



September 2018

Vol. 43 Issue 1

Service Officer of the Year

WASHINGTON (June 7, 2018) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is proud to announce the selection of retired Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Cynthia Archuleta as its VFW Accredited Service Representative of the Year.

Archuleta, who resides in Albuquerque, N.M., is an integral part of the VFW's nationwide network of nearly 2,000 accredited service officers who last year alone helped more than a half-million veterans recoup \$7.7 billion in earned benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Accredited means VA accreditation, which means they can assist and file VA claims on behalf of veterans, as well as represent them before the Board of Veterans Appeals if needed. The support is free to all honorably discharged veterans, and is a continuation of the VFW's "service to others" mission that the organization began nearly a century ago after returning World War I faced the same government neglect as the VFW's forefathers did two decades earlier when they came home from the Spanish-American War and later the Philippine Insurrection.

"After a long and honorable career in the Marine Corps, Gunny Archuleta continues to work on behalf of her fellow veterans to make sure they receive the care and benefits they earned," said Keith Harman, national commander of the 1.7-million member VFW and its Auxiliary.

"As a service officer, she helped more than 600 wounded, ill and injured veterans recoup almost \$11 million in earned compensation and pension payments last year, as well as established their eligibility to receive VA health care," he said. "She also volunteers her time

to mentor others, which is a shining example of how veterans continue serving after they leave the military. I look forward to presenting her with this national award next month at the VFW's 119th National Convention in Kansas City, Mo."

Archuleta retired from the Marine Corps in 2008 after serving more than 20 years. She enlisted in the Corps after graduating from North High School in Sheboygan, Wis., and her follow-on assignments took her to California, Missouri, Florida, Wisconsin and Iraq, where she was the staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the military prison in Fallujah. She earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, and is heavily involved with the VFW at the local and state levels. Along with being a service officer, she has twice served as commander of the 500-member VFW Post 5890 in Rio Rancho, N.M., where she earned All-American honors, and just this week was elected junior vice commander of the 9,400-member VFW Department of New Mexico.



Commander-in-Chief



Vincent "BJ" Lawrence

VFW Elects Vincent 'B.J.' Lawrence as New National Commander

'There's an energy in this organization that's just chomping at the bit to be released'

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (July 25, 2018) —

Vincent "B.J." Lawrence, of Alamogordo, N.M., was elected today as the new national commander of the 1.2 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the

United States, a congressionally-chartered veterans service organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members from all five branches of the armed forces.

VFW membership eligibility requires honorable service in a war or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters. Lawrence served in the U.S. Army from 1983 to 1986 and earned his eligibility by serving in South Korea, where an armistice, or cease-fire agreement, has existed since July 27, 1953, and where war could erupt at a moment's notice. He joined VFW Post 7686 in Alamogordo, N.M., in 2000, and immediately began moving the organization forward into the new millennium. He has proven to be a highly effective and dynamic leader, serving in a myriad of critical leadership positions, to include being elected commander at every level of the organization. His theme for the year and challenge to the \$102 million nonprofit organization is to "Make It Happen."

He said "everything the VFW wants costs money, but everything the VFW wants is for someone else." Through donations and corporate partnerships, the organization has provided more than \$10 million in financial grants to help almost 9,000 veteran and military families through tough times since 2004. It has awarded almost \$5 million in educational grants

since 2014 to help more than 1,100 veterans and military service members to complete their degrees, and its youth patriotic scholarship competition, which drew some 133,000 middle and high school entries this year, awarded \$3 million to local, state and national winners. The VFW national organization also testified before Congress more than three dozen times this year to improve quality of life programs and healthcare for veterans, service members and their families, and VFW's nationwide cadre of trained and accredited service officers helped more than 500,000 veterans to recoup \$7.7 billion in disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2017.

Aiding VFW's corporate relationships is its VFW Foundation, an IRS 501(c)(3) charity that earlier this month was awarded a coveted four-star rating by Charity Navigator, which sets the Foundation apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness.

For all the organization already does for others every day, Lawrence now wants the 1.2 million-member VFW to "Make It Happen" even more in every community across the nation and world. "There's an energy in this organization that's just chomping at the bit to be released," he said in his acceptance speech today at the Kansas City Convention Center. "It comes from a younger generation who wants to get their hands dirty out in their communities, and it comes from an older generation who knows that the way we did things in the past no longer works, but whose experience and knowledge remains valuable."

The new VFW national commander is also putting a new focus on supporting the 6,400 existing VFW Posts, on creating new Posts, and on recruiting and retention of new members, as well as remaining focused nationally on ending sequestration, fixing the VA, and recovering missing and unaccounted-for service members from all wars.



Department Commander's Message



Mark Decker

Hello Comrades, brothers and sisters, This year is already off to a fast start. I hope everyone is doing well. I am humbled to be your Department Commander this year. I look forward to working this year with Mary "Girl" Sanchez as President of the Department of New Mexico VFWA. With all of your help and cooperation, I see the Department of New Mexico leading the way

in both the VFW and VFWA for this year.

We had a wonderful turnout at National Convention this year. We had over sixty members attend the convention this year. That is wonderful. I hope all of the information learned at Convention is being passed back to the Districts and Posts/Auxiliaries. At Convention, VFW Post 11999 and Department made All-American. Congratulations to them for all of the hard work and effort put in to achieve this honor. I hope that next year we have a few more Posts and Districts make it. We had a wonderful dinner on Monday night. I hope everyone had a good time and enjoyed the food. We also saw our own BJ Lawrence get elected and installed as National Commander in Chief. He is just the second one from New Mexico to earn this honor. Thanks to the VFWA for coming over to get in line and march behind him also.

