



The Colorado Veteran



November, 2025

Volume 65, Issue 2, 2025-2026



Fred Scheck
State Commander

Greetings Comrades;

The National Convention has concluded, Congratulations to our new, plus the first female veteran, Commander in Chief Carol Whitmore. I have known the CIC for three years. She is very energetic and will do great things for our organization.

Council of Administration will be held in Greeley and Evans October 18 and 19th, Saturday will be training and Sunday will be the Joint meeting, then the business session. Post Commanders you are required to make at least one C.O.A. training, for All-State awards.

The staff and I have been busy traveling around the state attending District meetings. I personally enjoy this function of my position. I get to mingle and talk to the members and officers of the posts in the District. If you are a new officer in your post, the C.O.A. and District meeting are an excellent place to meet and converse with fellow members, for new ideas.

Membership is looking good. We need to keep recruiting new members but let's not forget about retaining members. Post Commanders and Quartermasters you both have access to the Post roster, call the expired members, have a conversation with them. The worst they can tell you is no. As we all know membership is the life blood of every organization, let's all do our part to keep that heart beat pumping.

Sincerely Yours,

Fred Scheck
State Commander



William Flores
State Surgeon

Greeting comrades,

As we continue moving forward in the year, we once again find ourselves in possibly the busiest time of the year for most of the post and districts. With the holiday season quickly moving upon us it will be time once again for posts to assist and take part in the Ron Davis Memorial Airlift. I know this is a huge program that a lot of posts, including my post, take part in to help get much needed food to Veterans and their families that are in hard times during the holidays. I encourage all posts, if you can assist in any way you can, to keep this program as successful as it has been in past years.

With the holiday season upon us, I would also ask that we take time to reach out if you can to your members in your districts, posts and veterans that are not in our organization and see how they are doing. I, like many veterans, have a hard time with holidays, due to events that happened while we were deployed, bad memories of being away from family, or not wanting to take part in the large social gatherings that usually are associated with the holidays. So, I ask you remember to try and give that one veteran you normally don't see during holiday functions, a call or visit, and ask how they are doing it might just be the thing they need to get through the hardship they are going through.

As the department POW/MIA chair it was great seeing posts take part in POW/MIA recognition day, it is important that we keep those who are still listed as missing in our thoughts till one day, they too, can finally come home, and the families can have the closure in knowing their loved one is no longer among the missing. As of the beginning of FY2025 the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has made 231 Identifications as of October 2, 2025.

William Flores
State Surgeon

**Please send all Deceased VFW & Auxiliary Members to vfw@vfwco.org
They will be saved for the Joint Memorial State Convention Book. Our Deadline is May 20, 2026**



Todd Van Sant
State Sr. Vice
Commander

Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

As we move into the final stretch of the year, there's a lot of great work happening across Colorado. One of the most inspiring events is coming up soon, the **15th Annual Ron Davies Memorial VFW Airlift**, the weekend of **December 14, 2025**. This year is a special one, marking the 15th anniversary, and we need your help to make it the biggest and best Airlift yet.

Whether you're a Post or Auxiliary, you can take part by **donating or signing up to receive food and toys** for veterans and families in your community. The details and link are in the article below, so please take a few minutes to check it out. Every dollar, every hour, and every volunteer makes a difference. This is how we put food on the tables and smiles on the faces of veterans across Colorado during the holidays.

Now let's talk about **membership**.

We're off to a strong start this year, and several Posts have already hit that 101% +1 goal. But we can't stop there. Every new member matters. Keep recruiting, keep talking to veterans in your communities, and keep spreading the word about what the VFW and Auxiliary do.

And when you get a new member, that's not the end of the process, it's just the beginning. Follow up with a phone call, a visit, or a simple invitation to your next event. Don't let that fresh fruit wither on the vine. A new member's involvement might depend entirely on your involvement with them. A simple welcome goes a long way.

We also need to talk about how Posts and Auxiliaries work together. If your Post or District has an Auxiliary, make that partnership a priority. Neither side is more or less important to the mission of the VFW. Imagine what we can accomplish if we stop the struggle and focus on one united goal — the mission of serving veterans. It honestly saddens me every time I hear about a Post or Auxiliary being shut down. We need each other. We are stronger together.

Let's also look at the **overall health of our Posts**. Membership numbers tell part of the story, but not all of it. Who's showing up to your meetings? How's your canteen or hall doing? Are you active in your community, working with your city, schools, or other organizations? Are you connecting with nearby Posts, the Legion, or the Elks to host events that keep people involved? A healthy Post is one that's active, engaged, and welcoming.

Finally, remember that keeping a Post running takes real effort. Stay on top of your 990s, audits, and reports. It takes work to keep a Post in good standing, and while we're all volunteers, we also made a commitment when we took these roles. Let's do it right. If you need help with any of it, reach out to Department. That's why we're here.

Your leadership team — Fred, Jesse, and myself — are here to help you with whatever you need. Whether it's membership, compliance, or community engagement, we're only a phone call away.

Together, we're building stronger Posts, stronger communities, and a stronger Department of Colorado.

Serving Veterans, Community, and Legacy

Todd Van Sant
State Senior Vice Commander

Post & Auxiliary Change of E-Mail Form

Name: _____

New Email: _____

VFW Post Number: _____

Send changes to vfw@vfwco.org

COLORAD VETERAN & AUXILIARY NEWS

Official Publication of
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Colorado

Colorado Veteran is published
quarterly Feb., May, Aug., Nov.

Send all correspondence, typewritten
(double-spaced, upper & lower case) to <https://vfwco.org>

Published by:
Dept. of Colorado VFW
1400 Carr Street
Lakewood, CO 80214

Send address changes to:
VFW National Headquarters
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

Publication Committee:
Fred Scheck, Commander
Jesse Eastburn, Editor
Rachel Rodgers, Assoc. Editor & Computer
Layout

For the Auxiliary:
Rena Cales, President
Cindy Anderson, Treasurer
Rachel Rodgers, Auxiliary News Chairman
<https://vfwco.org>



Jesse Eastburn
State Adjutant/
Quartermaster

Comrades,

As we enter a season filled with remembrance, gratitude, and renewal, our mission as Veterans of Foreign Wars remains steady. The winter months draw us indoors, but they also draw us closer as a community united in service.

November reminds us of those who stood the eternal watch. Thank you to every Post and Auxiliary who honored veterans during ceremonies, parades, Buddy Poppy distributions, and community programs. Your efforts ensure that sacrifice is never forgotten and that our stories continue to live in the hearts of our neighbors.

December brings not only festive lights, but the sparkle of compassion in action. Many Posts host holiday meals, adopt veteran families, and support toys and food drives that lift up those facing hardship. These acts of kindness exemplify who we are: a force for good, rooted in camaraderie and community strength. As the calendar turns to January, we embrace fresh opportunities and sharpen our focus on the tasks ahead. Membership remains the lifeblood of our organization. Every new member strengthens our ability to advocate, support, and serve. Please continue encouraging renewals and seeking out new veterans and family members who belong in our ranks.

Administrative reminders to keep us rolling into the new year:

- Ensure all Bonding and required Post reporting remains up to date
- Audit reports should be submitted promptly following each quarter
- Maintain compliance with bylaws and State/Department directives
- Support your Post leadership through sound record-keeping and teamwork

Our Department headquarters stands ready to assist you. Questions are never a burden. Whether you need help with OMS reporting, community service submissions, program guidance, or membership tools, reach out. Together, we achieve more.

As winter settles in, take a moment to appreciate what your dedication has accomplished so far this year. You are making a difference. You are continuing our proud legacy. And you are building a future where no veteran stands alone.

Thank you for everything you do, and everything you are. Forward we march into a meaningful and mission-driven New Year.

