



VFW NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO

Land of Enchantment



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

September 2017

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“Remembering Fallen Comrade”

David Charles Wimmer, who was 70 years old resided in Alamogordo, NM for over 30 years. He was born in Canastota, New York, on April 16, 1947 to John Herman Wimmer and Ruth Naomi Trexler. David went to his heavenly home on August 9th, 2017 at 9:22 am where he passed peacefully from bladder cancer.

David was a Vietnam Veteran who was a door gunner on Huey helicopters and a boom operator on KC135s, who retired from the United States Air Force as a TSgt. at Castle AFB, California after over 20 years of service. He also retired from Civil Service at Holloman AFB. He was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars 7686 of Alamogordo. He was a member of the Military Order of the Cooties Apollo 20 of Alamogordo. Dave loved collecting Nascars. He loved to make people laugh and look at the brighter side of life. He loved to build things and he even built his own home.

David Wimmer was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Janis Barbara Martell Wimmer; two daughters, Tina Michelle Warner of Alamogordo, NM, and Denise Cherie Houston & husband John Houston of Alamogordo, NM; and one son, Eric Keith Wimmer & wife Maria Struck Wimmer of Casper, Wyoming; 7 grandsons: David Warner, Dustin Houston, Scott Warner, Bryon Houston, Bradon Warner, Michael Houston, and Andrew Houston; 3 granddaughters, Taylor Corbin, Cordelia Wimmer, and Elise Wimmer; and one great grandson, Kayden Houston.

Memorial Services were held at 10:00 am, Saturday, August 19th, 2017 at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7686 Hwy 70 West Alamogordo, NM with burial services at Fort Stanton Veterans Cemetery.

The Wimmer family has entrusted their loved one to the care of Alamogordo Funeral Home to direct the arrangements.



**Dave Wimmer Past Supreme Commander
2014-2015**

National Council Member's Corner



Kathie D. Schiebel

First of all, Congratulations to our National Senior Vice Commander in Chief, BJ Lawrence. The National Convention in New Orleans was a great success. It is time for all the Posts and Districts to order your new manuals for 2018. There were quite a few by-law changes that were voted on at the convention. Messages have been sent out to all the Posts about the changes with the instructions on how to go into the National website to see the

changes. I would suggest that each Commander review the changes and update their manual until they receive the new one.

It is very important that the Posts and Districts in New Mexico work hard on membership and all of the programs that are required to be done. Our Department only had one All State/All American Commander this year. Congratulations to Edwardo (Godfather) Rodriguez from District 7 achieving this. It is very important that our Department work hard and achieve as many All State/All American Commanders as possible. Our State Commander, Charles Eaton has sent out his membership program, as well as Commander in Chief Keith Harman. Follow the guidelines and meet your deadlines. The Department puts out compliance

reports monthly. Use them as a tool to keep track of your status. Don't wait until the last minute and then wonder why you didn't make it. If you are having problems understanding what needs to be done, follow your chain of command and ask for help. There is no question that is stupid - if you don't understand it, ask the question. You can contact me anytime, if you have a question or you have a question that you would like me to bring up at a National Council meeting. I can be reached on my cell phone at 814-462-4422 or email, kschiebel5@gmail.com.

Now is the time to start making your plans to attend the next National Convention that will be in Kansas City. I would ask that we have as many Comrades and Auxiliary members there to show our support for our next Commander in Chief, BJ Lawrence. When you make your plans, please make sure that you are there for the installation of the new officers and you stay until the closing ceremonies. It was very embarrassing that there were so few Comrades left when the new officers were installed. New Mexico isn't that big of a state, and we need to show our support and show the other Departments that we are united and there to show that.

I will be attending a training session and a National Council of Administration meeting in Kansas City August 25 – 27 and I will bring back any information that everyone needs to know and brief that at the Department of New Mexico C of A in September.

<http://vets.syr.edu/education/employment-programs/>

<http://vets.syr.edu/employment/vctp-learning-paths/>



Commander's Corner



Charles Eaton

First of all, I want to thank you all for your confidence in electing me as your Department Commander. It is truly an honor and privilege to serve you and represent this great organization. Thanks to all of you who attended the National Convention and represented New Mexico so well. As some of you have

undoubtedly seen on Facebook, we put forth a proud, good-looking image of our New Mexico VFW/VFWA during the Patriotic Rally. It was a great time!

It was a very proud moment for us during the National Convention when Post 11999 from Cloudcroft was awarded the Outstanding Community Service Award from Commander-in-Chief, Brian Duffy. Accepting the award were Post Commander, Jack Smith, and Past Post Commander, Tom Reilly. Your hard work and commitment did, and continue to, set the example and the bar. Congratulations!

I think you all know how I feel about Posts and Districts taking advantage of community involvement, working our programs, and engaging with your current members to make this Department a true success. You need to get out and get involved with community projects and efforts to assist in making your town/city better. Talk to your civic organizations and let them know you want to be a viable and positive influence in your community. Get face-to-face with your schools, scout meetings, first responders, etc. Offer to host an event for any of these organizations, i.e. a blood drive, health fair, CPR training, etc. This will give your Post positive exposure and maybe start changing the attitude of those that think the VFW is just a dark, smoky bar that old people frequent to drink. Be enthusiastic when you're doing a Buddy Poppy drive. That seems to draw people who wonder what the heck those little flowers are for and lets veterans know that you, in fact, are in the community and you are there to support veterans. Finally, let your members know you care about

them. Call those members who are not actively involved, those unpaid and those life members whom you never see anymore. Let them know you care about them and find out why they don't come around much anymore.

This gives you the opportunity to help them, to encourage them, and basically let them know the VFW does care and has a wealth of support opportunities for them.

We have many great mentors throughout this state who are willing to help you; you only need to ask. As I write this article, we learned that one of those great mentors, Dave Wimmer (from whom I sought guidance), has passed away. May he rest in peace. His passing leaves a huge void in our VFW family. My point here is I wouldn't be where I am today if I hadn't talked to several leaders, including Dave; sometimes you just need someone who's walked in your shoes to offer help. Don't ever hesitate to ask for guidance or assistance if you need it, when you need it.

I want to reiterate what my special project is for this year. I was inspired when I visited the Not Forgotten Outreach Center in Taos. This organization really makes help for veterans and their families available and they provide services I doubt are available anywhere else in this nation. Sr. Vice Commander Mark Decker is leading the fund-raising effort for a lift that will allow disabled veterans so much more mobility than they currently have. You will have opportunities throughout the year, to meet the leadership who oversees, manages, and makes this assistance happen for hundreds.