The VA Golden Age Games were held in Albuquerque the first weekend in August. We had over twenty five volunteers come to help out. Everyone who helped in any way, THANKS. You did a great job and made the Department proud. All of the veterans I talked to were thankful for our support and help. Even though there were a few missteps along the way, it ended great and was a big success. Everyone in the Department came together to help, and to make us look great.

By the time this paper goes out, the VFW will have had both of our Flying Squadrons and the VFWA will

have had two Schools of Instruction, a C of A, and Mary's homecoming. I know lots of information will have been passed out and the entire Department on both sides will be making strides to reach the high standards that have been sent down from National. In the next couple of months, we will have C of A and homecoming for the VFW, BJ's homecoming, lots of visits to Posts and Districts by department officers, and preparations for Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher awards, with judging being done. I hope all of the Posts and Districts are pushing our programs. The signup sheets for Bataan March volunteers in March 2019 at White Sands has been handed out. If you want to help in any way, please contact Raul Sanchez ASAP so he can get you on the list of volunteers. The schedule will be available at our Mid-Winter in January. Hotel rooms are filling up fast, so if you plan on helping, please start to make reservations as soon as you can. The State fair is coming up in September, and Veterans Day at the Fair is September 11.

Membership is a never-ending project of the VFW and VFWA. Please contact your unpaid members to get them signed back up. Also ask any potential members if they would like to join. There are many incentives to recruiters, Posts and Auxiliaries for new members and reinstate members. As of the writing of this article, August 10, the Department VFW is twelve behind where we were last year. There are still many Posts that do not have any members in the system yet. Please start working on this if you have not. Thank you to those that are already working membership.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not thank Fred Eaton for all the work he did last year as Department Commander. You led this Department to All-American last year. Thank you to Dave Fouse for already trying to steer me in the right direction this year; to Bart and Vernon Luce for answering many, many questions I have had, and to my wife, Betty, for being by my side and putting up with many other things happening. And also, big thanks to the Department of New Mexico members for putting your trust and faith in me for this upcoming year. If you have any questions or concerns, please bring them up or contact me so I can either answer them or get an answer for you.

Senior Vice Commander's Message



Rich Nutt

Greetings Comrades, Sisters & Brothers, First, I would like to congratulate Commander Decker along with all the Department, District and Post officers, both in the VFW and VFWA, on their elections to their respective offices. I have complete confidence that our team at all levels will continue to successfully carry out our programs to support our Veterans, their families and each of

our communities. Our Department this year has the extra incentive, and maybe pressure, to go above and beyond all the great work we have performed in the past as we are fortunate to have the VFW Commander-in-Chief B.J. Lawrence as a member of our Department.

Thank you to all of those who took the time out of their busy schedules to travel to Kansas City for the National Convention to support not only the Commander-in-Chief, but to also support the Department of New Mexico. As with any National Convention, there was a lot of information that was passed on and will be passed along.

With our Department and National Conventions behind us, each Post should already be hard at work on our programs. Remember to pay close attention to the program deadlines for those such as Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teachers. Membership, as always, is a huge program that needs constant attention throughout the year. Increasing our membership through recruiting new members is always a priority, but keep in mind that it is easier to increase if we maintain our annual members. With that said, I would ask that each Post Commander conduct a monthly membership roundup that focuses on those members that have dues expiring in the following month to retain the members we already have.

With the help and support of the nearly 10,000 members of the Department of New Mexico, this

has the potential to be a very successful year for Commander Decker and your Department.

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

New Mexico VFW State Officers 2018-2019

National Council Member - Kathie Schiebel 401 Albuquerque
Commander - Mark Decker 9517 Shiprock
Sr. Vice Commander - Richard Nutt 7686 Alamogordo
Jr. Vice Commander - Cynthia Archuleta 5890 Rio Rancho
Quartermaster - Dave Fouse 7686 Alamogordo
Chaplain - Roy Maldonado 4384 Anthony
Judge Advocate - Cathy Brock 3274 Hobbs
Surgeon - Christopher Archuleta 5610 Espanola
Past State Cmdr - Charles Eaton 95165Portales
Inspector - Raul Sanchez 6917 Las Cruces
Chief of Staff - Roger "Bart" Bartosiewicz 3280 Clovis
Service Officer - Cynthia Archuleta 5890 Rio Rancho

District Commanders

District 1 - Abel Saiz 614 Aztec
District 2 - Victoria Haddox 5890 Rio Rancho
District 3 - Mike Cano 4384 Anthony
District 4 - Jack Doil 1389 Elephant Butte
District 5 - Eusebio "Joe" Esparza 3271 Clayton
District 6 - Joseph DeVargas 3259 Taos
District 7 - Eduardo Rodriguez 3274 Hobbs
District 8 - Joe Bob Mann 3280 Clovis

Junior Vice Commander's Message



Cynthia Archuleta

Convention was great, and informative as always. I will be visiting some posts this year on behalf of the Department. I will be contacting the posts I am responsible for here in the next few weeks to schedule a time. I would like to stop in and see what concerns, if any, you and your posts may have. I will also be conducting service officer business too, so if anyone needs to

file a claim or has questions about their existing claim I can speak with them. Any posts that have a dire need for a service officer to come to their post please contact me and let me know. I am more than

willing to come and assist veterans in their area so they do not have to drive to Albuquerque.

Veterans Day at the fair is September 11th. I will have a table set up there with membership applications and service officer information. We will be there from 7:00am to 3:00pm that day.

