



VFW NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO
Land of Enchantment



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

December 2024

Vol. 49 Issue 2

Veterans Day Around New Mexico

Veterans Day Weekend 2024 was busy around New Mexico. Many Posts and their Auxiliaries held activities to celebrate the day. There were parades, flag presentations, open houses, and ceremonies of all types. We sure got out there and showed the public what the VFW/VFWA stands for.

On Saturday, November 9 VFW Post 614 in Aztec started the day with a breakfast for veterans and had over 20 people come out. Followed by their annual parade, where they had 21 entries of floats, walkers, and dignitaries. After the parade, the Post held an open house where they had over 70 people from the community attend to thank veterans and talk to with them. A band ended the night with live music.

Farther north and east, Post 1131 in Mora had their veterans dance and dinner night. The Post and Auxiliary hosts this event annually, and this year they had over 50 people attend.

Down in the southeast part of the state, Post 3274 in Hobbs had their annual parade. This year they had over 40 participants, to include State Commander Brian Ravak and his wife, Shelly. While Past State Commander and Past Post Quartermaster Cathy Brock was the Grand Marshal of the parade. State Commander Ravak and Post Commander Eubank rode in the Corvette behind the Grand Marshal. Commander Ravak was given the special treat when ordered by the owner of the 'Vette "to take it for a spin." When the parade was over, 200 people came back to the Post for the ceremony where Post Commander Eubank and Post Quartermaster Bowman introduced their new scout pack. Four awards were given out for continued service to the community. They were given to Eddie Rodriguez, Cathy Brock, Ross Clanton, and Frank Saragoza.

Also down south, Post 6917 held their parade. They had many entries.



Espanola Veterans Parks

Back up in Albuquerque, Post 401 held their annual turkey bingo event. They had over 40 people attend and handed out over 10 turkeys.

On Sunday, November 10, the activities continued. Post 3274 down in Hobbs had a recruiting event at CORE (Center of Recreational Excellence), where they talked to veterans, and in particular some pickleball players, about the VFW. Membership applications and Buddy Poppies were handed out.

~continued on page 3



VFW National Council Updates



Tori Haddox

Comrades,
My first National Council of Administration (NCOA) new member training and meeting was held in Kansas City, MO, from September 3rd to 7th, 2024. The National Council serves as your executive board within the Veterans of Foreign Wars, where we discuss key budget and policy matters.

Investments

I'm pleased to report that the VFW's conservative investment strategy is yielding positive results. We maintain a modest and cautious approach to ensure

our cash reserves and funding for critical programs—such as lifetime pensions and memberships—remain secure. We will continue to follow this disciplined strategy to support these vital initiatives.

2024-2025 Budget

The proposed budget, which is straightforward and highlights efforts to fund Service Officers (at the state level), major programs, and recruitment activities across the organization.

Staffing

We are fortunate to have a dedicated staff at both the National Headquarters in Kansas City, MO, and in Washington, D.C. However, we must carefully manage resources. Over the next year, we will reduce five positions, lowering financial liabilities.

At present, our median salaries in Kansas City and D.C. are approximately \$3,000 and \$10,000 below market averages, respectively. To remain competitive and retain qualified employees, the NCOA approved a 3.6% increase in the salary scale for all employees, adding \$11,000 in overall salary expenses this year. I supported this measure. Note: The salary increase does not apply to the Commander-in-Chief, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, or Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, who have been under a salary freeze for several years.

Washington Memorial Building

Our D.C. office, built in the 1950s, is in dire need of repair. A long-term proposal was presented to upgrade the building at an estimated cost of \$8 million over several years, though voting has been delayed pending

further information. However, urgent electrical and mechanical system repairs totaling \$1.6 million were approved, and I supported this decision.

VFW Riders and Motorcycle Clubs

The National Council voted unanimously to revoke the use of the VFW name, trademarks, and service marks by the "California VFW Motorcycle Club" due to repeated violations of prior resolutions. Additionally, as part of the same motion we voted to disallow the future use of the VFW name, service marks, etc to any entity identifying as an "MC" or "Motorcycle Club."

However, we will formalize the VFW Riders group (active in nearly 40 states) within our organization. A proposed bylaw amendment to establish a National VFW Riders group will be introduced at the 2025 National Convention in Columbus, OH. This will be in a similar fashion to the VFW Auxiliary and the Military Order of the Cooties.

Voice of Democracy Program

There was considerable discussion regarding the liabilities and financial obligations of the Voice of Democracy program. A vote on changes will be held at the NCOA meeting in Washington, D.C. in March 2025, after more information is gathered.

Notably, over 75% of participants have previously visited D.C., and ongoing issues with "helicopter parents" have become untenable. Moving the trip to Valley Forge not only reduces liability but also saves the organization over \$100,000 annually. Key points:

1. National will continue to cover State Commanders' costs to attend the D.C. conference.
2. National will now cover the full cost for students to attend Valley Forge, which was previously covered by the Departments.

That concludes my report on the NCOA meeting. I look forward to providing further updates and hearing your feedback as we continue our work throughout the years.

The next meeting is in March at the Washington conference. Please let me know how you want me to vote for the parade of winners or to address other important stuff. Thank you!

Veterans Day Around New Mexico continued

~continued from page 1

On Monday, November 11, the activities kicked into high gear across the state again.

