



COLORADO VETERAN

and Auxiliary News

“We honor the dead by helping the living”



January, 2012

Department of Colorado, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
and its Ladies Auxiliary Official Publication

Volume 51, Issue 4 2011 - 2012

Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941 - Day of Infamy

It was a quiet and beautiful Sunday morning at Hawaii's Pearl Harbor—home of America's Pacific Fleet. Many of the 60,000 Sailors and other military personnel stationed there were still in their bunks resting after a Saturday night on the town. Some were eating breakfast; a few were on duty, others just straggling in. What appeared to be another day in paradise would quickly turn into a nightmare. At five minutes before 8:00 AM on December 7, 1941, 183 Japanese aircraft raced across the mountains north of Pearl Harbor with a mission to destroy the U.S. Fleet. Bombs were dropped on fuel and ammunition dumps, buildings, and ships. Japanese pilots strafed the same with wing-mounted machine guns while others dropped torpedoes. The attack was a surprise. Some Sailors went down with their ships. Some were trapped only to drown inside as water replaced the air in the sinking ship. Some had to choose between staying aboard a doomed ship, or take a chance by diving into a harbor aflame with burning oil, littered with the dead bodies of their fellow-service members. It was truly a living hell. But in American fashion, these brave men and women pulled together. Ammunition and weapons lockers were cracked open in order to fight back. Army pilots dodged bombs and machine gun fire to make it to their planes in attempt to take to the air and drive off the attackers. Some rendered aid to the injured and dying. Others put their comrades before themselves and risked their

own lives to save a stranger.

Fifty minutes later, a second wave of 170 Japanese planes intensified the attack arriving almost simultaneously from three different directions. More than 1,100 Sailors were killed when the U.S.S. Arizona's forward magazine exploded from a direct bomb strike. In all, the assault claimed 2,403 American lives and left more than a thousand others wounded. Ninety minutes after it all began, the last Japanese plane headed away from Pearl Harbor and back to its carrier. America's entry into World War II was solidified. Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, who planned the attack on Pearl Harbor, would write in his diary, “I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve.” Whether or not the Admiral actually wrote those words is debatable, however, there is no doubt the attack did awaken a sleeping giant. Sixteen million fighting Americans would go on to drive the Japanese and Germans into surrender—fighting in every corner of the globe to deliver a world free from tyranny.

Today, fewer than 3,000 Pearl Harbor survivors remain as our last living links with history and the beginning of America's greatest generation. Most of these brave Americans are now in their late 80s and 90s. Today, we salute their valor and sacrifice, and we honor their fighting spirit—a spirit that has motivated millions of Americans to follow their lead and live

by their example. For most of us born several generations later, it's hard to relate to the devastation, the loss of life and the implications of those events that happened 70 years ago; and thousands of miles away. The horrific attack on Pearl Harbor was to the greatest generation what 9/11 is to most of us. Most of us weren't directly affected by the terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C., but we felt the horror, the overwhelming emotions and the desire to unite and take the fight to enemy. Those experiences and emotions must have been similar to what the greatest generation felt and it spurred them

on to set a high standard for both future American service members and for how the world would view the United States and its military might.

Those of us who have worn the uniform, and those who will wear it tomorrow, are the legacy of the survivors of Pearl Harbor as well as the millions of brave Veterans who followed in their footsteps. They put country before self and are willing to risk all to save all—the American way of life. We owe all that we are today, to those who came before us. [Source: Vantage Point Gary Hicks article 6 Dec 2011 ++]



Sailors and Marines render honors as the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) passes the USS Arizona Memorial

In Memory of Past Department Commanders

LeRoy E. Follett
1979 - 1980

Passed Away - October 21, 2011

Interment October 27, 2011

Jackson County Cemetery - Walden, CO

Anthony A. “Tony” Wasinger
1984-1985

Passed Away - November 10, 2011

Interment November 16, 2011

Fort Logan Cemetery

Rest In Peace, Your Work on Earth is Done

DISTRICT MEETING CORNER

The results from the District meeting attendance for November and one in December are in. **Congratulations** to District 1, District 5, District 7 and District 10 for having 100% attendance at the meetings. Thank you to all the Posts for understanding the importance of attending the District meetings. In all during this time period we had 92 out of 113 Posts in Colorado attend their respective meetings. Again THANK YOU all for being there and carrying the information disseminated to you back to your Post.

Ok you probably have done the math and found 21 Posts in Colorado did not make their meetings. In doing the research for the information listed below I found something very curious and maybe a reason for the majority of those Posts not attending. They aren't doing the things they are supposed to be doing and don't want to embarrass themselves by going to the District meeting.

You know I have heard from Post Commanders that they were upset at the letter I sent them for not attending the last District meeting. We had several resign their command. I had one say "how do you expect me you expect me to be there when I'm in the hospital". I guess he hasn't read the by-laws saying if the Commander can't make the meeting he can send a representative from the Post.

Members of the Posts listed below, pay attention and ask questions. Remember... the mission statement for the VFW is... 'HONOR THE DEAD BY ASSISTING THE LIVING'. Is your Post doing that?

Dist % @ Mtg.	New Members	Comm Service Reports	Dist % @ Mtg.	New Members	Comm Service Reports
Dist 1	100%		Dist 4	64%	
Dist 5	100%		3541	no show	
Dist 7	100%		3951	no show	0
Dist 10	100%		4191	no show	0
			7153	no show	0
Dist 2	46%				
61	no show	0	Dist 9	60%	
2643	no show	0	3311	no show	0
4061	no show	2	5261	no show	0
7305	no show	3			
8301	no show	0	Dist 11	73%	
8898	no show	1	4041	no show	0
			4267	no show	0
Dist 3	65%		5485	no show	0
4334	no show	1			
6011	no show	3	Dist 13	80%	
7206	no show	0	9491	no show	0
9565	no show	0			
9741	no show	2			

Ron Davies
Department Commander

JANUARY DISTRICT MEETINGS

DISTRICT NO.	DATE	LOCATION	TIME	REPRESENTATIVE
1	1/21/12 Saturday	Post No. 2461 Denver	11:00 am Jt Mtg 12:00 noon meal 1:00 pm meeting	Ron Davies Cindy Anderson
3	1/15/12 Sunday	Post No. 41 Loveland	12:00 noon meal Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen 1:00 pm meeting	John Holland Linda Stahly
4	1/15/12 Sunday	Post No. 8064 Akron	12 :00 noon meal 1:00 pm meeting	Jim Lafferty Ginny Burris
10	1/15/12 Sunday	Post No. 7945 Thornton	1:00 pm joint mtg Meeting Lunch to follow	Don Smith Gloria Otwell

January 27 - 29 - Voice of Democracy Banquet - Golden

FEBRUARY DISTRICT MEETINGS

5	2/19/12 Sunday	Post No. Colorado Springs	1:00 pm Lunch 2:00 pm Mtg	Bruce Dolan Ginny Burris
7	2/19/12 Sunday	Post No. 3228 Monte Vista	12:00 noon Lunch 1:00 pm Meeting	Don Smith Gloria Otwell
11	2/12/12 Sunday	Post No. 3571 Delta	10:00 am Registration 11:00 am Joint meeting Voice of Democracy & Patriot Pen 12:00 noon meal, 1:00 pm meeting	Pete Buchanan Ginny Burris
12	2/12/12 Sunday	Post No. 4031 Durango	11:00 Joint Meeting 12:00 noon Lunch 1:00 pm Mtg	John Holland Ginny Burris
13	2/05/12 Sunday	Post No. 6612 Hugo	1:00 pm meeting Memorial Service Lunch after	Bruce Dolan Linda Stahly

February 12 - Salute to Hospitalized Veterans - Denver VA Hospital
February 24 - 26, Ladies Auxiliary Mid-Year Conference - Hawaii

Next Deadline for Colorado Veteran February 1, 2012 for the March 2012 issue

**VFW Officers, Chairman and members
Ladies Auxiliary Officers, Chairman and members
Men's Auxiliary Officers and members
Please submit by the deadline!**

COLORADO VETERAN and AUXILIARY NEWS

Official periodical of
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Colorado

Colorado Veteran (ISSN 1056-0807) is published bi-monthly Jan., Mar., May., Aug., Sept., Nov.
6 issues a year. \$2.00 to non-members, \$1.00 per year to widows of VFW members.

Send all correspondence, typewritten (double-spaced, upper and lower case to
Department Headquarters, 1400 Carr Street, Lakewood, CO 80214
Telephone 303-421-1630, 800-965-1630 (Colorado only - Denver Metro excluded) FAX 303-421-1727

Advertising deadline 1st of preceding month - Article deadline 1st of preceding month
Stories, pictures, etc., received after these dates may be withheld 'till the next publication

Published by:
Dept. of Colorado VFW
1400 Carr Street
Lakewood, CO 80214
Periodicals postage paid at Lakewood, CO.

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POSTMASTER
Send address changes to:

VFW National Headquarters
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

POST & AUXILIARY CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE MOVED OR WILL BE MOVING.

NAME: _____

NEW ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

MEMBERSHIP NO. _____ VFW POST NO. _____

NOTE: YOUR RETURN ADDRESS IS ON THE BACK SIDE
OF THIS NOTICE.

MAIL TO: DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO VFW,
1400 CARR ST., LAKEWOOD, CO 80214

THANK YOU
EDITOR

Commander's Column Ron Davies



I hope everyone had a great holiday season! I know we did and families in Montrose, Trinidad and Burlington did thanks to three or-

ganizations coming together for the first time to distribute food and toys to needy Veteran and civilian families in the areas mentioned above. My heart felt THANK YOU to the Colorado Airport Business Association (CABA) and their board members, the Metropolitan State College flight team pilots and their coach, as well as VFW Post 784 Montrose, 984 Trinidad and 6491 Burlington, their members and Auxiliaries. Through the efforts of CABA they collected 1500 lbs of food and toys at various locations around the state. They had a mixer at the Signature FOB at Centennial Airport Friday night December 2nd where folks wrote checks to assist in the effort and gathered at the Mayo aviation hanger on Sunday December 4th at 8 A.M. Soon after the planes from the flight team began arriving, 13 in all, most single engine Cessna 172's and a twin engine Cessna360 to make the flight over the mountains to Montrose. Channels 9, 7 and 4 where there covering the event as well

as local media at the destination points, lots of pictures were taken and then the plane loading began. This task took about an hour and then takeoff. It was really cool to see teams of five taxi out to the run way and begin their journey. Unfortunately the team headed to Trinidad got turned around by weather and had to return to Centennial still loaded. They did drive there load to Trinidad several days later so all was well.