Golden Age Games was a success, and thank you again for all the volunteers that came out to help. I heard compliments all day about how they appreciated us. I even went out to eat with my husband the night after the bowling tournament and ran into a veteran from Texas who is here for the Games and he asked for my card so he could send the State of New Mexico a thank you on how much he appreciated the VFW's support for the bowling tournament and he absolutely loved the bowling towels we handed out. Great job to all!

Past Commander's Message



Charles Eaton

2017-18 was one heck of a year for this Department. You all came together, worked together, and really brought a powerful voice to New Mexico and beyond.

As I have said in the past, I couldn't have been more proud to have accepted the All American recognition on your behalf. I believe New Mexico really shone bright in

light of all of your accomplishments and successes. I would like to take this moment to congratulate Cloudcroft's Post 11999 for achieving All American status as well. Your post sure has success down pat.

It is hard to believe we are already over two months into this new year and I would be remiss if I didn't remind each and every one of you to stay focused on your programs and membership. It is sometimes easy to kick back and relax after National Convention. It is not the time to be complacent, however, so stay tuned in and remember how important membership is to this great organization. In these days and times, our voice on the Hill is needed and it must remain strong. Veterans' issues can easily be swept under the rug, but won't be if this organization continues to be strong in numbers and unified in message.

I continue to be here for any of you who need a hand or for mentorship. I am proud to continue to serve with you in the organization that claims with confidence: "No One Does More for Veterans."

Quartermaster's Message



Dave Fouse

Comrades,
I hope those who attended the National Convention in Kansas City, brought back some useful information to enhance the programs in your Post.

Adjutants and or Quartermasters, I will be calling on each of you to get your Audits to Department Headquarters in a timely manner. If one of your Trustees is not available, grab someone

authorized under the By-Laws, to receive, handle, disburse and account for funds of the Post. There are no exceptions to this rule!

No committee, holding company, canteen manager, group or individual in the Post or in any way connected with the Post's activities, can take this authority and responsibility from the Post Quartermaster. All funds, monies or property accumulated under the name of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for the Post, regardless of the nature of the activity which accumulates them, are the property of the Post and are subject only to disposition by Post action. No Post member can mandate the expenditure of funds or disposition of Post Property unless properly authorized by the Post and executed by the Quartermaster.

reliable to help you out.

REMINDER: All Community Activity Reports will be sent to the Department Community Activity Chairman Mike Cano. He will collect all the data and provide a report to HQ. This data has a large impact towards the selection of the All-American Team.

REMINDER: The Post Quartermaster is the chief financial officer of the Post. The Quartermaster is the custodian of all Post property and the officer responsible for safeguarding Post funds and property. The Quartermaster is accountable to the Post, Department and the National Organization, for all of the monies, securities, vouchers and property of the Post. The Quartermaster is the only one

Section 218 (a) (5) (h) of the Manual of Procedure

The books and records of the Quartermaster shall be maintained in a legible and uniform format. Record keeping by electronic means may be used, provided a back up and a hard copy is maintained. Books and records shall be available for inspection by authorized officers and Post members' at all reasonable times. Reconcile and verify all transactions listed on all bank statements to assure the accuracy of post records. Unless authorized by the Post to remove such books and records from its facilities, all such books and records shall be kept at the Post facilities



Scout of the Year
Shaeon Johnson

Judge Advocate's Message



Cathy Brock

It's time for my annual reminder to all Commanders! Order your 2019 Podium Editions NOW - if you haven't already done it. The National Convention made thirty three changes to the By-Laws and another 33 to the Manual of Procedure. All of these changes were effective on August 25th (30 days after the close of the Convention). All of the changes are a part of the National website in the "My Membership"

section. Even if you don't have the new Podium Edition yet, it's your responsibility to know what has

changed.

Because of the switch from Demeter's to Robert's Rules of Order, the Adjutant General asked the experts of the National Association of Parliamentarians to review the By-Laws and Manual of Procedure to ensure they were in line with the rules outlined in Robert's. This review resulted in many of the changes approved this year. One change that all Commanders should review and become familiar with is Article X - Rules of Order, Sec 1001 - Rules Governing All Meetings.

I remind everyone that if you have a question, please feel free to contact me...if I don't have the answer, I will find out the person who does have the correct answer for you. See you all at Mid-Winter!

MOC/MOCA Hospital Visit

Next VA Hospital visits Scheduled for Sunday, 19 August and Wednesday, 28 Oct 2018 @ 1:00 P.M. Central Time. Date and time are subject to change. All MOC, MOCA, VFW, VFWA and friends welcome to come and join us. MOC/MOCA pup tent 5 has been doing this since 1956!! The Veterans in the VA Hospital in

Amarillo, Texas look for us to show up every month to spend time with them.

Our main goal is to take care of our hospitalized Veterans.



Surgeon's Message



Christopher Archuleta

Nearly one in every five people, or 43.8 million American adults, has a diagnosable mental health condition. One half of all lifetime cases of mental disorders begin by age 14. In addition, 1.7 million Americans sustain a traumatic brain injury each year, which may affect their cognitive and emotional functioning. Drug use is on the rise in this country and 23.5 million Americans are addicted to alcohol and drugs.

That's approximately one in every ten Americans over the age of 12.

Often our friends, neighbors, co-workers, and even family members are suffering emotionally and don't recognize the symptoms or won't ask for help.