Down south in Hobbs, Post 3274 Quartermaster Mark Bowman spoke at the City of Hobbs Veterans Day Ceremony. More pavers were dedicated along the patch of freedom, like is tradition there every Memorial Day and Veterans Day. After this, QM Bowman read the eulogy of Col DR Bales, who was the last person to fly F-105 tail number 110 on display at Hobbs Veterans Memorial Park, who passed away earlier this year. After this, State Chaplain Bowman went to three nursing homes in Hobbs and Lovington to talk to veterans and check on them.

Back to the east part of the state in Clovis, Post 3280 had their parade and open house. They had more entries this year than in past years. At their open house, they presented awards for the parade to American Legion Riders and Cannon AFB.

Up north Post 5610 in Espanola, a joint ceremony with Espanola Valley High School ARJROTC ceremony took place at the Memorial Wall. The ceremony included a POW table ceremony, where the meaning of the table and items on it were explained. There was also a colors presentation and a Declaration of Veterans Day by the City of Espanola. There were over 65 people present for these ceremonies.

In the northwest, VFW Post 9517 from Shiprock, started the day at Memory Gardens cemetery in Farmington with a rededication of the veterans memorial. This was attended by over 25 people. The Kirtland Central ROTC, Blue Star Mothers, and DAR were there to help with the ceremony. The cemetery then had a meet and greet with the veterans present and a cookout. Post 9517 Honor Guard went to 3 Rivers Estates for a Flag Presentation at the assisted living center. There were over 50 people present for this, with over 25 veterans living in the center. VFW 9517 stayed and talked to the veterans and planned a visit from the State VSO to come up and help them start their disability claims and explain the new laws that were voted in this year.

As you can see, the VFW and VFWA were active and in the community during this special holiday. We do this all the time. We just need to promote these events. Let others in the community see them. Let the community hear and see the VFW and VFWA. We are a strong advocate for veterans and their families. We need to let people see our strength and dedication. I know there were other activities out there. More Posts and Auxiliaries were active. But we need to get the word out.

View pictures from around the Department on page 9 & 10.

New Mexico VFW State Officers 2024-2025

National Council Member - Victoria Haddox 5890 Rio Rancho
Commander - Brian Ravak 6917 Las Cruces
Sr. Vice Commander - James Haddox 5890 Rio Rancho
Jr. Vice Commander - Mack Dyer 12184 Roswell
Quartermaster - Dave Fouse 7686 Alamogordo
Chaplain - Mark Bowman 3274 Hobbs
Judge Advocate - Vincent BJ Lawrence 7686 Alamogordo
Surgeon - Len Hampton 6917 Las Cruces
Past State Cmdr - Victoria Haddox 5890 Rio Rancho
Inspector - Roger Bartosiewicz 3280 Clovis
Chief of Staff - Kathie Schiebel 6917 Las Cruces
Service Officer - Louis Rossi 5890 Rio Rancho

District Commanders

District 1 - Jamie Poncho 614 Aztec
District 2 - James Berdine 10763 Albuquerque
District 3 - Mary Tutza 6917 Las Cruces
District 4 - Jack Doil 1389 Elephant Butte
District 5 - Danny Cruz 1547 Las Vegas
District 6 - Benjamin Pearce 5610 Espanola
District 7 - Jason Burke 11184 Roswell
District 8 - Justin Knapp 2528 Tucumcari

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, vfwnmeditor@yahoo.com no later than the 10th day of the month preceding the month of publication. Editor is Mark Decker.



Commander



Brian Ravak

Comrades and Auxiliary, Happy "belated" Thanksgiving to everyone! There is much to be thankful for, as we enter into this holiday season. I hope you find time to reflect on the blessings in your life and you are able to carve out some time to spend with friends and family during the holidays. For many, the holidays can also be a stressful time of year. Since, "Helping Our Veterans" is our theme this year, as we continue to serve our veterans, please take some time to reach out to those veterans that you

haven't seen in a while; those that are homebound or in assisted living homes, or that one comrade that you haven't seen in quite some time. Live courageously, while having a servant's heart, in the service to our veterans.

Courage, the mental or moral strength to persevere and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty (according to Merriam-Webster), is one of the core values I ask our members to possess. Courage to do the right thing, even if it isn't the popular thing to do, Courage to do the right thing, even when no one else is watching, and Courage to take the hard road, the path less travelled, even while others are unwilling to support you. Courage ties our other values together -- Commitment, Character, and Integrity. These four values, 3CI, I chose for my command year, as my hope is they will help us become stronger together, and in return, our Department becomes stronger, if we are willing to live by these character traits. I've witnessed the Department of New Mexico's commitment, as was evident at the VFW Western Convention.

A few highlights I will share from the past few months

includes our trip to Western Convention, hosted by the Department of Hawaii. I couldn't be prouder of the Department of New Mexico, as I'm fairly certain, though we are one of the smaller Departments in the West, we showed up in force, with a very large contingent of both comrades and auxiliary members. And, if not mistaken, we had more attendees than any other Department (with the exception of maybe Hawaii), as is evident in the Photo taken at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency tour. What an incredible job the DPAA does each and every day; I can only describe the work of the DPAA as "doing God's work." Another highlight from Western Convention -- our very own Len Hampton was elected as the Vice Chair for the Western Conference; congratulations Len! Which brings us to our upcoming Mid-Winter Conference.