As said previously this was their first annual event and hopefully there will be more to come. It all started with a conversation with my daughter Brittany who is 1st vice chair on the board directors for CABA (ya it runs in the family). She presented her thoughts to me and being the politician that she is she asked... Dad, do you know anyone at the VFW who can help me with this? I, being the smart aleck that I am said... Ya, I think so let me check. And that is how it all got started. Hopefully all three entities can continue on for years to come growing each year until they need C130's to take the food and toys to the destinations. THANK YOU AGAIN TO ALL INVOLVED!

Ron Davies
Department Commander

Quartermaster's Column Dick Wellensiek



Happy New Year! Did we make any New Year Resolutions as a Post? 80% of you

are doing great and I want to Thank You! Now the other 20% might want to make a few Resolutions! Like doing VFW Programs and then make sure you Report them! Be in the running for the program awards and the white hats at the VFW State Convention! When you walk down that isle to pick up your award, whatever it might be, it reflects on your whole Post and the other Posts look up to you for doing a Great Job!

Another Good Resolution might be to get a Membership Team together and plan on how to get those annual members to pay their dues. You need 100% + 1 to get in the running for All-State Commander or Quartermaster and the annual members are a key part.

Another great Resolution is to make the Post a Goal! What might that Goal be? How about being the Best Post you can possibly be! To accomplish that you have to get all members to work together, keep focused on the Goal, work hard and good things will happen!

Our Grandma's always had good advice. Mine used to tell me to "treat people the way you liked to be treated" and that "Kindness is returned 10 fold"; Another saying she had was that if you could get up in the morning and feel good about yourself and have a smile on your face, that was a good morning. To have a good day, you had to make someone feel good about their self and put a smile on their face. That is a Good Day!

Work Hard and Have a Lot of Good Days this year! I will see you in Grand Junction at the COA in March.

Your Department Quartermaster
Dick Wellensiek

Chaplain's Column John Holland



Recently, a middle aged lady friend of mine advised me that she had been a Voice of Democracy state finalist in Illinois as a teenager. She didn't remember the theme, but

she remembered the VFW and that the VFW had given her \$500 DOLLARS to help her in college...

Our Voice of Democracy Scholarship Fund at the National Office is in trouble! The economy has tanked your 401(k) and IRA as it has mine, and assumptions of growth, and the ability to sustain scholarship payments has disappeared. The answer? An injection of money, of course!

The Colorado Scholarship, in the

amount of \$1500 per year, is in serious trouble. It CANNOT MAINTAIN ITSELF. We need to fund this scholarship, and we need to fund it soon.

Please consider a Christmas or New Years, or Valentine's gift for that matter, to the Colorado VOD Scholarship program.

The first \$50 is on its way to Department. Please feel free to match my contribution, or contribute an amount that you're comfortable with. Today's High School students are tomorrow's VFW and, indeed America's leaders!

May you have a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Welcome Home

John Holland
Department Chaplain

Sr. Vice Column Bruce Dolan



Greetings, I hope this finds everyone well.

PROTOCOL. What does this mean to members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars? The meaning in the dictionary is "the customs and regulations dealing with diplomatic formality, precedent, and etiquette". As former members of the military we were taught at great lengths about protocol. Most of us joined this organization for the structure, comradeship, and great work it does for Veterans. In recognizing this structure we took an oath to uphold the By-Laws and Rituals of this organization. As in the military, there is a command structure both stated and understood. We don't wear our hats while eating. We address each other as Comrade during meetings and functions. We do our business in the order of GOD, COUNTRY. I find these formalities as a warm fuzzy that lets me know I belong to the foremost recognized combat veterans organization in the world and know there is a way to do things that my Comrades know and understand. JUST SAYIN!

I read with sadness, but understanding, of the discontinuation of the National organization of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. You don't like to see this happen, but as with any organization that limits it's parameters of membership so

narrowly, it aint gonna last forever. We are seeing this happen today. We see Iraqi veterans organizations, we see Kosovo veterans clubs, we see this and that everywhere. Is this bad? NO! But is it enduring? I see it's very popular and cool to be a War Veteran today and to be a supporter of War Veterans. There are organizations that will help you buy a house. There are organizations that will help you get in to college. There are organizations that will help get disability benefits. I actually saw on line of an organization that helps war vets learn how to make pottery.

If all wars ended today, how long do you think it will take for these organizations to go away? Do you think the next war will be as popular?

The Veterans of Foreign Wars has been here for over 100 years doing exactly what these organizations have been doing, the past few years. We have stayed the course through the popular and unpopular conflicts. We have a purpose and will continue to be here for ALL War Veterans.

If anyone out there is a pretty good tree trimmer, please contact Department Headquarters.

Stay warm this winter, and please pray for our Veterans and troops in harms way.

Bruce R. Dolan
Department Sr. Vice Commander

Jr. Vice Column Jim Lafferty



This year of 2011 is almost over and a new one starting. I hope that all of you have a very Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

We do need to remember our veterans during the holidays also. They held the celebration for the new VA hospital on the 21st. The parties signed the contract so now we will see if all goes the way it should.

We do need to keep working on getting members in. We are doing pretty good on membership now but we still need to get more in. The ones we do need to work on are our continuous members. I know that

there are some out there and we need to work at getting them in.

The National Home got a grant from the Home Depot to do some needed work on the houses. They are always in need of donations to help with the people at the homes or on the homes them selves. I am going to run for Department Senior Vice Commander next year and I hope to have all of your support.

Always remember that this is the "HOME OF THE FREE BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE".

Working for All Veterans

Jim Lafferty
Department Jr Vice Commander

Surgeon's Column Pete Buchanan



Happy New Year Comrades, Sisters and Brothers. Welcome to 2012!

Thank you for your kind thoughts, cards, and prayers – they were heartfelt prior to, during

and following my surgery.

The new Denver VA Medical Center with a spinal cord injury center is scheduled now for a completion date of early 2015. This news for those using the current VA hospital system is very exciting.

Reflecting back 24 years ago, I was sitting at a shopping mall during lunch hour when a co-worker's husband approached and said, "Pete, I'd like to talk to you about your Vietnam service". That conversation prompted me to sign up for

VA care at a small local VA Clinic. After my first physical exam 25 years after my military discharge, some unsettling diagnosis was made. Driving home with a sack of pills, I thought, geez, I feel great, what is up with all this?

Read on – Now, after three major surgeries in the following 24 years, you wonder why I would share all this? How many who read my article are not yet signed up for VA health care? How many may have and as life moves forward, will suffer ailments as you age? Make this year, 2012, the year you apply for your military benefit of health care. Call our VFW Service Office (303) 914-5595. I'll be looking for you in the clinic waiting area.

Pete Buchanan
Department Surgeon

**Department of Colorado, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
1400 Carr Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80214**

**GENERAL ORDERS NO. 4
January 1, 2012 Series 2011-2012**

1. All Post Quartermasters must be bonded and in the proper amount. Bonds can be purchased through Department Headquarters at \$4.00 per thousand. If your Bond is not in the proper amount on the Quarterly Audit report or Inspection Form you will be contacted to increase your Bond.

2. ALL Posts must have a Dues Reserve Fund and must show them on the Quarterly Audit report.

3. POST VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CHAIRMAN should report the number of schools participating; number of students participating; total student monetary awards; and additional Voice of Democracy program expenses. This is the way the Department Voice of Democracy Chairman records our state's information with National.

Department of Colorado Voice of Democracy Awards Banquet will take place Jan. 28, 2012, 7:00 pm at Golden VFW Post 4171, 15625 W 10th Ave., Golden CO. Tickets will be available at the door for \$9.00 per person. Call 303-421-1630 for reservations.

4. 2011 MEMBERS who fail to pay their 2010 membership dues prior to or by December 31, 2011 will be considered delinquent. Delinquent members are not legally permitted to attend regular meetings of their Posts or any other unit of this organization until said delinquent member returns to good standing by payment of the 2012 membership dues.

5. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218 of the Manual of Procedure, "Duty of Trustees". Trustees Report of Audit must be completed in detail at the close of each quarter, one of which ended December 31, 2011. Commanders are reminded that accurate and complete records shall be kept by all persons handling Post funds, including the Club Manager and Bingo Chairman. These records shall be audited by Post Trustees in the same manner as the Post Quartermaster.

6. A thorough program of Post inspection is necessary to ensure compliance with National and Department By-Laws and directives. District and Department Inspectors to include Assistant Inspectors shall make every effort to inspect every Post under their cognizance on an annual basis and correct such discrepancies as my by disclosed.

7. The distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in sections 711 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. Department, District, Post Commanders, and Men's Auxiliary should arrange now for the distribution of Buddy Poppies for Memorial Day campaign in their respective areas. All profits from the distribution of Buddy Poppies shall be used in accordance with Section 704 of the Manual of Procedure.

8. PLEASE BE ADVISED that everyone who recruits a new member, or reinstates a former member, should sign and date the membership application on the front (lower left corner) so they may receive the awards they earn. Record your Membership Number, print and sign your name that you are the Recruiter. There are many awards from State and National that can be earned by recruiting. Everyone is eligible to earn the awards but we must have the name at Department.

Anyone who has earned a recruiting award but has not received it should contact their Post Quartermaster for follow-up.

The definition of a new life member is one who has never belonged to the VFW

before. All **NEW** members must pay, to the Department, a \$1.00 admission fee and the name of the recruiter must be noted by the Post Quartermaster on the Recruiter form in order for Department to give proper recognition to the recruiter.

9. OFFICERS PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: All Posts and Districts are reminded of the Provisions of Section 216 (c), 414 (c) and 515(d) of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure that officers, elected and appointed, shall submit proof of eligibility to their respective Adjutant and that officers not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and received.

10. LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE: Any applicant whose 31st, 41st, 51st, 61st, 71st or 81st birthday will occur after the date of application and on/or before December 31st of the current year shall pay only the fee that would be required on his next birthday.

11. NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS: The Department of Colorado VFW has been granted National appointments by Commander-in-Chief Richard DeNoyer. A Post requesting assistance from one of the National Appointees is directed to make such request in writing through their Post Commander to State Commander Ron Davies. All requests will be considered and acknowledged.

12. ATTENTION OF POST COMMANDERS is directed to the Commander-in-Chief's decision in response to questions raised concerning alcoholic beverages in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting as set forth below:

It is held to be objectionable and contrary to accepted rules of order and proper decorum implicit in the ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to permit alcoholic beverages in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting. Accordingly, the presence, dispensation and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting is completely unacceptable and any such practice known to exist shall be terminated.

13. NATIONAL BY-LAWS PROVIDES FOR ONLY ONE TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP; that is active membership. There are no provisions in the National By-Laws, nor is there any authority or justification for issuance of Club Membership cards, Associate Member cards, Honorary Membership cards, Courtesy Membership cards or any other special type of cards.

Any Post issuing such unauthorized cards, or conducting club operations open to the general public, endangers its standing with the Internal Revenue Service as a nonprofit organization. Officers signing outlaw cards admitting non-members to VFW premises are subject to disciplinary action. National and Department officers cannot defend practices that conflict with VFW By-Laws or procedure.

14. PROGRAM CREDIT FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE will be given to both Post and Auxiliary **regardless of which entity submits the report.** All Community Service reports will be submitted to Department Headquarters, 1400 Carr St., Lakewood, CO 80214.

BY COMMAND OF:

**Ronald W. Davies
State Commander**

ATTESTED BY:

**Richard L. Wellensiek
State Adjutant**

**Service Office
We Honor the Dead by Helping the Living**

Dear Comrades,

Throughout my travels I have heard several themes regarding our concerns as veterans. Three that always seem to come up are:

1. There are some whom represent their selves as Veterans' advocates, promising the VA will pay for Aid & Attendance and/or pay for them to live in Independent Living Facilities. The majority of these Veterans are recruited at Sunday afternoon seminars/tours. The veteran signs a lease prior to VA approval and then they are responsible. The facility nor the representative will help. Do NOT sign any lease or agreement until you KNOW you are approved by the VA. We can help you with this.

2. Gulf War veterans previously denied service connection for Gastrointestinal conditions may be able to reopen their claim. \\The VA has recognized the connection between veterans serving in SW Asia and these conditions.\\

"Wheels for Disabled Veterans"

I was recently able to get an electric scooter for a 93 year old disabled WWII veteran which was donated. We picked it up, delivered it and then built a handicap ramp in his garage with donated funds from the Home Depot, the American Legion & the VFW.

He unfortunately fell a few weeks later and broke his hip. He lasted a few more weeks and his widow wanted to re-donate the electric scooter to another disabled veteran.

With the help of Ralph Bozella (American Legion National Committee & Colorado Board of Veteran Affairs), we found another 93 year old WWII veteran that needed the assistance of an electric cart. The cart was delivered with the understanding that it would be re-donated when no longer needed.

Since then, we received and delivered electric scooters & wheelchairs for a total of 5. See photos on page 7.

More good news:

I was able to reach Pride Mobility, the manufacturer of the electric scooters and their GM of marketing is willing to donate 20 new electric scooters to help disabled veterans. What an amazing gift.

Additionally, I contacted American Furniture Warehouse and they are willing to receive and store this donated equipment for our program at their new Firestone Colorado showroom until we can arrange transportation to disabled veterans.

Also, I contacted a metal ramp manufacturer to see if they could donate a metal ramp to help get the electric wheelchairs into our VFW Commander's pick-up

3. Some veterans have served in units or on ships that are not officially recognized as being "in-country" of combat. There are various ways to prove and get recognized these units/ships. Due to efforts of veterans, several have been added and more are being investigated.

Please remember that falsely representing or promising, any veteran, the VA will award benefits and or compensation is subject to litigation. The VFW absorbs the costs of litigation thereby reducing the funds available for more important work for veterans. These situations can **EASILY** be avoided!

Please call or e-mail us with any questions and or suggestions.

For Love of God and Country,
Rebecca Forbes
Department Asst. Service Officer
303-914-5595/6/7

truck (Gil Vidaurri). The salesman who I spoke to offered to donate, out of his own pocket, a wheelchair rack with internal ramp that connects to the pick-up truck's trailer hitch, (see photo on page 6). It has a retail value of \$250 and holds 400 lbs. He wants to remain anonymous.

It is amazing how people want to help. People are being great everywhere.

If you have any connections to news outlets or politicians that want to help disabled veterans, please spread the word. We are looking for disabled veterans of any age that need mobility assistance. It is all done with donations.

Networking seems to be a good way to get the word out that we need donations of electric wheelchairs and scooters as well as names of disabled veterans. We will accept electric wheelchairs that do not work and get them fixed.

I would like to see this program expand beyond Colorado. I could coordinate bringing donations and disabled veterans together. I just need to get the word out.

Any ideas?

When the electric wheelchairs are no longer needed, they will be returned to us to re-donate to other disabled veterans. We are calling the program: "Wheels for Disabled Veterans" and our motto is: "The Gift That Keeps on Giving".

Thanks for all your help.

Jack Levinson
VFW Post 9741 Quartermaster,
American Legion Post 1985
Firestone Colorado
303-666-4522

VFW Roster Changes

Page 5 Citizenship Education Chairman: Ed Aitken, #41, 5000 Norwood Ave., Loveland 970-669-6327

Page 33 VFW Post 336 2nd Tue 7:00 pm

Page 37 VFW Post 2643 Cmdr: Nick Vigil, P O Box 652, Walsenburg 81089

Page 40 VFW Post 3621 Cmdr: Alfred Adame 719-734-5082

Page 44 VFW Post 4171 Cmdr: John Mihalko, 2259 S Ellis Cr., Lakewood 303-940-8000

Page 51 VFW Post 5812 Cmdr: Michael Griffin 719-250-6468

VFW Post Membership by District as of December 19, 2011

MEMBERSHIP 2011-2012

Number/City	2011	2012	%	Number/City	2011	2012	%
DISTRICT #1				DISTRICT #8			
1 Denver	857	774	90	859 Leadville	43	41	95
501 Denver	438	372	85	1166 Buena Vista	181	180	99
2461 Denver	183	164	90	3820 Salida	120	101	84
2797 Denver	62	66	106*	8661 Bailey	166	145	87
3971 Denver	115	104	90	10721 Minturn	103	90	87
5061 Denver	400	353	88	11411 Lake George	49	48	98
TOTAL	2055	1833	89%	12009 Conifer	83	78	94
DISTRICT #2				DISTRICT #9			
61 Pueblo	122	107	88	2371 Walden	42	36	86
984 Trinidad	81	74	91	2311 Oak Creek	32	32	100*
2643 Walsenburg	48	41	85	4264 Steamtb Spgs	99	95	96
2788 Penrose	65	64	98	4265 Craig	160	148	93
3641 Pueblo	128	92	72	5261 Rangely	13	12	92
4061 Canon City	446	415	93	5843 Meeker	53	39	74
5812 Pueblo West	179	150	84	9374 Kremmling	42	42	100*
7305 Colo. City	51	45	88	9471 Hayden	11	10	91
8301 Pueblo	10	6	60	TOTAL	452	414	92%
8898 Boone	56	45	80	DISTRICT #10			
12063 Westcliffe	59	61	103*	322 Englewood	135	126	93
TOTAL	1245	1100	88%	3471 Morrison	95	77	81
DISTRICT #3				DISTRICT #11			
41 Loveland	342	304	89	3631 Aurora	400	376	94
807 Boulder	73	64	88	4121 Idaho Spgs.	74	70	95
1771 Lafayette	426	337	79	4171 Golden	606	531	88
1781 Ft. Collins	341	309	91	4266 Parker	68	73	107*
2121 Greeley	227	192	85	4331 Arvada	294	260	88
2585 Johnstown	110	94	85	4444 Cmmrc Cty	270	252	93
2601 Longmont	583	455	78	4666 Littleton	160	145	91
2841 Brighton	195	165	85	6331 Aurora	129	114	88
4334 Ault	84	77	92	7563 Black Hawk	20	17	85
6011 Platteville	75	73	97	7945 Thornton	484	429	89
6624 Evans	328	294	90	8449 Bennett	41	32	78
7206 Louisville	32	30	94	9644 Fort Logan	637	477	75
9565 Broomfield	147	112	76	10736 FdrlHghts	30	28	93
9741 Dacono	37	33	89	TOTAL	3443	3007	87%
TOTAL	3000	2539	85%	DISTRICT #12			
DISTRICT #4				DISTRICT #13			
2551 Ft. Morgan	324	264	81	784 Montrose	138	129	93
3378 Yuma	81	69	85	1247 Grnd Jnctn	332	288	87
3541 Sterling	132	115	87	3571 Delta	79	75	94
3551 Brush	47	42	89	3981 Grnd Jnctn	141	134	95
3951 Ovid	28	28	100*	4041 Ouray	20	15	75
3961 Otis	29	25	86	4267 Gunnison	123	111	90
4191 Crook	26	21	81	4663 Clifton	93	89	96
4671 Wray	73	66	90	5485 Parachute	59	53	90
6482 Holyoke	73	66	90	9221 Cedaredge	136	121	89
7153 Fleming	45	41	91	9304 Rifle	37	36	97
8064 Akron	57	46	81	9333 Hotchkiss	40	31	77
TOTAL	915	783	86%	TOTAL	1198	1082	90%
DISTRICT #5				DISTRICT #14			
101 Colo. Spgs.	444	403	91	4031 Durango	284	251	88
3917 Security	738	643	87	5181 Dove Creek	55	48	87
4051 Colo. Spgs	830	729	88	5231 Mancos	208	178	86
5221 Calhan	90	75	83	9058 Nucla	30	28	93
6051 Wdln Park	45	41	91	9398 Norwood	26	25	96
6461 Fountain	280	255	91	TOTAL	603	530	88%
7829 Monument	93	106	114*	DISTRICT #15			
9669 Colo. Spgs.	66	57	86	3411 Kit Carson	25	23	92
10649 Elizabeth	45	41	91	6491 Burlington	81	72	89
TOTAL	2631	2350	89%	6612 Hugo	56	51	91
DISTRICT #6				DISTRICT #16			
336 Ordway	127	107	84	9491 Deer Trail	27	23	85
2411 LasAnimas	117	110	94	9700 Chynn Wlls	43	33	77
3621 Lamar	62	63	102*	TOTAL	232	202	87%
4001 Springfield	53	47	89	15006 MAL	2141	1821	85%
4091 Rocky Ford	78	69	88	DISTRICT #17			
4281 Holly	34	33	97	TOTAL DEPT	19573	17159	88%
TOTAL	471	429	91%	DISTRICT #18			
DISTRICT #7				DISTRICT #19			
899 Alamosa	164	143	87	899 Alamosa	164	143	87
3228 Monte Vista	48	43	90	3228 Monte Vista	48	43	90
4849 La Jara	72	65	90	4849 La Jara	72	65	90
6101 San Luis	89	72	81	6101 San Luis	89	72	81
8121 Del Norte	69	63	91	8121 Del Norte	69	63	91
TOTAL	442	386	87%	TOTAL	442	386	87%

2012 dues are now PAST DUE.
Be 100% +1 in 2011-2012

Have You Paid Yours??