In comradeship and service,

Jesse Eastburn
State Adjutant/Quartermaster

ALL-AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS

For posts to make All-American this year here are the requirements:

- 101% Membership (Based on adjusted prior year totals)
- Post election report submitted and in good standing
- Voice of Democracy REPORTED IN OMS BY JANUARY 31ST
- Patriot's Pen REPORTED IN OMS BY JANUARY 31ST
- Donation to Veterans & Military Support Program (\$125 Minimum)
- Participate Day of Service (for information and to sign up visit: <https://todaysvfw.org/day-of-service/>)
- Submit Community Service Quarterly (July-Sept; Oct-Dec; Jan-March; April-June)
- Purchase Buddy Poppies (500 Minimum)

All-State Requirements

Commanders

- **Membership** - 101% by June 30, 2026
- **Department Service Office** - Donate \$100 Minimum
- **Programs** - Post must submit at least 1 VOD, 1 PP, and donation to Veteran & Military Support (VMS) (\$125 minimum)
- **VFW National Home** - Post must conduct a fundraiser or Poppy Drive and donate \$50 minimum OR recruit 2 members to join VFW National Home
- **Council of Administration Training** - Commander, Sr Vice Commander or Jr Vice Commander must attend 1 training day (in person or on zoom)
- **Report** - Post must have all reports stating YES in the New District Status Report

Quartermasters

- **Membership** - 101% as of June 30, 2026
- Post Commander MUST qualify for All State in order for Post Quartermaster to qualify
- Must have election report submitted to National
- Must have all Trustee Audits to Department on or before the deadline
- Must have bond in to Department on or before September 1, 2026



Kevin Reinhold
State Chaplain

Comrades and Auxiliary,

As a new season is about to fall upon us, always remember to look out for each other whether through a visit, a phone call, or a prayer. Small acts of kindness can have a long-lasting impact on someone. Stay mindful of those among us who may be struggling with the daily challenges of life.

I ask if someone is weighing on your heart or mind. Please take that as a sign to reach out to them. I have had this happen to me several times and got busy with my day-to-day activities and missed the chance to talk to or help someone. Leaving it too late to help them. They are placed on your heart or mind for a reason.

Citizenship Education Teacher Program Deadlines, **October 31st** - all submissions due to local post, **November 15th** - post judging completed, send winners to district chairperson, **December 1st** - entries must be received by district chairperson, **December 15th** - district judging completed; winners sent to department chairperson, **(District chairman must submit their winning entry packets directly to the Department Chairman - not Department HQ), January 1st** - all entries must be

received by department chairperson, **January 15th** - department judging completed, send winners to national chairperson, **February 1st** - all entries must be received by national chairperson.

Department Chaplain of the Year nominations must be submitted to the Department Chaplain, Not Department HQ on or before March 15th. A lot of the Chaplains in the State should be recommended for this award. They serve our members in so many ways. Please nominate your Post or District Chaplain for this award. One Chaplain will be nominated and submitted for National Chaplain of the Year.

The Chaplain Handbook has been updated. You can download it from the State web site, on the Chaplaincy page.

National Chaplain Training has started. The training is conducted every third Thursday at 6:30 pm mountain time. Please look for the emails that will have the link to the training. If you are interested in looking at past trainings go to the National Chaplain web site under training. https://lotcs.org/vfw_chaplain.html

If you are an Auxiliary Chaplain and would like to be on the Department Chaplain email list, please send me your email. All Chaplains in our organization have the same calling, to serve our members. Information and training will help you in your service.

If any Chaplain in our organization needs help or information, please reach out to me.

Kevin Reinhold
State Chaplain
"Doing Our Lord's Work for all Veterans"

Legislative

Senate Veterans Affairs Hearing Highlights Need to Honor the Contract for Veterans' Benefits

VFW and VSOs Advocate for Improved Disability Claims Process

This past Wednesday, an important U.S. Senate hearing provided an essential platform for the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Paralyzed Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans, and other Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) to address the critical issue of disability claims. Representatives from these organizations emphasized that veterans' benefits are not charity, but a solemn promise based on service and sacrifice. The hearing allowed advocates to dispel damaging myths and present constructive feedback on how the claims and appeals process can be improved to better serve our nation's veterans.

One myth addressed during the hearing is the notion that veterans are overwhelming the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with "dubious" or "fraudulent" claims. In reality, VA data and leadership confirm the overwhelming majority of claims are legitimate and tied to verified service connected conditions. While fraud does exist as in any federal program it is rare, investigated, and prosecuted. These isolated cases of wrongdoing do not reflect the millions of honest veterans who rightfully seek the benefits they have earned. In fact, prosecuted fraud demonstrates that safeguards are in place to protect the integrity of the system, not that veterans are undeserving of care.

Another misconception is that most disability claims are for "minor" or easily treatable ailments. The truth is, veterans often face complex, chronic, and service-related health challenges that require ongoing support. The hearing made clear that honoring the contract means ensuring all veterans receive fair, timely, and accurate consideration for their claims reinforcing our nation's commitment to those who have served.

Steve Kjonaas, Legislative Director
Carol Thomas, Assistant Legislative Director

Membership

Comrades,

When I crunch the membership numbers, if all we do is get our expiring annual members to pay their dues we will achieve over 100% in membership (which seems obvious), leaving only 63 additional members needed to hit the goal of 101%.

The good news is, we already know who those 63 members are. They are among the 800+ comrades whose dues expired over the past twelve months. In other words, these are members who have gone out the back door for one reason or another.

Maybe they are disgruntled and left the VFW on purpose. Or maybe they simply have a new credit card and their auto-renew failed. Either way, we won't know unless we ask.

Therefore, let us use the ensuing holiday season as a guide in our approach to membership. As we begin to plan our Thanksgiving meals, gather names for our Christmas card list, and start thinking about our goals for the New Year, keep your VFW family in mind.

Use this time of year to reconnect and focus on reaching out to those buddies you've lost touch with. It is what I have referred to in the past as being "in flow" with people by building rapport, from which you can naturally incorporate retention and recruiting conversations.

I encourage Post Quartermasters to pull a list of expired/expiring members and pick up the phone. If OMS doesn't include a phone number or email address, drop a card in the mail. However you reach them, ask these comrades how they are doing and thank them for their past contributions to our organization.

If your list is long, share the load with some of the Post's line officers or other engaged volunteers. If you run out of names, start calling your life members just to say "hi." Then repeat this process every month. You might be surprised by the engagement you get in return.

Or course, you can always call Department Headquarters, or me, if you need help getting the information out of OMS. Additionally, if you are really ambitious and want to start working relocated comrades and those expired longer than 2 years, let's talk. I can help with that too.

The bottom line is, there are plenty of veterans who have already decided once in their life to join our organization. All we need to do is make them feel appreciated and welcome them back.

Finally, Commander-in-Chief Whitmore is offering incentives to every Department to overachieve. If we, as a Department, can exceed 104% in membership, there is a \$7,500 grant waiting for us. While that might seem like a bridge too far, if we get everyone on the expired list to renew, we'd hit **107%** in membership and have a solid opportunity to lead the entire VFW. All without signing up a single new member. Let's help Commander Scheck and Colorado set a new standard.

Semper Fi,

John Keene
Membership Chairman

Western Conference to Host Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Candidate Forum

The Western Conference leadership recognizes the importance of open dialogue with those seeking to serve as our next **VFW Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief**. To foster this engagement, the **Western Conference Business Session** in **Boise, Idaho**, will begin on **Saturday, November 8, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.** with a **town hall-style forum** featuring the candidates. Candidates include **Gregory Harrell (AZ), Paul Herrera (WA), John Keene (CO), David Sousa (NV), Shawn Watson (Pacific Areas)**.

All VFW members are invited to take part by submitting questions in advance. This is a valuable opportunity to ensure your voice is heard and to help guide the discussion on the issues that matter most to our organization.

Question Submission Details:

- All submissions are **anonymous**
- Questions may be directed to **a single candidate** or **to all candidates**
- Please submit **one question per form entry** (you may submit multiple forms)
- Questions are welcome even if you will **not attend** the conference

Submit your questions here:

<https://forms.gle/yQwYX8Sk9GA3mkpk7>

We encourage every comrade to participate and share this information throughout your Posts and Departments. Let's ensure that as many voices as possible are represented in this important process of shaping our future leadership.

Respectfully,
Western Conference Leadership

Still Leading, Still Serving: The Truth About the VFW's Relevance

You may have seen the [recent Stars and Stripes article](#) circulating online, suggesting that veterans' organizations like ours are fading and "losing relevance." It's a familiar headline — but one that doesn't tell the real story.

We know better, because we see the truth every day in our Posts and communities. Across the globe, VFW Posts are thriving — reimagining what service, camaraderie, and community mean in today's world. From mental wellness programs and e-sports leagues to our National Day of Service, community outreach events, and grassroots advocacy, the VFW continues to lead the way.

The *Stars and Stripes* team is known for valuing accuracy and welcomes factual corrections. So let's help them see what's really happening within our ranks.

