the VFW 3280 & Auxiliary. Created by Patsy Marie Delk. 2019."



Quilt of Valor

During the Friona (Texas) High School Veterans Day ceremony on Monday, November 11, 2019, World War II Navy Veteran and Life Member of VFW Post 3280 Joe Mann was awarded a “Quilt of Valor”. With the weather turning cold, he was unable to attend the event. Joe Bob Mann, Life Member of VFW 3280 in Clovis, New Mexico, and New Mexico District 8 Commander, accepted the quilt for his dad. After the event, Commander Joe Bob and Valencia Myers, representing the “Stitching Post Quilters”, presented the quilt at Joe’s home with VFW Auxiliary 3280 Life Member Christeene Mann (his wife) and Dale Mann (daughter-in-law) looking on. Veteran Joe was overwhelmed and surprised at the honor and appreciated the quilt. Tears of joy were shed by all involved.

Seaman First Class Joe Mann’s name will be placed in the National Registry as a result of receiving a “Quilt of Valor” for his service to our Nation in the Pacific Campaign during WWII. Congratulations and thank you for your service, Joe.



VFW Post 3015 Teaching Flag Etiquette

VFW Post host kids from home school on 11-7-2019. Showed them the proper way to fold a USA flag, proper flag etiquette and what all the items on the POW/MIA table stand for.



VFW Post 3280

VFW Post 3280 Life Member Steve Owen was honored twice over Veteran's Day Weekend. Steve Owen was born January 4, 1918 in Dustin Oklahoma. The family moved to New Mexico in June 1920. On July 8, 1942 he was drafted into the US Army Air Corp. He served in the South Pacific as aircraft maintenance. He was released from service in December 1945 where he returned to Clovis. This Veteran's Day weekend we was honored by Lowe's Home Improvement for his service. He was also the Grand Marshall for the Clovis Veteran's Day Parade.



Upcoming Events

Department Events

- District 4 December 7 Williamsburg Joint 1030 Meeting After Lunch After
- District 1 January 11 Farmington Noon Lunch Meeting After
- District 3 January 12 Alamogordo Noon Lunch Meeting After
- District 8 January 12 Tucumcari Lunch 100 Meeting After
- District 6 January 19 Santa Fe Noon
- District 5 January 25 Mora Noon Meeting Lunch After
- District 2 February 2 Post 401 2 PM
- District 7 February 10 Carlsbad 1100
- District 4 April 4 Elephant Butte Joint 1030 Meeting After Lunch After
- District 2 April 6 Rio Rancho 2 PM
- District 1 April 18 Aztec Noon Lunch Meeting After
- District 5 April 18 Las Vegas Noon Meeting Lunch After
- District 3 April 19 Post 6917 Noon Lunch Meeting After
- District 8 April 19 Post 3280 Lunch 100 Meeting After
- District 6 April 21 Taos Noon
- District 7 April 21 Hobbs 1100

Department Mid Winter
 January 17-18 Albuquerque Sheraton Airport

Post Christmas Parties

Dec 15 Post 401 Kids Party 12:00-3:00pm,
 Kids need to RSVP by Dec 5th open to public

Dec 21 Post 3015 Kids Party open to public 3-5
PM Bring gift with child's name on it, Santa
will appear, Adult Party 7-??PM

Dec 21 Post 5890 & AL Post 118 & Moose 2447
@ 1500 Barbara Loop Rio Rancho 2 PM kids
party open to public food and gifts provided
Santa will appear

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FROM DISTRICT 8

COMMANDER JOE BOB MANN

&

PRESIDENT DALE MANN

WE HOPE YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY
WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

REMEMBER OUR VETERANS AND THEIR
FAMILIES, TOO!

DISTRICT 8 MEETING IS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2020
AT POST 2528 IN TUCUMCARI
MEAL AT 1:00 & MEETING AT 2:00 P.M.

AUXILIARIES, PLEASE BRING A VALENTINE
BASKET FOR OUR RAFFLE!

