



VFW NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO

Land of Enchantment



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

December 2017

Vol. 42 Issue 2

“School Supplies for Hurricane Victims”

KC MacDonald, a teacher in Clark Fork, Idaho, made arrangements with a school in Houston, Texas that had been flooded during the hurricanes this year. The school in Idaho was going to raise school supplies and ship them to the school in Texas. He just needed a way to get the supplies from Idaho to Texas. So, he talked to Rockey about the situation. Rockey then sent out a request to the other Senior Vice Commanders to help him out. The idea was raised to load the supplies into a U-Haul trailer and tow it all the way to Texas. So the call went out.

The trailer started out in Clark Falls, Idaho on Sunday, November 12. It then made the trip through Idaho and Utah to the Four Corners Monument where Mark Decker received it on Wednesday, November 15 at 1430. Mark then drove the trailer to meet Jarod Maples in Belen that night. Jarod took the trailer to Las Cruces and met up with Judy Hays and Rudy Saucedo. Rudy and Judy took the trailer to El Paso and passed it along to the Department of Texas.

The VFW and VFWA members that made this trip, were the reason this was possible. With very little time to coordinate all of the places and times, changing up personal time, and working around Post meetings, this came to

happen with no problems at all.

The trailer was delivered to Texas on time and with no problems on Thursday, November 16. The Department of Texas then transported the truck across Texas to Houston. It arrived in Houston on Saturday, November 18. It was stored there until Monday, November 27, where it was presented to the school with KC MacDonald there to present the supplies to the principal.

This is just another example of how the VFW and VFWA step up and help those in need. A great deal of thanks goes out to all of the people that helped move the trailer across New Mexico. These members did a great job and worked wonderfully together.



Commander's Corner



Charles Eaton

What a truly humbling experience it has been since I became your Department Commander! I appreciate all of your support as this journey continues.

As many of you know, Karla and I are traveling as much as possible so we can meet my goal of visiting every Post at a meeting this year. Those visits are proving to be very

rewarding and productive. We are gathering some of the issues you all have and are working on those we can, trying to affect some positive change for the Department. I thank all of you who have provided input thus far.

The National Convention was quite the experience in New Orleans. I would be remiss if I didn't thank Mark and Betty Decker for keeping me out of trouble and bad neighborhoods that wouldn't have been the best to visit. If any of you haven't seen the World War II Museum, it is quite a surreal visit, and I think particularly so for the veterans of a foreign war and their families.

We enjoyed attending a C of A in the great state of Arizona and appreciated their very warm welcome and comradeship. From there, we were off to San Diego for the Western Conference. I was so heartened by the meetings, and even more so by the effort our National Headquarters put into the flying squadron. I don't think we could be part of an organization whose National Headquarters cared more about their subordinate Conferences, Departments, Districts, and Posts.

So far this year, I have had a lot of "firsts:" First time being in many of the Posts and meeting the wonderful members who put their hearts and souls into their Post; first time visiting in Arizona; first time attending a Western Conference, and on and on. I, on Veterans Day 2017, had an experience of a lifetime. I was asked by Post 3274 in Hobbs, New

Mexico to be the Grand Marshal in their Veterans Day Parade. What an incredible day; what an incredible honor! After the parade, a ceremony at the Post was conducted and then "let the fellowship begin." They had a food fest which was well-attended by the community. They definitely know how to do Veterans recognition in Hobbs. Thanks to Post 3274 for such a warm welcome to your home, allowing us to stay in your RV site for the festivities, and for allowing me to be a part of such a great event.

Let's stay focused. If we haven't visited you, we will. Let's strive for contact of all of your "unpaid" members, and check up on those life members you haven't seen in a while. Let them know you care about them. Practice the statement, "No one does more for veterans...no one!" Thank you for your service and commitment to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

This year is already over half through and it has been a high speed journey since the Convention in June. I have been truly blessed to have interacted with several of you as I am half way to meeting my personal goal of visiting all Districts. I owe Commander Hampton a big thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be part of some very special events. September 17, 2016, I not only inspected Post 3271 in Clayton, but was honored to be a part of their grand opening celebration and ribbon cutting. What a great (and safer) facility the comrades and auxiliary have in which they can conduct their business and events. On September 19th, it was my honor to present CIC Duffy's congratulations and certificate to Taos Post 3259's commander, Joseph DeVargas, in recognition of their 75th Anniversary as a Post. The Post is doing great and continues to grow and gain the cooperation and support of the city. Great relationships are definitely evident in what's happening in Taos. The event was held at the Not Forgotten Outreach Center, and what an extraordinary place that is! For those of you who haven't experienced it, you may want to put it on your list of things to do. It is a place for military families to come together and help each other reintegrate into society.

- Continued on page 3

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They were warm and welcoming – and even invited us back just to visit. It was an eye-opening experience and I can't say enough good about the all-volunteer executive director, Don Peters, and his staff and all they do to help our veterans every single day.

The underlying theme I have been trying to spread during my visits is to let people see the good in your VFW. That's how you get membership and build partnerships with the community. There are many of you who are using Buddy Poppy drives and student scholarship programs to get out into the community, and that's great. I think we need to

focus on letting our communities know who we are, what we do, and that we are not trying to burrow down in our own little world, but rather want to be an integral part of their success. My recommendation is to get involved and stay involved, and keep the positive image of the VFW and its auxiliary at the forefront of your activity. I've said it before and I'll say it again: people love to be part of a winning team, so show them that you are.

I look forward to continuing to serve you in any way I can. Please don't ever hesitate to let me know if there's anything I can do for you.

In Comradeship,
Fred

Senior Vice Commander's Message



Mark Decker

It does not seem like the year should be half over already. The Department of New Mexico is doing okay with membership so far this year. As of November 20, we are ninth in the world for membership at 87.87%. We need 1,152 more members to be at 100%. We have 1,454 unpaid members right now. So if we can get these unpaid members to renew, we will be over 100% for the year.

All Posts have been getting

unpaid roster from Department this year. Please sit down and call the ones that have a phone number, send an email to those that have an email address, or send a little note to the rest in your Post. This shows the members that you actually care about them. Ask them how they are doing and if they need help in some way. If they need assistance with money to renew, you can use your relief dues to help out in this area. If they say they do not want to renew, ask them why. We need to know these answers to this. By learning these reasons, we can do better at the Post, Department, and National level.

If you have a college in your town, go talk to the Student Veterans Association. These are veterans that are going to school and have joined an organization already. Most of them are eligible for the VFW. Ask them how you can help them. What do they

need? Try to fulfill these needs if possible. That goes on your Community Service sheet, which you can turn in to me as a SVA activity, and you might get new members out of it also.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If there is anything I can do to help you, please let me know. You can reach me at 505-947-5179, or email me at madecker19020@yahoo.com. I look forward to seeing you at Mid-Winter in January. It should be a great time.

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, madecker19020@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

Quartermaster's Corner



Dave Fouse

Comrades,
New Mexico was well represented at the 118th National Convention in New Orleans, thanks to all who attended. As many of you know, there have been a few changes to the National By-Laws, and the Manual of Procedure has been approved. Most notably was the removal of the Dues Reserve requirement for the Posts. I highly

encourage each of you to purchase a new Podium Edition, especially if you are a Post or District Officer. I have been to a few Post meetings that are still being held with an old book.