Department leaders are encouraged to email letters@stripes.com and share examples that highlight how your Post is making a difference. Consider including:

- Innovative membership initiatives or outreach programs
- Partnerships connecting with younger veterans and local communities
- Facility upgrades or modern events drawing in new members
- Wellness programs, family events, or advocacy victories
- Personal stories showing how the VFW continues to give purpose and belonging

Together, we can ensure the public sees the VFW for what it truly is — not an organization fading into history, but one defining the future of what it means to serve.

We are America's Veterans of Foreign Wars — still leading, still advancing, still serving.



The 15th Annual Ron Davies Memorial VFW Airlift – The Biggest and Best Yet!

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Colorado is proud to announce the **15th Annual Ron Davies Memorial VFW Airlift**, taking place the weekend of **December 14, 2025**.

This extraordinary event, held in partnership with the **Colorado Aviation Business Association (CABA)** and **Tallgrass**, delivers food and toys by air to veterans and families in need across the entire state of Colorado.

Want to get involved?

Whether your Post or Auxiliary wants to **receive food and toys** for your local veterans or **donate** to support the Airlift, visit: [Ron Davies Memorial VFW Air Lift - Post Signup](#) OR to donate visit: [Ron Davies Memorial VFW Air Lift - Donations](#)

The Airlift is named in honor of **Past State Commander Ron Davies**, who started this incredible program with his family during is time in the Department Chairs. What began as an amazing idea to assist veterans during the holidays has grown into a statewide initiative and an official Department of Colorado program, led by **State Senior Vice Commander Todd Van Sant** and **Brittany Davies**, daughter of Ron and MJ Davies.

This year marks a major milestone—the **15th anniversary**—and it promises to be the **biggest and best Airlift yet**. Dozens of volunteer pilots will load their aircraft with thousands of pounds of food and toys donated by VFW Posts, Auxiliaries, and community partners. Those supplies will be flown to airports across Colorado, from the Front Range to the Western Slope, where local Posts and Auxiliaries meet the planes, help unload, and take the food back to their communities.

Some Posts fix breakfast for the pilots when they land, while others rally their members to organize, package, and deliver the food and toys directly to veterans and families they've identified as deserving. Each participating Post receives between **400 and 1,200 pounds of food**, helping ensure that veterans have a **warm meal and toys under the tree** this Christmas. Denver Metro Posts will pick up their deliveries directly at the airport.

This event is open to **all Posts and Auxiliaries across Colorado**, including those in the **Denver Metro area, the Springs, and beyond**.

Let's make this 15th anniversary Airlift a record-breaking success, putting food on the tables and smiles on the faces of veterans and their families this holiday season. Together, we continue to honor **Ron Davies' legacy of serving veterans, community, and legacy**.

For the Posts and Auxiliaries that do participate in receiving food and toys or donated to the Airlift please be sure to report your hours, miles, any money spent, how many Post & Auxiliary members participated. This can be reported under Community Support or Veteran & Family Support on vfwco.org

Ron Davies Memorial

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Airlift



*Thank you to our
\$30,000 Sponsor*



*Thank you to
our Plane and Pilot
Sponsor*



*Student Pilots
provided by*



**METROPOLITAN
STATE UNIVERSITY™
OF DENVER**

Dec 14th 2025

**Bringing the Holidays to Veterans
Everywhere in Colorado**

vfwco.org to Apply for loading and unloading

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

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 2

November 1, 2025

SERIES: 2025-2026

1. **Post & District Inspections should be completed by December 31, 2025.** Send one (1) copy to Department Headquarters for the Department Inspector to review. If he finds any irregularities, he will confer with the State Commander and a letter of recommendation will be written to the Post Commander.
2. **Section 709 of the VFW National By-Laws** concerns Disposition of Real Property, i.e. Post Homes. Written notice of such proposal has first to be given to each member of said unit at least ten (10) days prior to such regular or special meeting and at least thirty (30) days to the Department Commander prior to the regular or special meeting, at which the proposal is to be considered. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval of those present and voting at such regular or special meeting.
3. **It is the obligation of every member to GET OUT AND VOTE** for the candidates of their choice. Take a friend or friends with you to the voting location. Election Day is November 4th and you must be registered to exercise your right to vote.
4. **Section 218 (a)(11), Duty of Trustees.** Trustees shall NOT be eligible to serve on committees or as officers whose books, records and accounts are audited by the Trustees. Post Commanders and Post Trustees are reminded that the Post Trustee Report of Audit is due to Department Headquarters by the 25th of the month following the quarter to meet All State requirements. Please see your Post Quartermaster for forms and records.
5. **Please be informed that ANY Post or District requesting a Department Officer** to attend a VFW function should make such request in writing to the State Commander. Please allow sufficient time, at least three (3) weeks, for Department to make arrangements.
6. **ALL VFW Posts are required to have the revised 2026-year By-Laws and Ritual Books** from the VFW National Store. Please see your Post Quartermaster and ask them to order for you if you don't know how already. All members should be informed that the Post Quartermaster has a current supply catalog, and they can assist you with your order. It can also be downloaded from the National VFW website at <https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw> (you MUST log in to OMS—Online Management System to be able to download) for free.
7. **An annual income tax return (Form 990) is required of each Post or District** exempt from tax under section 501(c)19 of the Federal Code. Starting in 2008 ALL VFW POSTS, and DISTRICTS with gross receipts of \$50,000 or less have to E-FILE, EVERY YEAR. All Posts exceeding \$50,000 in gross receipts must file on Form 990 or Form 990EZ. Forms and instructions are available from <https://www.irs.gov>. Gross receipts include income from all sources, including membership dues, bar or restaurant receipts, etc. Some of this may be unrelated business income, in which case filing of Form 990-T may be required. Exempt organizations that are under section 501(c) and have gross receipts greater than \$50,000 but less than \$200,000 and assets less than \$500,000, may file Form 990EZ instead of Form 990. If an organization eligible to submit the Form 990N or file the Form 990EZ chooses to file the Form 990, it must file a complete return. This return must be filed on or before the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of the accounting year (November 15 for June 30 year end or May 15 for calendar year end). Request for extension of time to file may be made by submitting form 8868, Application for Extension of Time to File. If a Post, or District fails to file the return on or before the due date, or the extended date, a penalty of \$20 for each day the return is late (not to exceed the smaller of \$10,000 or 5% of the gross receipts of the organization for the year) may be imposed, unless the organization can show that the late filing was due to reasonable cause. If you do not file for three (3) consecutive years your Post, or District will lose their non-profit standing with IRS and have to re-apply for non-profit standing and pay to file the application.
8. **All Posts are reminded that they are responsible** for filing of State Compensation Insurance, State and Federal Unemployment, State and Federal Withholding Tax and any local employee/employer tax, if you have one or more employees.

ATTESTED BY:
\s\ Jesse L. Eastburn
Jesse L. Eastburn
State Adjutant

BY COMMAND OF:
\s\ Fred Scheck
Fred Scheck
State Commander

COLORADO VFW FOUNDATION

Are you in a financial bind because a pipe spring a leak? A utility bill drained your budget? Did you have an unexpected repair on a vehicle you use to get to work?

Emergencies happen with no regard to your paycheck or monthly expenses. The Colorado Veteran VFW Foundation grants up to \$500 for Post or Auxiliary members on a one-time basis for the purpose of meeting an essential basic need for utilities and/or health care. Grants are not made for items that are discretionary in nature ("wants"), and are made on a first come, first serve basis.

Please go to vfwo.org to fill out the application or call 303-421-1630 for more information.



The 126th VFW National Convention in Columbus, OH from August 9th to 13th was an amazing time for all those who attended!!

Congratulations Again to Christie Wingo from Colorado Springs Christian School for received the 2024-2025 VFW Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher Award Grade 6-8 (Sponsored by VFW Post 7829, District 5)!!

Additionally Congratulations to Donald Spano for receiving 2024-2025 VFW Chaplain of the Year (Sponsored by VFW Post 7829, District 5)!!



VFW Post 2121 & Auxiliary came together to honor POW/MIA Recognition Day with the Missing Man Ceremony.

VFW Commander J.R. Garbiso, VFW Chaplain Thomas Wells, Auxiliary President Amelia Garbiso, Auxiliary Senior Vice President Kim Draupeau, and Auxiliary Chaplain Marilyn Peters led this moving tribute to honor and remember those who never returned home.

Please remember this important day that is observed every year on the third Friday of September.

Never forget.