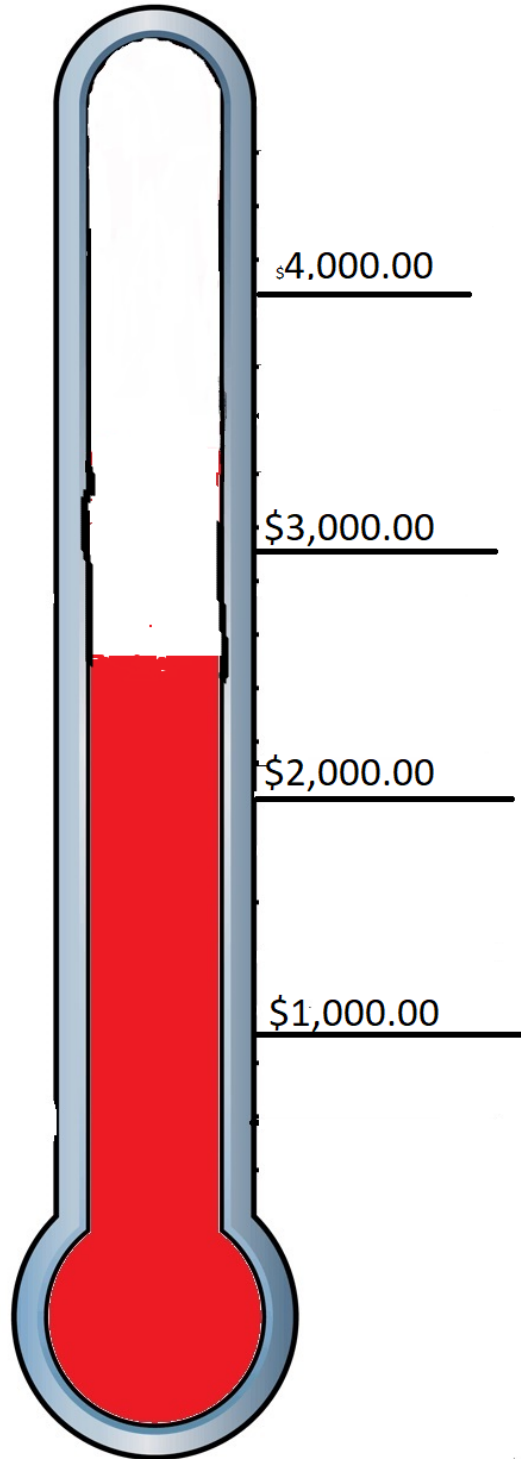
SEE YOU THERE!

Department Special Projects

Remember all funds for the Department Special Project go to the T or C Veterans Home to support the resident's recreational needs.

Comrades—\$1,354.00

Auxiliary—\$1,432.00



Candidate for Jr Vice Commander-in-Chief 2024



Tim Peters
Montana’s Candidate
For
**Jr. Vice
Commander-in-Chief**

Comrades & Friends, _____

Having the full support and unanimous endorsement from my Post, District and the Department of Montana, I would like to take this opportunity to announce my candidacy for the high office of Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief in 2024.

I earned my eligibility to the Veterans of Foreign Wars for my service in the Gulf War in 1990-91. Having served in the Air Force for 20 years and retired in 2001. I am a Gold Legacy Life member of VFW Post 10010 in East Helena, Montana.

Having filled most leadership positions at the Post, District and Department levels and numerous National positions. I feel I am *“the right person with the right experience”* to be your next Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief from the Western Conference.

I will be spending the next three plus years traveling throughout the Western Conference seeking your time, knowledge and input on how we can make this great organization even better in the future. I believe in leading from the bottom up by listening to the needs of our Posts.

I would like to thank you all for the encouragement, support and friendship you have given me throughout the years, and wish New Mexico a successful Mid-Winter meeting.