We are somewhat on track with submitting minutes and audits, but far behind on Community Activity Reports and Buddy Poppy Orders. Let's pick up the pace a bit and get these taken care of. REMINDER: all Audits are to be sent to the State Inspector, Raul Sanchez, by mail or email. See the directory for contact information.

For those of you who missed the Commander's Homecoming on September 23rd, you missed some great food, games, and visiting. Thanks to Post 9515 for hosting this event. GREAT JOB!!!

Raffle tickets are for sale as a fundraiser for BJ Lawrence's homecoming on September 20-22, 2018 at the Albuquerque Marriott on Louisiana. The prize is a rifle this year. Contact Department HQ's for details.

The Mid-Winter Conference is coming fast. The registration packets are posted online at www.vfwnm.org under ABOUT US, then ANNOUNCEMENTS. Scroll down to the bottom.

We are out of donated funds for the hospitality room. Actually, we are about \$40.00 in the hole. If we want to continue this tradition, please send your donations to Department HQ's. In the memo, enter "hospitality room" or a variation thereof.

Let me touch on the upcoming Election Reports. By now, every Post QM has a password to log into the VFW website to process this report. All you need is the officer membership number, then verify their contact information and click on the submit button. I will receive a copy within a few minutes. District ADJ/QM's, we will need your upcoming District meeting dates, times, and places as soon after the election as possible. District Election Reports may be online by April. If not, please fill one out with appointments as soon after the District Convention as possible.

THERE IS NO REASON THIS REPORT CANNOT BE COMPLETED BY MAY 15TH! THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE IS ALSO USED TO COMPLETE THE DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY.

From my family to yours, have a safe and happy holiday season.

Dave Fouse

Your State Adjutant/Quartermaster

New Mexico VFW State Officers 2016-2017

National Council Member - Kathie Schiebel 401 Albuquerque
 Commander - Charles Eaton 9515 Portales
 Sr. Vice Commander - Mark Decker 9517 Shiprock
 Jr. Vice Commander - Richard Nutt 7686 Alamogordo
 Quartermaster - Dave Fouse 7686 Alamogordo
 Chaplain - Cynthia Archuleta 5890 Rio Rancho
 Judge Advocate - Cathy Brock 3274 Hobbs
 Surgeon - Roy Maldonado 4384 Anthony
 Past State Cmdr - Len Hampton 6917 Las Cruces
 Inspector - Raul Sanchez 6917 Las Cruces
 Chief of Staff - Larry Frappier 3015 Clovis
 Service Officer - Cynthia Archuleta 5890 Rio Rancho

District Commanders

District 1 - Kyrk Westbrook 9517 Shiprock
 District 2 - Victoria Haddox 5890 Rio Rancho
 District 3 - Lu Ann Dyer 6917 Las Cruces
 District 4 - Jack Doil 1389 Elephant Butte
 District 5 - Eusebio "Joe" Esparza 3271 Clayton
 District 6 - Christopher Archuleta 5610 Espanola
 District 7 - Eduardo Rodriguez 3274 Hobbs
 District 8 - Kirk L. Reader 3280 Clovis

Judge Advocate's Message



Cathy Brock

In my position as your Judge Advocate, I have been asked to review a number of actions taken by Posts and/or Commanders for compliance with VFW By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure. In many instances, my review determined that many of the violations could have been prevented if the Post and its Officers had taken the time to refer to the current Podium Edition of the By-Laws. In the last five or six years there have been

more than 500 changes approved by the National Conventions. If your Post Officers are using Podium Editions that are four or five years old, how can you possibly expect to have your Post Commander's actions upheld upon appeal? Not only the Commander, but the Quartermaster, the line officers, and the Judge Advocate should get a copy of the new Podium Edition every year.

Each officer should become familiar with all of Article II-Posts in both the By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, and especially Section 218 Officers and

Chairmen, Duties and Obligations. How can the Judge Advocate fulfill his duties as the legal advisor if he doesn't have the current By-Laws, the Department By-Laws, and the Post By-Laws?

Commanders, the Podium Edition should be your "Bible" and should always be readily available for you to refer to at any time. The By-Laws are not "Top Secret." Share them with any members who want to learn more about the workings of the VFW. Remember, the Post belongs to its members, and it's the obligation of each and every member to protect the Post's Charter.

The old days of Posts "doing whatever they want, whenever they want" are long gone. If you don't follow the rules, you won't have a Post for long. Don't jeopardize your Charter...follow the rules! But, you have to know what the rules are so you can follow them. Get the 2018 Podium Edition if your Post doesn't have it already. If you have it, learn it!

I am available to anyone feeling that they need assistance in interpreting the By-Laws. I can be reached at 575-318-3149. If I don't have the answer to your question, I will find the answer for you. Sometimes asking a question can save a whole bunch of problems later.

Service Officer's Message



Cynthia Archuleta

As the Service Officer, I have been very busy this year. I have attended two homeless stand-downs - one in Albuquerque and one in Las Cruces. Both were very successful with Albuquerque having fewer homeless than last year, which is always the goal. The Las Cruces stand-down this was their first and it went very well.

The office remains busy and new POAs are coming in daily. Thank you to everyone who keeps telling people what we do at our office. Your continued support is appreciated.

I'm hoping to see everyone at the Mid-Winter. Have a safe and blessed holiday.



the campaign to
changedirection

Mid-Winter Conference VFW National Representative



Thomas T. Tradewell, Sr.
Commander-in-Chief from 2009-2010

Thomas Tradewell was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on August 20, 2009 at the VFW 110th national convention, held in Phoenix, Arizona.

Thomas T Tradewell Sr.

Tradewell served in the U. S. Army from 1966-1968 and earned VFW eligibility while serving with B Company 26th Engineers 198th Light Infantry Brigade (Americal Division) in South Vietnam as a demolition specialist. His decorations include the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Purple Heart Medal, and Good Conduct Medal.

Tradewell joined the VFW in 1968 at Post 6498 in Milwaukee, where he is a Life Member. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District, and Department (State) levels, culminating with his election as Department Commander from 1999-2000. He served as National Inspector General from 2001-2002. He also served as the District 11 National Council representative for members from the Departments of Wisconsin and Iowa in 2003-2005.

Tradewell earned an Associate’s degree in industrial safety and retired from Briggs and Stratton in 1998 as a Metallurgy Laboratory Technician after 30 years of service.

He is a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Military Order of the Cootie, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, and Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association.

Tradewell married Sharon in 1966 and they make their home in Sussex, Wis.

VFWA National Representative



Jeanette Garcia, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, represents Arizona and New Mexico on the National Council of Administration, which governs the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) Auxiliary between National Conventions.

Jeanette Garcia

Installed at the 104th National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, she will serve 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 George O’Breece Auxiliary 401, she has served in many capacities for the organization including Auxiliary, District and Department (state) President. She also served as the National Veterans & Family Support Ambassador in 2016-2017.

She joined on the eligibility of her father, who served in the U.S. Army from 1967-1969.

In her spare time she enjoys reading and spending time with her daughters. She also enjoys watching sports, especially football and basketball. Jeanette is a life member of the VFW National Home for Children and is also a member of the Military Order of the Cooties (MOCA).