November District Meetings

3	11/16/2025, Sunday	VFW Post 1771 110 W South Boulder Rd Lafayette, CO 80026	11:00am Training 12:00pm Lunch 1:00pm Joint Meeting w/ Separate to Follow Dress: Casual w/ Official Cap <u>MUST DO INSPECTION</u>	William Flores, Surgeon	Sherri Wright, Sr Vice President
6	11/15/2025, Saturday	VFW Post 336 104 Arkansas Ave Ordway, CO 81063	11:00am Joint Meeting 12:00pm Lunch 1:00pm Separate Meetings Dress: Casual w/ Official Cap <u>MUST DO INSPECTION</u>	Todd Van Sant, Sr Vice Commander	Concetta Kile, Guard
8	11/08/2025, Saturday	VFW Post 11411 2009 County Road 31 Florissant, CO 80816	11:30am Lunch 12:15pm Joint Meeting 12:45pm Separate Meetings Dress: Casual w/ Official Cap	Kirk Rosa, Judge Advocate	Cindy Anderson, Treasurer
13	11/16/2025, Sunday	VFW Post 3411 301 Main St Kit Carson, CO 80825	2:30pm Joint Meeting 3:00pm Separate Meetings Dress: Casual w/ Official Cap <u>MUST DO INSPECTION</u>	Fred Scheck, Commander	Rena Cales, President

- **Day Light Savings - Set Clocks Back - 11/2/2025**
- **Western Conference - 11/7 to 11/9/2025 - HEADQUARTERS CLOSED**
- **Thanksgiving & Black Friday - 11/27 & 11/28/2025 - HEADQUARTERS & SERVICE OFFICE CLOSED**
- **Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Eve, New Years Day - 12/24/2025, 12/25/2025, 12/31/2025, 1/1/2026 - HEADQUARTERS & SERVICE OFFICE CLOSED**

January District Meetings

Dist	Date	Location	Agenda	VFW Dept Rep	Auxiliary Dept Rep
1	01/18/2026, Sunday	VFW Post 9644 2680 W Hampden Ave Sheridan, CO 80110	9:00am: Breakfast 11:00am: Training 12:00pm: Joint Meeting 12:30pm: Separate Meetings Dress: Casual w/ Official Cap		
2	01/10/2026, Saturday	VFW Post 8898 106 Russell Ave Boone, CO 81025	11:30am: Joint Meeting 12:00pm: Lunch 1:00pm: Separate Meetings Dress: Casual w/ Official Cap		Rena Cales, President
3	01/11/2026, Sunday	VFW Post 2121 2514 7th Ave Greeley, CO 80631	12:00pm: Scholarship Banquet 2:00pm: Meetings Dress: Black & Whites		
4	01/25/2026, Sunday	VFW post 3541 803 Phelps St Sterling, CO 80751	12:00pm: Lunch 1:30pm: Joint Meeting w/ Sepa- rate Meetings to Follow Dress: Casual w/ Official Cap		
5	01/10/2026, Saturday	VFW Post 101 702 S Tejon St Colorado Springs, CO 80903	11:00am: Training 12:00pm: Lunch 1:00pm: Joint Meeting w/ Sepa- rate Meetings to Follow Dress: Black & Whites		
9	01/24/2026, Saturday	VFW Post 4265 419 E Victory Way Craig, CO 81625	12:00pm: Lunch 1:00pm: Meeting AUXILIARY DEFUNCT Dress: Casual w/ Official Cap		
10	01/11/2026, Sunday	VFW Post 7945 10217 Quivas St Thornton, CO 80260	11:00am: Memorial Service 12:00pm: Lunch 1:00pm: Joint Meeting w/ Sepa- rate Meetings to Follow Dress: Casual w/ Official Cap		
12	01/24/2026, Saturday	VFW Post 5231 107 North Chesnut Cortez, CO 81321	10:30am: Joint Meeting 12:00pm: Lunch 1:00pm: Separate Meetings Dress: Casual w/ Official Cap		
13	01/18/2026, Sunday	VFW Post 9700 150 E 2nd St Cheyenne Wells, CO 80810	2:30pm Meeting VFW ONLY Dress: Casual w/ Official Cap		

Report ALL Program Reports On-Line

<https://vfwco.org>

Updated the First of Every Month

Written Reports will NOT be
accepted

It is Easy

Salute to Service

VFW Post & Auxiliary Salute to Service is now
available on vfwco.org

It is now a JotForm and is available in the Banners
on the left-side of the website (If on mobile device
you will need to scroll all the way to the bottom)

VFW Post Membership by District as of October 31, 2025

Number/City	2024	2025	%	Number/City	2024	2025	%	Number/City	2024	2025	%
District #1				District #5				District #10			
1 Denver	855	804	94.03	101 CO Springs	453	431	95.14	3631 Aurora	263	253	96.19
322 Englewood	103	97	94.17	3917 Security	483	458	94.82	4171 Golden	333	310	93.09
3471 Morrison	58	56	96.55	4051 CO Springs	626	572	91.37	4331 Arvada	210	194	92.38
4266 Parker	108	119	110%*	5221 Calhan	87	80	91.95	4444 Cmmce City	148	141	95.27
4666 Littleton	95	95	100%*	6051 WdlnD Park	44	41	93.18	7945 Thornton	245	234	95.51
5061 Denver	224	198	88.39	6461 Fountain	376	340	90.42	8449 Bennett	37	31	83.78
9644 Fort Logan	391	346	88.49	7829 Monument	149	137	91.94	9565 Broomfield	86	75	87.20
12230 Castle Rock	60	52	86.66	12227 Falcon	61	64	105%*	TOTAL	1322	1238	93.64
TOTAL	1894	1767	93.29	TOTAL	2279	2123	93.15	District #11			
District #2				District #6				784 Montrose	112	101	90.17
2788 Penrose	92	79	85.86	336 Ordway	63	59	93.65	1247 Grnd Jctn	189	184	97.35
3641 Pueblo	76	68	89.47	2411 Las Animas	56	54	96.42	3571 Delta	36	31	86.11
4061 Canon City	214	193	90.18	4281 Holly	18	18	100%*	3981 Grnd Jctn	189	164	86.77
5812 Pueblo West	194	173	89.17	TOTAL	137	131	95.62	9221 Cedaredge	87	82	94.25
7305 Colo. City	43	41	95.34	District #7				9304 Rifle	21	18	85.71
8898 Boone	42	41	97.61	899 Alamosa	73	69	94.52	TOTAL	634	580	91.48
12063 Westcliffe	61	45	73.77	4849 La Jara	39	38	97.43	District #12			
TOTAL	722	640	88.64	6101 San Luis	40	40	100%*	4031 Durango	270	250	92.59
District #3				8121 Del Norte	35	33	94.28	5181 Dove Creek	40	37	92.50
41 Loveland	265	246	92.83	TOTAL	187	180	96.25	5231 Cortez	201	201	100%*
807 Boulder	31	32	103%*	District #8				9058 Nucla	24	24	100%*
1771 Lafayette	219	212	96.80	859 Leadville	27	22	81.48	TOTAL	535	512	95.70
1781 Fort Collins	271	243	89.66	1166 Buena Vista	104	98	94.23	District #13			
2121 Greeley	149	136	91.27	3820 Salida	54	50	92.59	3411 Kit Carson	19	18	94.73
2585 Johnstown	164	152	92.68	7563 Black Hawk	26	25	96.15	6491 Burlington	47	47	100%*
2601 Longmont	276	246	89.13	8661 Bailey	100	91	91.00	6612 Hugo	30	27	90.00
4334 Ault	57	47	82.45	10721 Minturn	94	85	90.42	9700 Chynn Wells	23	21	91.30
6624 Evans	186	174	93.54	11411 Lake George	42	40	95.23	TOTAL	119	113	94.95
12174 Brighton	31	26	83.87	12009 Conifer	105	101	96.19	District #14			
12189 Berthoud	40	41	102%*	TOTAL	552	512	92.75	15006 MAL	3028	2681	88.54
TOTAL	1689	1555	92.06	District #9				TOTAL DEPT			13636 12520 91.81
District #4				4264 Stmbt Springs	84	74	88.09				
3378 Yuma	42	42	100%*	4265 Craig	87	79	90.80				
3541 Sterling	74	68	91.89	5261 Rangely	19	12	63.15				
3551 Brush	40	38	95.00	5843 Meeker	36	34	94.44				
4671 Wray	46	45	97.82	9374 Kremmling	25	25	100%*				
6482 Holyoke	27	25	92.59	TOTAL	251	224	89.24				
7153 Fleming	9	9	100%*								
8064 Akron	49	37	75.51								
TOTAL	287	264	91.98								

* = 100% Membership
 Be 100% + 1 in 2025-2026 for All American
 Help Colorado be 100%+

Are you an Annual Member? Do you need to renew your membership for the year?