Mid-Winter Conference is right around the corner. I look forward to seeing you in Albuquerque and hearing all the great things forks are doing to support the Veterans or Foreign Wars, Department of New Mexico and its Auxiliary. We are wrapping up our District judging for Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teacher Awards. The Awards Banquet is always a special event at the Mid-Winter Conference. At the same time, we should also be focusing on Public Service awards, Buddy Poppy displays, and of course, recruiting. There is a lot of work to do Helping our Veterans, and growing the Department of New Mexico. Through 3CI, we will accomplish our goals.

Finally, I want to thank Comrade Mark Bowman and Past State Commander, Cathy Brock, for the invitation to serve as Co-Grand Marshall at this year's Veterans Day Parade in Hobbs, New Mexico. Also, a big thanks to District 2 Commander, Jim Berdine, for the invitation to take part in the Veterans Day ceremony at Veterans Park in Albuquerque. Both events were amazing; certainly, a couple of the many highlights from this VFW Year.

As always, thank you for what you do each and every day Helping Our Veterans. Keep up the great job all across the state. Please reach out to me, if there is something I can do to help.



Sr Vice Commander



Jim Haddox

Greetings everyone! I hope that the last few months have been amazing for you! I know that we have been very busy since the State Convention.

We had very successful training in both the North and South trainings. We were all able to learn more about our state priorities and how we can support our State Commander Brian Ravak. I would like to thank all our

presenters and the time they took to prepare for their presentations. It's never easy to stand up in front of everyone and speak, and they did a great job.

I attended the Legislative Conference in September. I met with our US Congressional representatives and had great conversations in moving forward with our National VFW legislative priorities. I had the great pleasure of attending Rep. Leger-Fernandez's committee meeting in which she made sure to spend some face-to-face time

with me to go over our points. I also had the honor of being invited to the House Armed Services Committee to witness Rep. Gabe Vasquez's introduction of his new bill to allow those closer to the El Paso VA hospital to get transportation assistance instead of being required to go to Albuquerque to receive said compensation.

I would like to thank Danny Cruz and his District 5 for their hospitality. Special thanks to the Clayton post for hosting!

I recently returned from the Western Conference, and we had a successful conference. Congratulations to Len Hampton for his election to being the next Western Conference Chair.

I look forward to seeing you at our Mid-Winter conference. Please think of items that I can take it to Washington, DC in March for our VFW Western Conference. I look forward to anyone that decides to attend with our State Commander, National Councilperson, and me. I enjoy setting up these meetings, and our Congressional representatives should hear your voice and how you wish for them to represent your and New Mexico's interests.

I would like to thank you all for allowing me to serve you and our Veterans. I hope you have an amazing holiday season!

Important Dates

- January 4 District 1 Nenahnezad Chapterhouse
- January 11 District 5 Post 9516 Cerro
- January 12 District 8 Post 9515 Portales
- January 18 Department Mid Winter Albuquerque**
- January 26 District 3 Post 10124 Las Cruces
- February 22 District 2 Post 5890 Rio Rancho
- February 23 District 7 Post 8703 Hobbs



VFWA District 15 Council Member



Chrissy Harlan

The weather here in Tucson is finally cooling off and it is finally beginning to feel like fall.

I was honored to be the National Representative at the Department of Arizona Fall Conference. It was a great Conference with informative presentations, training, and catching up with friends. I am sure that the

Department of New Mexico had a successful Conference as well.

Then we were off to Hawaii for Western Conference. It was great to see so many from our Departments there. Family Feud was a hoot and harder than I thought it would be. I spent a few extra days there to see the sites as I know some of you did. I hope everyone that was able to attend had a great time and learned something. Attending these Conferences gives us a great opportunity to network and share ideas.

Now we are speeding towards Thanksgiving, Christmas, our Voice of Democracy and Patriots' Pen Awards, and Winter or Mid-Winter Conferences. Where has the first half of the year gone? I look forward to attending the Winter Conferences in both Departments and listening to what the youth of our communities have to say.

This year's Mid-Year Conference will be held in Cancun, Mexico and I hope many of you are able to join us. As soon as I receive the information for the National Council Meeting I will get it out to you. If there is anything you would like brought up at the meeting, please feel free to contact me at vwkidsrus@gmail.com or at 520-906-7363.

During this busy holiday season it is especially important that you each take care of yourselves. Eat well, rest, be kind, and find joy in every day. Thank you all for everything you do to help complete our mission and God bless each of you.

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

New Mexico VFW Auxiliary State Officers 2024-2025

National Councilwoman - Chrissy Harlan *Arizona*
 President - Renee King 2951 *Santa Fe*
 Sr. Vice President - Kelly Fouse 7686 *Alamogordo*
 Jr. Vice President - Michelle Dennison 3370 *Moriarty*
 Treasurer - Penney Howard 614 *Aztec*
 Secretary - Jeanette Garcia 401 *Albuquerque*
 Chaplain -
 Conductress - Shelly Ravak 6917 *Las Cruces*
 Assistant Conductor - Dela Sanchez 4384 *Anthony*
 Guard - Barbra Santillanes 401 *Albuquerque*
 Assistant Guard - Helen Maes 2951 *Santa Fe*
 Chief of Staff - Betty Decker 614 *Aztec*
 Past State Pres. - Beth Miller 6917 *Las Cruces*
 Color Bearer #1 - Brenda Doil 1389 *Elephant Butte*
 Color Bearer #2 - Angela Sandoval 2951 *Santa Fe*
 Color Bearer #3 - Sharlotte Dennison 3370 *Moriarty*
 Color Bearer #4 - Frances Montoya 2951 *Santa Fe*
 Flag Bearer - Nancy Tabb 5890 *Rio Rancho*
 Banner Bearer - Glenn Crawford 8703 *Carlsbad*