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO
MID-WINTER CONFERENCE AGENDA
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
JANUARY 19-20, 2018



For NM Students

Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown Hotel
2600 Louisiana Blvd NE Albuquerque, NM 87110
<http://www.sheratonalbuquerqueuptown.com/>

National Reservation # 1-888-625-4937

Local # 1-800-325-3535 (reference: VFW 2018)

Online Registration: (Preferred Method)

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1706023469&key=1E6F56AC>

Fax at front desk: 1-505-881-6933

Conference Chairman: Karla Eaton

Cell: 832-971-4825

State Commander: Fred Eaton

VFW National Representative: Past Commander-in-Chief Thomas "Tommy" Tradewell

Come to Mid-Winter Conference and show your support for our New Mexico students!

VFW MID-WINTER CONFERENCE AGENDA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2018

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM VFW & Auxiliary Registration | Galleria |
| 4:00 PM - 11:00 PM Hospitality Room | Ivory |
| 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Redistricting Committee | Uptown Board Room |

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2018

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM VFW & Auxiliary Registration | Galleria |
| 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM Audit | Uptown Board Room |
| 9:00 AM - Noon VFW & Auxiliary Joint Session | Ambassador/Registry Ballroom |
| Noon - 1:30 PM Scholarship Award Luncheon | Regal/Wurlitzer Ballroom |
| 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM VFW Council of Administration | Ambassador Ballroom |
| 3:15 PM - ?? PM Breakout Sessions for Post Svc Officers & QM's | Ambassador Ballroom |
| 4:00 PM - 12:00 PM Cocktails in Hospitality Room | Ivory |
| 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM PSC Dinner | TBA |

(Note: All meetings will be held in the Ambassador Ballroom unless noted and are subject to change)

Room Rates

Single/Doubles: \$92.00 per night plus 13.00% in local and state taxes Reservations must be made prior to 5:00 PM, January 1, 2018 to get the VFW rate. After this date, room rates will be based on current hotel rates.



VFW AUXILIARY
 DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO
 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE AGENDA
 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
 JANUARY 19-20, 2018



For NM Students

Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown Hotel
 2600 Louisiana Blvd NE Albuquerque, NM 87110
<http://www.sheratonalbuquerqueuptown.com/>

National Reservation # 1-888-625-4937 Local # 1-800-325-3535 (reference: VFW 2018)

Online Registration: (Preferred Method)
<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1706023469&key=1E6F56AC>

Fax at front desk: 1-505-881-6933

Aux Conference Chairman: Nancy "Tigger" Tabb Cell: 505-239-2747

State President: Alison Lam

VFW National Representative: Jeanette Garcia, District 15, VFWA National Councilmember

Come to Mid-Winter Conference and show your support for our New Mexico students!

VFW AUXILIARY MID-WINTER CONFERENCE AGENDA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2018

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM VFW & Auxiliary Registration | Galleria |
| 4:00 PM – 11:00 PM Hospitality Room | Ivory |
| 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM Budget Meeting (Department Line Officers) | Uptown Board Room |

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2018

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM VFW & Auxiliary Registration | Galleria |
| 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM Council of Administration | Registry Ballroom |
| 9:00 AM - Noon VFW & Auxiliary Joint Session | Ambassador/Registry Ballroom |
| Noon - 1:30 PM Scholarship Award Luncheon | Regal/Wurlitzer Ballroom |
| 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM Chairman Workshop | Registry Ballroom |
| 4:00 PM – 12:00 PM Cocktails in Hospitality Room | Ivory |
| 6:00 PM – ??? PM Dept. Aux/National Reps Dinner | TBA |

(Note: All meetings rooms are subject to change)

Room Rates

Single/Doubles: \$92.00 per night plus 13.00% in local and state taxes Reservations must be made prior to 5:00 PM, January 1, 2018 to get the VFW rate. After this date, room rates will be based on current hotel rates.



MID-WINTER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM
VFW MEMBERS ONLY
DEADLINE FOR MAILING FORM
JANUARY 2, 2018



Name: _____ Post: _____

Official VFW
 Title/Position: _____ Membership #: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Ck# _____

\$8.00 for VFW members (\$15.00 after 1/05/18 and at the Door)

***PLEASE PRE-REGISTER AND ON-TIME ; THEREFORE ENSURING WE HAVE THE PROPER
 AMOUNT OF FOOD AND MEETING ROOM(S) AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS! THANK YOU
 FROM VFW DEPARTMENT AND THE VFW/VFWA CONFERENCE COMMITTEE!!***

(Make checks payable to VFW DEPT of NM HQ)

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)

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 02, 2018



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 1/05/18 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 AND ON-TIME ; THEREFORE ENSURING WE HAVE THE PROPER AMOUNT OF FOOD AND MEETING ROOM(S) AVAILABLE FOR ALL MEMBERS! THANK YOU FROM VFW DEPARTMENT AND THE VFW/VFWA CONFERENCE COMMITTEE!!



**VFW MID-WINTER LUNCHEON TICKET(S) REQUEST
DUE BY DECEMBER 17, 2018**



Luncheon is lasagna with garlic bread, side and a dessert

Name: _____ Post/Aux#: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux#: _____

Address: _____

Circle) Phone: _____
of the menu

Special Diet Plate: (Please
*** See note at the end

Amount Enclosed at \$27.00 per Person: _____ Ck# _____

SPECIAL MEAL REQUEST: i.e. - Vegetarian, vegan, lactose free, gluten free etc.)

Name(s) & request:

(Make checks payable to VFW DEPT of NM HQ)

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)

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

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

VFWA District 15 National Council Member



Merry Christmas to the Department of New Mexico!

Next month, we will have our Mid-Winter Conference in Albuquerque. Past Commander-in-Chief, Thomas “Tommy” Tradewell, will be the Department Representative to New Mexico.

Jeanette D. Garcia

The year is passing us by so fast, but it has been a great year so far. I made my first official visit to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Department of Arizona in October. The hospitality was amazing and the members of the Auxiliary and the VFW were very nice, friendly, and supportive. I made many new friends and learned a lot from the Department. As Departments we all learn and provide information differently. We should not be afraid to work together and to share ideas.

A couple of things to remember as we move forward:

Please purchase the new bylaws that are currently available for purchase. There were many changes made at the National Convention. They are not very expensive, but with all the changes, it is best to purchase the new book so that everything is updated. You never know when you will need to reflect back on a section, or if a member will have any questions.

MALTA has had a few glitches since we began to use the system. Don't be scared to get into the system and sign-on. It only takes a few minutes to enter your information and start to review your profile and other items. It is taking a while for members to get their cards, but National is working on this and hopes that the problem will be fixed soon. If you are a Life Member, you should have received your new card. It is a little thicker card than the last

one. If you haven't, please get in touch with National or wait another week or so.

Remember who we are here for - our Veterans and their families. How can we help them and what services and resources can we offer? Do you have a list of organizations that you can provide to families where they can get help? Go back to why you joined this wonderful organization called the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, back in the day it was called Ladies Auxiliary. Let's work together and ensure that our Veterans' needs are being looked after, and answers can be provided. They also need opportunities to find jobs, housing, and education. We have so much we can offer.

During New Mexico's Mid-Winter Conference in January, I will be your Department Representative. I will have more information for you at that time and look forward to seeing everyone. There will also be the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Luncheon on January 20th during the Conference. It is exciting to see the students' faces as they are announced as winners of scholarships. If you did not attend last year, please plan to this year if you are able.

See you next month, and please do not hesitate to email or give me a call if you have any concerns or have something on your mind.