Here are five signs that may mean someone is in emotional pain and might need help:

- **Personality changes.** You may notice sudden or gradual changes in the way that someone typically behaves. People in this situation may behave in ways that don't seem to fit their values, or the person may just seem different.
- **Uncharacteristically angry, anxious, agitated, or moody.** You may notice the person has more frequent problems controlling his or her temper and seems irritable or unable to calm down. People in more extreme situations of this kind may be unable to sleep or may explode in anger at a minor problem.
- **Withdrawal or isolation from other people.** Someone who used to be socially engaged may pull away from family and friends and stop taking part in activities that used to be enjoyable. In more severe cases, the person may start failing to make it to work or school. Not to be confused with the behavior of someone who is more introverted, this sign is marked by a change in a person's typical sociability, as when someone

pulls away from the social support typically available.

- **May neglect self-care and engage in risky behavior.** You may notice a change in the person's level of personal care or an act of poor judgment. For instance, someone may let personal hygiene deteriorate, or the person may start abusing alcohol or illicit substances or engaging in other self-destructive behavior that may alienate loved ones.
- **Overcome with hopelessness and overwhelmed by circumstances.** Have you noticed someone who used to be optimistic and now can't find anything to be hopeful about? That person may be suffering from extreme or prolonged grief, or feelings of worthlessness or guilt. People in this situation may say that the world would be better off without them, suggesting suicidal thinking.

SO YOU RECOGNIZE THAT SOMEONE IN YOUR LIFE IS SUFFERING...NOW WHAT?

You connect, you reach out, you inspire hope, and you offer help. Show compassion and caring and a willingness to find a solution when the person may not have the will or drive to do it alone. There are many resources in our communities.

It may take more than one offer, and you may need to reach out to others who share your concern about the person who is suffering. If everyone is more open and honest about our emotional health and well-being, we can prevent pain and suffering, and those in need will get the help they deserve. If you know someone with PTSD, reach out to them. By doing so, you may have saved their life or made their day because they were feeling down.

I encourage each and every one of you to reach out even if it's just to say hi. Together, we can change and grow stronger. The effects of PTSD also affects the family as well. PTSD not all wounds are visible. Remember, "No one fights Alone."

VFWA Sr. Vice President's Message



Kelly Fouse

WOW!!!

It has been a whirlwind of excitement, training, hard work and a lot of fun already for the 2018-2019 year! National Convention was extra special as we got to see our very own B.J. Lawrence installed as Commander-in-Chief of the VFW. Walking behind him, Mary, Tianna and Kaidyn in the Parade of Support was an honor and an amazing experience, and yes the Trace Adkins

concert was pretty cool too!

We had President Trump speak, and whether a person agrees or disagrees with him, it was an honor to be there representing the VFWA. Remember, when the VFW/VFWA are anywhere an elected official is, whether they are speaking to us at National Convention, our Commander-in-Chief is testifying to the Armed Service Committee in D.C.; or for that matter on the State level, when more of us are physically present, the more we make a statement that we do have a HUGE voice in our country and we can affect the elections; therefore, they need to take veterans and their families needs serious!

It was a learning experience in the VFWA meetings, it was definitely an enlightening experience. President Mary Girl Sanchez and company had a great "Pathway to Excellence" training on programs. I truly learned some new things and had a great time with the Department Chairman and Auxiliary members. The emphasis on working with the VFW; the S.W.A.P-Sharing Wonderful Auxiliary Projects; the programs being revamped and changed; and the energy of the new year is exciting! I have no doubts that President Sanchez and the VFWA Department of New Mexico is going to have an excellent year. I want to wish Commander Mark Decker, his Officers and Chairman, an amazing, and productive year. You are each in your own way dedicated and hard working individuals that we can all be proud of. I believe with the teamwork that Commander Decker and President Sanchez are trying to institute, not

only will both sides be 100 percent in membership, our programs are going to rock!

We will let our towns/cities and other Departments know that we are here for our veterans, their families and our communities. At the time of this writing, I am looking forward to President Mary Girl's Homecoming, as well as Commander Mark's and Commander-in-Chief BJ's. I know each will be a great time, and I look forward to visiting with those of you that can attend. Many of us have already had our first District Meeting. I hope your Schools of Instructions were productive, and some fun as well.

I hope each and every one of you have wonderful holidays, and an amazing New Year. If I can assist you in anyway, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

New Mexico VFW Auxiliary State Officers 2018-2019

National Councilwoman - Jeanette Garcia 401 *Albuquerque*
President - Mary Sanchez 4384 *Anthony*
Sr. Vice President - Kelly Fouse 7686 **Alamogordo**
Jr. Vice President - Lynda Putzier 9515 *Portales*
Treasurer - Penney Howard 614 *Aztec*
Secretary - Jeanette Garcia 401 *Albuquerque*
Chaplain - Kandy Brazell 401 *Albuquerque*
Conductress - Betty Decker 614 *Aztec*
Assistant Conductress - Judy Hayes 7686 *Alamogordo*
Guard - Dominique Garcia 401 *Albuquerque*
Assistant Guard - Dela Sanchez 4384 *Anthony*
Chief of Staff - Beth Miller 6917 *Las Cruces*
Past State Pres. - Mary Sanchez 4384 *Anthony*
Color Bearer #1 - Sue Frappier 3015 *Clovis*
Color Bearer #2 - Elain Mitchell 3015 *Clovis*
Color Bearer #3 - Sharon Olsen 4384 *Anthony*
Color Bearer #4 - Sandra Esparza 3271 *Clayton*
Flag Bearer - Louise Salas 401 *Albuquerque*
Banner Bearer - John Mersman 8703 *Carlsbad*
Musician/Soloist - Diana Wong 401 *Albuquerque*

District President

District 1 - Suzanne John 9517 *Shiprock*
District 2 - Nancy Tabb 5890 *Rio Rancho*
District 3 - Janis Wimmer 7686 *Alamogordo*
District 4 - Nancy Evans 1389 *Elephant Butte*
District 5 - Penny Esparza 3271 *Clayton*
District 6 - Margie Carrillo 2951 *Sante Fe*
District 7 - John Mersman 8703 *Carlsbad*
District 8 - Bobbi Van Dyke 3280 *Clovis*

VFWA Secretary Message



Jeanette Garcia

Paving the Way to Excellence

Catchy isn't it?