Let's work together to make our Department stronger and closer. Communicate with members and your VFW Auxiliary members; the stronger the bond, the more successful we can be. I truly believe we can reach 100% this year, and of course that's my goal; however, as we reach that goal the "right" way, we will naturally become a more close and cohesive group. I believe the VFW's slogan, "No one does more for Veterans". Let's bring that attitude to our Posts and Districts and get that word out to all.



Senior Vice Commander's Message



Greetings, everyone. Thank you for electing me as your Sr. Vice Commander this year. Time is flying by. We are already ¼ of the way through the year. I hope everyone had a good time at our Convention in June. Congratulations to Commander Eaton and all other officers on your election this year.

Mark Decker

For those that attended the National Convention in New Orleans in July,

thank you for going. There is lots of word and training to be passed from there. The Department had a good turnout for BJ's election to National Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief.

With the year already being ¼ gone, I hope all the Posts are busy working on their projects and programs. Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen are due to the Posts October 1st this year instead of November 1st. Teachers Awards are due to Posts Oct 31st also. This is a big change from the last couple of years when it was due in February, so please get on these programs and get out to the schools and promote these programs.

Membership is a big program again this year. Membership Chairman Raul Sanchez and Assistant Adjutant Karla Eaton have sent out to all Posts your unpaid lists for the past 5 years. Please get in contact with these people and see if they would like to rejoin the VFW or, if not, why not? Please be open to their comments and forward them to Department. We need to know the reasons people are not staying members in New Mexico.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. I will answer your questions to the best of my ability. If I do not have the answer, I will find it for you. I am looking forward to a very productive and fun year. Again, thank you for your support, and make Commander Eaton's year successful.

New Mexico VFW News

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

Three issues: September, January, 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

New Mexico VFW State Officers 2017-2018

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

Junior Vice Commander's Message



Comrades, Sisters and Brothers:
Normally your Department Officers use our newsletter to pass on information to ensure New Mexico is successful. I have full faith that each Post and Auxiliary is putting their best foot forward, and I thank you for your efforts.

Richard Nutt

Thinking back on the great people that our

Department has lost recently, I want to use my time in a different and hopefully motivational way. At every memorial service that all of us attends, we hear how people have inspired, mentored and taught us how to be better VFW and Auxiliary members. But how many of us emulate the service that those mentors dedicated their lives? When we lose that member of our family, the torch they carried to lead the way does not go out. Yes, the light dims a little bit, but it is the duty of each of us to pick up that torch, continue the fight and make that light brighter than ever before by rallying the troops and leading the way.

Ours is a diverse organization, and each of us has something that pushes us to make a difference. Every Post has a member like Roger Miller, who dedicated himself to promoting our youth programs. His dedication to these programs was not for personal recognition or bragging rights, it was done to teach our children. Not every Post is fortunate enough to have a Past Supreme Commander of the Military Order of the Cootie as one of its members, but our Department was fortunate enough to have an individual like David Wimmer. He did not strive to be Supreme Commander for the title; he did it out of respect and dedication to our Veterans and their families. The positions that Roger and Dave had in the VFW and Cooties were conducted in a way that showed service before self.

These are only two people of many friends that I can say have inspired, mentored and taught me during my time in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The lessons I have learned from them and others, is to carry their torches with humility and be humble; the greatest rewards come from giving of ourselves unselfishly. When we act in these ways; we will be better individuals and be even more successful as Posts, Districts, Departments and as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary.

Upcoming Events

District 8 September 10 Post 3280 Clovis

District 1 September 16 Post 3221 Grants

District 5 September 16 Post 1131 Cerro

District 6 September 16 Post 8448 Tierra Amarillo

Commander's Homecoming September 23 Post 9515 Portales

MOC/MOCA Homecoming September 30 Post 401 Albuquerque

President's Homecoming October 14 Post 3015 Clovis

District 2 November 4 Post 6216 Albuquerque

District 4 November 4 Post 3317 Williamsburg

Chaplain's Message



Cynthia Archuleta

Thanks to all for the great turn-out at the Flying Squadron. It would be nice to see more attendance from other Posts. If you do not understand the importance of these meetings please call me or e-mail me so I can let you know.

The Service Office downtown has been

super busy with new clients and the previous POA's we hold. If you need to file a claim, or would like to know what this entails, please call the office at 505-346-881. Kaite or I would be happy to assist you.



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 majority of the violations could have been prevented if the Post Officers had taken the time to refer to the current Podium Edition of the By-Laws. 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. Order the 2018 Podium Edition NOW so you will have it as soon as it's available. When 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 575-318-4139. If I don't have the answer to your question, I will find the answer for you. Sometimes asking a simple question can save a whole bunch of problems later.



Surgeon's Message



Rogelio Maldonado

Hello fellow comrades, I have a passion for health promotion and a passion for serving you Veterans, brothers and sisters who have served their country well. I will do my best to ensure that you have the tools you need to live the quality life that you so deserve. I hope to leave a legacy in helping you all, and I have a vision of making all medical and/or health benefits available to you.

If there are answers to reducing pain physically, mentally, socially and sexually, I will find them for you. And if you hear of anything that could help others, please let me know, so I can share the good news. I wish you all health and happiness with many blessings.

Rmaldy87@yahoo.com.

Past Commander's Message



Len Hampton

It has been an honor and a privilege to have served you and the Department of New Mexico as its Commander. It has been an exciting and challenging year. I'd like to thank all of my Line Officers and Chairmen who supported and helped me throughout the year.

A big thank you to all of the Posts in the Department for the great efforts and hard work that you do in your communities. Last but not

least, I'd like to thank the Auxiliaries for the great work and support they do in each Post. Thanks for Making It Happen!

know the five signs.

Reach out, connect, inspire hope, and offer help.

personality changed?
agitated?
withdrawn?
poor self-care?
hopeless?

#ChangeMentalHealth

visit

www.changedirection.org

National District 15 Council Member's Message



Jeanette D. Garcia

Hello Department of New Mexico,

This year is already off to a fast start. The Auxiliaries are working hard on their programs and District meetings have begun. I was elected as the National District 15 Council Member at our Department Convention in June. I will represent the Departments of New Mexico and Arizona for the next two years (2017-2019).

Review the national program book, read about the programs, the goals for this year, and don't forget the deadlines.

MALTA is very important to the success of your Auxiliary, throughout the year, you should provide training on the new system and encourage your members to get onto the system. You can pay your dues, change your personal information, and really be able to take care of what you need for your membership. You will be able to pay for registration for different events as well. Treasurers and Secretaries you will have more access to other items in MALTA. Take advantage of this new system, it will simplify things for you.