Loyally,
Jeanette D. Garcia
National District 15 Council Member



VFWA Jr. Vice President's Corner



Kelly Fouse

Hello everyone!
Thank you, thank you, thank you! Without my family and all of you, I would not have the privilege of being the State of New Mexico's Jr. Vice President! Yes, there is work involved; however, it is such a blessing to be able to support our veterans and each other. I truly believe that the VFW and VFWA is the greatest auxiliary and veteran's organization in the world! I feel so blessed to have been able to travel with the VFW and my Auxiliary sisters and brothers this

year representing New Mexico. The comradery and learning opportunities are boundless.

One thing I observed is that passion is contagious! When I am around someone who is passionate about our organization and what we do, it helps every dedicated member's motivation. We all have at least one thing we enjoy doing in our organization, so share that, step up, and speak out. Maybe your Commander, President, or Chairperson does not know you would like to help with something. Your enthusiasm will rejuvenate everyone. To those that are in leadership positions, let us keep our minds open to new ideas, new excitement, and whatever we do, we should never say, "we have always done it that way," "that won't work," "you are too new," or "that is too different to work." Maybe the idea has been tried, or maybe it didn't work the first time. However, with a new perspective it might work now. If it doesn't, what do we have to lose, really? Unless it will disrespect our organizations or cost a lot of money, what is the harm in trying again, or for the first time? If it is to try to raise money, why on earth would you want to shoot an idea down, or make it extremely difficult? Maybe we will learn that it's a great idea, and that it just needs a little fine tuning the next time. We won't know if we don't try. Whatever we do, let us not make someone feel unwanted, useless, or unappreciated. They probably won't step up again, or sooner or later, they will burn out. We want our organization to grow, with active, dedicated members, not fade away because we had narrow minds, control issues, or are just being stubborn. We have been given a great legacy, with great responsibility. Let us leave an even greater legacy for the future generations! As Chief Harmon's and National President Dee's mottos state, "Service not self" and "Unwavering support for uncommon heroes."

I am so excited to be a part of this organization, striving to help all of you do what we can, for our veterans and each other, as well as the future generations. I truly want to continue to learn, and to be an active part of New Mexico's Veteran of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. Therefore, I would like to announce that I will be running for Senior Vice President, Department of New Mexico in the 2018-2019 year.

Again, thank you to my family, and all of you that give me your support, friendship, and love. I even thank those that continually let me know, in a roundabout way, that I am not meeting their expectations.

Sincerely,
Kelly Fouse
New Mexico Jr. Vice President

New Mexico VFW Auxiliary State Officers 2015-2016

National Councilwoman - Jeanette Garcia 401 Albuquerque
President - Alison Slate 3015 Clovis
Sr. Vice President - Mary Sanchez 4384 Anthony
Jr. Vice President - Kelly Fouse 7686 Alamogordo
Treasurer - Penney Howard 614 Aztec
Secretary - Jeanette Garcia 401 Albuquerque
Chaplain - Lynda Putzier 9515 Portales
Conductress - Kandy Brazell 401 Albuquerque
Assistant Conductress - Judy Hayes 7686 Alamogordo
Guard - Nancy Tabb 5890 Rio Ranch
Assistant Guard - June Brazell 401 Albuquerque
Chief of Staff - Lee Ann Lam 3015 Clovis
Past State Pres. - Vondale Mann 3280 Clovis
Color Bearer #1 - Sue Frappier 3015 Clovis
Color Bearer #2 - Elaine Mitchell 3015 Clovis
Color Bearer #3 - Lucretia Henson 2951 Santa Fe
Color Bearer #4 - Robert Henson 2951 Santa Fe
Flag Bearer - Shawna Mallory 5890 Rio Rancho
Banner Bearer - Jonathan Slate 3015 Clovis
Musician/Soloist - Diana Wong 401 Albuquerque

District President

District 1 - Betty Decker 9517 Shiprock
District 2 - Nancy Tabb 5890 Rio Rancho
District 3 - Kelly Fouse 7686 Alamogordo
District 4 - Nancy Evans 1389 Elephant Butte
District 5 - Mary Ann Padilla 3271 Clayton
District 6 - Lucretia Henson 2951 Santa Fe
District 7 - Debby Perkins 8703 Carlsbad
District 8 - Bobbi Van Dyke 3280 Clovis

VFWA Chief of Staff Corner



Lee Ann Lam

Happy Holidays to all Auxiliary members, As the best time of the year comes upon us, let us remember our veterans and families, as well as taking care of our members who are homebound, ill, and just in need of visitors.

It's always time for food baskets, warm blankets, coats, hats, gloves, etc. for the homeless veterans. REMEMBER TOYS FOR TOTS programs.

Help your local fire departments and police departments with toys and warm coats for children.

Please remember to visit the VA Hospitals - bring goodies there, too. The patients love to be treated special, too.

Let's remember our military serving overseas. Please send them Christmas baskets of homemade goodies, cookies, fudge, etc - all the yummy stuff that will remind them of home.

May God bless the military, both home and overseas. We wish them a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

I also want to wish our VFW and all Auxiliary members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Lee Ann Lam
VFW Auxiliary Dept.
Chief of Staff
Veterans & Family Support
National Recruiter



VFWA Western Conference Guard



Janet Huft

Hello Sisters and Brothers, It has been busy and a lot of things have been going on. September was Department Commander's Homecoming, and what a good show. October was Department President Alison Lam's Homecoming and C of A. It was a good turnout, so I thank everyone that was there.

Then, in November there was the Western Conference in San Diego, California. I thank everyone that showed their support in voting for me as Western Conference Guard.

I want to thank everyone that was at the Western Conference as I was getting installed for Western Guard.

A lot of things went on during Veterans week, which was November 5-11. The open house on November 5 at VFW Auxiliary Post 3280, open house on November 6 at VFW Auxiliary Post 3015, and different organizations had open house taking turns - American Legions 25 and 117, DAV AMVets 14, etc. There was a Veterans Parade on Saturday, November 11 where VFW Auxiliary Post 3015 took second place in Marching, with VFW Auxiliary Post 3280 getting first.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and has a Merry Christmas.

Janet Huft PDP
Western Conference Guard 17-18

Veteran's Day



Lu Ann Dyer

I have been participating in my nephew Steven Becker's Veterans Day ceremony at Saint John XXIII Catholic School for seven years now, kindergarten through 6th grade so far, with two more years to go. The pictures tell an amazing story of our growing up together. He is an amazing kid, and for being of such a young

age, he is very mature. He attends honor flight activities to honor military veterans, whom he has a great love and respect for. He also has a vast amount of love for his mom and aunts. When I asked him three years ago, if he wanted me to attend this event, he replied, "My Lu Ann, you have been there every year, so why not this year?" How could I argue with that logic? This year was special in a couple ways.