Go to vfw.org/renew

Whitmore's Warriors Class of 2025-2026 Project



LET'S DO MORE
STOCK THE STORE



V F W
NATIONAL HOME



Whitmore / Callahan 2025 / 2026

Store Equipment (Refrigerators, freezers, etc and Food) Consists of purchasing equipment for the retail section including coolers and freezers for fresh and frozen food, and beverages, dry goods and other sundries that are deemed most useful to residents. This fundraiser will also purchase an honor system point of sale program that allows residents to enter the store with a swipe card, pick out items and pay for them with a credit or debit card both during and after business hours.





Member Benefit

Save 10% on 990 Filings with Tax990

Keep Doing Good with Tax990

The the VFW Department of Colorado has partnered with Tax990, an IRS-authorized compliance and e-file provider custom-built for nonprofits.

This partnership was established in response to post requests for reliable, affordable filing support. As a member, you'll receive 10% off all 990 filings.



You don't need to learn the tax-code

Tax990 will handle the never-ending complexities of taxes for you.

Our easy-to-use software ensures that you're filing the latest forms and following the latest rules. We'll even help you refile for free if anything is wrong.

Unlike subscription services, Tax990 offers a pay-per-form fee structure—you only pay for what you file. And whenever you need assistance, you can count on top-tier live U.S. customer support to guide you every step of the way.

We're here to support Colorado VFW posts with reliable, affordable tax filing—so your organization can stay focused on its mission and keep doing good.

**File your 990 with your
10% member discount**



Contact our support team:



(704) 839-2321



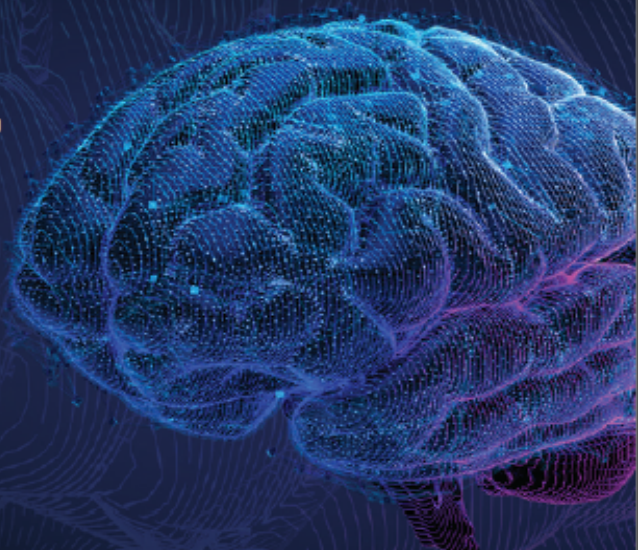
support@tax990.com



MINDSPA

NEW TREATMENT PROGRAM

For Tricare Beneficiaries Suffering from Depression, Anxiety PTSD & TBI



[Learn More >>](#)

Introducing the Inner Armor Program by Mind Spa

We are excited to share a new program for Tricare Beneficiaries suffering from Depression, PTSD & TBI. Mind Spa Denver has just launched their new **Inner Armor Program**.

This program is designed for veterans and family members covered by Tricare who have tried at least **3-Antidepressant medications** and are interested in long-term healing.

The Inner Armor Program Includes

30+ Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Treatments

30+ Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Treatments

6 Ketamine Infusions

Heal & Rewire the Brain

These treatments are designed to target brain inflammation and increase cellular healing. Many veterans report symptom remission in as little as **14-17 days**.

results may vary

If you're interested in learning more, please fill out our short eligibility form, linked below. One of our staff will contact you within 48 hours (There is no obligation, and your information is sent to Mind Spa for screening only)

[Learn More >>](#)



303-327-0350



mindspadenver.com



Auxiliary News



Published by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of Colorado

Rachel Rodgers, Auxiliary News Chairman



Rena Cales
Auxiliary State
President

To the great team of Colorado Auxiliary members,

Thank You for everything that you are doing for our veterans, their family members and communities!! Just remember to report it all.

Here it is already November. This means we have many Holidays ahead of us giving many opportunities to assist our veterans, their family members and our communities. But don't just stop there as we have 12 months in a year that we could be doing things, not just "special" months. Let us do the unexpected at unexpected times!

Treasurers, don't forget to get your 990N done, approved and sent to Dept Treasurer by Nov 15th. Officers, your dues must be paid to National by Dec 31st. To all members if your dues are not paid by Dec 31st you are considered "not in good standing", no voting privileges so try and get them paid so you can have your say in things. Maybe give yourself a Christmas present with a Life membership and don't worry about them again.

We just had our 2nd COA and Parade of Programs, thank you to Aux 2121 Greeley for hosting us. If you were not able to attend, get with the Department Program Chairmen and find out what you missed and what you can still do.

The next COA is not until March 28-29 at Post 3917 in Security with the end of this reporting year on the 31st. It is easier to report events when they are done then trying to remember the information at the end of the year.

Keep checking <http://www.vfwco.org> for updates on what is going on and www.vfwauxiliary.org for references and much more.

I pray everyone has a safe and enjoy full holiday season.

Rena Cales
State Auxiliary President

AUXILIARY ROSTER CHANGES:

- Page 2 - Jean Jaffe is now a member of Auxiliary 9644
- Page 4 - Nadia Flores' number is 719-661-6854
- Page 9 - District 1 Deputy Chief of Staff - Jean Jaffe, 9398 E Evans, Denver, CO 80231, 303-475-0981, jjaffe71@gmail.com
- Page 19 - Lynette Sipe's phone number is 720-299-2587 and email is lynnetsipe4@gmail.com
- Page 21 - Shirley Russ new email address: russshirley74@gmail.com
- Page 27 - Auxiliary 4171 New President: Tome Zerbest, 820 Deframe St, Golden, CO 80401, 720-300-7602, vfwpost4171aux1@outlook.com
- Page 28 - Auxiliary 4331 New President: Casey Rigerman, 6494 Kendall St, Arvada, CO 80003, 720-313-0184, crigerman@aol.com
- Page 29 - Auxiliary 4334 Meeting Date & Time - Post Hall, 100 1st St, Ault, CO 80610, 2nd Tues at 6:30pm
- Page 30 - Sharon Erivn's phone number is 303-909-6056
- Page 34 - Susie Horgan's address is: 26620 Cty Rd 2S, Hugo, CO 80821
- Page 46 - Ann Mauck's phone number is 303-517-5801
- Page 49 - Jean Jaffee's email is jjaffe71@gmail.com and she is now a member of Auxiliary 9644

Chief of Staff - Extension & Revitalization

Greetings everyone! We are the waves this year. There will be a lot of “Standing outside of our circle”.

Can you believe it is already fall, time for those leaves to change and begin falling. It is time for the pumpkins (for all you pumpkin lovers), sweaters and the activities done inside. This year has started off with a bang with the loss of numerous Auxiliaries. At the COA in July, we talked about are we a GREEN FLAG Auxiliary-Healthy? Are we a YELLOW FLAG Auxiliary-Struggling? Or are we a RED FLAG Auxiliary-Suspension time and regroup? We need to be honest with ourselves and our Auxiliaries. If we struggle, ask for help. There are so many great mentors in this organization who are willing to share their knowledge. I still reach out to mentors to assist with questions or situations. I am grateful I have been able to build relationships with mentors from other states who have amazing knowledge.

At our last COA I spoke briefly about PIP a Performance Improvement Plan. As I am slowly starting to get Official Visit Reports, there are a couple of Auxiliaries who could benefit from this. There is no suspension, just a PIP Committee would be assigned to spend time with the Auxiliary to Observe and Mentor. Sometimes it just takes someone to mentor and help get you on track.

I know we talk about resources, how many of us use them? There is so much information out there to help each one of us to be successful. There are two (2) found in MALTA which are *Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit* and *Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation*.