One of my duties will be to represent you at the National level in regard to decisions that will need to be made on different items throughout the year, such as the National budget or changes to Standing Rules. As your Council Member, I will provide you with information on any changes to programs, updates on MALTA, membership and any other changes. I will be your voice.

Continue to work with our Veterans and their families, remember, they are our priority, we are

A few things to remember and think about:

The two Resolutions that were presented at National Convention in regard to credit and debit cards were defeated. The delegation voted to not go with the decision of the National committee. With that said, an Auxiliary is not allowed to have a credit or debit card. If you do, please take the card back to the bank have them destroy or shred the card.

There were other Resolutions presented and each of them were defeated as well.

There was a lot of discussion in regard to the bylaws. Some changes presented were not approved and some were. Due to all the approved changes, I would recommend that you order a new bylaw book if you are able to and once it is available. You will need to know the changes.



here to provide them with resources and information that will help them move forward in their lives.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you this year. Do not hesitate to give me a call (505-331-2006) or email me jdgarcia780@aol.com.

Sr. Vice President's Corner



Mary "Girl" Sanchez

Going Up the Department Chairs
As I look back on the nomination to serve as Department guard, I was excited and thrilled! I figured, how hard it can be to watch the doors as sisters come in and out of the meeting, for 2 meetings a year? For the most part it was easy, and I took a lot of pictures of people's backsides. Or was I too naïve that as guard, you start moving up the Department chairs. This does not happen at the Auxiliary level!

At the District level, I went from guard to President (I was ambushed because I did not specify what position I would consider when I sent my letter in for nomination). Lesson learned - so now we are at the Annual State meeting and I know I am up for nominations as Conductress, but what I did not know, is that someone from your Auxiliary is supposed to nominate you, and I travelled alone to the meeting that year. So I thought, great, I would not be a state officer and I can be just an Auxiliary member at these meetings and learn some more about the Auxiliary. I can sit in the front seat and take pictures of the award receipting face to face instead of getting everybody's backside! In the audience I hear somebody nominate me for Conductress and a second, then the gavel tapped three times so fast it was like Shirley reading the audit report. I was then asked if I would take this position. I should have gone with my first instinct and said no, but then in a split second I thought, it is an honor to take charge of the flags and stood up and said yes.

So now I am in charge of this BIGGEEESSTT blue tub bucket that all the flags come in. This tub reminded me of a watering trough for horses, or better yet -- the tub I took a bath in when I was 4 or 5 years old called "the TINA". The one the old timers talked about --the big families with lots of kids

and one bathtub, no running water inside the house and I was always the dirtiest and last one to take a bath. This was not going to fit in my small car. Good thing the next meeting was in Clovis! Gordon and Lee Ann Lam offered to take the HUGE tub for me. I was so grateful because they had a truck.

So for that year, my Auxiliary sister Josie (may she rest in peace) went to all the C of A meetings and State meetings with me because she had a big car with a huge trunk. By the last meeting I found a cart that I used at work to haul boxes and bought one like it and donated to that position, and now, it's any car. Being Conductress was very nerve-wracking and hard because I was in charge of the presentation of the flags and making sure we looked good during the presentation of flags.

So now I am up for Chaplain. I got Josie from my Auxiliary to nominate me for Chaplain. This position must be easier than Conductress. Wrong, dead wrong!! This was the hardest position! Besides making the memorial ceremony, you have to make the booklet for it, get names for the Auxiliaries for the dearly departed and make and read prayers at each meeting. Then you also help the Conductress with her presentation of flags. WOW!

Now I'm nominated for Junior Vice and I got my Josie with me, but I look round the room and don't see Ms. Josie in the room during elections. Okay, maybe I don't move up the Department line, but again I got nominated for Junior Vice. So now I found myself as Junior Vice and was now thinking and having second thoughts again. Am I worthy to start leading this department forward? I go talk to Ms. Josie, Ms. Eloise, Ms. Dorothy, Ms. Louisa, and a dozen other people I look up to and admire for their frankness. So I must close as my journey continues as a Senior Vice.



VFWA Membership and Leadership



Janis Wimmer

This is going to be an exciting year. There are so many new things that are happening in the VFW Auxiliary. I want to say thank you to President Alison Slate for appointing me Department of New Mexico Membership & Leadership Chairman. I know that the Department of New Mexico and all the Auxiliaries are going to have an outstanding year.

It is very important that all members of the Auxiliary use the National website www.vfwauxiliary.org. There is so much information on the website. National has made the website user friendly. They will walk you through how to set up your own log in. You will also be able to pay your dues online using the new MALTA program.

The Membership Chairmanship is not just about the number of members that you have, it is also about leadership. There are all kinds of new information available to help you and your Auxiliary become a better functioning Auxiliary. I have already sent out two promotions and had a school of instruction on the new member engagement. Please make sure that you find out about these at your meetings, or go to our NM Auxiliary web site to get copies.

National is having an award for any member who recruits five new and or rejoined Auxiliary members from July 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018 on the official form received at National Headquarters by May 31, 2018. That member will receive a Catch Five pin. Also, a VFW Auxiliary or VFW Post member who secures 20 new members from July 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018 with the official form received at National Headquarters by May 31, 2018, will be awarded with the National Membership Achievement Award.

Remember to read your program book for this year. There is money from National to be earned under the Membership program.

Please know that I am here to help you and your Auxiliary.

“Our Veterans volunteered for us, we will volunteer for them.”

If you have any questions or need any help, you can call, email, or write to me.

Phone #: 575-437-0053 Email: kachina1@q.com
Address: 5980 Hwy 54 S Unit 3753 Alamogordo, NM 88311-9522

New Mexico VFW Auxiliary State Officers 2017-2018

National Councilwoman - Jeanette Garcia 401 Albuquerque
President - Alison Lam 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 Rancho
Assistant Guard - Dela Sanchez 4384 Anthony
Chief of Staff - Lee Ann Lam 3015 Clovis
Past State Pres. - Dale 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

Past National District 15 Council Message



Kim Sloan

It has been my honor and a privilege to serve you as your 2015 – 2017 council member. Wow what a convention we had! I was glad to hear so many of our members voicing their opinions on Resolutions and the Bylaws changes. This is our organization and everyone deserves to be heard – thank you for speaking up.

Council Member for New Mexico and Arizona.

It's been a wonderful experience to get to know many more New Mexico members especially the line officers coming up. You've got a great line of officers that you can be proud of. And I've met many new friends that I look forward to seeing again.

Thank you for all that you do for our veterans and their families, for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and especially the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary!