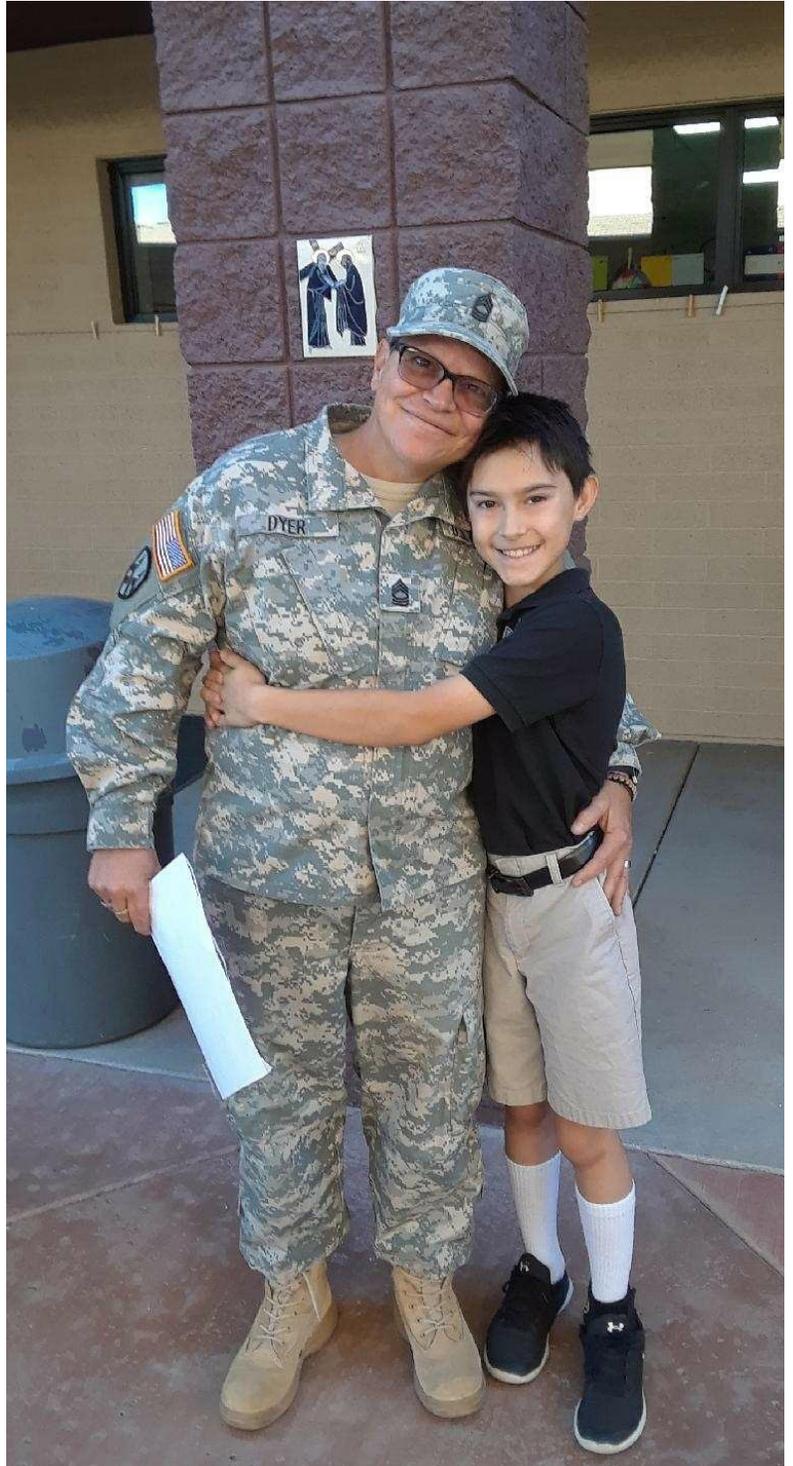
In this year's picture you cannot see the pin on my uniform, but the blue ribbon with a white dove was made by his mother and me. It is to honor his school priest, Father Pete Rossa, United States Air Force, who was a veteran and an important part of the ceremonies in the past. He passed away this year, so we wanted to honor him. Each student in the school and staff, over 700, were wearing them. I also had the distinct honor of presenting a ribbon to each veteran attending the ceremony.

Steven also lost his dad two days prior to the ceremony. When asked if he still wanted to go to the ceremony he replied, "Yes, I need my picture with my Tia Lu Ann." This goes to show the maturity of Steven, and of how selfless he is.

Although I have not been able to support my home VFW for these years, it has been an honor supporting my family and being honored as a veteran at this event. I believe next year I will be

the veteran representative with the most seniority at the ceremony.

Respectfully,
Lu Ann Dyer District 3 Commander
MSG Retired, United States Army



100 Cities Memorial Grants

Apply Today for a 100 Cities/100 Memorials Matching Grant

Round two applications being taken until January 15, 2018

WASHINGTON (Oct. 23, 2017) – In observance of the centennial of World War I, a total of 100 matching grants of up to \$2,000 apiece are being awarded for the restoration, conservation, or even creation of 100 World War I Memorials across the United States.

The first 50 “WWI Centennial Memorials” were announced on Sept. 27, 2017 and grant applications for the second 50 awards are being taken now. Applications can be submitted until January 15, 2018. The program management expects to announce the second group of 50 awardees on April 6, 2018.

Any organization, group, municipal government, or individual may apply. The memorial or monument must be WWI related, must be in the 50 United States or U.S. territories, and the project must be, or have been completed between January 1, 2014 and November 18, 2018.

To date, both American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts from around the country have participated, as well as many other veterans’ service organizations, community groups, city, state and municipal organizations, local historic preservations societies, and even individuals.

WWI memorial restoration, preservation, and creation projects are being undertaken around the country during this centennial period. Some of the projects may not know about the program, which not only provides some financial assistance in the form of a matching grant, but most importantly, applicants get to tie into a national program, and awardees receive an official federal designation as a “WWI Centennial Memorial.”

Interested parties should go to ww1cc.org/100memorials where they can learn about the details of the program, read or download the competition manual, submit a grant application, and sign up for an informational blog about the program that will keep them updated over the coming months.

By restoring these monuments and memorials, many of which bear the names of those members of the community who served and fell in the “war that changed the world,” the sponsors of the 100 Cities/100 Memorials initiative hope not only to honor those who served, but to raise awareness of this momentous event in our nation’s history, and increase each community’s understanding of their town’s and city’s place in military history.

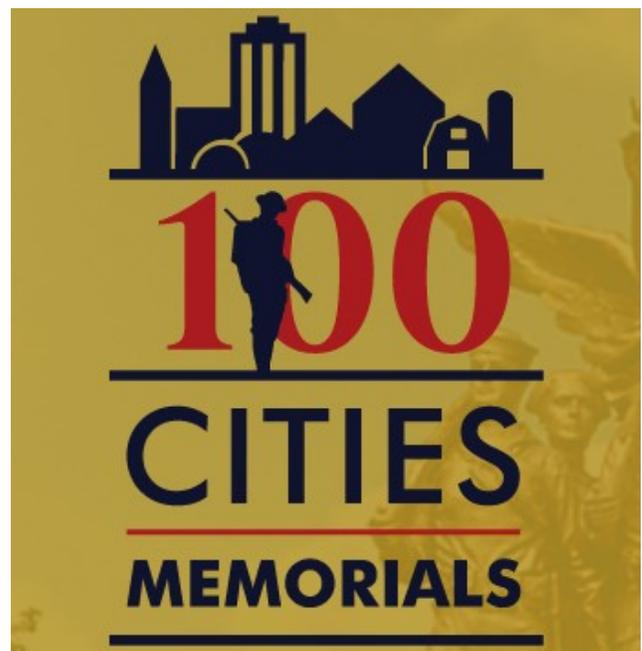
It is our great hope that the 100 Cities/100 Memorials initiative will help unite the nation in a conversation and collective celebration of our victory in World War I. We hope to properly recognize the contributions of those who served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of liberty and freedom.

The 100 Cities/100 Memorials program was created and is sponsored by the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission and the Pritzker Military Museum and Library. Both the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars are signed on as supporting organizations.