The Department of New Mexico Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary held their first of two "Paving the Way to Excellence" Chairmen's training session. The first one was held at VFW Post 5890 on August 11th at 9:00 am. Our National Organization has a new Guidebook called "Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation."

The booklet is meant to

assist auxiliaries at every level to understand their duties and expectations. The goal is to maintain consistent practices, while continuing to train members and strengthen our Auxiliaries.

Our Chairmen this year are:

Veterans & Family Support

Shirlee Frias

ztf@aol.com

Discussion on Help A Hero Scholarship, National Military Support and National Veterans Services

Americanism

Kelly Fouse

kelfouse@gmail.com

Flag Education, Smart Maher teacher Award, Patriotic Holidays; distributed packets, reviewed Flag Etiquette, and showed a video from singer Sailor Jerri, Hallelujah.

Buddy Poppy/National Home

Janis Wimmer

kachina1@q.com

There are three categories for buddy poppy contest, gave out Buddy Poppies, gave out program goals and educated on VFW National Home for Children

Historian/Media Relations

Dominique Garcia

dgarcia81@centurylink.net

Reviewed setting up a Facebook page; what to post and not to post. National President's Visit in May, 2019; send pictures; how to keep the history of your Auxiliary alive through books or digitally. She is challenging all auxiliaries to develop their own history.

Hospital

Lee Ann Lam

lams88101@outlook.com

Chairman talked about volunteering at other facilities, not just the VA. Talked about hospital hours, handed out an individual monthly report and a group report. Asked that everyone read the hospital guide for more information.

Legislative

Lynda Putzier

lyndhlfd@yahoo.com

Talked about Priority goals; how to get in touch with your Legislators; Action Corps, and she will have packets and more information at the next meeting.

Membership & Recruitment

Kandy Brazell

kjbrazell@yahoo.com

Handed out Understanding Basics of Eligibility; recruitment Booth Pointers; Brochure/Factsheet as a membership/recruitment tool (due by December 31st). Each Auxiliary needs to get their dues reminders sent to members.

Scholarship

Danielle J. Garcia

vvhs_2014@centurylink.net

Reviewed the new themes for both Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen; deadline date for Continuing Education, and the new criteria for the Young American Patriotic Art Contest.

Youth Activities

Clara Montano

claramontano54@gmail.com

Reviewed the new National contest for grades K-5; the Random Acts of Patriotism (R.A.P.) cards, and working with our Youth.

Department Treasurer

Penney Howard

nm-vfwa-treas@comcast.net

Reviewed MALTA with the Auxiliaries, audits and any deadlines.

Department Secretary

Jeanette D. Garcia

jdgarcia780@aol.com

Reviewed minutes, deadline dates, criteria for Circle of Excellence.

Each chairman had a power point presentation. The goals of each program and the requirements for reporting were discussed and expectations were outlined. The meeting was a success and our Auxiliaries were able to receive the training that will help them to plan for their auxiliaries and the programs. The next meeting will be held on August 25th in Las Cruces at the Council of Administration meeting.

VFWA Guard Message



Dominique Garcia

Department of New Mexico

My name is Dominique C. Garcia. I am the newly elected Department Guard. I was very honored and thankful to be nominated and elected guard at this past convention.

It had always been a dream and goal to go up the chairs and follow in my mom's footsteps;

those are some big shoes to fill. I am 20 years old, and I work as a Pharmacist technician at Zia Pharmacy. I am a student at central New Mexico Community College, and spend a majority of my time with the VFW Auxiliary.

This year I am Department Historian/ Media Relations; District 2 Conductress and Americanism chairman, and Auxiliary 401 Conductress and Legislative Chairman. I am also a MOCA member. I am currently Grand Chaplain and LOCO #7 President.

I look forward to a great year with VFW Auxiliary and MOCA Grand.

VFWA Buddy Poppies Chairman



Janis Wimmer

PROGRAM GOALS:

"Buddy"® Poppy National Display Contest

"Buddy"® Poppy Education and Community Outreach

VFW National Home Education and Community Outreach

VFW "Buddy"® Poppies are an important part of the VFW and VFWA.

Originally they were assembled by disabled

and needy veterans who were paid for their work to provide them with financial assistance. The original "Buddy"® Poppy factory was located in Pittsburg. Today, our "Buddy"® Poppies are still assembled by disabled and needy veterans in VA Hospitals. The VFW "Buddy"® Poppy program provides compensation to the veterans who assemble the poppies, provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the VFW National Home for Children.

VFW "Buddy"® Poppies are not sold. Donations are asked for when doing a "Buddy"® Poppy drive. Even if a person does not give a donation, always let them have a "Buddy"® Poppy. Donations received from these drives are put into your VFW Auxiliary Relief fund.

The VFW National Home was founded in 1925 and has 42 single-family homes. The VFW National Home helps with case management, housing, education, daycare, basic needs, and recreation. The VFW National Home has undergone lots of changes over the years. They have gone from only helping children whose military parent was deceased, to helping veteran families in times of need.