PAST National District 15 Council Member Kim Sloan

Email: auxvfwarizona@msn.com

Cell Phone: 520.307.7940

I look forward to working with Jeannette for the next two years and I know that she will shine as the

next two years and I know that she will shine as the



5th Annual Celebrating America's Freedom Event
Thursday, October 19, 2017
Yorktown Battlefield, Yorktown, Virginia

Western Conference Membership Coach 2016-2017



Kim Harney

It was my pleasure to be able to attend New Mexico's state convention in June. It is always nice to travel to new places and learn how other Departments organize their convention. I enjoyed spending time with members that I already knew as well as meeting new members.

not only me but also to my mom, Becky Kent and NDCM Kim Sloan.

Congratulations to everyone who made 2016-2017 a successful year for New Mexico, and I hope that 2017-2018 is equally successful.

Kim Harney
NCRT and 2016-2017 Western Conference
Membership Coach

Thank you for the warm welcome, and hospitality extended to

Past President's Message



Dale Mann

Congratulations to the Department of New Mexico Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary! We, as a TEAM, accomplished many things by working together. The Department Chairmen completed their requirements with expertise and dedication. The Department achieved the first Circle of Excellence award and was recognized at the 104th National

Convention in New

Orleans, Louisiana, on Saturday, July 22, 2017. It was my privilege and honor to represent the members of our Department to receive the award which included \$1000, a medallion, chair cover, scarf, and lapel pin among the other honors as your president. What a wonderful end of a great year! Thanks to all the chairmen of Department, District and the Auxiliaries who worked hard to get the requirements met. A special thanks goes to Department Membership/Leadership Chairman Kandy Brazell and Department Treasurer Penney Howard who steadied the course until every detail was reported. Great job to both of you. Also, our Western Conference Chairman Kim Harney and National Ambassador Leona McDermott kept all of us informed and encouraged us as we worked as a TEAM to meet our membership goals. The list is enormous and includes every member of our Department. You deserve a huge thank you for all you do for our Department and veterans. The funds earned for Circle of Excellence will help us as we go forward in our programming. I will, as your Past Department President, wear the medallion with pride and appreciation for your hard work.

Well, if that wasn't enough, our Department Chairmen were honored at the National Convention for their hard work with monetary funds for the Department and gifts for themselves. Many of our chairmen were unable to attend, so those gifts will be given at our next scheduled Council of Administration (CofA).

The following were awarded:

- Veterans & Family Support – Shirlee Frias – 2nd Place (Presented by National Ambassador Jeanette Garcia)
- Americanism – Jeanette Garcia – 2nd Place
- Extension/Chief of Staff – Janis Wimmer – 3rd Place
- Hospital – Victoria Jensen – 3rd Place
- Legislative – Kelly Fouse – “Best Promotional” (received a gift certificate)
- Membership/Legislative – Kandy Brazell - “Best Promotional” (gift certificate) and 3rd Place Total Membership reported – 491,271 for Department with 104.61%
- Membership for Western Conference – 100.96%
- Scholarship – Lynda Putzier – 2nd Place

A total of \$900 was awarded for the Department Chairmen's work. Great job! Congratulations to you all and thank you!

Buddy Poppy Displays – VFW Auxiliary 401 in Albuquerque won 3rd place for their effort, and VFW Auxiliary 8703 of Carlsbad entered their display as well. Thanks to both Auxiliaries for the entries!

In review of our year together, we wrote and passed a Resolution for the first time in the recorded history of our Department. However, it, as well as the other Resolution on Credit Cards and Debit Card use by the Auxiliary failed to pass. I want to say thank you for passing it at the Department level. It was a great undertaking. Perhaps it will pass at another time.

Our resources were tested when Department Commander Lenwood Hampton, Jr. and I decided to do a joint project for the VFW National Home for Children. It surpassed our expectations, and we were successful in earning enough funds to place a bench at the National Home's Tribute Park. What a thrill it was to realize a goal so early in our year thanks to Mark and Betty Decker, who pulled money we didn't know we had, out of the Department membership, and they made it FUN! Congratulations everyone!

~ continued on pg. 13

Past President's Message Cont.

-continued from pg. 12

As your Department President of 2016-2017, I was amazed and thrilled with all the work the Auxiliaries managed to complete and report. We truly are an organization that values and serves our Veterans and their families. Thank you for allowing me to also represent you at Western Conference, the Celebrating America's Freedom Event, National Mid-Winter, and National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, as President and New Orleans as Past Department President. I carried your love and support everywhere I visited inside and outside the state. What an awesome responsibility you gave me. I just hope you feel I "did you proud"! I was and still am honored and appreciative of all the warm welcomes and gifts bestowed on me and Joe Bob (when he traveled with me). I was disappointed that I was unable to attend all the District meetings and

visit all the Auxiliaries of our wonderful state.

As I ponder the year, the greatest heartfelt sadness was closing an Auxiliary. Silver/Bayard VFW Auxiliary 3347 worked hard to serve, but were closed due to no fault of the Auxiliary. It was indeed the hardest task I was unfortunately required to do. I know the Auxiliary members transferred to nearby units and have been welcomed with open arms. Thank you for that. I look forward to seeing those members and all members during this year's programs and meetings.

Finally, we can move on to 2017-2018 with our heads held high for a terrific year and help our new TEAM with programming by serving our Veterans! God Bless Each of You!

MOCA President



I would like to start off by congratulating Alison Lam – newly elected Supreme MOCA Guard and Supreme National Home Chairman; Penney Howard re-elected Supreme Treasurer and Janis Wimmer Supreme Hospital Commissioner.

To all of the MOCA Grand of New Mexico members, I want to apologize that I was unable to attend convention in NOLA this year, but

update on what happened at Supreme.

Information from Supreme will be sent out to our Chairman the week of August 14, 2017. Can't wait to see their great promotionals. For those that have asked – my Grand President Special Project is Fisher House. We are trying to help the state get the funds they need to get the Fisher House built at the VAMC Albuquerque. I want to thank Mark Decker, Sr. Vice Commander, Department of New Mexico VFW – he was the first to donate to my special project. Thank you, Mark!

Can't wait to see you all out our 1st COA and our MOC/MOCA homecoming for Commander Don and myself at Post 401 in Albuquerque on September 30, 2017. Information should be sent out soon.

"Taking Care of Our Ailing!" Thanks for all you do!

Kandy Brazell

glad that our Sr. Vice President Clara was there to fill in for me. For those coming to our 1st COA on September 30, 2017, Clara will be giving us an

2017 Department Convention



2017 Department Convention



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



Karla Eaton

Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

I first want to thank all who work so hard in order for our deserving students and teachers to be recognized. Many schools are already back in session and the home-schoolers are hard at it as well. I think the biggest success stories come from members being face-to-face with students, teachers, and administrators. It's one

of many ways to put a positive VFW image out to the community.