I challenge all of us to be Mentors this year. Remember it is not always what you say but how you say it, mentor in a kind way and people are willing to listen. I continue to be mentored and learn every day. If you need help with mentoring or questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Brigitte Dolan
State Auxiliary Chief of Staff

All-State Achievement

Keep up your great work toward accomplishing your goals for yourself and your Auxiliaries! Remember that we are trying to get every Auxiliary and every District into the Winner's Circle at the end of the year. Keep these things in mind as the year progresses:

- * We have revised and updated both the Auxiliary and the District All State Achievement Forms. These are included in the Program Book this year and posted on the VFW Department of Colorado Website so that you can view anytime that you wish.
- * We have provided a 2nd Page explanatory and clarification sheet that is applicable to both Forms that will help members to understand and act on some items that were confusing previously. If you have any other problems that occur regularly, please let us know and we will revise this sheet if necessary to help your members.
- * I have received word that all Bonds were submitted on time—Thank you! Please go the extra distance to **make sure that all dues are paid** before the deadline, especially Officers. This is critical for every Auxiliary.
- * Did you provide June 30 Audit and Membership Totals to your District and Auxiliary Commanders? Keep Audits current—consult your Healthy Auxiliary Checklist for Deadlines.
- * Keep your record sheets up to date so that you know what is left to work on. Please remember to make a contribution to both National President, Lois Callahan and Department President, Rena Cales' Special Projects if you can, and check the box. And...continue with your great Schools of Instruction—your members really enjoy

Remember that any monetary rewards and recognition that we receive at the end of the year brings benefit to our entire state, not just to certain individuals. As one Auxiliary succeeds, we all succeed! Your Achievement Team is here to assist you in any way that we can—please let us know how we can help.

Phil Reinpold – Chairman
Cindy Anderson
Marsha Harrison
All State Achievement Committee



Auxiliary Outreach

Greetings:

School has started, football, soccer, and volleyball games are being played and kids are running cross country. Fall has arrived, Farmer's Markets are on every corner, everyone is canning up a storm and the holidays are upon us!

And a few of us are getting close up visits from our native wildlife! Bears are out in force, eating all my chokecherries and getting into the neighbor's trash.

Now is a great time for our Auxiliaries to "Shine our Light" and participate with other local organizations for projects NOT AFFILIATED with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary Programs.

Reach out to the local cancer group, the Alzheimer's Association and other groups that sponsor Walk A Thon's or 5K Runs. Volunteer to pass out water, register entrants, direct traffic, etc. Auxiliaries can NOT donate money, or walk as an entrant. They must volunteer to help the other organization. They also must wear Auxiliary attire so that they are recognized as Auxiliary members. Also, the event must be voted on by the Auxiliary. If this is an ongoing event, you can vote on it once.

By wearing our Auxiliary attire, hopefully, someone will ask you about the Auxiliary and what it does and maybe we can get some new members. A WIN/WIN for both programs!! And by helping other organizations, we meet new friends.

With all of the most recent weather disasters, especially all the fires this summer and most recently the flooding caused by all the rainfall, now is a good time to volunteer to help the Red Cross, local food banks and other organizations collect clothing and food and packaging it to send to those in need. The Auxiliary can count this as Auxiliary Outreach **IF** members stay and help man the collections and packing or help hand out the items to those in need.

Schools are always needing volunteers to work the concession stands at the athletic events. Remember to discuss it at your meeting, vote on it and then show up to help the local schools. Since this is an on-going event, you can vote one time. Be sure to wear your Auxiliary attire! Again, it gets our presence out in the community and may reach a young man or woman who is interested in going into the service.

Several organizations are hosting craft fairs now before the holidays. Auxiliary members can help set up and tear down the tables for the event. They can serve in the kitchen if the event is serving food. This is Auxiliary Outreach!

Here are a few other ideas:

- Working with local parks and recreation departments to plant trees, develop non-veteran related community art installations and on adopt-a-park initiatives.
- Join the local police department in working a Child ID program.
- Helping with spay and neuter animal clinics.
- Helping the fire department put on a safety program
- Serving food at soup kitchens.

Our Auxiliaries are always active in our communities doing great things for our Veterans and community service. Let's just remember to coordinate with other organizations and help them with their events. Keep up the good work and Report, Report, Report!!! And Shine Our Light!!!

I hope you all have Happy Holidays with family and friends. Stay safe everyone!

Queenie Barz
Auxiliary Outreach Chairman



Youth

Hello Auxiliary Brothers and Sister:

What an awesome start with reporting, I am super excited to see everyone moving along working with all the youth in their areas. I have received over 158 reports this far that there is a big jump from last year.

Having participation with the youth groups encourages them that they are very important part of our future. Seeing those who work with the boys and girl's clubs is very rewarding. Getting into the schools and reading to them about flag etiquette is so awesome to hear. Educating our youth, they remember the care you give them to teach them your knowledge. Many auxiliaries are working with Boy Scouts and High students, what a great reach out to those youth groups as well helping them succeed in their programs is so awesome to hear, letting them know that we are here to help them as well.

I want to let you know that you are all doing an amazing job. And please give yourselves a pat on the back because you deserve it. Keep reaching out to those youths because like I have said before and will continue to say you sharing your knowledge is the greatest gift you can give to those youths.

I would like to remind everyone of the important keys area of this year's program:

- Reading Buddies
- Youth groups
- Illustrating America
- R.A.P. Cards and Youth Acts of Kindness certificates

I would like to encourage you all to get signed up with any after-school programs or even during school hours and see if you could help any students that may need some assistance with their reading. Let these students know that it's okay to ask for help. There is no shame in a little help.

Let's go out and educate, share our knowledge and smile because our youth are our future. Keep those reports coming in. I hope to see you all at the upcoming COA.

Sincerely,

Rowena Martinez
Youth Chairman



Scholarship

Greetings Auxiliary Members!

It is hard to believe that we are well on our way into the holiday season!! It has been a very busy few months for the Scholarship Program. The Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy winners for each participating VFW Post should be on their way to District judging, and those District winners should be forwarded to the Department for judging by December 15, 2025. Thank you to all the Auxiliaries for their support and promotion of this VFW Scholarship Program. The amount of reporting that has already occurred is amazing!! Keep it up!

The next areas of focus for the Scholarship Program are the Continuing Education Scholarship, the Young American Patriotic Art, and the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Scholarships. The Continuing Education Scholarship is due to National Headquarters by February 15, 2026. National President Lois Callahan has chosen the Continuing Education Scholarship as her Special Project for this year. Auxiliaries/Members can donate to the Continuing Education Scholarship, in MALTA, by selecting the "Make a Gift" tab and then "National President's 2025-2026 Special Project." Alternatively, you can mail a check to National Headquarters earmarked "National President's 2025-2026 Special Project." The Patriotic Art Contests are due to your local auxiliaries by March 31, 2026. More information for these scholarships can be found at vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships, in MALTA Membership Resources, or you may contact me directly for more information.

This year, the Scholarship Program Awards will be focusing on the most creative and/or unique activity/event that educates the community about scholarship opportunities that are available through the VFW and VFW Auxiliary. The following Scholarship Program Awards are available for participating Auxiliaries:

A citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most creative/unique activity/event that educates their community about scholarship opportunities. Entry forms and more information for these Auxiliary awards are available in MALTA Membership Resources.

The CO Scholarship Department Chair must receive entry forms by March 31, 2026 for judging.

As always, thank you for all your hard work to support the Scholarship Program. Remember, the best way to ensure the continuing growth and support of our organization is by continuing to support and encourage our younger generations through these scholarship opportunities.

Sincerely,

Crystal Proffitt
Scholarship Chairman

Hospital

Greetings brothers and sisters!

I hope you are all enjoying the fall and all it has to offer. For me, this is my favorite season of the year. I love the cool weather, football, and of course all things pumpkin. Although it's important year-round, I think it's even more important that we keep our hospitalized veterans in our minds this time of year. Going through the holidays hospitalized and alone can be tough on anybody. A lot of us plan events for Christmas, but let's also remember Thanksgiving, Veterans Day, or really, any day of the week is a good day to visit our veterans!

Speaking of any day of the week, I have talked about bringing back a fun idea from a couple of years ago where we celebrate different non-traditional holidays with our veterans. Some days coming up in November and December that would make fun times for visiting with the veterans for non-traditional holidays are November 1st – National Authors Day (you can take books to the facilities); November 3rd – Color the World Orange Day (maybe combine that with a Denver Bronco party); November 5th – National Donut Day (self-explanatory); November 17th – Odd Sock Day (bring fun socks to donate and have the patients pick out which ones they like best); December 4th – National Cookie Day (also self-explanatory); December 11th – Christmas Jumper Day (how fun would that be to dress up and go for a visit). Check out the calendar, every day of the year has some kind of holiday attached to it, and I would really love to show our veterans some love on more than just the “traditional” holidays.