_____ In your Humble Service,

Tim Peters
Department of Montana



“Honoring America’s Veterans 2024”

Candidate for Western Conference Vice Chair 2020-2021



Kathie D. Schiebel,
Candidate for Western
Conference Co
Chairman 2020-2021

I served in the United States Air Force (USAF) from 1971 to 1993. I earned my eligibility by serving in the Gulf War. I received the Southwest Asia Service Medal w/2OLC, AF Achievement Medal, AF Commendation Medal w/3OLC, Meritorious

Kathie Schiebel

Service Medal, Joint Meritorious Service Unit Award, AF Outstanding Unit Award w/3OLC, AF Good Conduct Medal w/5 OLC, National Defense Service Medal w/1 Bronze Star, AF Longevity Service Ribbon w/4OLC, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, AF Sort Tour Overseas Ribbon, AF Long Tour Overseas Ribbon w/4OLC, NCO Graduate Ribbon w/2OLC, and the AF Training Ribbon. I was a Personnel Technician in the AF and supervised several personnel during my career. I retired as a MSgt. In addition, I was a Human Resources

Specialist with the USDA Forest Service for 23 years. I supervised up to 30 personnel at one time.

I belong to VFW Post 401 in Albuquerque, NM where I am a Gold Legacy Life Member. I have served in several elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels. I have served on several committees at the National Level and I am currently serving as the National Council Member for NM, 2016 – 2020. I am a Past Grand Commander in the MOC from PA and NM. I am currently Chief of Staff for NM and Adjutant and Judge Advocate for VFW Post 401. I was also National Home Chairman for the Western Conference and am currently Co Chairman for the Time and Place Committee. I received All American Post, District and Department Commander. I am a triple crown winner and I am also a All Star Grand Commander for NM and was Co-Captain of the All Star Team.

My other affiliations are, I am a life member of the American Legion, DAV, MOC and AMVETS. In addition I am a member of the Elks Lodge and the Women of the Moose.



The National Home has served as a living memorial to America's veterans for over 94 years by helping our nation's military and veteran families during difficult times.

- We provide housing and daycare to the military, veteran and veteran related families participating in our one to four year program.
- Educational, recreational, and enrichment opportunities are available to our families both on and off campus.
- Personal case management services for each family.
- Counseling & other community resources as needed.

If you know a family that could use our help please encourage them to call 1.800.313.4200



Candidate for National Council 2020-2024



Cathy Brock

I would like to announce that I am running for the position of National Council Member for the Department of New Mexico for the 2020-2024 term. I feel that I am eminently qualified for this position since I have been a member of the Department Council of Administration since 2003 as District 7 Commander, and all the line officer positions culminating with being an All American State Commander in the 2010

-2011 year. In addition, I have been your State Judge Advocate since 2013, a position I take very seriously and one that requires me to be very familiar with the Podium Edition and the many changes incorporated each year. I also currently serve as both the District 7 and Post 3274 Quartermaster/Adjutant. In 2003-2004 I was the Post Commander for Post 3274 in Hobbs. While in

Tampa, Florida I was an All State Commander for Post 4321 in 1999-2000.

I served 20 years in the US Army and retired as a First Sergeant (E8) in 1985. I earned my eligibility for the VFW through my service at Headquarters US Army Vietnam, Long Binh, from January 1968 to January 1969. I can claim that I am a Tet Survivor! I have served as the NM MOC Grand Commander (2007-2008) and was the first Grand Commander to be named an All Star Commander from the Grand in 10 years. I am a Gold Legacy VFW member, a Life Member of both the MOC and VFW Auxiliary and a member of the Apollo 20 MOCA. In addition, I am a Life Member of the DAV and a 20 year member of the American Legion. Currently I am serving a two year term as the President of the Vietnam Women Veterans, an organization of all the non-nurses who served in Vietnam.

I feel that I am fully qualified to represent New Mexico on the National Council of Administration for the 2020-2024 term, and I ask you vote for me at our June Convention in Albuquerque.