District President

District 1 - Betty Decker 614 *Aztec*
 District 2 - Michelle Dennison 3370 *Moriarty*
 District 3 - Marsha Short 10124 *Las Cruces*
 District 4 - Brenda Doil 1389 *Elephant Butte*
 District 5 - Thomas Bullington Jr. 3271 *Clayton*
 District 6 - Margie Carillo 2951 *Santa Fe*
 District 7 - Lequanah Crawford 8703 *Carlsbad*
 District 8 - Suzan Willis 3280 *Clovis*

VFWA President



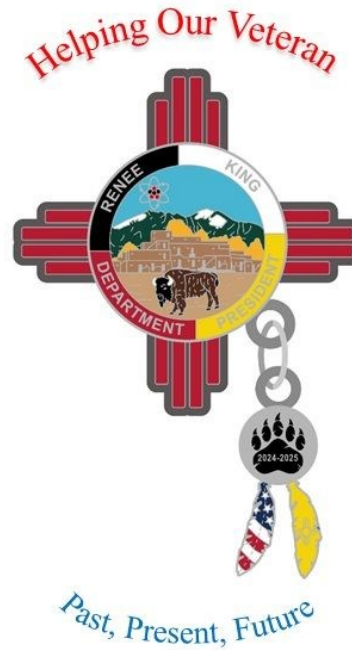
I can hardly believe we're already in the holiday season. As we get together with our immediate families, be sure to reach out to our veterans. Invite them to dinner or go to lunch with them. This is a hard, lonely time for some, however, you could make a difference.

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans and their families. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. God bless

We had over 40 Comrades and Auxiliary members attend the Western Conference in O'ahu, Hawaii!!!! Thank you to everyone who attended, it was amazing to see New

Renee King

Mexico being well represented.



The Appeals Modernization Act (AMA) was intended to allow for a review in a timelier fashion. VFW is concerned with the excess workload in the AMA inventory...

...Delivering more decisions is admirable, but they must be accurate and timely, not just a number in a performance plan.

- MIKE FIGLIOLI

Director, VFW National Veterans Service
November 29, 2023



Post 2951 Quartermaster Going Away

On Monday, November 11, 2024 VFW 2951 had a ceremony for one of our members and friends.

Our Quartermaster for the past two years, Dave Hamann, was given a ceiling tile with his name and it was placed in the ceiling at our Post. He is moving back to Washington. He has helped 2951 succeed over these last few years. Dave is an inspiration to many of us.



There were approximately 30 members of the VFW and VFWA to see him off. He gave a nice speech thanking us for our support and cooperation. The Post gave him a ceiling tile with his medals and branch and unit on it to hang in the canteen.

Dave will be missed by the Post and Auxiliary and all the friends he has made over the years. We wish him the best in the years moving forward. We look forward to seeing him again when he visits the area. Dave, stay strong and brave. We will see you again.



VFW Post 10763

Early afternoon on 3 January 2024 VFW Roadrunner Post 10763 and the Scouts of America arrived at the Historic Fairview Cemetery in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Time to place the American flags at over 500 Headstones. Veterans from New York to California and cities across America are laid to rest at this humble cemetery. They served our country during many conflicts. From the Civil War, Indian War, Spanish American War, WW1 and WW11, Korea and Vietnam. Prior to flag placement, we told the Scouts about Mr. Don White's

plan to install a metal pipe made of conduit at every Veteran's headstone to hold the flags in place. This will eliminate the problem of drilling or hammering a hole in the dirt for flag placement. Several Scouts are interested in this becoming their Eagle project. Thanks to everyone for assisting in this event to honor our fellow Veterans.

VFW Post 9517

This holiday season, VFW 9517 is active in our community again. For Thanksgiving we handed out 5 baskets to needy veterans and their families. These baskets were food for a complete Thanksgiving day meal.

From Thanksgiving to Christmas, the Post will be wrapping gifts at Animas Valley Mall every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

On December 13, the Post will have our annual Christmas party for our members. It is a potluck lunch. All Post members and anyone that has helped us in the past year are welcome. We will hand out awards to our outstanding volunteers and spend some family time with each other.

Then for Christmas we will be handing out six Christmas baskets to needy veterans and their families.

Membership

We are on pace to hit 102% membership this year. We need to keep up the hard work we are doing. The November challenge was to increase your membership percentage by the highest amount. For the Post in each division and the District with the highest increase, the Commander and the Quartermaster get a free meal for our Mid-Winter dinner.

The December challenge is the highest increase in percentage of Life Members during the month. Again, the Post in each Division and the District with the highest increase in percentage during December, the Commander and the Quartermaster will receive a free meal at the Mid-Winter dinner.

Department Fundraiser

Greetings! Thank you for your state's participation in our Cooperative Mailings Program. As you know, this is a stellar and efficient way to generate revenue for your state's programs. The following are mailings that have recently mailed:

The December Matching Gift package will mail on December 2nd.

We have also simplified the resource portal. Take a look <https://heroes.vfw.org/page/158289/action/1> To maximize the success of your program, please utilize these resources to remind your members that the revenue generated STAYS in your state.

Veterans Day in New Mexico



Veterans Day in New Mexico Cont.