Also, please remember to work on recruiting volunteers. If you have a facility in your area (remember, it does not have to be a VA facility), reach out to them to see what their needs are. Then, as an auxiliary, vote on a project, and start asking everyone that you know if they would like to come along and help. Ask your kids and grandkids, ask friends, co-workers, church group or book club friends, ask everyone!

Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Happy Holidays to all! Stay safe and warm.

Loyally,

Brandi Dolan
Hospital Chairman

Legislative

I apologize for not sending a letter last Colorado Veteran due to a family emergency. In October, I challenged members to identify Colorado bills affecting veterans and consider how our auxiliary can influence their outcomes. As legislative chairs in the VFW Auxiliary, our role is to support veterans in obtaining the benefits they were promised. By consistently voicing our concerns to decision-makers, we strengthen both our organization and ourselves.

Action Corp offers individuals opportunities to engage in issues relating to veterans that are presented before Congress. All VFW Auxiliary members are encouraged to attend City Council meetings, school board sessions, or town hall events. Maintaining a courteous demeanor during discussions with board members and town hall representatives is essential. Because we are there representing the VFW members, veterans, their families and our community. When going to any meetings please wear something that says VFW Auxiliary, please make sure you take pictures notes and send them to me at Trishagable2@icloud.com

Members are encouraged to attend at least three to five meetings, including board meetings and other gatherings, throughout the year. For September, please bring a penny as a symbolic gesture for sharing your thoughts and concerns regarding veterans.

How to join Action Corp.

Go to <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/>

Click on Legislative Priorities

Then click on Action Corps Weekley – Sign Up Today

I want to thank you all for your support for our Veterans, families and the community.

Trisha Mullins
Legislative Chairman



President's Special Project Rocky Mountain Regional VA Fisher House

Greetings!

President Rena Cales Special Project is the Rocky Mountain Regional Fisher House. The Rocky Mountain Regional Fisher House located behind the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado at 1700 N. Wheeling Street, Building R is available to all family members or caregivers, including service dogs of the Veteran getting medical care at the Rocky Mountain VA Medical Center. They are conveniently located near the VA, so that our families can easily visit their loved ones.

At the local Fisher House they believe "a family's love is good medicine." That is why they provide a FREE "home-away-from-home" for families of active duty military and veterans getting medical care. Our local Fisher House has 16 suites and can accommodate 16 to 32 family members. It features a large kitchen, laundry facilities, a spacious dining room and an inviting living room with a library. Our home also has an elevator to easily access the second floor.

My main focus is ensuring every Post and Auxiliary member purchase a special project pin. The proceeds from these pins goes towards Rena's special project. The money that is raised this year will go to help our military and veterans in their time of need.

You can purchase these beautiful flag pins representing both the American flag and the Colorado flag by mailing an order (located in this Veteran) along with the monies to pay for the requested number of pins. Once I receive the order form, I will send your requested number of pins to you via USPS. The cost per pin is \$3 and you are allowed to resell the pins for \$3. **If you resell the pins at a higher cost, you are required to send the extra monies into Department of Colorado VFW Auxiliary.** All monies raised from this pin are to go to the Rocky Mountain Regional Fisher House.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at our Parade of Programs throughout the year. We will be discussing all of the Auxiliary programs and I will have more information on the Fisher House.

Queenie Barz
Special Project Chairman

2025-2026 Veteran's Pin Order Form Department of Colorado Auxiliary Presidents Special Project "Fisher House"

Post or Auxiliary Name and Number: _____

Ship to (Name of a Person): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

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

You can pay via check or money order - please do not send cash
Make check payable to Department of Colorado VFW Auxiliary

Mail Veteran's Pin to: Queenie Barz
P.O. Box 533
Mancos, CO 81328



Membership

Hello Lighthouses,

I want to say Thank you to all Lighthouses that were at our 1st Council meeting of this year that was in Boulder in August. We had a great turnout and got to see many friends and meet new friends. I know that everyone enjoyed our Parade of Programs that Saturday. Thank you for participating in all the Chairmanship programs. Answering question for Membership, you all rocked it. For those who participated, they were able to receive a Lighthouse from me for participating. **“Thank you, Zamarah, for sprinting with the microphone and handing out the lighthouses for those who participated, as I know I don’t have your energy to sprint as your young and I am well, an Aged Adult :)”**

Annual Lighthouses, why are you not going life? Does it cost too much, can’t afford it, we understand this. The cost you pay every year rather \$35.00 or whatever your membership cost adds up each year and going Life, you will never have to worry about losing your membership by forgetting to pay or having to start over if you miss the deadline of June 30th. You deserve to go life and maybe as an idea, your Auxiliary can pay 1 life membership for a member in a drawing and give them the best gift ever if the funds are available, especially for Christmas, or have one of your family members buy your life for your birthday or any holiday. Let’s get you to be a “Lifetime” member.

I hope that all the Lighthouse Treasurers have started to call, mail, or contact your annual members to pay their dues. Sure, the deadline isn’t till June 30, 2026, but if you start now, you will be on your way to having members paid and in good standing, which could get you to 100% membership. Let’s push a little harder against the waves and see what we can do to help our annual Lighthouses go life.

Officers:

If you are annual member, please pay your dues before December 31st deadline. If not, you will not be in good standing and will lose your office in the Auxiliary as of January 1st, until paid.

- **Nonpayment of dues prior to December 31. The member may not be re-elected or appointed to any position until the member’s duty is paid.**
- **Annual members not paid by December 31, you will be able to attend meetings in January and future months, but you will have no voice at meetings, until your dues are paid.**

I did email all Auxiliary Treasurers, District Presidents and Treasurers to let them know some of the goals this year which one is to have our **Department of Colorado Auxiliary at 95% by November 30th**. I will continue to inform them of how our membership is doing so that they know how hard everyone is working. I would love to have as many Lighthouses as possible to be at 100% also by November 30th.

As of today, writing this article, our department is **87.97%**. Not bad for almost the end of September and look at what we can do in October and November. So, let’s continue to strive for membership going forward. We have 8 Lighthouses who are 100%, Wouldn’t you like your Lighthouse to be one of them? Let us light up our Lighthouses by taking stride in our duties, so we can all get 100%. **WE CAN DO IT!!**

I will be having a drawing of (4) \$50.00 prizes for all Lighthouses, that have reached the 100% goal by our Spring Council of Administration. I know we can all reach this goal. Let us get out there and push membership as hard as we can and achieve what we are set out to do
All Districts, I have a Drawing for (2) Districts that reach 100% by Spring Council and we have 13 Districts. This has been done before, and I would love to see all Districts again at 100%.

Without new members and existing members, we could really be fighting the waves to have our Lighthouses stay healthy. We must stay strong, go out and recruit new members and retain former members. Show them what our Auxiliary is all about and what our goals are. Be sure whether an Officer or not to carry Membership applications because you never know who you may speak with who is eligible to join our Great Organization. Let us go out and Recruit, Recruit, Recruit.

Here are our awards that members and Auxiliary can receive:

Awards from National:

For Auxiliaries: \$50.00 for each Lighthouse that has reached 100%+ by June 30, 2026.

Members and VFW who recruit 5 new and/or rejoined members will receive a Member Recruiter Pin and will also be entered in at 5-member recruiter drawing.

Members and VFW who recruit 20 new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will receive a "National Membership Achievement" Recruiter Award and be entered in a drawing to receive a \$400.00 Visa Gift Card.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our October 18th and 19th Council of Administration in Greeley. With our Department President Rena, who would like us all to dress up in Halloween Costumes, this will be exciting to see and can’t wait to take some pictures. Thank you all for everything you do for Veterans, Family and Community.

Until we meet again, stay safe, stay healthy and God Bless.

With Loyalty,

Lucille Chavez
Membership Chairman

Historian & Social Media

Hello Members,

I look forward to continuing to work with each Auxiliary in Colorado. The Historian & Media Relations National Ambassador is Kristin Digiacomio.

It will be both exciting and inspiring to witness all the incredible posts and updates shared across the State of Colorado throughout our VFW Community for the coming year.

Please help me with documenting your activities and send pictures to help document this year, and if President Rena attends any of your events or district meetings please forward pictures of her and your Auxiliary to me.

As you share your stories, here are a few helpful tips to keep in mind:

Engage with your Community:

Help others understand who we are and what we do by sharing photos from events and highlighting community involvement, especially around patriotic holidays and commemorations.