Questions can be addressed to the 100 Cities / 100 Memorials program managers:

For the US WW1 Centennial Commission: Theo Mayer: theo.mayer@worldwar1centennial.org

For the Pritzker Military Museum and Library: Susan Mennenga: smennenga@pritzkermilitary.org



Stand Downs



Len Hampton

Stand Downs are typically one- to three-day events providing supplies and services to homeless veterans, such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, and VA Social Security benefits counseling. Veterans can also receive referrals to other forms of assistance such as health care, housing solutions,

employment, substance counseling, and mental health counseling. They are collaborative events, coordinated between local VA Medical Centers, other government agencies, and community-based homeless service providers.

The original Stand Down for homeless veterans was modeled after the Stand Down concept used during the Vietnam War to provide a safe retreat for units returning from combat operations. At secure base camp areas, troops were able to take care of

personal hygiene, get clean uniforms, enjoy warm meals, receive medical and dental care, mail and receive letters, and enjoy the camaraderie of friends in a safe environment. Stand Down afforded battle-weary soldiers the opportunity to renew their spirit, health, and overall sense of well-being.

That is the purpose of the Stand Down for homeless veterans, and achieving those objectives requires a wide range of support services and time. The program is successful because it brings these services to one location, making them more accessible to homeless veterans.

The VFW supports homeless veterans in many ways including donations to homeless shelters, support of regional "stand downs," donating clothing and personal hygiene items, and fighting for more government resources to reduce the homeless population and put veterans back to work. Posts and individuals can send donations to the Department's Homeless Veterans fund in any amount which will be utilized to provide services to our homeless comrades. There is a variety of reasons why veterans are homeless, and the Department of New Mexico is committed to providing help to put an end to this problem.

Yours in Service,
Len Hampton



Do you know a VFW or VFW Auxiliary family in need?

If you are a member of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary, you and your family, your children's family and even your grandchildren's family may be eligible to be helped while living in the community of the VFW National Home for Children.

To learn more, call our Military and Veteran Family Helpline at 800-313-4200 or email help@vfwnationalhome.org.



V F W
NATIONAL HOME
FOR CHILDREN

New Veterans Cemetery in Gallup

On Wednesday October 25, the New Mexico Department of Veteran Services held a groundbreaking for the newest State Veterans Cemetery, which was held at the future site. The master of ceremonies, Jack Fox, Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Department of Veteran Services, started the program at two o'clock with a welcome to approximately 200 crowd members and special guests.

Gallup Mayor Jackie McKinney talked about how this cemetery would help local veterans be interned close to home and family. He thanked the New Mexico DVS and VA Cemetery Grants Program Director George Eisenbach, Governor Martinez, and others for working so hard for this and how pleased he was that it was finally happening.

Korea War veteran and Medal of Honor winner Hiroshi Miyamura talked next. He was very touched for being invited to the ceremony and pleased with the opening of a cemetery in Gallup. He looks forward to having a fourth veterans' cemetery in the state of New Mexico.

George Eisenbach followed, who talked about how Gallup and the entire state of New Mexico will benefit from the cemetery. He knows how much effort, time, and sweat was put into the project.

Governor Martinez then spoke about how her Mother-in-Law had a hard choice when her husband died. She could have either buried him in Santa Fe not allowing frequent visits, or she could have buried him in the local cemetery in Las Cruces. She decided to go to Las Cruces so that she could tend to his grave every week. Governor Martinez does not want families in New Mexico to have to decide that fate ever again. This was the driving reason she started the project in 2013. She wants to have four State Veterans Cemeteries very soon, with this one being the second.

The purpose of the State Veterans Cemetery program is to provide an honorable final resting place closer to home. This cemetery, when fully open, will be able to have 20,000 veterans and their families interned. They have opened one cemetery in Fort Stanton in 2014. The one in Gallup will be open Memorial Day 2019, with Angel Fire and Carlsbad to get on in the future.

This initiative is to help our two National Cemeteries, Santa Fe and Fort Bayard, to lay to rest the more than 150,000 veterans who live beyond the VA designated 75-mile radius to the cemetery. In 2015 the VA approved the state's application and awarded a grant for \$5.7 million for Fort Stanton. In 2017 the VA Cemetery Grants Program awarded New Mexico a grant of \$6.7 million for the Gallup cemetery. The grants for the other two cemeteries are still in the process of being accepted.

The VA cemetery rules for internment will apply for the Gallup cemetery also. Applications will be accepted after the cemetery is opened. You may get more information on this program and the cemetery at www.dvs.state.nm.us.

Tom Wagner, New Mexico Department of Veteran Services, helped with the research and writing of this article.



VFW/VFWA 9517 Veteran's Day Week

VFW 9517 started our week of Veterans Day out on Friday, November 3 at the Farmington Public Library. Mark Decker, Post QM, and Betty Decker, VFWA Sr Vice President, had flag education class at the library. They told patrons of the library about the proper way to fold the flag, handle the flag, and when it should be displayed. They handed out small hand-held flags, coloring books about the Pledge of Allegiance from the VFW store, and Flag Education pamphlets from the VFW Auxiliary website. They also demonstrated the proper way to fold the flag and had some people actually fold the flag. All told they talked to about 20 people at this class.

On Wednesday, November 8 Mark Decker went to Central Elementary School in Bloomfield to teach 1st graders about flag etiquette. There were about 100 students for this class in which he talked about some of the history of the flag, the different names of the flag, how it should be displayed, when it should be displayed, and how you should show respect to the flag. After his speech, he demonstrated how to fold the flag and had two students fold the flag for themselves. He then had a question and answer period with the students and teachers about the flag. The students were very excited to learn the history and wanted to tell some of their knowledge of the flag. The students then got a small flag, coloring booklet about the Pledge of Allegiance, and a handout called "Flag Education for Children." The students even asked Mark to come

back again.

On Friday, November 10 Mark Decker went to Central Elementary School in Bloomfield for their Veterans Day ceremony. The Bloomfield Junior High School ROTC presented the colors and did Honor Guard for the Pledge of Allegiance and playing of the National Anthem. Mrs. Chestnut, the organizer of the event, introduced Mark Decker. After that she had the students that had veterans in their families there introduce the veterans and present them with a hand colored flag with their name and dates of service on it. There were 41 veterans introduced. Then they played "God Bless the USA". All the students came up and thanked the veterans for their service and asked questions about when they were in the military.

On Saturday, November 11 and Sunday, November 12, the VFW and VFWA 9517 handed out Buddy Poppies at the 7-2-11 and City Market in Shiprock. They handed out about 1,500 Buddy Poppies and talked to many veterans about the VFW. They raised around \$500 over the two days.

During this week VFW and VFWA 9517 also judged their entries for Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher Award entries. The winners in all of the categories were sent to District 1 for judging at the District level.

Commander Eaton's Special Project

Not Forgotten Outreach in Taos, NM is this year's Special Project. Not Forgotten is a rehab place for veterans. It provides relaxation, counseling, and interaction with others to help the disabled veteran.

They are in need of a lift to assist people from the bed to the wheelchair, from the wheelchair to the shower, and other places. We are trying to raise \$6000 by Mid-Winter. This will be for the lift and other necessary projects to allow the lift to go from room to room.

The Department is asking all Posts and Districts to donate a minimum of \$50 to this project. You may make the checks out to VFW Dept NM, and in the memo put Special Project. Send your checks in to Dave Fouse at Department headquarters. We will also be doing games and raffles for fundraisers to get all of the money. If we raise the money by Mid-Winter, we will present the check to Not Forgotten at our Mid-Winter Conference.