Please remember the teacher package deadlines are the same as students' once again. We will be honoring Department first place Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy, and each grade category of teacher winners at a luncheon during Mid-Winter. This will take place on Saturday, January 20th. There will be limited seating (total of 200) and the Post and/or District will be responsible for reserving and paying for their winners' meals.

The themes for this year follow:

- ***Patriot's Pen – "America's Gift to My Generation"***
- ***Voice of Democracy – "American History: Our Hope for the Future"***
- ***Grade School, Middle School, and High School Teacher Programs remain the same criteria as in years past.***

All entries are due to the Post by 31 October 2017. Post winners (1 for every 15 entries) must be forwarded to you your District Chairman by 27 November 2017, and District Chairmen need to send their winners' packages with arrival to my home address (P.O. Box 283, Portales, NM 88130) no later than 4:30 p.m. on 18 December 2017. I know December is a very busy month for mail, so I strongly recommend you send them with a tracking number on the package.

District Chairmen, please make sure you fill out the appropriate forms completely and send them in with your packages to me. These forms are on our Department Website (vfwnm.org).

Post and District Commanders, please remember that to make All State, one of the criteria includes the fact that you must submit at least one Patriot's Pen, at least one Voice of Democracy and at least one teacher package to your District to qualify.

Lynda Putzier, VFWA Scholarship Chairman, and I are looking forward to making this a banner year for our Department, and thank you all for working with us to do just that. Please do not ever hesitate to contact me with questions. If I don't know the answer right away, I will get you one (and I'll have learned something new so I'm happy). I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to reading and hearing our students' thoughts and to seeing how the dedicated and creative teachers are promoting patriotism. You are all welcome to e-mail me at karlasmail@swvmail.net or call me at (832) 971-4825.

Respectfully,
Karla Eaton



VFW Operation Uplink™ connects you with your loved ones, **free of charge**. If you're hospitalized or stationed overseas, contact us for more details.



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WOMEN VETERANS
CALL CENTER

VFW Post 11999 Award



Past Post Commander Tom Reilly and Post Commander Jack Smith

Our tiny Post in little Cloudcroft, New Mexico was selected to receive the prestigious Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Award in honor of our "Warriors in Transition Event" project. This is only awarded once a year, to only one Post, so it is quite an honor. It comes with a plaque, certificate, and \$5000 to help further our project. To be selected, a Post must first win the competition for best Post project within their Conference (New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, etc.) and that came with another \$5000. National also assisted with travel expenses for Tom and Jack.

For those of you that may not be familiar with our Warriors in Transition Event (WiT), we were recognized for "helping service members from Fort Bliss' Warrior Transition Battalion and their families to rest and recuperate from their traumas of war in a peaceful, alpine environment. Since 2011, Post members have generously donated their time and money, working with the local community to ensure that visiting service members and their families receive accommodations, meals, and access to activities like hiking, fishing, swimming, and other outdoor recreational entertainment - free of charge."

VFW National Commander in Chief Brian Duffy stated: "the healing, relaxation and peace that VFW Post 11999 provides to the brave men and women of our Warrior Transition Battalions is extremely important. They - and their families—have already sacrificed so much for our country. This program truly exemplifies the VFW's mission of service to others."

Needless to say, I am overwhelmed by the recognition of our efforts to assist our troops, just as I was by the appreciation shown to us by those brave soldiers and airmen and their families. And I recognize we could never have accomplished so much without the hard work and generosity of our Post members and others in the VFW organization, and the generosity of the great people in this wonderful mountain community.

Thanks to all.

John D. Rider
 Quartermaster
 Sacramento Mountain VFW Post 11999
 PO Box 499
 Cloudcroft, NM 88317
 (575)682-1363
 Email jd rider@tularosa.net



Past Post Commander Tom Reilly and Post Commander Jack Smith at the VFW National Conference in New Orleans

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.

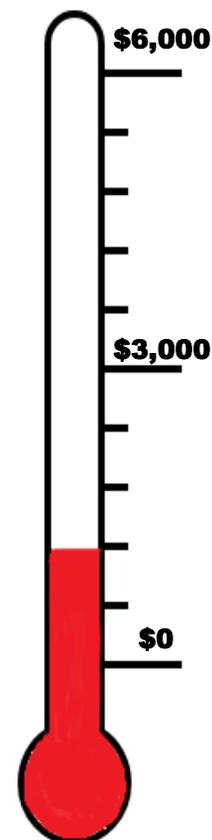
They are in need of a lift to assist people from the bed to the wheelchair, from the wheelchair to the shower, and other places. We are trying to raise \$6500 by Mid-Winter. This will be for the lift and other necessary projects to allow the lift to go from room to room.

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.

We are currently have raised \$1,102.00. Please continue to send your checks to Department.

Please support Commander Fred Eaton and his Special Project this year.



VFW Foundation Grants

VFW Foundation Community Support Grant

VFW community service projects are extremely important and shouldn't be hindered by budgetary limitations. In an effort to help VFW Posts and Auxiliaries succeed in serving their communities, the VFW Foundation - the official 501(c) (3) charity of the VFW - established the VFW Foundation Post/VFW Auxiliary Community Support Grant to help fund local community service projects.

Available to any VFW Post or Auxiliary, a VFW Foundation Post/VFW Auxiliary Community Support Grant will provide up to \$1,000 for performing important and needed qualifying outreach projects in your community! With an easy and streamlined application process, Posts and Auxiliaries can expect to receive a decision within thirty (30) days of the application submission.

PLEASE NOTE: Funds for the VFW Foundation Post/VFW Auxiliary Community Support Grant have been

exhausted for the current fiscal year. The VFW Foundation will be accepting applications for the next grant cycle beginning September 1, 2017.

VFW Foundation Regular Grant

No one understands military and veteran support quite like we do. To help VFW Departments, Posts and Auxiliaries, as well as qualifying nonprofits, to provide the vital support America's heroes and their families deserve, the VFW Foundation has established the VFW Foundation Regular Grant.

Grants ranging from \$1,000 - \$15,000 will be awarded for activities that directly benefit veterans, active duty military personnel and their families. Requests displaying innovation in service delivery, unique program design that addresses an under-served need and the likelihood of sustainability after the grant period ends will be given special consideration.

Post 11999 Year in Review

JAMES CANYON HIGHWAY CLEANUP FOR APRIL

On Saturday April 8th, members of our Post gathered to fulfill our responsibility under the New Mexico Department of Transportation's "Adopt-a-Highway" program. We regularly clean up US Highway 82 from mile Post 17 (located at the new Dusty Boots Motel and Cafe) to mile Post 19 (located near Ski Cloudcroft.)