Colorado VFW Warriors Report

Riding season is not so far away and the District Warrior Chapters have been working on their calendars for the spring and summer. They will include Fun Runs for the State Convention in Thornton and the VanderClute memorial run to National Convention at Reno, Nevada. More details will be available in the Colorado Veteran in March. As you ride this winter, be safe.

To Deer Slayer in District 5, glad to hear you are recovering well from your confrontation with a deer at 75 MPH on Veterans Day. Protective clothing and a helmet served you well and I recommend all of our riders to consider using them. Ride Safe! Steve "SKIDD-R" Rylant, Colorado VFW Warriors Motorcycle Chairman

Congratulations to the eight (8) VFW Posts that have made 100%. District 10 leads with 323 Continuous members as of 1st of December.

We will be having a new contest starting in January 2012. It will be announced at the January District meetings, be sure you are there to find out. A little hint, it has something about showing your "Love" to the members in your Post and District.

Please contact your unpaid members to see why they have not paid. If they are having financial problems, the Post can pay their National and Department dues out of your Post Relief Fund.

If you need a list of your unpaid Post members, contact me or contact Department Headquarters and we will get a list to you. Your Post Quartermaster can also

obtain this same list if he is registered with National memstats and has created a password. It is really easy to do!

If possible set up a Membership Drive and invite the District, and Department to help out. Remember we have area Membership Representatives that can help if at all possible, but you need to contact them.

At this time, Department has 17,159 members. This is a great so keep up the GREAT WORK.

Hope you all have a Happy New Year. By the way, thanks for your great work making me look good.

Jim Mauck
aka Dr Fat Albert
303-588-7518

Colorado Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation

The Foundation Fund Raising polo shirts have been a great success again this year. Thank you to the VFW, Ladies Auxiliary, and Men's Auxiliary members for your support! You can still order yours by contacting Department HQ or e-mail me at sarylant@comcast.net.

We received a much smaller amount from the Veterans Trust Fund Grant program this year, and we are already in a "emergency needs" mode for grants from the Foundation. The funds from the shirt sales have helped, but the economy and unemployment has impacted veterans, and particularly veterans coming home from their multiple deployments in Iraq

and Afghanistan, very hard. We need your donations! Please ask your posts to help us help the veterans that are in desperate need. You can send your donations to the Colorado Veterans Foundation at Department HQ. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 corporation, so your donation, or donations from Corporations that you may know of, are tax deductible. You can use funds from your post relief fund to donate to our Foundation.

Thank you for your support of the Colorado Foundation.

Steve Rylant
Colorado Veterans of Foreign
Wars Foundation

FREQUENT FLYERS MILES SOLICITED
FOR VETERANS WORLD WAR II TOURS-2012

This is the ninth year that Vi Ranney will be escorting veterans and others to Europe for the 68th anniversary of D-Day. The tour is produced by Rupiper Travel and designed by WWII veteran Dr. Brooks Ranney of Yankton, SD.

Highlights will include:

- Paris, Normandy and Eisenhower's headquarters in **France**
- Patton's grave in **Luxembourg**
- the Battle of the Bulge area in **Belgium**
- the Remagen Bridge, Munich, Dachau, Hitler's Eagle's Nest and more in **Germany**

The tour features professional guides, great hotels, most meals and is economically priced. Two departures are slated: June 3-13 and August 8-18. **Veterans are especially honored at the June 6th ceremonies.**

Mrs. Ranney stated that "since our WWII veterans are elderly and often living on a small pension, a trip like this is not always feasible unless help is solicited. Therefore, we are asking individual, businesses, large corporations, VFW and Legion Posts and Departments for contributions of extra frequent flyer miles.

If we could get the air transportation covered for our needy veterans, they could afford the rest in most cases. Each year I hear from between three and four hundred veterans who would like to make the trip, but just can't afford it. After all they have done for us, isn't it a shame they can't go. They need to go back and make a closure.

If you can help, please call me," she concluded. Call Mrs. Ranney at 605-665-3596 if you would like a brochure or to donate frequent flyer miles.



Post 784: Richard A. Krueger
Post 859: Charles Kuster
Post 984: John Coszalter, Carl DiPaolo
Post 1781: Lloyd W. Warrington
Post 2371: LeRoy E. Follett PDC
Post 3541: Galen White
Post 3571: Steven D. Gray
Post 3631: Lawrence P. Canter, Glen Brookins, Emil R. Armstrong, Bernie J. Murphy, Frederick Ogren
Post 3820: James Weller
Post 3981: Warren C. Nye
Post 4051: Hollis W. Walker, Walker H. Jones, Maurice Rigdon, George V. Jenness
Post 4061: Samuel M. Day
Post 4663: Thomas A. Hohenberger
Post 5241: Russel Au lston
Post 6068: Homer Hartley
Post 8898: Robert W. Asbridge
Post 9058: Wayne Eades, Gilbert L. Eades
Post 9644: Anthony A. "Tony" Wasinger PDC



Colorado Airport Business Association loaded 1,500 lbs of food and numerous toys into single engine Cessna 172's and a twin engine Cessna 360 to make the flight over the mountains to Montrose. Commander Ron Davies reports on the entire program in his column this Colorado Veteran.



Wreaths Across America at Arlington National Cemetery. 100,000 holiday wreaths at the graves where veterans "lie in rest and peace on the hallowed grounds" is a tribute to their sacrifices for the nation. Thousand of volunteers, veterans, family members, Boy Scouts and others place the wreaths on the headstones.



Aurora VFW Post 3631 conducted a flag retirement ceremony in November. Three members of the Aurora Fire Department accepted the certificate of appreciation from Post Commander Dave Cook.



Bailey VFW Post #8661 Lambert-Wright-Roy presented a color/flag ceremony at Horn cemetery in Bailey, then on to Webster and Shawnee for Veterans day acknowledgements 11/11/11.



Evans VFW Post #6624 Commander Dave Lawley, center, presented a check in the amount of \$3,100 to the Colorado National Guard Foundation in support of Military families 11/30/11. Funds were raised from the annual Justin Bauer Memorial Bike Run in September.



Monument Post 7829 received a donation from Whole Foods Markets in Colorado for CARE packages for the troops, veterans and their families that were in need of assistance.



Whole Foods Market was presented with a VFW Certificate "Order of Merit" to recognize stepping forward to support the troops, as well as veterans and their families.



Western Slope Color Guard welcoming WW II Honor Flight at the Grand Junction Airport. L-R: Jim Stafford, Chuck Ackerman, George (Vet Center), Jim Tarr, Julie (Welcome Home) Gen. Hagaman, Hank Silva.



**Ladies Auxiliary
Western Conference**

Colorado Program Skit
portraying the statue for the
nurses in front of the
Vietnam wall in Washington D.C.

T - B: Chaplain Martine Arndt,
Treasurer Colleen Rylant and
Sr. Vice President Ginny Burris



Department of Colorado

Voice of Democracy

Finalist Weekend Program
Please Join Students & National Director of Programs
Steven Van Buskirk

Saturday, Jan 28th		
Friday, Jan 27th	7:30AM Hampton Breakfast	
4:00PM Hampton Inn Golden (303)278-6600 Group Code VFG	9:00AM Denver Museum of Nature and Science	Sunday, Jan 29th
4:30PM Pizza/Pool Party- Welcome	10:30AM Imax Theater @ Museum	9:00AM Goodbye Breakfast
7:00PM Miners Alley Playhouse (Golden) ("Present Laughter") 30 prime seats center blocked @ \$24.50 each (303)935-3044	6:00PM Happy Hour VFW Post 4171 Golden CO	
	7:00PM Voice of Democracy Banquet \$9.00	
	RSVP Banquet @ Dept HQ (303)421-1630 with your choice Ham or Brisket Dinner. "Pay at the door"	



“Wheels for Disabled Veterans”. Jack Levinson, far left, delivers wheelchairs to veterans that need assistance. American Furniture will store the electric scooters & wheelchairs until they are needed by the veterans. They are delivered with the understanding that it will be re-donated to another disabled veteran when not needed.



L-R: Jack Levinson, VFW Post 9741 Dacono, with the help of Ralph Bozella, far right (American Legion National Committee & Colorado Board of Veteran Affairs) delivered an electric scooter to a disabled veteran. He fell a few weeks later and broke his hip, lasted a few more weeks and passed away.



Colorado VFW Band at the Lincoln County Fair. Can you play an instrument? They are looking for new members. They practice at VFW 9644 and invite you to join them. There is a link to their Website on the Colorado VFW Website www.vfwcolodept.org.



L-R: State Commander Ron Davies, Jr Vice Jim Lafferty, Chaplain John Holland, District 13 Ron Lattin, and PDC Warren Tellgren at Western Conference meeting in Ogden, Utah.