Candidate for National Council 2020-2024



Mark Decker

Hello Comrades, My name is Mark Decker and I am running to be your National Council Member from New Mexico for 2020-2024.

My qualifications are as follows: Past All-American Department Commander, 3-time All-State Post Quartermaster, Past All-State District Quartermaster, past Post Commander, Past District Commander, Loyalty Day Chairman, National Home

Chairman, Newspaper Editor, Ways and Means Committee, Youth Activities Chairman, and Student Veterans Association Chairman. At the National

level I have been an Aid-de-Camp three times. I have attended three Western Conferences, and all but one National Conventions since 2012.

As your National Council Member, my job is to be your voice on the Council and bring back all of the information from the Council to you, our members here in New Mexico. I have visited thirty eight of our forty Posts during my run through the chairs. So far this year I have visited fifteen Posts and will visit the remaining Posts before the end of the year.

I am a Gold Legacy member of VFW Post 9517, a life member of the National Home for Children, Military Order of the Cootie, and a member of the American Legion.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter in Albuquerque in January. Thank you for your time and consideration for the National Council Member from New Mexico.

Candidate for National Council 2020-2024



Len Hampton

Comrades,

I am asking for your support of my candidacy for the Department of New Mexico's National Council of Administration Member for 2020-2024, at the Department Convention in June, 2020.

As a proud member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, I wish to continue contributing

to the fine work of our organization at this new level, with the required professionalism. I will bring the skills gained from my leadership at the Post, District and Department levels to this position as your

national representative. The position of National Council Member requires that you represent and serve as a spokesperson from the Department of New Mexico to the National Council of Administration.

As your national representative, I will commit to engaging at meetings in a serious and professional manner, and most importantly, to report back all pertinent information. Over the last thirteen years I have been given the opportunity to expand my qualifications and experiences. I feel that I am well qualified to represent the Department as your next National Council of Administration Member. Your support for my nomination and election will be greatly appreciated.

Candidate for Department Surgeon



Don Frias

Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary members as we start a New Year within the Department. I would like to welcome our State Commander Rich Nutt, I wish you great success on your upcoming year. I want to thank our Past State Commander for giving me the opportunity to attend the 120th VFW National Convention in Orlando, FL. It was a great experience to be part of the General Resolution Committee and voting on issues that

will effect VFW Posts all over the world. Thanks Mark it truly was an experience that I wish everyone can be part of. Being my first time attending, I urge

everyone that had not been to a National Convention think about going to Reno, NV next year, I would like to announce that I'll be running for the position of State Surgeon for 2020-2021. More information about who I am and my many positions and accomplishments I've had in the past 20 years will come in upcoming months and at Mid-Winter Conference. Until then we have our Districts meetings throughout the state. I am looking forward to attending many of these meetings and introducing myself to as many of you as I can. I look forward to your support. I look forward to serving you at the State level over the next 5 years while going through the chairs in this great organization.

Candidate for Department Surgeon



Ryan Proctor

Greetings Comrades, I am Ryan Proctor. I am currently a member of Post 5432, running for Department Surgeon in the next election. I am using this article to allow you to get to know me, with a follow up for my hopes, plans and ideas. They all begin and end with you, the veteran. I was an 88M (Motor Transport Operator) in the Army from 1989 till 1995. I served in Operation Desert Storm from Jan 1991 till May

1991. I have two stars on my Southwest Asia Medal. I also was given an Army Commendation Medal for my work while there. I served as a Commander's driver at the Battalion and Brigade level, with 16 months as a driver at the Battalion level. Part of my experience was driving LTC Storm during Operation Silent Echo where all nuclear warheads were removed from Europe under the direction of the 59th Ord Brigade and 197th Ord Battalion.

During my career in the military, I saw leaders at their best and worst. What I really learned from them, working where I was, is true leadership. Leadership that holds oneself and others accountable for our responsibilities and for our charges. Do we find the potential or the fault?