While doing our highway clean-up, we sometimes encounter some very unusual items. On two different occasions, we found a lost wallet containing several credit cards. With the assistance of our helpful police officers, we were able to reunite these items with their owners. Besides automobile parts, we also unfortunately found many cans and bottles that could have been recycled. Imagine our surprise when we came upon an injured elk that had been struck by an auto.

We do this highway clean-up several times a year along with cleaning, mowing and weed-eating the James Canyon Cemetery. We would welcome any volunteers who would like to help in this civic-minded endeavor. Please check our new Post website at www.vfw11999.org or call John Rider at 575-682-1363 for scheduled dates and times.

WARRIORS IN TRANSITION

On May 17th thru 19th, the Post will be hosting its 6th annual "Warriors in Transition" program. Once again, the Cloudcroft community and its local businesses are welcoming our soldiers to enjoy some time in our serene Sacramento Mountains.

These warriors will enjoy three days of free lodging, food and fun-filled activities hosted by Cloudcroft's legendary hospitality. This has an intangible but essential medicinal value to their core of mind and spirit.

Part of the program will include a continental breakfast hosted by the Cloudcroft United Methodist Men and Women on Thursday, May 18th at 7:30am at the Cloudcroft United Methodist Church. ALL Veterans are invited to join us and welcome our returning heroes. Veterans do not have to be VFW members to attend.

Following the breakfast, we will be having our traditional Burro Street parade from the First Baptist Church parking lot to the Burro Street Exchange at 10:00am. All residents and visitors are encouraged to come out and meet these extraordinary men and women.

This program, along with outstanding support from the local community, was instrumental in our tiny Post being awarded the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Community Service Award in 2015 from the National Headquarters in Kansas City. Anyone interested in participating in this prestigious event should contact Tom Reilly at 915-497-0402.

HONORING OUR FALLEN

On Monday, Memorial Day, May 29th, our Color Guard and members will be visiting local cemeteries to pay tribute to our fallen veterans. Memorial Day, (formerly called "Decoration Day") was established after the Civil War to honor the dead of both sides. This year we will be visiting the James Canyon Cemetery at 10:00am, the Mayhill Cemetery at 11:00am and the Weed Cemetery at 1:00pm. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

All Merchants in Cloudcroft are encouraged to proudly participate in the American flags being set out in front of their business on the 8 national holidays. For a small fee, our VFW Post 11999 places the flags out on Friday and then picks them back up after the holiday and stores them until the next one. Contact Rich Herold at 575/415-2030 to add your name to the participants in these patriotic celebrations.

On May 2nd, we will be conducting a special memorial service at the James Canyon Cemetery for Marine Lance Corporal Rickey D. Rogers, the father of local resident Jeb Rogers. Lance Corporal Rogers recently passed away from complications related to Agent Orange exposure. Lance Corporal Rogers served 5 campaigns in Vietnam between 1971 and 1974. We will be joined by the Marine Corps League in rendering full military honors to include a 21-gun salute and the playing of "Taps".

Memorial Day in Shiprock

On May 29, 2017 VFW 9517 and VFWA 9517 held their annual Memorial Day Ceremony. This year they hosted Calvert Curley, Senator Tom Udall representative; Pete Valencia, Congressman Ben Ray Lujan representative; and Fred Eaton, VFW Department of New Mexico Sr. Vice Commander, as special guests.

The event started off at 6 AM when several members of the VFW and VFWA placed crosses and flags on over 420 Veterans' graves at the Shiprock Cemetery. This year there were five VFW members and four VFWA members that helped out, along with ten members of the community. The white crosses and flags were placed on every Veteran's grave in the cemetery. There were also crosses and flags placed on cemeteries throughout the region.

The VFW Memorial Day ceremony started at 11 AM. Mr. Curley spoke about veterans and how we must remember them. He relayed the thoughts and wishes from Senator Udall for everyone to take a moment and think of their loved ones they have lost, thank all Veterans they meet, and keep those in harm's way in their thoughts and prayers. Next came Mr. Valencia. He relayed wishes from Congressman Lujan and apologized that the Congressman could not be there. He then introduced Maria Cordova who spoke about the Veterans programs that the State of New Mexico and Navajo Nation were working on.

After the guest speakers came the Memorial Day ceremony for the VFW. The Proclamation for President Trump and Governor Martinez were read. General Order Number 11 from John A. Logan Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1868 was read also. After the laying of



flowers and wreaths, there was a 21 rifle salute given, followed by the playing of Taps. The flag was raised to full staff at 12 noon. Members of the community that had flags to be retired were encouraged to bring them to the designated area, there were dozens of flags retired that day. Also over 75 flags were unfolded and refolded for those that wanted them done.

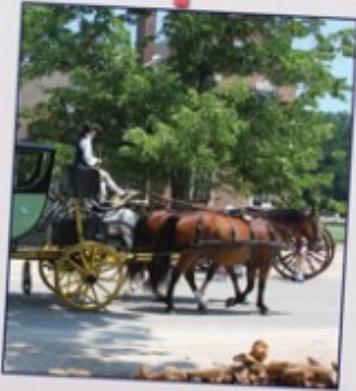
Shiprock Chapterhouse President Chilli Yazzie said "I am grateful for the Veterans of Foreign Wars here in Shiprock. They do a wonderful job with our community. They honor all of our Veterans and their families like they were all one big family." He also said he looks forward to this event every year. Mr. Valencia said "The ceremony in Shiprock is the best he attends every year. They are very professional but friendly and open to people. I always go home in a good mood and feel honored to be a small part of this ceremony." Jim Dumont, Senator Martin Heinrich representative, said "I am sorry that I cannot make it to the ceremony this year. The ceremony in Shiprock is a tradition for me and I always learn new and exciting things there."

After the ceremony, the Shiprock Chapterhouse had a lunch for all members of the community that wanted to come. Most of the VFW and VFWA members could not attend since there were other ceremonies to do around the area. The VFW and VFWA did smaller ceremonies in Newcomb, Upper Fruitland, and Red Mesa that day. At the Shiprock cemetery, there were about 150 people present.