Colorado Department Officers and members attended meetings at Western Conference and renewed friendships with attendees from other Western Conference States.



L-R: State Treasurer Colleen Rylant, PDP Rosie Mitchell, PDC Larry Mitchell, Mike Stahly and Jr. Vice President Linda Stahly relax after lunch at Western Conference.

Veterans Day November 11, 2011 Fort Logan Cemetery



NEVER LOSE FAITH

Never lose faith in those who care
 For those are the worthy soldiers who
 carry
 The torch of our freedom
 And if that torch shall blow out then
 We shall try to fight to light it again
 And never lose hope.

By Taygen Smith
 Fourth grader at Taylor Elementary
 in Palisade, CO



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*Bill pay is free when you are enrolled in eStatements.

2012 State Convention

The convention this year will be held at VFW Post 7945, Thornton Colorado. Registration needs to be received by April 30, 2012

Make all checks payable to VFW Post 7945
Send to Ron Schlieman
10217 Quivas St.
Thornton , Colorado 80260

Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention Pre-registration Thornton, Colorado June 13 through 16th	
NAME _____	Post _____
Address _____	
Office/Position/Title _____	
Pre-registration is \$15.00. Includes ditty bag, convention book and convention pin REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS WILL BE READY UPON ARRIVAL BUT YOU HAVE TO HAVE TO PRESENT A CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CARD Registration at the convention is \$17.00 Military Banquet Tickets \$20.00 each _____ Chicken Cordon Bleu _____ Roast Beef _____	
Ladies's Auxiliary Pre-registration Thornton, Colorado June 13 through 16th	
Name _____	Auxiliary# _____
Address _____	
Office/Position/Title _____	
Pre-registration is \$15.00. Includes ditty bag, convention book and convention pin REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS WILL BE READY UPON ARRIVAL BUT YOU HAVE TO HAVE TO PRESENT A CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CARD Registration at the convention is \$17.00 Military Banquet Tickets \$20.00 each _____ Chicken Cordon Bleu _____ Roast Beef _____	
Men's Auxiliary Pre-registration Thornton, Colorado June 13 through 16th	
Name _____	Auxiliary# _____
Address _____	
Office/Position/Title _____	
Pre-registration is \$15.00. Includes ditty bag, convention book and convention pin REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS WILL BE READY UPON ARRIVAL BUT YOU HAVE TO HAVE TO PRESENT A CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CARD Registration at the convention is \$17.00 Military Banquet Tickets \$20.00 each _____ Chicken Cordon Bleu _____ Roast Beef _____	

Convention Hotel will be the Ramada Plaza
10 East 120th Avenue, Northglenn, Co. 80233
Phone (303)452-4100, Fax (303)450-7368
VFW Room rates are AVAILABLE and includes full breakfast.

RV parking is available at the VFW Post, no dump sites.

Golf Tournament information will be announced at a later date

State Convention Book Ads	
Full Page 8 1/2 x 11	\$100.00
Half Page 8 1/2 x 5 1/2	\$ 75.00
Fourth Page 8 1/2 x 2 3/4	\$ 25.00
Business Card 3 1/2 x 2	\$ 20.00
Ads need to be camera ready and include artwork	
Name _____	Post # _____
Address _____	
Phone Number _____	
Mail all Ads to VFW Post #7945, ATTN: Convention Book, 10217 Quivas St., Thornton, CO 80260	
Deadline to be announced	

**Meeting Place, Time and Meal Schedule will be
listed in the
March and May 2012 Colorado Veteran**

Chapel Escort and Coffee Hour Schedule

Jan	1 Paul A Westover	#3471	Morrison
	8 Verle Huffman	#9644	Sheridan
	15 Francis Brown Lowry	# 501	Denver
	22 So Denver	#2461	Denver
	29 John S Stewart	# 1	Denver
Feb	5 Englewood	# 322	Englewood
	12 John S Stewart	# 1	Denver
	19 Broomfield	#9565	Broomfield
	26 Mile High	#1771	Lafayette
Mar	4 George B Williams	#2841	Brighton
	11 John S Stewart	# 1	Denver
	18 Joseph J Jacques	#7945	Thornton
	25 Longs Peak	#2601	Longmont

This schedule will be published every Colorado Veteran. Plan to bring 3 dz doughnuts and some sugar free goodies, like cookies, croissants, or English muffins with cream cheese. Bring enough for both the Protestant Service and Catholic Service. Coffee will be supplied to the Hosts, you may bring juice if you wish.

Please meet in the Hospital Chapel at 8:30 a.m. for assignments of able bodied volunteers to escort from the nursing home to the Chapel.

NOTE: if you are not able to keep your assigned date please work out a trade and then, call Betty Melsen at 303-237-6646 or Rita Roseman 303-445-1403 IN ADVANCE so they are aware of any changes.

Community Service Report! Report! Report!

The first six months of Community Service reporting is done. Here is how we did as a state:

Total Hours: 38,390.40
Total Cash: \$150,025.28
Total Projects: 3,941
Total Miles: 132,623.50
Total \$ for miles: \$18,567.29

Thank you to all that reported.

Out of 116 Post there was 45 that DID NOT report any Community Service this year.

Going over the reports there are some that have not been totaled right. For the community service part you need to total all the entries on the front page of the report and up to Hospital on the back. Some are not putting down what they did, they are only put down the hours monies, project and miles, and you need to let us know what you did. Also you need to put down the hours, monies, project and miles for what you did.

Chuck Ackerman
Department VFW Community Service
970-858-4944

Community Service Report

Analysis of the most recent Community Service Reports revealed that too many Posts are not clear on how community service hours and dollars should be reported.

HOURS: When the Post reports to the Department, they should list the hours of community service performed by the Post, affiliated Cootie Scratch, Ladies Auxiliary, Men's Auxiliary, Sons of the VFW and Junior Girls for that reporting period. Only volunteer service hours benefiting the community are to be reported. Volunteer hours committed to projects and activities benefiting the Post and its affiliated units listed above cannot be reported.

MONEY: The money that should be reported are the dollars donated or expended by the members in the performance of the community service hours reported, plus \$.14 per mile for each mile driven by the volunteers.

DO NOT REPORT: The value of the hours worked is a calculation made at the national level only. Posts and Departments should never report any figures derived from the value of hours worked.

IMPORTANCE OF ACCURATE REPORTING: It is of the utmost importance that VFW Posts report their volunteer hours and especially their donations accurately. A Post that inflates the amounts of money they donate, intentionally or otherwise, may place their not-for-profit status in jeopardy.

Thank you for your assistance!

Steve Van Buskirk Director of Programs
VFW National Headquarters

NOTE: Ladies Auxiliary reporting on Hospital only: Please list Auxiliary and VFW hours, cash, projects and miles separately. Department Chairman Charlotte Lattin has to report only the Ladies Auxiliary to her National Director, and VFW Department will combine VFW and Ladies Auxiliary for the report to National every six months. If you have questions please call Department Headquarters 303-421-1630. Hospital hours were considerable low for the first six months May 1, 2011 - October 31, 2011.



Auxiliary News

Published by the Ladies Auxiliary
to the Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Colorado



Ann Mauck, Auxiliary News Chairman

Presidents's Column *Cindy Anderson*



Seasons Greetings to all of our Sisters and Comrades. I know that Christmas and New Years will be over by the time this issue of the Veteran

comes out, but I still want to send wishes to all of you for a wonderful new year. We have much to be thankful for with many of our military now home with their families as the withdrawal from Iraq is completed. There will be much for all of us to do as these new veterans try to pick up their civilian lives with their families. I am sure that the need for services from places like Operation TBI Freedom and all the service organizations are going to be called upon to help and we need to be ready.

It is hard to believe that this auxiliary year is half over. Yet I must admit that it is nice to be home for a few weeks. Over the last couple of months I have traveled from Sacramento California on the west coast for our National Presidents home coming to New York City on the east coast for the 125th birthday of the Statue of Liberty, to the Gulf of Mexico in Florida for my daughter's wedding and to Ogden, Utah for the Western Conference. Now I will be concentrating on visiting the rest of the Districts here in Colorado. My most recent visits to date have been to Districts 2, 4, and 7. Thank you to all of the members in these Districts for your hospitality. Among the other things that I have done was to attend a membership brunch at Auxiliary 6624 in Evans, the Denver Standdown, the Veteran's Day ceremony at Ft Logan National Cemetery, the Founders Day Banquet, I visited Fitzsimons Nursing Home with the Golden Jr. Girls, and the annual Christmas Party at the Denver VA Hospital. Oh yes, we also had a very successful Parade of Programs and Council of Administration in Fort Morgan.

Now on to our programs, as I am writing this I do not know yet if we will be able to make our Department goal in membership of 91% by December 31. No matter what the outcome is, I want to be sure to thank all of you who are continuing to work so hard on membership. We have made all of our goals this year so far. The last one was to be at 85% by the end of November. We have done so well that I am sure that we will achieve this one too. Of course, than it is on to that elusive goal of 100%. Wouldn't it be great to achieve that one too? It has not happened for the last 10 years. This could be the year that the spell is broken!

As we head into winter we have already completed some of our program goals.

The entries are all in for the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen programs. The teacher of the year deadline has passed and they are in the process of being judged. We have passed one major day for Buddy Poppy drives on Veterans Day and we have done everything we could for our military and veterans residing in nursing homes and hospitals over the holidays. Are we done?? No, not by any means. We are just getting started. It is time to get the Just Say No program into the schools along with the Creative Patriotic Art for the high school students. There is never a bad day to promote Americanism or distribute poppies. I especially want you all to remember the phrase "7-7-7". Our Cancer Aid and Research chairman will have a new promotion for you this spring that I am sure will take us to our goal of \$45,000.00 raised in Colorado for cancer. I hope that as each of you thinks about what we have left to do you feel pumped up and ready to continue these projects. When we promote the programs we are showing the communities we live in what we are all about. When they know that, many will be eager to join us. Let's not be our own best kept secret.