I grew up in Idaho Falls, Idaho, as a member of the LDS Church. I served a mission for the church, and in leadership roles over other missionaries and in training new missionaries. From there, I joined the military. After my time with the military, I moved to the District of Columbia to work in the area. I started working for UUNET Technologies as a Field Engineer installing, configuring and troubleshooting internet backbone equipment. As time grew short for using my College Fund, I began attending Temple University and later transferred to George Mason University for a Bachelors of Science in Information Technology.

After graduating, I have worked as a software developer, system analyst and project manager. During that time, I went back to George Mason University and earned my Masters of Science in Applied Information Technology, which taught management, leadership and financial responsibility. I

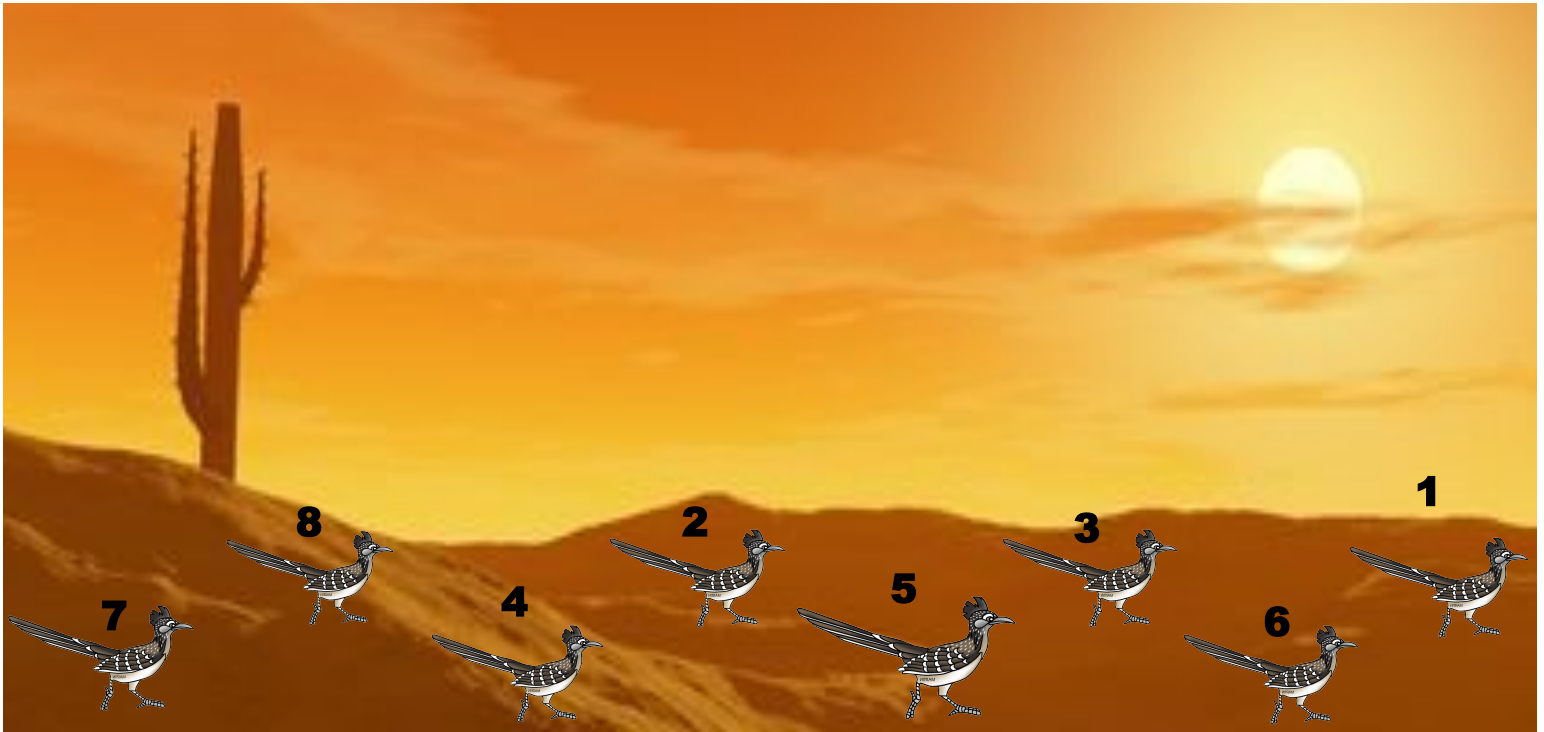
have worked for various companies doing work for government agencies including Pentagon D9, Department of the Army, Department of the Navy, and for the USMC HQ in the Pentagon. One of the things really learned in all that is how to play politics. Though I do not like doing it, I will, to achieve an end result in favor of what I am seeking.