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



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FOR CHILDREN

Buddy Poppy Displays

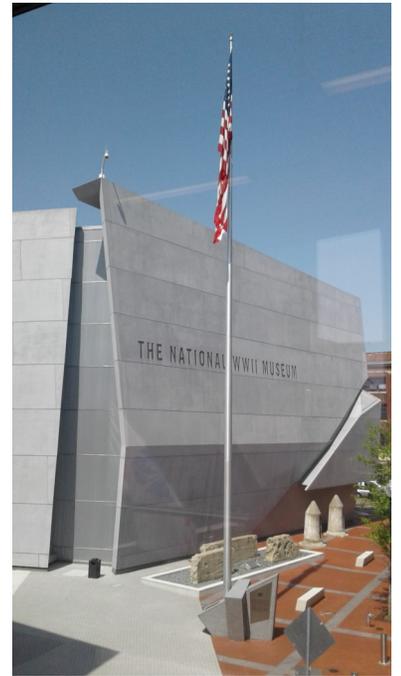
New Mexico had two Buddy Poppy Displays at National Convention in New Orleans. The "Tear Drop," by VFW Auxiliary 401 Albuquerque, won third place. The "VFW Heroes," was entered by VFW Auxiliary 8703, Carlsbad.

Thanks for entering displays and congratulations! My personal wish is that more displays from New Mexico will be at the next National Convention, whether they win or not.

Thanks,
Dale Mann, NM Past Dept. President (PDP)



VFW National Convention 2017—New Orleans



VFW Offers Hurricane Harvey Support

Text "NEEDS" to 27722 to show your support!

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (August 28, 2017)

– As the devastation in the wake of Hurricane Harvey continues in Texas and Louisiana, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. stands ready to help affected service members, veterans and their families.

While the full extent of Hurricane Harvey's level of destruction is still being evaluated, the VFW knows from its past support of Hurricanes Sandy and Katrina victims that the need for financial assistance will be great. The VFW is calling on you to help ensure America's brave warriors and their families have the immediate help they need to start rebuilding their lives.



Join with the VFW and show your support by making a \$10 donation to the VFW's relief efforts by texting the keyword "NEEDS" to 27722, or mail in your donation of any amount to: VFW Quartermaster General, 406 W 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111. All funds raised will be distributed to veterans, military personnel and their families.

Those service members, veterans and their families in need of immediate assistance should contact the VFW Department (state) headquarters from their respective state: Texas: 512-834-8535 and Louisiana: 225-928-5025.

"Our hearts and prayers are with all those impacted by this hurricane's destruction," said VFW National Commander Keith Harman. "The VFW has a long history of supporting America's communities in the wake of tragedy, and the VFW stands ready to support them now."

Disclaimer: Texting "NEEDS" to 27722 will result in a \$10.00 donation to VFW Foundation. Charges will appear on your wireless bill, or be deducted from your prepaid balance. All purchases must be authorized by account holder. Must be 18 years of age or have parental permission to participate. Message and Data Rates May Apply. Text STOP to 27722 to STOP. Text HELP to 27722 for HELP. Full Terms: www.mGive.org/T. [Privacy Policy](#)

-vfw-

Helping Homeless Veterans

On a single night in the United States of America, there were 549,928 homeless people in 2016. Of those homeless, 39,471 were veterans. Through local community programs and events like these, the homeless veteran population has decreased by 8,000 or 17% between 2010 through 2016. Federal officials say homelessness among military veterans in New Mexico fell by 23 percent between 2015 and 2016.

Thank you for your consideration in support of the stand down event. Please send checks to The American Legion, PO Box 7, Las Cruces, NM 88004-007. Add "VFW Backpacks" in memo line. Donations may also be made at this GoFundMe link <https://www.gofundme.com/qdkd6n-backpacks-for-homeless-veterans>

Respectfully,
 Len Hampton
 Homeless Veteran Chairman

HOMELESS VETERAN SUPPORT PROJECT STAND DOWN 2017



Friday, October 27th, 2017

American Legion, Post 10
1185 E. Madrid, Las Cruces

From 0800 to 1400
(8am to 2pm)

VA Enrollment
Distribution of Clothing
Breakfast & Lunch
Outreach Services
Health Screening
Laptop Use

Homeless Vets Welcomed

Points of Contact:
Robert Richie
(575) 636-4294

Andrea Sandoval
(575) 642-1872

Hygiene Items
Showers
Haircuts
Portraits
Housing Information
and more...





8:45 AM WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
9:00 AM RAISING OF COLORS
9:05 AM LAYING OF THE 1ST BRICK
11:35 AM NATIONAL GUARD BRICK-LAYING CEREMONY
12 PM BREAK
1 PM MEDAL OF HONOR PROGRAM
3 PM LAYING OF THE LAST BRICK

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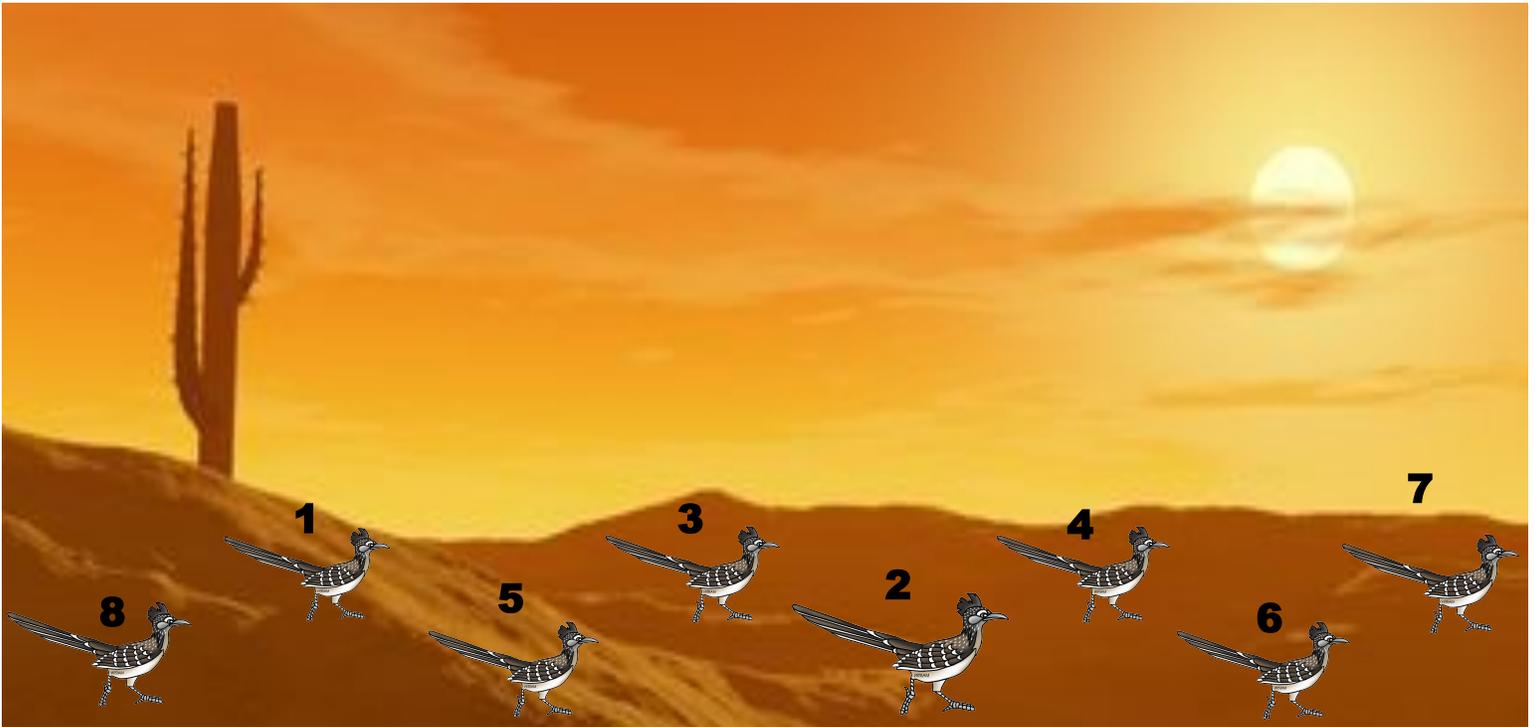
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VFW Membership