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

Patriot's Pen/Voice of Democracy/Teacher's Awards



Karla Eaton

It's another exciting year for me as we now have had the submissions to Posts for Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Teachers' Awards. I am anticipating the same level of quality, and hope the Districts are working hard to convene boards from community partners or members who can judge the packages with no bias toward any Post or person. Just so

you all know, I do not participate in any of the judging at any level; Post, District, or Department. I am responsible for selecting non-biased board members and respect their decisions as such.

The top three winners in the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy, and the winner in all three categories of teachers' awards will be announced by at least January 9, and they will be recognized at the Mid-Winter luncheon on January 20, which begins at noon. The winners' Post and/or District will be

responsible for their meal and any associated travel expense.

Let me reiterate the deadlines to you. The deadline to get your entries to the District has come and gone. It was November 27. I must have your District winners' packages and the accompanying paperwork (reports) no later than close of business on **December 18**. My Department Board members will have them before the Christmas break so I can get them immediately after the holidays. I would recommend a tracking number if mailing them to me. We have had a package or two not reach me, probably due to the holiday rush, so always please keep a copy of your packages in case of the worst situation.

Thank you for all you do. I really appreciate those of you who work so hard to make these successful programs for our students, teachers, and our Department!

If you ever have questions or want to discuss these programs, you are all welcome to e-mail me at karlasmail@swwmail.net or call me at (832) 971-4825.

Respectfully,
Karla

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?

MOCA President



Kandy Brazell

the Beast and Don was the Beauty! Our emcee of the night was Mark Decker who did a wonderful job. We also raised over \$400 for the Fisher House. We did have some pranks going on, but then what Cootie event doesn't? Just a word of warning - if you see Shirlee Frias anywhere near your cell phone, grab it and run! My phone was confiscated by First Lady Frias and somehow ended up with about 300 more pictures than what it started the night with. A few of those strange pictures are included.

I also made my very first trip to the State Veteran's Home in Truth or Consequences with my fellow Cooties from Apollo 20. We were invited to tour the new building that was dedicated and opened on

Hello to everyone in the great state of New Mexico! Can you believe we are just a couple of months from our Mid-Winter Conference?

It has been a very busy last couple of months – Don Frias, Grand MOC Commander and I were thrown a wonderful homecoming by the members of LOCO 7. The theme of the night was “Beauty and the Beast”. I was

Veteran's Day. It is a beautiful place with great amenities to take care of our veterans. If you get the chance, please visit. Our veterans deserve our love and dedication for everything they have done for us.

Two of the five inspections have been made, and by mid-December all five will be completed. Hopefully I will be accompanied by my Chief Inspector at AHO 5's December meeting. Past Grand President and Current Chief of Staff Jeanette Garcia and MOCA Grand Secretary Louise Salas have graciously offered to do Mt KIA MIA #14's inspection. Past Grand President Janet Huft will inspect LOCO 7's. Thank you all for helping me make sure that the MOCA Grand of New Mexico is in good working order!

Just a couple of reminders; MOCA Members, if you are planning on attending our Mid-Winter Conference, please bring two long stem silk roses to our conference. These will be used for a surprise planned for our June Convention. Also, please pay your dues before the end of December!

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and the Merriest of Christmas! Love and Prayers to all, especially our POW/ MIA's and Military in Harms Way, and to our Veterans – THANK YOU!

Kandy Brazell
MOCA Grand
President of New
Mexico



**Support Lee Ann Lam for VFWA
National Guard 2018-2019**



**Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary
Mid-winter Conference Schedule
January 18-19, 2018**

Grand President: Kandy Brazell
 Conference Chairman: Jeanette D. Garcia
 Louise A. Salas

Thursday, January 18, 2018
 (All Events will be held at the VFW Post 401)
 (Early Registration-\$10.00 / Late and at door-\$12.00)
Food To Be Served During Registration

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM | Early Registration | VFW Post 401 |
| 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM | MOCA Budget / Audit | |

Friday, 19, 2018

| | | |
|--------------------|---|--------------|
| 7:30 AM – 8:45 AM | Registration | VFW Post 401 |
| 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM | Joint Session | |
| 9:45 AM – 12:00 PM | C of A and Business Session | |
| 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM | Lunch at Post 401 | |
| 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM | Business Session Continued | VFW Post 401 |
| 6:30 PM –????? | Dinner at Post 401 with Clown Table And Silent Auction | |

Sunday, January 21, 2018

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 12:00 Noon Registration | Supreme Hospital Visitation Day at VA Hospital |
| 1:00 PM | Program and Visit on Wards |

**MAY YOU HAVE SAFE TRAVELS TO YOUR HOMES
AND YOUR STAY WAS AN ENJOYABLE ONE**

NOTE: THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

MOCA 2018 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM (DUE BY 1-10-18)

Name: _____ Aux#: _____

Title(s): _____ PGP (Y/N) _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Membership #: _____ \$10.00 Early Registration (\$12.00 at the Door)

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ CK# _____

MOCA Members send your Registration To:

**Rebecca (Becki) Kester
1210 S. Florida
Alamogordo, NM 88310**

ATTENTION:

There will be a dinner at the Grand Mid-winter Conference at VFW Post 401 to be held on Friday, January 19, 2018. It will be a **Taco Bar with all the fixings with beans and rice for sides and dessert. Cost is: \$10.00.** If you plan to attend the dinner, please send money to:

Louise A. Salas, Treasurer
MOCA #7
8308 Waverly Dr., NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

Please RSVP by January 15, 2018.

Thank You.

MOC/MOCA Hard at Work



Keep 'em Smilin'



Around the Department



**Las Cruces Post
10124 Veteran's
Day float**

Don't ask don't tell



Western Conference 2017

Around the Department

Clovis Post 3015 Honor Guard gets ready to march in the Veteran's Day Parade



Alamogordo Post 7686 riding the float in the Veterans' Day Parade



District 6 Christopher Archuleta speaks at Espanola's Veteran's Day Ceremonies

Candidate for Department Surgeon



Don Frias

Greetings Veterans of Foreign Wars Comrades of the GREAT Department of New Mexico. My name is Don Frias. I am current commander of Post 401 in Albuquerque, NM. I am asking for your support and consideration as the State Surgeon for the 2018-2019 year.

I joined the U.S. Navy in 1986. I served from 1986-1990 aboard the USS Pelelu LH-5 in Long Beach, California. I reenlisted and was sent to Coronado, California Amphibious Base where I served with the Assault Craft Unit squadron from 1990-1992. That's where my unit was sent to Kuwait. I served two tours in a specialized boat. Upon my return, I joined VFW Post 5477 in Imperial Beach, Ca. I then moved back to Albuquerque, where I joined Post 401.

I have been married 23 years to Past Department President, Shirlee Frias. We have two children, Zacharie Frias, a senior at New Mexico State University, and Alexis Frias, a senior at V. Sue Cleveland High School. We live in Rio Rancho, New Mexico.

My VFW experience ranges from serving all offices including trustee and to now the current position of commander (my second term). I also am the VAVS Deputy Representative and Adjutant for District 2 for the past six years. I am also a member of the Military Order of the Cootie, where I am the Seam Squirrel for Pup Tent #7 and the Grand Commander for the Grand of New Mexico.

Again, I would like to ask you for your consideration and vote for the position of the State Surgeon for the 2018-2019 year.