I joined the VFW in Centreville, VA, Post 7589. Right after joining I was elected as Junior Vice Commander. I then moved to New Mexico to work at Los Alamos National Lab. Upon arrival I joined Espanola Post 5610. While there, I served as a web specialist for them, setting up a Facebook account and other items. I also served as Quartermaster for the Post for 1.5 years. I took over mid-year when our current QM could not continue in the job due to an ongoing illness. I worked very closely with our Department Chaplain Chris Archuleta, and we have mentored each other in various aspects of needs we see within the organization. I also served as Junior Vice Commander for District 6.

I am currently serving as District 2 Surgeon. To me it is not the position but the change we seek to make happen. I can seem like an asshole at times, but, being honest, it is because I care about us as veterans. We are used as pawns time and again and it is often upon us to help each other.

I see the Department Surgeon as an extension of the Post and District Surgeons. The Department isn't there to direct the work, because each Post is unique. The Department Surgeon is there to support the District Surgeons first as they support the Post Surgeons. My biggest hurdle I see right now is communication. We are always quick to offer a hand, but we are often slow to request that hand of help. We have to step forward as leaders and ensure that our veterans are taken care of. I have been on that other side. Now that I understand what it is like to be on both sides, I seek to help out, make changes, and ruffle feathers in the service of my fellow veterans. When I reach out, I do not worry if a veteran is a member or not. I worry about the veteran after the fact. I want every veteran to know that I just don't show my face when things happen; I believe in following up. It was how I was trained by LTC Storm and my missionary training. You just don't show up during the issue, you show up afterwards too, as much as necessary. My personal mantra has become: "Doubt not, Fear not, and face fear fearlessly".

VFW Membership



In the Race for Membership here are you standings:

District 1—Eloy Howard 92.12%

District 6—Joseph DeVargas 91.98%

District 3—Brian Ravak 91.34%

District 5—Joe Esparza 91.00%

District 2—James Haddox 89.40%

District 4—Jack Doil 88.09%

District 8—Joe Bob Mann 85.30%

District 7—Michael Gimeson II 82.66%

Divisions

Division 1—12184—477.77%

Division 2—3271—94.28%

Division 3—3221 94.16%

Division 4—6917—94.92%

Division 5—2951—96.06%

Recruiters

1st—Mary Tutza—14

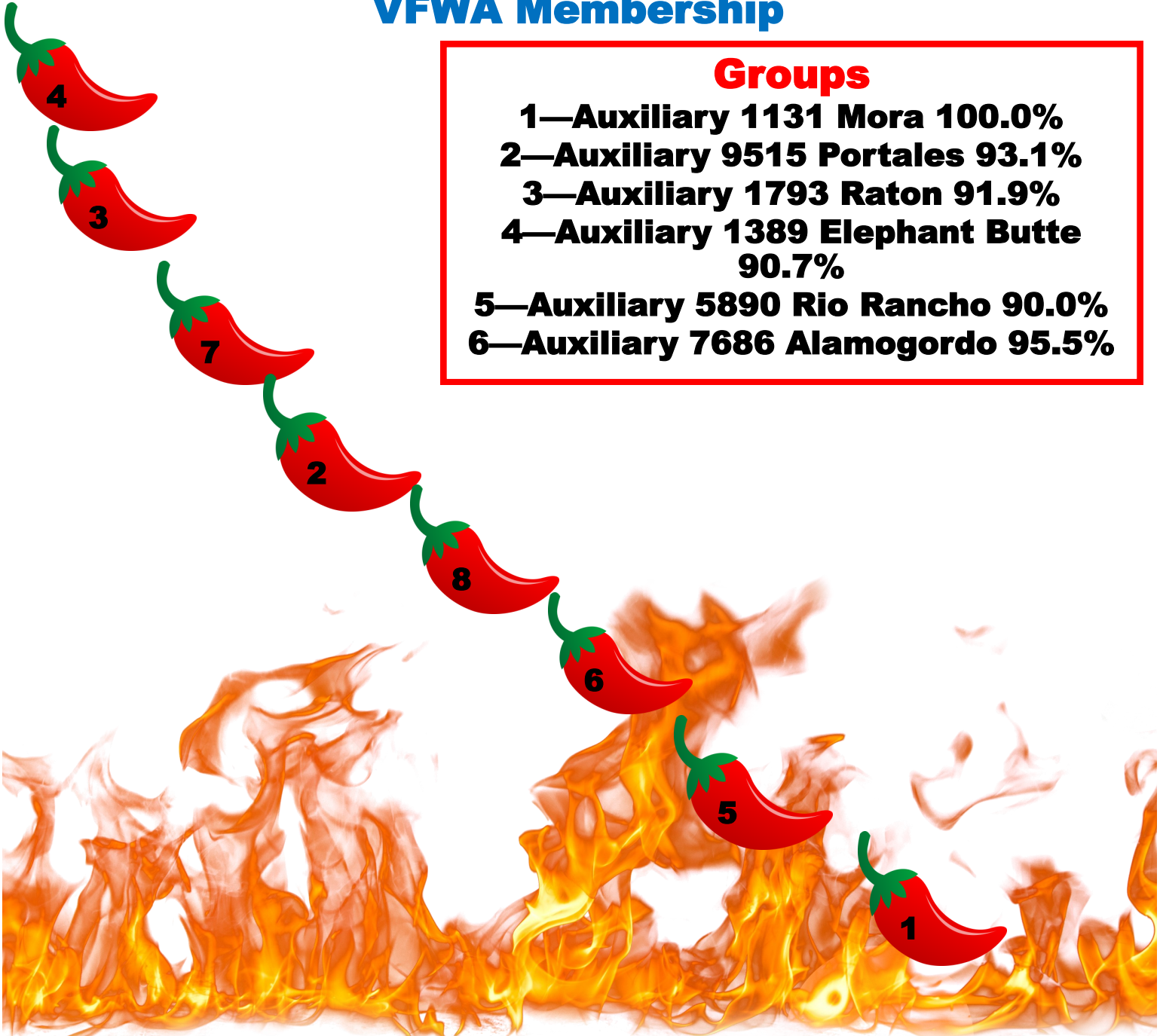
2nd—Gary Townsend—10

3rd—Gilbert Romero—8

3rd—John Archuleta—8

3rd—Roy Briscoe—8

VFWA Membership



Groups

1—Auxiliary 1131 Mora 100.0%
2—Auxiliary 9515 Portales 93.1%
3—Auxiliary 1793 Raton 91.9%
4—Auxiliary 1389 Elephant Butte 90.7%
5—Auxiliary 5890 Rio Rancho 90.0%
6—Auxiliary 7686 Alamogordo 95.5%

In the Race for Membership here are you standings:

- District 4—Nancy Evans 90.29%**
- District 3—Pamela Calkin 88.55%**
- District 7—Angel Martinez 87.08%**
- District 2—Shirlee Frias 86.90%**
- District 8—Vondale Mann 85.52%**
- District 6— Margie Carrillo 85.17%**
- District 5—Penny Esparza 84.21%**
- District 1—Vickey Westbrook 76.21%**