"Believe We Can Do It"

"Supporting Veterans, Supporting Families- Apoyar Veteranos Y sus Familias"

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

VFWA Americanism



Kelly Fouse

Hello everyone,

As we have, or hopefully have, all heard by now, Commander in Chief BJ Lawrence and Sandi Kriebel are strongly encouraging the VFW and VFWA to work together as a team to promote the VFW/VFWA programs. Therefore, I thought I would give you the highlights of our Americanism/Patriotic Instructor Program.

understand the traditions and ceremonies of the organization. The, "Understanding Auxiliary Traditions" help sheet and video are available on the website at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources. An example would be: when we place our hand over our heart are fingers are pressed together, not spread apart.

Americanism:

- Flag Education
- Promote Patriotism - Celebrating Patriotic Holidays
- POW/MIA Recognition
- Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award
- Safety in America/Disaster Preparedness
- Flags Across America
- Promoting Americanism at Family Freedom Festival

All this information is in National President Sandi Kriebel's book, "Believe We Can Do It!" 2018-2019. Yes, the one with her and BJ as Uncle Sam and Rosie the Riveter. Another great resource for all of the programs is on the vfwauxiliary.org website. So without further ado, here are the basics!

Patriotic Instructors: The Patriotic Instructor educates members on the proper salute to the U.S. Flag, as well as the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. He or she also takes the time to understand the VFW Auxiliary Ritual and the Federal Flag Code. He or she helps members to

Department President Mary Girl Sanchez has another Chairmanship workshop scheduled for August 25th at Post 3242, starting at 0900. At this time we will go over all of our programs in much more depth!

Comrades, if you would like more information, please get with me or your Auxiliary and/or District Chairman.

VFWA Arizona President



Kim Harney

Congratulations to incoming Commander, Mark Decker and President, Mary Sanchez, as well as all of the other VFW and Auxiliary officers who were elected at your state convention.

It was great to see many of you at National convention. It is always

fun to spend time with everyone. I know that you will all have a very successful year as you work for our Veterans and their families.

Department of Arizona President Kim Harney



IAVA Chairman

Iraq/Afghan War Vets

There is a growing gap in our youngest combat veteran membership in recent years. I myself am an Iraq veteran, and must admit I was one that was skeptical of joining the VFW. I knew who they were, but did not know the full ongoing mission of the VFW, which is to do anything and everything for veterans, their families and of course, their communities.

The number of veterans that have served is already above 2.5 million, and growing. There were over 6,600 military personnel killed since the beginning of the Iraqi and Afghanistan wars. An estimated 11-20% of those vets have PTSD and some kind of TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) from a service-related injury. Many combat vets are unaware they have a TBI or PTSD. Treating such injuries has helped many and improved quality of life in many ways. Over 770,000 claims for related injuries have been filed with the VA. This is an increase from previous wars, and does not include fraudulent claims, but rather warranted ones. I believe the increase is due to advances in modern medicine, in both mental and physical medicine.

Unfortunately, there is still a stigma among many combat veterans against joining the VFW for a few different reasons. Some still may have heard it's just a bar for war stories. Nothing can be farther from the truth about today's VFW. Yes, you can go to many VFW halls to grab a cold one on a hot day and catch up with an old war buddy; there's not much that can beat that. Like our oldest post 1, who still sets the standard in being there for vets, and their families and communities as a whole. One program they do is to host a family day event once a quarter, which can include a number of activities. For example, they do a pumpkin carving contest and Halloween party

to include all family. Inclusion is the key to a younger generation of veterans. This helps to reconnect and have camaraderie back home. In turn this opens up many doors for vets in areas they may not have known existed, including employment and school, (Student Veterans of America), and the benefits they are entitled to.

One way to reach out to the latest combat vets is through social media. It has been proven that with new technology, it is becoming a prime way to recruit, and in return, to help the vets and their communities. Many posts have Facebook pages and other social media accounts set up to extend their reach. These also serve to reach a veteran's family members who can be informed of organizations and programs. The estimated number of homeless Iraq and Afghan vets is at a 12.1% average, and is expected to increase if more action is not taken. We must stick to our original oath to our brother and sisters in arms, to "WATCH OUR SIX."

The VFW has another benefit in being linked to knowledge of many other programs such as previously mentioned Student Vets of America, but also many more, such as nfv.org, which is a vet-to-vet help hotline for disabled vets, that some may not be aware of. These are vets that have knowledge through experience, and can help you navigate related topics. They can be reached at (888)777-4443.

I will be outlining a program to be adopted voluntarily by posts that will be open to youth vets and deals with family inclusion. Families fight their own battle at home when we are not. The struggles of the effects of war are felt by all, and we must let them know we are here for them, that we still have their six.



the campaign to
changedirection

MOCA Past Grand President

GRAND PRESIDENT SPECIAL PROJECT

MOCA 2017-2018

FISHER HOUSE OF NEW MEXICO

On August 12, 2018, I was very honored to be able to present a check to Rita Navarette of the Fisher House Organization, representing the New Mexico house. This money was raised by the members of the Grand of New Mexico Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary from July 2017 through May 31, 2018, by participating in silent auctions and raffles held throughout the year by GPSP Chairman Janis Wimmer.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the MOC/MOCA who donated such beautiful items throughout the year; Bill Wendt and June Brazell for creating such beautiful and one of a kind flower arrangements with flowers donated by the members of the Grand of NM MOCA; Betty and Mark Decker for the donation of the giant (and very heavy) lady bug planters; Nancy "Tigger" Tabb, Laura Lopez and the members of VFW Auxiliary 5890 for sponsoring a Gordita Dinner.

From the bottom of my heart to everyone who bid on or bought a raffle ticket – THANK YOU! Your generosity raised \$3,071.25!