VFWA District 15 Council Member Candidate



Dominique Garcia

Greetings VFWA Department of New Mexico Auxiliaries and Districts,

My name is Dominique Garcia and I am running for National District 15 Council 2025-2027. This is the Councilmember that represents New Mexico and Arizona at National.

I joined the VFWA Jr Girls when I was 5 years old back in 2002. As soon as I turned 16, I joined the VFW. I joined under my

grandfather Joe Salas, a Vietnam Veteran.

I have held many positions in the VFWA over the years in all levels of the organization. Some of the positions I have held are: Auxiliary President twice, Auxiliary Treasurer 3 times, District Trustee 4 times, Department Guard, Department Chaplain,

Department Jr Vice, Department Sr Vice, and Department President, where I made the Circle of Excellence in 2022-2023. I have also held many chairs in all 3 levels. At National I was color bearer for 2023-2024, and currently am youth ambassador and page for Past National President Sandy Krebel.

I believe that I have the institutional knowledge and youth to see things that need to be changed, and the drive to represent the Department of New Mexico VFWA at the National level. I am always willing to listen to ideas and thoughts of how to improve our great organization. I know there is no one person that can know everything, nor have all the ideas to improve this organization. So, if you bring something up to me, we can discuss it and see if it is something we need to pursue in the future. Please ask me questions, bring your concerns, and have discussions with me about the VFWA.

I hope you will vote for me as our next National Council member from New Mexico.

VFWA District 15 Council Member Candidate



Betty Decker

Greetings VFW Auxiliaries and Districts,

My name is Betty Decker and I am announcing my candidacy for VFWA District 15 National Council for 2025-2027. District 15 is for both Arizona and New Mexico.

I have been a member of the VFWA since 2009. I am currently a Life Member of VFWA

614 in Aztec. I joined the VFWA under the eligibility of my husband, Mark Decker. I have the full support and endorsement of VFW and VFWA 614.

I have held numerous positions at Auxiliary, District, and Department levels through the years, culminating in being Circle of Excellence as Department President 2021-2022. I have also been District President 3 times, twice being President of the Year. I currently hold Trustee at Auxiliary 614, District 1 President, and Chief of Staff and Tech Chair at the Department level.

I have been very outspoken over the years about our goal to help veterans. All other items and events come after that. I believe that no matter what, we must be there to help our veterans.

I hope to see and talk to y'all this year. If you have any ideas that might help the organization, please bring them up. If there are any questions I can answer for you, please ask me. I am here to listen to you and learn from each of you along the way. Together we can make a difference in our veterans lives.

VFW National Home District 10 Trustee

Please share this communication with your respective Chairmen and/or members by sending in monthly mailing!

Join the **FACEBOOK Group at [District 10-VFW National Home](#)**

Join the **FACEBOOK 100th Birthday Celebration Group at [VFW National Home 100th Birthday Celebration 2025](#)**

Greeting All Life Members of the National Home,

This year is flying by so quickly and we will kick off to the 100th Birthday Celebration in about 6 weeks-January 2025

- I will be visiting the Department of Kansas' Midwinter January 10-12, 2025.
- I plan to visit the Department of Texas' Midwinter in January of 2025 as well.
- I plan to attend the Luau Fundraiser for Post/Auxiliary 7835 in Granbury, TX the first week in March (tentative)

ACTION ITEM:

Please have your Department Quartermaster/Treasurer send in an updated "deceased list" to Sue Alverson at the National Home. We would like to remove those who have passed on, so they are not receiving email/mail.

DISTRICT 10 NEWS

- Please have your Department consider purchasing a Centennial Brick in honor of the National Homes 100th Birthday. They are \$500 each and will be placed in the Centennial Garden. It is limited to 1000 bricks. You can also purchase these bricks individually, through our Districts, etc. This is for VFW/VFWA/MOC/MOCA.
- DID YOU KNOW-You can look up a brick you purchased or was purchased in your name? Go to the NH website and to the tab that has the bricks. Hit Control F and you can search by name. You will then know where that brick is placed on campus.

Executive Director-Mike Wilson

- Electrical distribution system upgrades complete.
- Cootie Christmas is December 2-7th 2024.
- Finalizing the 2025 Birthday events.

Programs-Angie Harkins

- 34 houses occupied.
- 82 Children
- 51 Parents
- Transitioned to the Red, White, Blue Program for those who move on campus.
 - Each family works with a case manager who connects them with services and helps them achieve their goals. Hives or Heroes is kicking off its second year-much excitement for this program

- Children live in a small town, rural setting with access to recreational programs, learning opportunities, and holiday celebrations and field trips.
- The support families receive from the National Home enables them to build a solid foundation for growth, stability, and a better future.
- Guitars For Heroes-started a new class this fall.

Marketing & Development-Sue Alverson

- Two Golf Units were a Big Success.
- Centennial Memberships are available now for \$100- includes exclusive discounts, and a beautiful pin.
- Please consider sending in a "birthday" card with a \$100 donation to continue to support and do the work of the National Home.
- Centennial Brick-Celebrate the upcoming VFW National Home Centennial in style with a personalized engraved brick in the 2025 Centennial Garden. Whether it's to honor a loved one, commemorate a special event, or simply leave your mark on this historic occasion, our 8x8 engraved bricks offer a timeliness way to do just that for a donation of \$500. For more information or to order a brick, please visit <https://vfnationalhome.org/centennial-brick/>
- Tribute Park-A place to honor and memorialize loved ones, friends, leaders, or organizations with a timeless tribute. Net proceeds from donated tributes go into permanently restricted endowment fund, and only earning from the fund can aid the National Home's sustainability.