Now one last topic that I would like to touch on is training. As I have already said this year is going by so very fast that it has been difficult to set training sessions especially in the districts where there is a long distance between posts. To remedy this, I am going to put the decision of whether to have training sessions or not in the hands of the Districts. In order to avoid special trips for those who have a long way to go, I am proposing that we do some sessions on the day of a District meeting, meeting from approximately 9-11 or as the District schedule allows. It is never too late to address issues that are of concern to the auxiliaries or to learn something new. We will also be concentrating on reporting and how to complete that dreaded year end report. If members in any District would like a session, please let your District President know. She can then let me know and a session will be scheduled. We are going to have one session in the Denver area to cover District 1 and 10.

In closing I hope that each of you had a wonderful holiday season enjoying the peace and love of being with family and friends. I also hope that you are all refreshed and ready to continue our journey through this year.

**With Loyalty "To Honor
All Who Serve"**

Cindy Anderson
Department President

DEPARTMENT and DISTRICT CARE ABOUT YOU!

All too often in the past few months I have heard Ladies say that Department doesn't care about them. I've heard it called the Department of Denver, or the Department of the Front Range. And I will agree that most Department events do take place in one of the Posts in the bigger cities. But let's take a closer look at the reasons for this.

How many Posts in Colorado have enough space and volunteers to sponsor a Department meeting or event? Does your Post easily hold 150 members in two different meeting rooms to accommodate both a VFW and Ladies Auxiliary council meeting? Do you have a kitchen and volunteers to serve lunch and dinner to 150 people? Even if you share host responsibilities, how many of you have another Post close enough to make it possible for VFW to meet in one Post while the Ladies meet in the other? Is there a sufficient number of hotel rooms within a reasonable distance?

Now let's try a different approach. At the October Council meeting, nearly half the Districts were not represented. At the C of A in July, again half the districts were not represented. Department officers travel to every District meeting. How many of you attend your own District meeting? President Cindy has attempted to schedule training sessions in your

area but has been told that the Ladies won't attend a special meeting, or even come early to a District meeting. How can Department demonstrate that it cares about you if you won't meet them half way? Better communication is as simple as attending your District meetings and voicing your concerns. Do you think Department doesn't know what you are doing? Have you reported your activities on a Program report form (better known as the Community Service report form)? Did you invite a Department officer to your last fundraiser or special event? Did you invite your District officers?

In a world where most of us continue to work full time jobs as well as volunteer, no one is a mind reader. Communication flows both directions – without it, there are too many assumptions that are most often mistaken. If you have a question, please come to a Council meeting, District meeting or training session and ask. If you want a special visit, please call and request one. There are many Past Department Presidents as well as current Line Officers that would be honored to attend an event or a question and answer session for your Auxiliary. But you have to be willing to ask!

Carolyn Simon
Department Secretary
Past Department President

Council of Administration Meeting Schedule 2011-2012

March 24 - 25, 2012 Grand Junction VFW #1247
**June 13 - 16, 2012 Thornton VFW #7945 -
State Convention**

**Please mark your Calendar and
Attend these very Important Meetings**

Benefit for Nicole Lassman

The Daughter of Ron and Jackie Newlander was in a serious Motorcycle accident July 4th 2011. Her right leg the Tabula and the Fibula was completely shattered in 17 pieces. She has had two operations and need up to 3 more surgeries. Unfortunately her insurance has run out, so a benefit for her will be held at the VFW Post 9644 (she is an Auxiliary member) who graciously donated the hall to hold the benefit.

So Please come and join us for Food (tickets \$10.00) Music and fun, there will be raffles and a 50/50 drawing. Date: Febuary 4th 2012 Time: 2-5pm
Where: VFW Post 9644, 2680 W. Hampton Ave, Sheridan Co 80110

Contact Person Jackie Newlander 303-358-1669

Thank You Colorado

To each and everyone of the members of the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary, we would like to take the opportunity to say Thank You for your cards and prayers while Roy was in the hospital. A special thank you goes to Carolyn Simon and Valorie Fowler. These two ladies sat with me while Roy was going through surgery and gave me the opportunity to be able to spend the time with Roy that needed to be done.

Roy has returned home from the hospital and I hope that you will continue to remember him and me in your prayers. He still has a long road to recovery but I know that with prayers he is on his way.

Again, I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart because you really find out who your friends are when the chips are down.

Roy Tibbets and Ginny Burriss

Please make sure ALL Hospital hours are reported

**Check with the VFW if the Ladies Auxiliary are filling out the report form
and list the VFW hours separatley from the Ladies Auxiliary Hours.
The first six months was low compared to the first six months a year ago.**

Has Your Auxiliary Reported?

The month of December is the time for our Department to report to National headquarters the community service/program and hospital hours and dollars that we have completed for the first half of the year. The VFW chairman for Community Service and the VFW chairman for Hospital total all of the reports sent in by both Posts and Auxiliaries. When all the numbers were totaled for this year, there was a very large difference compared to last year and it was not better. There is no evidence as we look around to say the posts and auxiliaries are doing any less than they did last year so there must be another problem.

At the start of the 2011-2012 year we had to announce that there would be no Auxiliary Chairman for Community Service. We continued to say that we still were to report all that we are doing, but that everything would fit in another section of our report form. This has apparently caused a reduction in what is reported. If your Auxiliary relied on your Community Service Chairman to be the one to fill out your report forms, you still need to appoint someone to do that job this year. The title changes the job of reporting does not.

Our Hospital Chairman has requested that we show separate hours put in by Post versus Auxiliary members. A simple notation of P or A will identify who put in the hours. We can still do a combined report if that is how your post and auxiliary normally report. We certainly are still providing many hours visiting and assisting our veterans in hospitals and nursing homes. Please report those hours.

There are many auxiliaries who have not reported on any programs yet. There is of course still plenty of time to get the reporting done. It is always easier to do this more frequently as it is easier to remember the details of what was done. The goal for this year is to have at least 85% of the auxiliaries reporting in each program. We are far below that goal as of December. This is a good time of the year to bring that reporting up to date. If you have concerns about what is report-

able, you should contact the appropriate program chairman for her suggestions. They are all there to help. Reporting is the only way to receive credit for what you are doing. It is also our proof of being a charitable organization. Remember that anyone can report. If you are the chairman of a special project, you can report it yourself. We all get tired of hearing "just report, report, report" but it is an important part of what we do.

There is a new report available for everyone to see exactly what programs have been reported. It is on the Department web site which is www.vfwcolodept.org under the heading Events/Info and titled Ladies Auxiliary District Reports (there is a separate one for the VFW members too). By clicking on your District, you can see a listing of all of the program reporting that has been done along with many other requirements that each Ladies Auxiliary has to complete for the year including bonding, audits and our per capita donations to the programs. This is a valuable tool for the officers and the members to see that your Auxiliary has reported everything they have done. Please remember that this information is continually being updated and if you feel there has been an error it may be that your last report is in transit or we do not have more current information from National on the per capita. If you have a real concern that something is missing, please contact Ann at the Department Office or Treasurer Colleen Rylant.

Finally, a big thank you to all of you who have been faithfully reporting. To those of you who have done this job before, please be there to help if you have someone new doing this job. If you are new to this, it is important to keep your ears and eyes open to everything that goes on in your Auxiliary and please don't be afraid to ask, "Is that reportable?" Working as a team, Colorado will be the best in the Nation at Honoring All Who Serve.

Cindy Anderson
Department President



YOUTH AWARDS CARNIVAL SIGN UP

Post/Auxiliary Name _____ No. _____
 Address _____
 Contact _____ Phone _____
 Type of Booth: Game _____ Food _____ Other _____

PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR BOOTH _____

Please give us as much information as possible in your description. It is important for us to know how much space you need, whether you need an electrical outlet, a wall, etc.

OUR POST/AUXILIARY CAN HELP DECORATE & SET UP: YES / NO
 (Please let us know if you can help)

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
 THE YOUTH AWARDS CARNIVAL!!!**

**Mail to: Janet Mills, 1625 San Juan Cr., Evans CO 80620
 970-302-9566 --- mills5148@msn.com**

Veterans and Family Support

National Military Services (NMS)

A Big Thank you to the Auxiliaries that have donated to this program. As of Nov 30th - 13 Colorado Auxiliaries have donated \$3,773.76. Many of these Auxiliaries donated more than the \$100 quota. Please remember that all of these funds go to help support:

Operation Uplink

Unmet Needs

Military Assistance Program

There will be an increase need for these services with returning military this next year. Please make your donation in January so that Colorado is at 100%.

Continuing Education Scholarship

The deadline for submitting applications is approaching fast. Hopefully each Auxiliary has identified one or more individuals that could benefit from this wonderful scholarship. Help make someone's dream come true. A mother who put off her education to raise her family, a daughter or son whose family can't afford tuition?

National VFW Home for Children

As of the Nov 30th reports from national Headquarters, 58 of our Colorado Auxiliaries have made their donations to Health & Happiness. Thank you to the Auxiliaries that have sent in more than 10¢ per member.

The Ladies Auxiliary promotes funding for the National Home for Children through the Health & Happiness/Christmas Cheer Fund. Auxiliaries are asked

to contribute 10 cents per member based on the Auxiliary's June 30 membership quota, but are encouraged to contribute more.

Please make sure that you are collecting and sending in the Campbell's Labels for Education. As I noted before there are over 40 different UPC codes that are accepted. A list can be found at www.vfwnationalhome.org. These are to be sent directly to VFW National Home for Children, 3573 S. Waverly Road, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827.

Buddy Poppy

Buddy Poppy orders are down in Colorado this year. The Nov 30th report shows that we are at 56.97% of what we ordered last year. Let's get that up to 100% by the June. Remember you do not have to wait for Memorial Day or Veteran's Day to distribute Buddy Poppies. Every day is a good day!

Remember it is our duty as members of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to make sure that our veterans and their families are taken care with pride and dignity. Through their selfless service, they have earned it.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 720-434-5891 or nancy@hdnewspaper.com with any questions or needs.