On another note – we are not finished raising money – Clara Montano, Grand President New Mexico MOCA 2018- 2019 has asked me to be her chairman - so bring a lot of money to her homecoming, Mid-Winter, and State Convention because we need to raise as much money for her special project – FISHER HOUSE OF NEW MEXICO – let's get this house built!

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart!

Kandy Brazell

Past NM MOCA Grand President 2017 – 2018

GPSP Chairman

2018 – 2019

PS – We need donations of items for raffles and silent auctions!



335,000
FAMILIES SERVED SINCE
1990

76
HOUSES IN
OPERATION



Post 5610 Memorial Day

Hill-Vigil post 5610 Espanola had our booth set up for Memorial Day at the Espanola Memorial Veterans wall. This year for Veterans Day, at the same location, the post will be hosting the Veterans Day Ceremony.



The VFW National Home for Children Is Here for New Mexico Families.



A Great Place to Call Home!

The VFW National Home for Children offers a once in a lifetime **opportunity** for military and veteran related families.

If you know of a family in New Mexico that could use our help, please encourage them to call!

We are currently accepting new resident families into our program.

Most qualify to apply. Caring staff will help families to determine eligibility.

800-313-4200

VA Golden Age Games

The Department of New Mexico recently sponsored the National Veterans Golden Age Games at the Main Event Bowling Alley. It was a wonderful experience. The Grand of New Mexico donated snacks and water for the veteran bowlers and their family members. Post 401 filled goodie bags with snacks and water. Volunteers handed out the goodie bags, a VFW bowling towel for the veteran bowlers and their families. Department President Mary Sanchez and Commander Mark Decker were both on hand to assist our veterans. It was a wonderful experience and all the veterans had a great time. A couple of our bowlers placed in their categories. Sending out a big thank you to all the volunteers, especially those who traveled to help.





Post 3280 Back to School Carnival

VFW Auxiliary to Post 3280, Clovis, NM., held a "Back to School" Carnival on Aug. 4, 2018, from 10 am till 12 pm. The carnival was a community event for school age children. This carnival allowed children to come play games and win school supplies.

Several business owners helped out with donations. Shout out to the Bank of Clovis for the use of their parking lot. S&S Supermarket for donating Hot dogs and bottled water for all the children that attended. Special thanks to the Clovis Fire Department for bring their Fire Safety House, and instructing children fire safety, and the fire hats and safety packets they handed out to the children.

All in all it was a great success and turnout, approximately 100 children attended. The Auxiliary also had the children sign up for 8 backpacks with all school supplies enclosed, in which we gave away to the lucky winners.

This could not have been complete with out the Auxiliary members, Post members, and the non-members, who took time out with their busy schedules to help shop, set up & tear down the games, clean up the parking lot, cook, and overall have fun with the children in the community. Thanks to the Post, individual members, and business owners who donated money or product, to help with this event. Total amount of monies spent \$2200.00.



Candidate Forum



Tim Borland Perusing Top Seat in VFW

Tim Borland, Life Member of Post 9972 Sierra Vista, is a candidate for the VFW Western Conference's nomination for National Jr. Vice Commander-in Chief Select in July 2019. Tim earned his eligibility to join the VFW during his 28-year long career in the U.S. Army, retiring as a First Sergeant at Ft. Huachuca in Sierra Vista, with deployments to Korea and Iraq.

If selected, Tim will then advance to National Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief in 2020-21, and then Commander-in-Chief in 2022-23. Tim has been traveling the country since November 2015, and has already visited every Department in the Conference with 11 endorsements. Tim's passion and loyalty for this organization is strong as he continues to travel all over the Nation promoting the VFW and encouraging younger members from Iraq and Afghanistan to join. He has already attended four Bataan Death March recruiting events, and plans to support New Mexico

as long as his schedule will allow.

If you would like to help Tim in his quest to become VFW National Commander-in-Chief, please contact him at 520-678-9180 and join his team. At this time, donations are being accepted to help alleviate travel expenses. If you would like to donate, please feel free to do so by either visiting his website at www.everyveterancounts2020.org or make checks payable to "Every Veteran Counts 2020" and note on the check "Tim's Campaign" and send it to: Tim Borland • **2089 W Cave Cotton Loop • Benson, AZ 85602**

Candidate for Department Surgeon



Victoria "Boats" Haddox was raised in Belen, New Mexico. Upon graduation in 2005, she joined the US NAVY Reserve (NOSC Albuquerque), where she is currently serving as Surgemain NR Albuquerque Leading Petty Officer and ACB-1 Training Leading Petty Officer. She currently holds the Rate/Rank of BM1/E6. Her previous assignments are Comphibron 1 Det. 101, NMCB-17 Fort Carson,

She earned her membership in the VFW by deploying in 2009-2010 to Camp Bucca, Iraq and Camp Cropper, Iraq under the OIE/OEF conflict.

She joined the VFW at VFW Post 5890 in 2015. She has been elected or appointed to many Post and District positions. She is currently serving as District 2 Commander for her 2nd year. She is a mother/step mother of five boys: Riley, Aidan, Andres, Tristen, and Jacob. She married her husband and fellow comrade Jim Haddox in 2016, and currently resides in Rio Rancho NM.

As your 2019-2020 Candidate for State Surgeon, I ask for your endorsement and support. Thank you.

Victoria Haddox

Co NPDB-6, Iraq ACB1, Coronado Island, Ca. and Surgemain NR Albuquerque.