In the Race for Membership here are you standings:

District 7—Edwardo Rodriguez 4.91%

District 6—Christopher Archuleta 4.29%

District 4—Jack Doil 3.49%

District 2—Victoria Haddox 3.17%

District 3— Lu Ann Dyer 2.86%

District 5—Joe Esparza 2.41%

District 1—Kyrk Westbrook 2.26%

District 8—Kirk Reader 2.08%

Divisions

1—Post 5610 Esponola 8.88%

**2—Post 12071 Ruidoso
10.93%**

3—Post 1793 Raton 5.80%

**4—Post 10124 Las Cruces
4.61%**

5—Post 3274 Hobbs 4.87%

Recruiters

1st—Warren Booker-3

2nd—Edwardo Rodriguez-3

3rd—John Archuleta-2

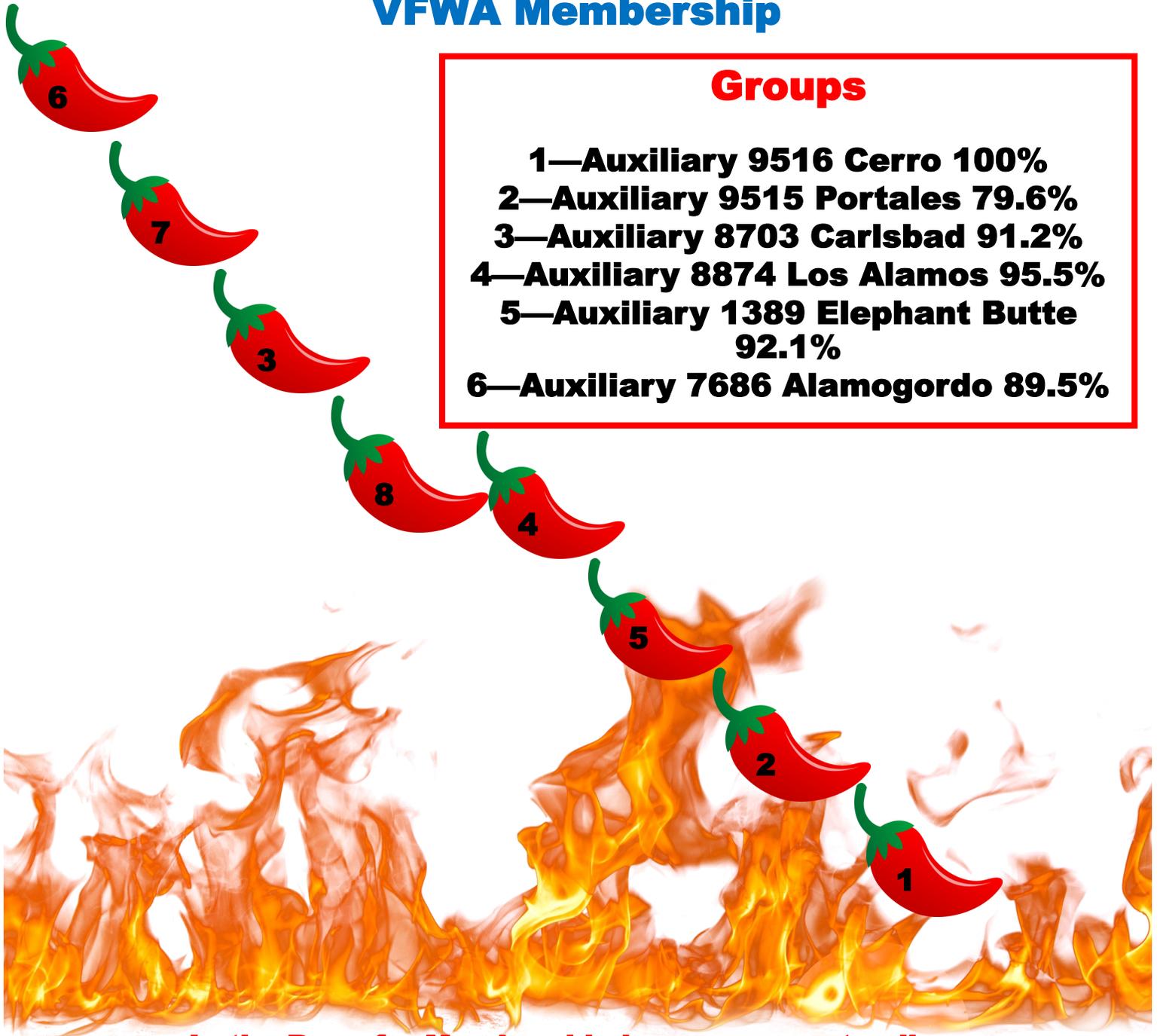
4th—Jack Smith-2

5th—Nichole Rux-2

VFWA Membership

Groups

- 1—Auxiliary 9516 Cerro 100%**
- 2—Auxiliary 9515 Portales 79.6%**
- 3—Auxiliary 8703 Carlsbad 91.2%**
- 4—Auxiliary 8874 Los Alamos 95.5%**
- 5—Auxiliary 1389 Elephant Butte 92.1%**
- 6—Auxiliary 7686 Alamogordo 89.5%**



In the Race for Membership here are you standings:

- District 6—Lucretia Henson 85.5%**
- District 7—Debby Perkins 82.7%**
- District 3—Kelly Fouse 80.9%**
- District 8— Bobbi Van Dyke 79.4%**
- District 4—Nancy Evans 77.9%**
- District 5—Mary Ann Padilla 72.5%**
- District 2—Nancy Tabb 67.6%**
- District 1—Betty Decker 63.7%**