Loyally,
 Nancy Russell
 Department Veterans and Family Support
 Chairmen

Wreaths Across America

The Defense Department's top enlisted service member, Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Bryan Battaglia, said that placing 100,000 holiday wreaths at the graves where veterans "lie in rest and peace on the hallowed grounds" of Arlington National Cemetery is a tribute to their sacrifices for the nation. "Our veterans deserve nothing but the best," emphasized Battaglia, senior enlisted adviser to Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and to Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta. Now in its 20th year, "Wreaths Across America" makes sure veterans' graves at national cemeteries are adorned during the holidays with large, evergreen wreaths bearing bright red bows. Thousands of volunteers -- veterans, family members, Boy Scouts and others place the wreaths on the headstones. "Isn't it great to see that?" Battaglia asked. "It's very refreshing as a service member, but also as an American, [to see] our veterans held in such high regard that [people] would volunteer their time to come out here in the cold, as a matter of fact, to perform work in service and honor of our veterans."

"Wreaths Across America not only gives citizens the chance to pay their respects, it allows for the spirit of the holidays for the fallen and their family members," he said. "To have this privilege and honor in such a dignified way, to spread holiday cheer and spirit," Battaglia said, "shows even though they may have gone before us, our veterans are still a part of our team and family." This year's largest wreath delivery, at three times its average size, began its six-day journey from Maine to the cemetery in a convoy of more than 20 tractor trailers and other vehicles,

also bringing veterans and families. The parade of vehicles made stops at schools, veterans' homes and national cemeteries along its way. 10 DEC began with the wreaths arriving before dawn at the cemetery, amid a parade of backed-up vehicular and foot traffic, creating an early crowd of people vying to attend the ceremonies. Battaglia said the event spoke for itself. "You could see by the audience gathered in the amphitheater for the opening ceremony with standing room only," he said, "the number and mixture of folks here, ... who came here on these hallowed grounds to give their respects," he said.

The wreaths covered many sections of the cemetery's grave sites, touching on dignitaries such as President John F. Kennedy, and winding its way from Civil War veterans' grave sites to service members just buried. The day concluded with the wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns. "Regardless of conflict, our veterans have given and sacrificed much," he said. "[The least we can do] is what we're doing today." Battaglia said the family of Morrill and Karen Worcester who began Wreaths Across America made sacrifices, too, to make the annual event possible. "You really have to admire their motto of 'Remember, Honor and Teach,' Battaglia said. "Even though a lot of the focus is placed on the children to grow up in the true American spirit, I've learned some very valuable lessons today." [Source: AFPS Terri Moon Cronk article 11 Dec 2011 ++]

For the 20th year, Wreaths Across America is laying holiday wreaths on headstones at Arlington and in 500 other cemeteries throughout the United States and overseas.

Membership

Our Department Auxiliary is at 85.25%. Come on Colorado, step up and get that membership turned in to Colleen Rylant. We need to be at 91% before December 31st for Cindy's Night On The Town. She has worked very hard for our Auxiliary and I know we all want Cindy there to represent Colorado that night

Congratulations to Auxiliaries: 1, 3971, 2121, 2585, 7829, 4849, 8121, 4264, 3571, 9221, 6491, and 6612 for reaching 100% and over. Great Job Ladies!! We will begin giving out Awards for 100% in February at our Luau.

We have all had to endure a bad economy this year, and I am sure that is why a lot of ladies have not renewed their dues.

Once again ladies, dues will be raised January 1st 2012 so you really need to pay them before the end of year and this will also allow you to remain in good standing.

If your auxiliary is in a position to pay one or more member's dues (due to financial hardship), remember you can pay their dues out of the RELIEF FUND. Also, if your Post is having any holiday functions, it might be a good idea to set up a table for membership.

In closing, may you have a Very Merry Christmas and Bright New Year.

Valerie Shaffer
Department Membership Chairman

Extension

Ladies, as I was going through some paperwork, I came across this valuable piece. I'm not sure where it came from or who wrote it, but I feel everyone should read it.

Duties of Members of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW

Perhaps one of the harder tasks that a member of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW has is one of educating herself about the organization. When a new member is initiated and says the Member's Obligation and receives instruction from the Ladies Auxiliary's officers, the educational process begins as she learns the expectations of a member:

1. not wrong nor defraud the organization nor member
2. not propose for membership any person not eligible
3. be faithful to the United States of America, obedient to the laws, and loyal to the Flag
4. be friendly and loyal to all members
5. respond to any call for relief or give assistance to any Ladies Auxiliary or VFW Post member who may be in need.
6. educate others in patriotism
7. assume equal rights with all other members and assume equal responsibility
8. when a Ladies Auxiliary member or VFW Post member dies, our duty is to see that she/he is buried in proper manner and with honor due the person
9. caring for family/home~~not neglect home duties while doing Ladies Auxiliary work
10. fostering, educating and bringing up children

It is the obligation of any member to question the business that comes before the Ladies Auxiliary. The member should have the attitude of gentle inquiry: The attitude of questioning is not to anger, but to inquire so that all sides of an issue may be addressed. A member should not simply sit back and allow things to go on that she knows needs questioning and may go against the Bylaws.

Being a member of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW should be an active rather than a passive pursuit. Reading the Ladies Auxiliary VFW Magazine is a start and being willing to attend District, Department and even National Conventions will increase a member's awareness that the organization reaches far beyond the local level.

Realize that learning takes an investment of time, desire and a willingness to listen to the thoughts of others.

Being active means that the member will begin to learn the ins and outs of the organization. Being active means having an interest in and promoting and working the projects or programs as selected by the Ladies Auxiliary VFW.

It is my personal belief that members's duties include having some knowledge of the Bylaws and Ritual; the order of business for a meeting; knowledge about major programs of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW.

"Unwritten" duties of members from page 6 of Demeters's

1. To attend meetings, thus acquiring experience, talent and the attributes of leadership, not only for the good of the order, but also for the community, state and nation. Meetings of organizations offer tremendous education as well as social advantages.
2. To participate in the proceedings and deliberations, thus acquiring proficiency in the rules of parliamentary practice and in debate, decorum and discipline.
3. To accept the final decision of the majority without animosity or violence just as one accepts the will of the people in a political election or the final decision of a judge, umpire or referee. One must demonstrate sportsmanship in the forum of a deliberative body (lodge, chapter, council, local, unit or other body) as much as in the field of sports.
4. To obey the rules of the organization and to pay her dues promptly, thus helping to maintain the organization's dignity and integrity. To bring in or recommend new members and mentor them. Help to promote the organization's growth and extend its influence.

Based on "common sense" we should also acknowledge the following about our membership in the Ladies Auxiliary VFW:

1. Respect one another and each others opinion – We are not always going to agree.
2. What takes place in a meeting stays in the meeting.
3. Work together to promote the programs of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW and support our veterans and active duty personnel and their families in the communities which surround us.
4. Enjoy the fellowship of your Ladies Auxiliary Sisters.

Ladies, membership is looking pretty good, but we can always do better. Please contact those members who have dropped from the rolls and try to get them to re-estate.

We are still trying to get a Ladies Auxiliary VFW in Westcliffe, Boone and Tri-Town. It does take time as they need at least 15 new or reinstated members.

If we are "To Honor All Who Serve", we must Step Up—Leave No Veteran Behind" nor should we leave any family member behind either.

Loyally, Rosie Mitchell
Department Extension/Chief of Staff

Auxiliary Membership by District 2011 - 2012 December 19, 2011

Number	City	2011	2012	%	Number	City	2011	2012	%
DISTRICT #1					DISTRICT #7				
1	Denver	204	170	83	899	Alamosa	85	70	82
501	Denver	172	159	92	3228	Monte Vista	38	37	97
2461	Denver	114	108	95	4849	La Jara	46	47	102*
2797	Denver	34	34	100*	6101	San Luis	44	42	95
3971	Denver	51	37	73	8121	So Fork	90	90	100*
5061	Denver	128	106	83	TOTAL	303	286	94%	
	TOTAL	703	498	87%	DISTRICT #8				
DISTRICT #2					DISTRICT #9				
984	Trinidad	25	25	100*	859	Leadville	33	29	88
2643	Walsenburg	24	21	88	1166	Buena Vista	97	87	90
2788	Penrose	33	33	100*	8661	Bailey	60	56	93
3641	Pueblo	86	69	80	11411	Lake George	34	30	88
4061	Canon City	252	215	85	12009	Conifer	26	20	77
5812	Pueblo West	22	23	105*	TOTAL	250	222	89%	
7305	Colo. City	35	29	83	DISTRICT #10				
	TOTAL	477	415	87%	4264	Stmbt Spgs	33	33	100*
DISTRICT #3					4265	Craig	69	69	93
41	Loveland	141	129	91	5843	Meeker	37	37	65
1771	Lafayette	392	362	92	9374	Kremmling	15	15	100*
1781	Ft. Collins	93	35	38	TOTAL	154	154	88%	
2121	Greeley	106	108	102*	DISTRICT #11				
2585	Johnstown	39	39	100*	784	Montrose	32	21	66
2601	Longmont	299	273	91	1247	Grnd Jnctn	99	88	89
2841	Brighton	84	74	88	3571	Delta	81	81	100*
4334	Ault	41	35	85	4267	Gunnison	45	33	73
6011	Platteville	39	38	97	4663	Clifton	87	72	83
6624	Evans	197	182	92	9221	Cedaredge	73	73	100*
9565	Broomfield	49	47	96	9304	Silt	26	22	85
	TOTAL	1480	1322	89%	9333	Hotchkiss	28	18	64
DISTRICT #4						TOTAL	471	408	87%
2551	Ft. Morgan	163	150	92	DISTRICT #12				
3541	Sterling	103	98	95	4031	Durango	83	67	81
4671	Wray	33	31	94	5181	Dove Creek	45	39	87
8064	Akron	39	8	21	5231	Mancos	102	79	77
	TOTAL	338	287	85%	9058	Nucla	25	23	92
DISTRICT #5						TOTAL	255	208	82%
101	Colo. Spgs.	54	53	98	DISTRICT #13				
3917	Security	256	225	88	3411	Kit Carson	33	34	103*
4051	Colo. Spgs	364	344	95	6491	Burlington	19	19	100*
5221	Calhan	32	26	81	6612	Hugo	69	60	87
6461	Fountain	104	93	89	TOTAL	121	113	93%	
7829	Monument	20	24	120*	DISTRICT #14				
10649	Elizabeth	19	9	47	15006	At Large	183	167	91%
	TOTAL	849	774	91%	TOTAL DEPT.	7,521	6,676	89%	
DISTRICT #6					Auxiliary Treasurers - Please send all Dues to State Treasurer Colleen Rylant				
336	Ordway	95	86	91					
2411	LasAnimas	92	95	103*					
3621	Lamar	18	17	94					
4001	Springfield	33	32	97					
4091	Rocky Ford	34	30	88					
4281	Holly	14	13	93					
	TOTAL	286	273	95%					

ROSTER CHANGES

Page 2: Dept. Color Bearer Cecilia Schoonover has resigned for health reasons.