Welcome Center-Lisa Mahan

The VFW Store has many 100th Birthday Items in stock.

Facilities Report- Rick Stiver

- Welcome Center construction is coming along nicely.
- Many projects in the works-some including upgrades to the Guest Lodge, H&E Building, Admin Building, etc.

Social Media/Historian-Meghan Mitchell

- Trustees all have new email address and have been updated on their business call
- Facebook changes coming-each will be centralized through the National Home-Coming soon.

IT-Jesse Foster

Fiber optics upgrade complete

Finance Department-Lynn Hagerman

- Budgets reviewed, updated and passed at the Board meeting in October.

Warm Regards,

Shirlee Frias

VFW National Home Trustee, District 10

(505) 235-1237

District10trustee@vfnationalhome.org



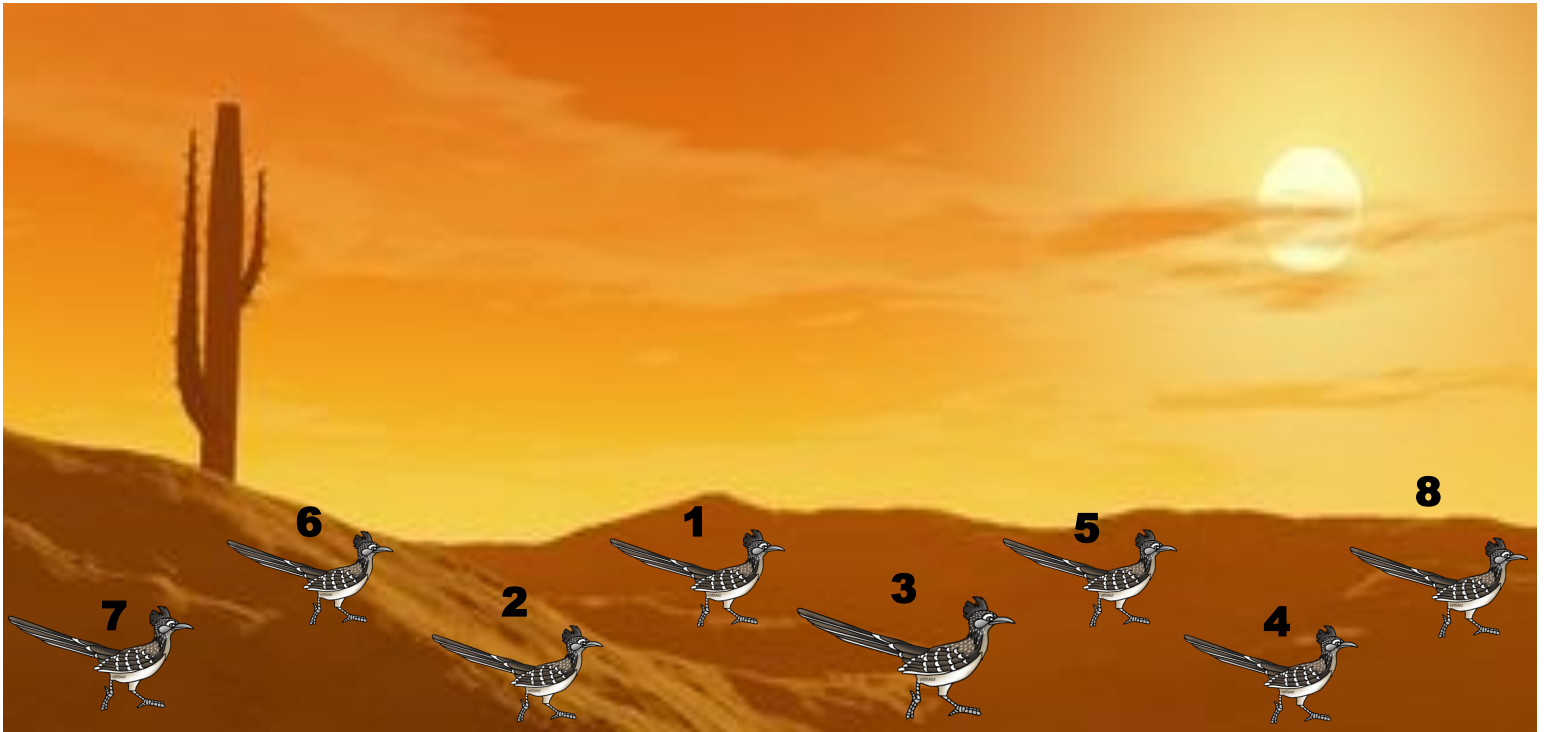
VFW Auxiliary National President
Brenda Bryant
Will be visiting New Mexico
on March 14, 2025 – March 16, 2025



“From Our Roots to Our Branch”
Is President Brenda Bryant’s Theme

We will be working on the schedule of events to create memories for her and for our members. As soon as our itinerary is finalized, everyone will be informed.