Sincerely,
Don Frias

Candidate for Department Surgeon



Christopher Archuleta

I was born in Los Alamos, New Mexico on January 15, 1978 and served with the New Mexico National Guard U.S. Army from June 2006 to August 2012. I served with the 3631 Old Buffalo Herd, Santa Fe A/Co, 1 BN 200 Infantry, Rio Rancho, deployed in 2007 to Iraq. I also served in the 115th Transportation Det. 3, Espanola, deployed in 2009. I was also activated for the natural gas outage in

2011 here in Espanola and also for the Las Conchas fire.

I hold two Military occupational specialty qualifications (MOSQ) 11B, (Infantry) and 88M (Transportation). Decorations include: Army

Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Army Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Service with M Device. I also won the Ferrell Udell Award.

I joined the VFW Hill-Vigil Post 5610 in Espanola and am a life member. Currently serving as Post Commander and second year as District 6 Commander. I am also the Commission President for the Espanola Veterans Memorial wall located in the plaza of Espanola.

I am pushing and advocating for more mental health care in the rural communities of northern New Mexico. I would appreciate your support and vote as Surgeon at the Department of New Mexico State Convention of 2018.

Sincerely,
Christopher L. Archuleta

*VFW Auxiliary
Department of New Mexico*

Veterans & Family Support Program
Fundraiser Raffle



AR-15
(.223/5.56)
(Similar to left)
and case
(Full Patriotic
wrap)

\$20.00 a ticket

Tickets available at Mid-Year Conference
(or call numbers below if wanted early)

Drawing will be held at the
2018 Department Convention

(Need not be present to win)

MUST BE 21 OR OLDER

POC: Lee Ann Lam (575) 749-0125 or Gordon Lam (575) 749-0709

VFW Membership



In the Race for Membership here are you standings:

District 1—Kyrk Westbrook 93.76%

District 6— Christopher Archuleta 93.18%

District 4—Jack Doil 92.85%

District 5—Joe Esparza 92.16%

District 3—Lu Ann Dyer 91.02%

District 2—Victoria Haddox 87.39%

District 8—Kirk Reader 83.62%

District 7—Edwardo Rodriquez 82.17%

Divisions

1—Post 5432 Corrales 97.91%

**2—Post 11999 Cloudcroft
110.00%**

**3—Post 8874 Las Alamos
96.71%**

**4—Post 10124 Las Cruces
91.76%**

**5—Post 2951 Santa Fe
92.66%**

Recruiters

1st—Roger Bartosiewicz - 8

1st—Raul Sanchez - 8

3rd—Mary Titza - 7

4th—Warren Booker - 4

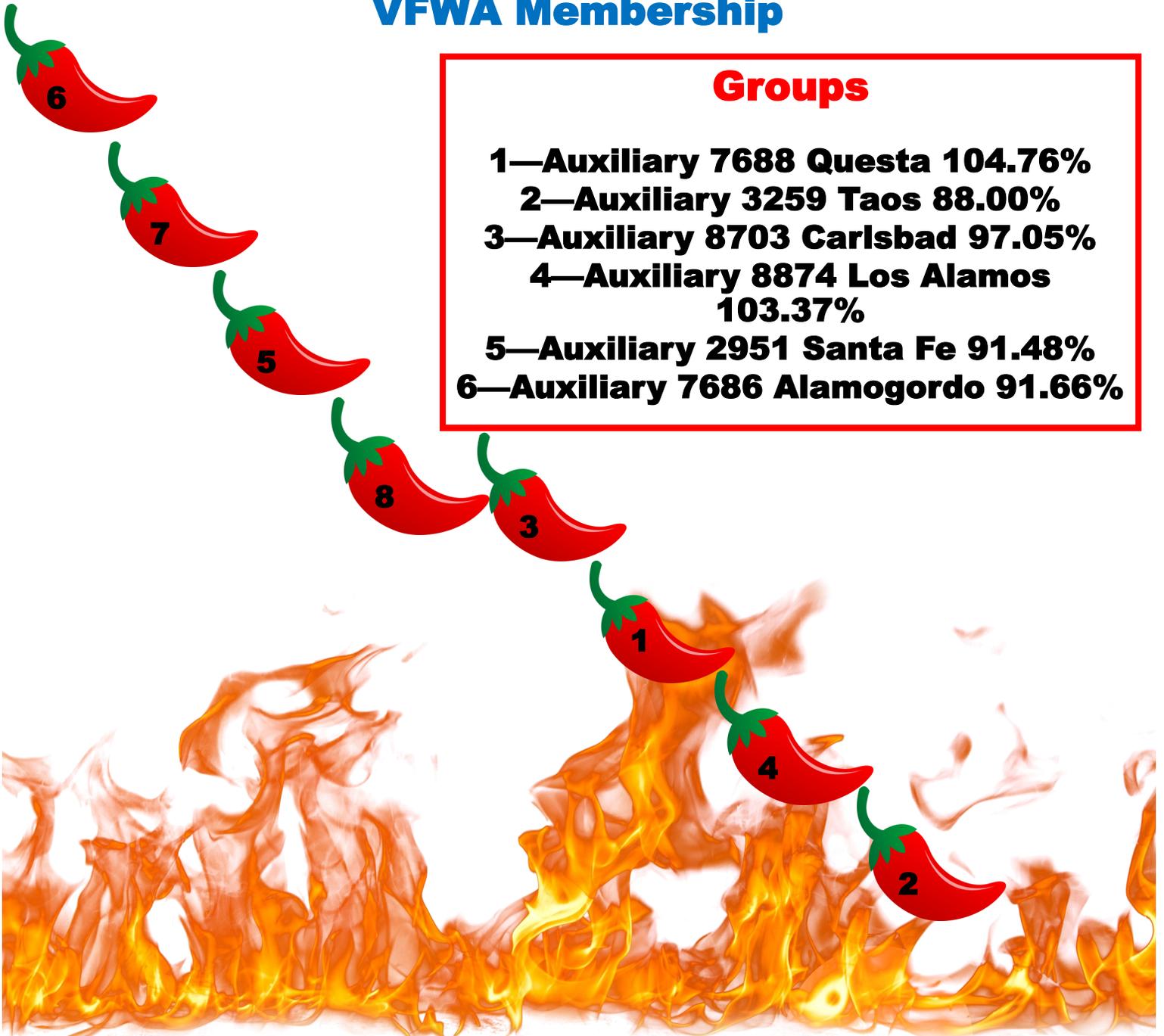
4th—Nancy Fernandez - 4

4th—Nichole Rux - 4

VFWA Membership

Groups

- 1—Auxiliary 7688 Questa 104.76%**
- 2—Auxiliary 3259 Taos 88.00%**
- 3—Auxiliary 8703 Carlsbad 97.05%**
- 4—Auxiliary 8874 Los Alamos 103.37%**
- 5—Auxiliary 2951 Santa Fe 91.48%**
- 6—Auxiliary 7686 Alamogordo 91.66%**



In the Race for Membership here are you standings:

- District 6—Lucretia Henson 96.01%**
- District 7— Debby Perkins 90.90%**
- District 5—Mary Ann Padilla 88.72%**
- District 8—Bobby Van Dyke 85.04%**
- District 3—Kelly Fouse 84.02%**
- District 1—Betty Decker 79.82%**
- District 4—Nancy Evans 77.93%**
- District 2—Nancy Tabb 72.49%**