Dept. Color Bearer #1: Mayola Reed #3917, 131 Kilgore St., Colorado Springs 80911 719-392-1250

Page 3: Dept. Musician Jenny Baker has married and name is Jenny Hiatt.

District 9 President: Edith Eggers, 435 Apple St., Craig CO 81625 970-824-8385

Sec/Treas: Jeanne Wixson, P O Box 1113, Hayden CO 81639 970-276-3145

Aux 2601 Meeting time change to 6:30 pm

Aux 4091 President: Linda Mays, 18520 Co Rd G, Ordway CO 81063 719-267-3649

Sec/Treas: Ann Darling, 122 Seeley St., La Junta CO 81050 719-468-2117

Aux 8064 President: Peggy Lindsey, 24483 Co Rd 51, Akron CO 80720

970-345-2636

Secretary: Billie Jesse, 243 Fig Ave., Akron CO 80720 970-345-2493

Treasurer: Debra Rodriguez, 533 Main St., Akron CO 80720

970-345-2272

Aux 9644 Chaplain: Alane Pettee, 303-815-0673

Please send all Roster Changes to Department Secretary Carolyn Simon

TAPS

Aux 501: Mary S. Godic
Aux 2411: Lucille Gilliland
Aux 2461: Pamela Wolf
Aux 2551: Opal Campbell
Aux 3631: Kathryn Rea

Legislative

In late November we received news from Robert E. Wallace, Executive Director VFW Washington Office that the congressional Super Committee had thrown in the towel and admitted they cannot reach a bipartisan agreement to cut a minimum of \$1.2 trillion from the federal budget over the next decade. Under the law passed this summer, mandatory cuts will now take place across all federal departments and agencies beginning January 2013.

The VFW believes that veterans' healthcare programs and benefits will be exempt from any cuts. Questions remain, however, about increased co-payments for visits and prescriptions, as well as charging VA category 7 and 8 veterans an annual enrollment fee. We will continue to monitor and report any new developments as they occur.

Over at the Defense Department are recommendations to change the pay and benefits of those currently serving and military retirees. The threats include changing the military retirement system for future enlistees, limiting retiree healthcare program enrollment, and imposing or increasing healthcare fees on all TRICARE programs, regardless of age. These proposals are in addition to possible reductions in force and cuts to other quality of life programs. The budget crisis has also forced defense hawks to choose between supporting people programs and new weapon systems development. Sadly, some have forgotten that it still takes people to occupy territory and to operate their shiny new aircraft, ships and tanks.

Our nation hollowed out its force after Vietnam and again after the first Gulf War. If the past 10 years have proven anything, it is that the All Volunteer Force works, but it comes with a price and a promise to maintain the quality of life programs for those few who serve. Since 9/11, many of the less than 1 percent of the population who volunteered to serve their nation have been deployed into the fight numerous times. The service-connected disabilities thousands have already received will require a strong and viable military healthcare system to return them to duty,

and a strong and viable VA healthcare system to meet their lifetime care needs.

Traumatic Brain Injury, Post-Traumatic Stress, amputations, and the risk of suicide are predominate issues of a military force at war. The preservation of military and veteran benefits, improved quality and accessible healthcare, and continued medical research into alternative treatments is how our nation can properly repay those who go into harm's way.

I don't know about you but I am tired of listening to the bickering on Capitol Hill everyday and the continued failures of Washington as they chip away at Veterans Benefits and try to balance our nations budget on the backs of our veterans.

Over the next year, many in Congress as well as thousands of registered lobbyists will be working hard to protect their special interests and programs. We must all work hard to protect the Department of Veterans Affairs health, benefits and cemetery administrations, as well as all military quality of life programs for the troops, their families and military retirees.

I ask each of you to contact your respective members of the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to demand that these programs be protected. We need Congress to be flooded with letters and phone calls to protect veterans' programs and military quality of life programs from any cuts. This is an obligation of every member of the VFW and their families to keep the faith with our comrades who need us to be their collective voice in Washington. Please refer to the VFW Web Site for constant updates and the "10 for 10" issues we have raised, along with sample letters for your use.

The VFW and it's Ladies Auxiliary need you to stand up and say enough is enough and our voice WILL be voice heard, because the continued failure and lack of cooperation in Washington is costing veterans their benefits and it's jeopardizing our national security.

The most powerful message Congress can receive is from the folks who employ them - their voting constituents.

Caroline Gelatt
Department Legislative Chairman

Jr Girls Unit

It's hard to believe we are half way through the year. I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays.

By now all of the Jr. Girls Units should have been inspected by their District Presidents, if you have not been inspected please contact your District President.

We still need Community Service reports from the Jr. Girls Unit Advisors. Make sure to report what the girls are doing. Don't forget the JUMP Badges, if you need ideas or assistance with this let me know.

Auxiliaries that do not have a Jr. Girls Unit can still receive credit on the Programs Report form for the following; Donate Buddy Poppies to the Jr. Girls, Donate to the Individual Units, Donate to all of the Units through the Ladies Auxiliary Department Treasurer and last but not least Donate to the Jr. Girls Unit

Scholarship fund. Make sure to report this under the Jr. Girls Unit Section of the Programs report form.

Let's continue to find girls that are eligible to join the Jr. Girls Units. All of the Units are in need of girls to join. Eligibility is the same as the Ladies Auxiliary with the exception of age, girls ages 5-16 years.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Parade of Programs in Grand Junction. Dead Line for the Jr. Girls Scholar Ship Contest is March 11, 2012 to the Ladies Auxiliary Chairman, March 25, 2012 all entries to Ladies Auxiliary Department Chairmen. As always if you have any questions I can be reached by phone or email.

Rita Fama
Department Jr. Girls Unit Co- Chairman

Youth Activities

Hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. I am sure you were very busy with Kid's Christmas Parties and other youth activities – now you need to report report report. Don't forget to explain what you were involved in and how many youth benefited from the activity. Oh, and don't forget to put all the hours, cash spent and mileage.

Deadline for the "Just Say No" contest is February 3rd, be sure to check back with teachers and schools to make sure they have presented the program to the students. Please send your entries to Department Headquarters, I will pick them up. Youth Carnival is March 10 in Golden, if you plan to host a booth at the Carnival please let me know so we can reserve space for you. One big change this year at the Carnival, is the booths will run from 12 Noon until 2:00, then we will have the award presentations. It should only last until 3:00 as usual. Let the kids know their entire family is invited to come and enjoy the Carnival.

Patriotic Art deadline is April 15, please send ONLY your first place winner to Department Headquarters. This year I will have the judges judge all entries and put them in order from first through last place. I have had a few ask where their artwork placed, so this year I will be able

to let them know.

I would like to see some reports from the Junior Girls Units, I know they are working hard and should receive recognition for their involvement in the VFW. Rita and I put together a separate sheet for the girls to report on, each unit received these, so please fill these out and get them to me. Also help the girls receive their badges from the new JUMP program, this is a great program and with the help of their directors they can receive all the badges. The badges can be displayed in a show case or in a scrapbook, either way they will have them to go back to when they are older and remember all the good times they had being a Jr. Girl.

If you have a Girl Scout Troop in your area, contact the leaders and find out what project and when it will be completed for their Bronze, Silver and Gold awards, so you can get the National Citation from National Headquarters, in plenty of time to present it to the girls.

I hope to see everyone at the Parade of Program in March at the Grand Junction Post.

To Honor All Who Serve

Janet Mills
Department Youth Activities Chairman

POPPIES

Be sure and order your poppies for this year. You need to order at least the minimum amount of 250. See your President Manual for order blank and details. You can still use previous years poppies for hand outs and projects and as poppies used, but not as purchased.

Thanks,
Sandi Ackerman
Department Buddy Poppy Chairman



Cancer Aid and Research

Ladies, thank you so much for participating in the bag decorating. I was totally amazed with all the creative designs! I have one small favor to ask all of you ladies that participated, if you would please bring your bags to the next council meeting in Grand Junction because I didn't get pictures taken of all those great bags! Thank you in advance.

Decorative bag winners: 1st Place – Auxiliary #2601 – Longs Peak
2nd Place – Auxiliary #9333 – Black Canyon
3rd Place – Auxiliary #9644 – Verle Huffman

Tami Elliott, National Cancer Aid & Research Director, is planning a "777 Campaign" where each Sister would call 7 names on Sunday, 7 on Monday, 7 on Tuesday for all 7 days, and ask those people to donate \$7.00 for Cancer Aid & Research. That is **7 DAYS – 7 PEOPLE – 7 DOLLARS**. We're planning the "777 Campaign" to be March 19 – 26, 2012.

Starting October 1, 2011, ALL Cancer Grants will be increased to \$550.00. Two \$550.00 Cancer Grants are available in a lifetime. The eligibility is a member of the Junior Girls and Ladies Auxiliary VFW for one full year and current dues must be paid before applying for a Cancer Grant.

January is National Cervical Health Awareness Month.



STEP UP TO BEAT CANCER



Lennie Dolan
Department Cancer Aid & Research Chairman

2011 - 2012 Cancer Pins Order Form

Auxiliary No. _____

Ship to: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip _____

Quantity: _____ Pins x \$3.00 each = \$ _____ enclosed

Ordered By: _____ Phone: _____

Make check payable to **Department of Colorado Ladies Auxiliary**

Mail Cancer Pin order to: Lennie Dolan
1170 Fulton St.
Aurora, CO 80010
(303) 341-7488

Have you filled out a Program Report Form for 2011-2012?

**You can find a report form on the Colorado VFW Web Site
www.vfwcolodept.org**