VFW Membership



In the Race for Membership here are you standings:

- District 8—Justin Knapp 1.13**
- District 4—Jack Doil 1.99%**
- District 5 —Danny Cruz 0.88%**
- District 3 —Mary Tutza 1.03%**
- District 1—Jamie Poncho 5.80%**
- District 2 —James Berdine 1.96%**
- District 6—Benjamin Pearce 2.31%**
- District 7—Jason Burke 2.52%**

Divisions

- Division 1—7688—111.11%**
- Division 2—9676—108.73%**
- Division 3—614—102.36%**
- Division 4—10124—96.17%**
- Division 5—3280—101.36%**

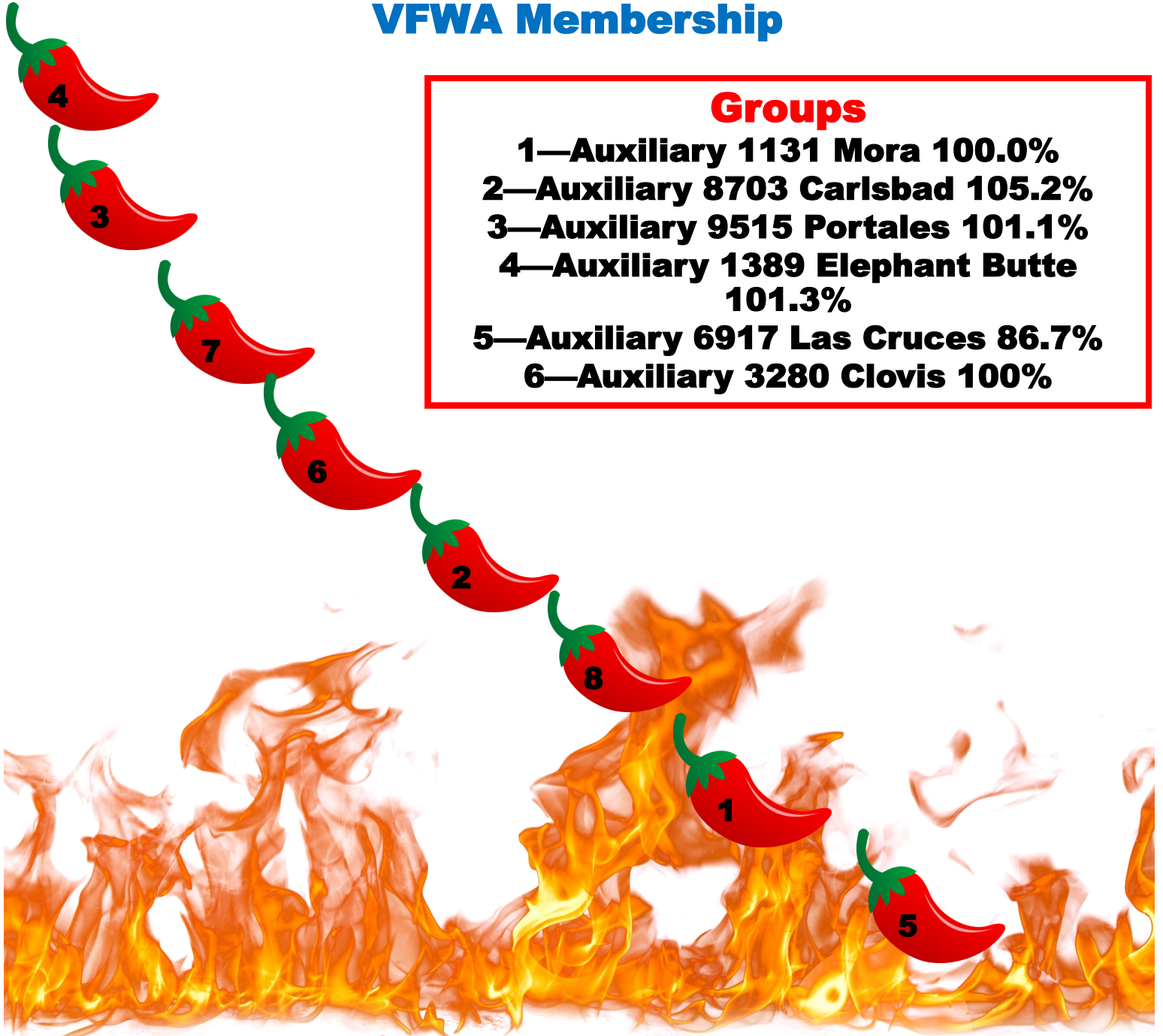
Recruiters

- 1- Mack Dyer Post 12184 10**
- 1- Jason Burke 12184 10**
- 3- Darrell Melon 10124 7**
- 3- Mark Riddle 3370 7**
- 5- David Levin 614 6**

VFWA Membership

Groups

- 1—Auxiliary 1131 Mora 100.0%**
- 2—Auxiliary 8703 Carlsbad 105.2%**
- 3—Auxiliary 9515 Portales 101.1%**
- 4—Auxiliary 1389 Elephant Butte 101.3%**
- 5—Auxiliary 6917 Las Cruces 86.7%**
- 6—Auxiliary 3280 Clovis 100%**



In the Race for Membership here are you standings:

- District 4—Brenda Doil 95.2%**
- District 3— Marsha Short 91.6%**
- District 7—Lequanah Crawford 89.1%**
- District 6—Margie Carillo 84.6%**
- District 2—Michelle Dennisson 81.2%**
- District 8—Suzan Willis 80.1%**
- District 1—Betty Decker 79.2%**
- District 5—Thomas Bullington Jr 76.6%**



**Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary
Mid-Winter Conference
Sheraton ABQ Airport Hotel
January 17th - 18th, 2025**

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

National Reps:

VFW National Representative – National Inspector General Gregory Stafford

VFWA National Representative – National Council Member Chrissy Harland

Lodging Info - Sheraton Albuquerque Airport Hotel

CUT-OFF DATE Monday, December 16, 2024

- Double Queen - \$135 USD per night
- Studio King, one bed - \$135 USD per night

Hotel Prices good from: Wednesday, Jan 16th, 2025 through: Saturday, Jan 18th, 2025

RESERVATION LINK: [Book your group rate for VFW Mid-Winter Meeting JAN2025](#)

VFW'S AGENDA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17TH, 2025

(NOTE: All meeting times and room rates are subject to change)

4:00 PM – 8:00 PM VFW & Auxiliary Registration Foyer

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18TH, 2025

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM	VFW & Auxiliary Registration	Foyer
8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Audit	Vista Norte
9:15 AM – 11:00 AM	VFW & Auxiliary Joint Session	Grand Quivera
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	PSC Lunch	TBD
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Lunch on your own	
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM	VFW Council of Administration	Grand Quivera
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Hospitality Room	Bernalillo Room
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Scholarship / Awards Dinner	Bandelier

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025

11:00 AM Checkout, departure, and safe travels!



**Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary
Department of New Mexico
Mid-Winter Conference
Sheraton ABQ Airport Hotel
January 17th - 18th, 2025**



VFW AUXILIARY'S AGENDA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17th, 2025

(Note: All meeting rooms are subject to change)

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Budget Meeting – Budget Committee	Vista Norte
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Audit Committee	Vista Norte
4:00 PM – 8:00 PM	VFW & Auxiliary Registration	Foyer

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18th, 2025

(Note: All meetings' rooms are subject to change)

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM	VFW & Auxiliary Registration	Foyer
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Council Meeting	Chaco
9:15 AM – 11:00 AM	VFW & Auxiliary Joint Session	Gran Quivera
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	<i>lunch on your own</i>	
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	Council Meeting continues	Chaco
2:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Business Session	Chaco
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Social / Cocktail Hour	Bernalillo Room
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Scholarship / Awards Dinner	Bandelier Room

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19th, 2025

11:00 AM	Checkout, departure, and safe travels!
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VFW MEMBERS ONLY

**2025 DEPARTMENT MID-WINTER
REGISTRATION FORM
DEADLINE FOR MAILING FORM
IS JANUARY 3rd, 2025**

Name: _____ Post: _____

Official VFW
Title/Position: _____ Membership #: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ CK# _____

\$8.00 for VFW members (\$15.00 after 01/03/2025 and at the Door)

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER

If paying by check or cash, send this completed Registration Form:
Make checks to: VFW Department of New Mexico

Send payments and form to: VFW Department of New Mexico
PO Box 1084
Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346

ONLY FILL OUT BELOW IF USING DEBIT/CREDIT CARDS

Please print clearly!

Name as it appears on card: _____

Card #: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration date: _____ CCV Code: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Do you want a receipt emailed (circle one): Y or N

E-Mail address: _____

Print neatly!

This form may be emailed to: vfwnmhq@gmail.com

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

VFW AUXILIARY ONLY

**2024 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
REGISTRATION FORM
DEADLINE FOR MAILING FORM
IS JANUARY 3rd, 2025**

Name: _____ AUX#: _____

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

Membership #: _____ Ck# _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

\$10.00 for Auxiliary Members (\$15.00 after 01/03/2025 and at the Door) Amount Enclosed \$ _____
or Paid by Auxiliary # _____

THIS FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR PRE-PRINTED NAME TAG TO BE MADE

(Make checks payable to DEPT of NM AUXILIARY)

Auxiliary Members, send your registration to:

**Penney Howard
PO Box 34
Flora Vista, NM 87415-0034**

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER



**Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary
Department of New Mexico
Mid-Winter Conference
Sheraton ABQ Airport Hotel
January 17th – 19th, 2025**



**Department Scholarship / Awards Banquet Ticket(s) Request
DUE BY January 3rd, 2025
(No tickets sold after above date – no exceptions!)**

Name: _____ Post/Aux#: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux#: _____

Phone: _____

DINNER MENU

\$20.00 per Person

STEAK DIANE

Pan seared sirloin topped with a brandy glaze and served with roasted baby red potatoes

BASIL CHAMPAGNE CHICKEN

Herb marinated and grilled chicken breast in a champagne basil sauce and served with a wild rice pilaf

MARINATED PORTOBELLO

Marinated portobello mushrooms stuffed with squash and cheese topped with a marinara sauce

Dinners served with freshly baked rolls & butter, Chef's choice of fresh seasonal vegetables, choice of salad, choice of dessert, iced tea Starbucks® Coffee and Taz® teas

Amount Enclosed for **BANQUET** at \$20.00 per Person: _____ CK#: _____

If ordering **LUNCH**, include additional \$10.00 per Person: _____ CK#: _____

Meat: _____ Cheese: _____ Roll/Wrap/GF: _____

If paying by check or cash, send completed Banquet Request Form and Payment to:

Make payments to: VFW Dept of NM

Send payments to: VFW Dept of NM

PO Box 1084

Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346

ONLY FILL OUT BELOW IF USING DEBIT/CREDIT CARDS

Please print clearly!

Name as it appears on card: _____

Card #: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration date: _____ CCV Code: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Do you want a receipt emailed (circle one): Y or N

E-Mail address: _____

This form may be emailed to: vfwnmhq@gmail.com