VFW Membership



In the Race for Membership here are you standings:

District 4—Jack Doil 1.71%

District 6— Joseph DeVargas 2.69%

District 7—Edwardo Rodriquez 1.83%

District 3—Mike Cano 1.71%

District 8—Joe Bob Mann 1.65%

District 5—Joe Esparza 1.49%

District 2—Victoria Haddox 1.46%

District 1—Abel Saiz 0.52%

Divisions

**1—Post 9517-Post 10763
4.00%**

**2—Post 9676 Los Lunas
4.30%**

**3—Post 8874 Las Alamos
6.17%**

**4—Post 10124 Las Cruces
3.44%**

**5—Post 5890 Rio Rancho
2.09%**

Recruiters

1st—BJ Lawerance—9

2nd—Jason Lee—5

3rd—Mark Decker—3

3rd—Mary Tutza - 3

3rd—Gary Townsend—3

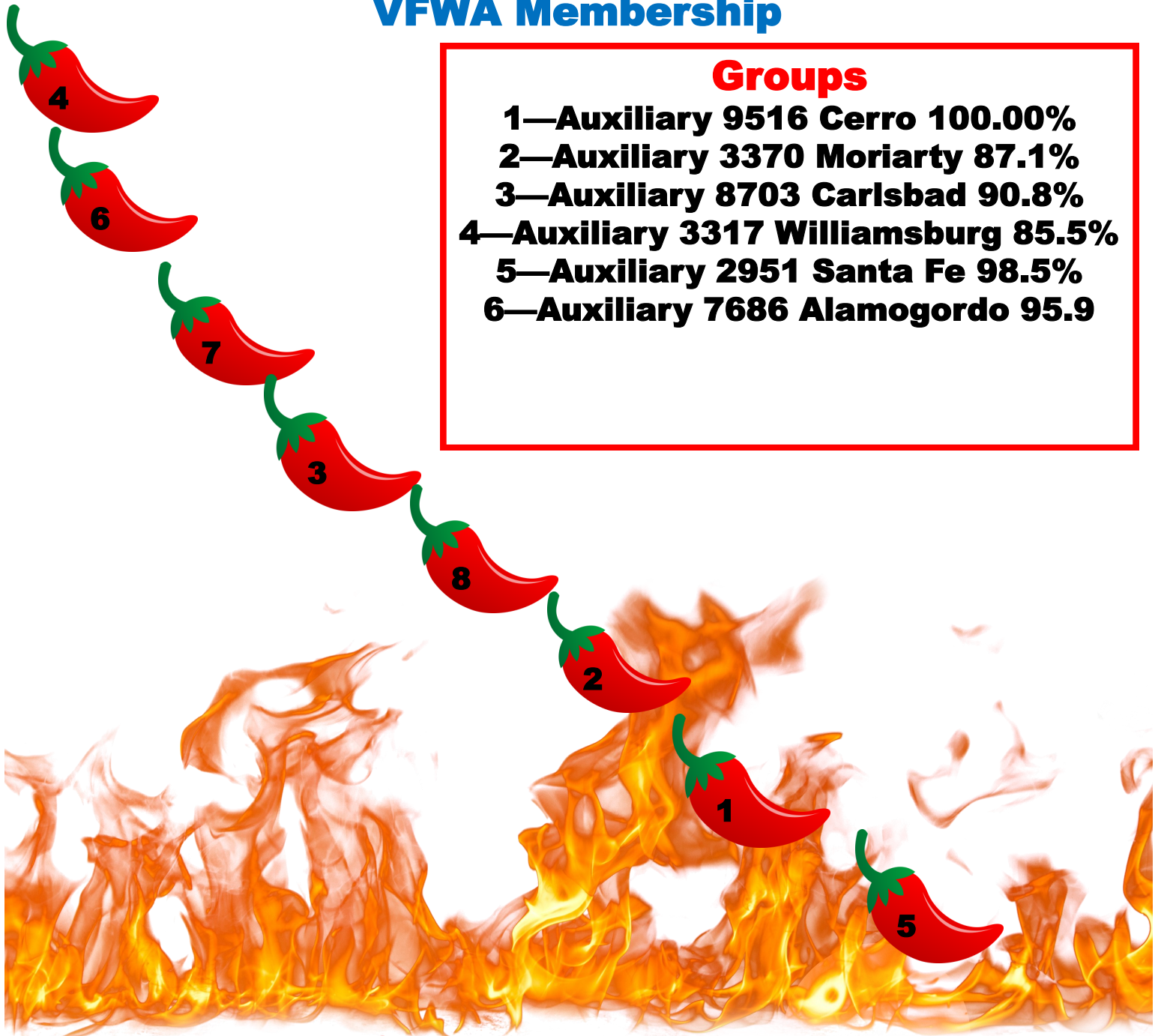
3rd—John Carrasco

3rd—Eluterio Garcia—3

VFWA Membership

Groups

- 1—Auxiliary 9516 Cerro 100.00%**
- 2—Auxiliary 3370 Moriarty 87.1%**
- 3—Auxiliary 8703 Carlsbad 90.8%**
- 4—Auxiliary 3317 Williamsburg 85.5%**
- 5—Auxiliary 2951 Santa Fe 98.5%**
- 6—Auxiliary 7686 Alamogordo 95.9**



In the Race for Membership here are you standings:

- District 4—Nancy Evans 87.30%**
- District 6—Margie Carillo 86.20%**
- District 7—John Mersman 85.00%**
- District 3—Janis Wimmer 84.00%**
- District 8—Bobby Van Dyke 78.10%**
- District 2— Nancy Tabb 69.30%**
- District 1—Suzanne John 67.40%**
- District 5—Pennt Esparza 66.20%**