Things to remember when Posting to your website (Facebook).

Do's:

1. Include a short note as what the event was for: date, Location, Auxiliary number and members attending the event.
2. Send to the Department Historian (me) as soon as possible any events that your Auxiliary does, and please do not hold these pictures or any other events information till the end of the year. I will need these as soon as you can get them to me.
3. When posting pictures and videos on Facebook, be proud and show your Auxiliary is shining and having fun at your auxiliary event.
4. Check with members in your pictures/videos, to make sure they are okay with posting their images.

Don't:

1. No political statements of any kind.
2. No religious statements.
3. No negative statements or comments

Reels:

Reels are full-screen vertical videos up to 90 seconds long. They feature a suite of editing tools and audio tracks, as well as trending voice/sound snippets. Reels allow you to add captions, stickers, and backgrounds; upload multiple video clips; use a range of filters and loads more!

Reels can be made up of a single video, several clips edited together, still photos or some combination of photos and video. Reels can be posted to both Instagram and Facebook. Reels have outstanding visibility and usually appear at the top of your feed. Descriptions and hashtags should be used for the Reels as well and those are easy to add.

National awards:

Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. Most outstanding social media reel highlighting the VFW Auxiliary in action. Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions with the most outstanding social media reel highlighting their VFW Auxiliary in action. Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form and the social media reel to the Relations Chairman by March 31, 2026, for judging. Instructions on how to make a social media reel is in MALTA Member Resources under Historian & Media Relations, Websites & social media – Websites, How to Create a Facebook Reel.
2. The Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form and the social media reel to the National Historian & Media Relations Ambassador by April 30, 2026, for judging. Citations will be mailed directly to winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Please continue the great work you are doing in support of our veterans and communities. Your passion, commitment, and tireless dedication do not go unnoticed.

Stay safe until we meet again.

Ron Boone
Historian/Media Relations Chairman

**Please send all Deceased VFW & Auxiliary Members to vfw@vfwco.org
They will be saved for the Joint Memorial State Convention Book. Our Deadline is May 20, 2026**

Americanism

Hey There! We are on the Home Strech for 2025! Continue to gear up and deliver your education events to prepare your Post and Auxiliary members and your community for 2026.

Why You Ask?

1. 250th Anniversary for our United States Declaration of Independence
2. State of Colorado celebrates 150th Anniversary of Statehood

History is paying tribute to our United States Flag in ongoing.

This article includes the next segment of the poem **“My name is OLD GLORY” by Don S. Miller**

I have fought in every battle of every war for more than 200 years...
Gettysburg, Shiloh, Appomatox, San Juan Hill, the trenches of France
The Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome the beaches of Normandy
The deserts of Africa, the cane fields of the Philippines,
The rice paddies and jungles of Guam, Okinawa, Japan, Korea, Vietnam,
And a score of places long forgotten by all but those who were with me.

I was there!

I led my soldiers.
I followed them.
I watched over them...
They loved me.

I was on a small hill in Iwo Jima.
I was dirty, battle-worn and tired,
But my soldiers cheered me,
And I was proud.

The last section of this poem will be shared in the February 2026 Colorado Veteran.

History and paying tribute to the United States Flag is ongoing.

For our military holidays in October, November, and December, include their history about each holiday and include flag education with all your programs.

As you all start to plan your holiday travels for shopping, attending concerts, theater venues, musicals—take along some flags with you. Hand them out and share with others your love of this great nation by giving the best visual of the United States of America.

And, please, celebrate yourselves by getting those Americanism reports in.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas. And let's be ready for 2026.

Marilyn Peters
Americanism Chairman



Buddy Poppy/VFW National Home

Hello Auxiliary Sisters & Brothers!

I can't believe how quickly time has been passing. It seems that we just started our year only a few days ago, but we are already into the 2nd quarter of our year! Many Auxiliaries have reported all of the wonderful work that they have been doing, but I know that all of our Auxiliaries have done work to promote our programs, so let's make sure to get those reports in.

Buddy™ Poppy

The first days of school and Halloween have passed us by, and many of us will be preparing to take part in our local Veteran's Day parades and celebrations. Don't forget to bring a basket or two of Buddy™ Poppies along, to hand out to our youth and to anyone who may want one. Maybe add them to a card with the "In Flanders Fields" poem by John McCrae, and ask the person you are giving the Buddy™ Poppy to, what the Buddy™ Poppy means to them – this is a great way to learn about pieces of our history that you may have otherwise never known and a great way to meet local Veterans that you don't yet know.

If you are able to get into a classroom, whether that be an elementary school or high school history class, share what the Buddy™ Poppy means to our organization, to you, and why it is so important to our Veterans and active-duty service members. Attach a Buddy™ Poppy to a small toy soldier for them to take home and place where they can honor a Veteran or Service Member. The month of November is such a profound month with Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and we can't forget the Marine Corps Birthday (HAPPY 250th BIRTHDAY DEVIL DOGS!), to show our gratitude and appreciation for their commitment and sacrifices to our country, and the Buddy™ Poppy – small, powerful, and majestic – is one way we can show this by just simply wearing one while we are out and about.

National Home

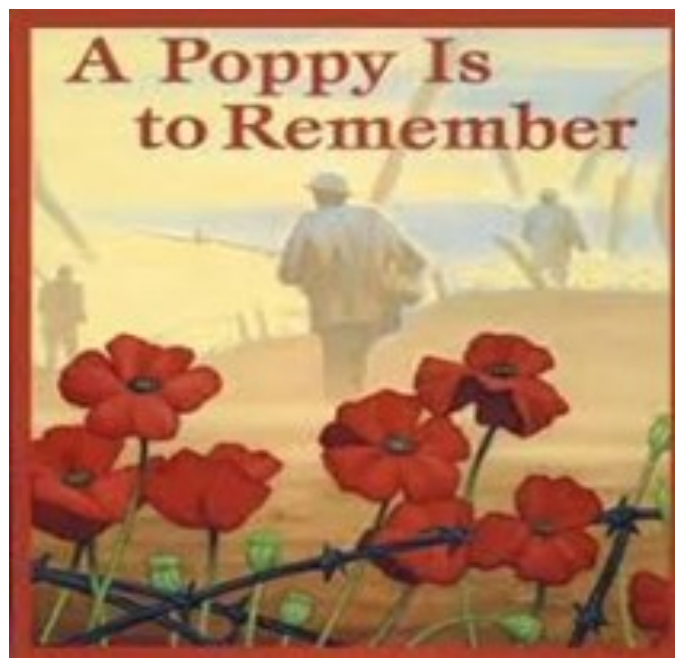
Although we may be celebrating, there are many veterans and their families who may struggle during this time of year. Winter, especially in our beautiful state, can be harsh with its rough winters and limited access to resources in our rural communities. Add in the holidays, where veterans and their families may not want, or are unable, to celebrate because of food scarcity and limited funds can make it that much harder for them. This is the time of year that we should all be taking care of one another and watching out for each other. If you happen to come across a veteran, service member, or veteran's or service member's family, and they are experiencing hardship – sit down, talk with them, and listen to what they need – you may be the connection that they need to reach out the National Home Helpline. Depending on their needs, they may meet the criteria to find a fresh start within one of the homes at the National Home, or find the resources to help them in their own area.

We can all be someone's guardian angel this season, whether that be through listening and helping them to navigate through a difficult situation, donating, or volunteering to keep these wonderful programs going.

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." – Leo Buscaglia

Warmest Regards,

Nadia Flores
Buddy Poppy/VFW National Home Chairman



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO**

GENERAL ORDERS #2

November 1, 2025

All General Orders from the Department President are official and need to be read at the first meeting following receipt before being filed for reference.

1. **Presidents on all levels** are reminded that their duties in accordance with Section 810 of the National Bylaws are to preside and maintain order and enforce strict observance of the Bylaws and ritual of the organization, appoint all officers and committees not otherwise provided for, see that there is no disruption during the meeting and if so, has the right to have the member causing the disruption removed.
2. **Members** should address all remarks to the President, not to other members in attendance. Members should stand and be recognized by the President, and if two stand at the same time, the President will decide who is recognized first.
3. **No member** will disrespect or embarrass any member of this organization at any time.
4. **Department President Rena Cales' Special Project** is the Fisher House. Proceeds from the sale of the Veteran Pin and donations will go to support this fund.
5. **Suggested donations** to Health & Happiness should be processed through MALTA or mailed directly to National Auxiliary Headquarters in Kansas City earmarked for Health & Happiness. Department Hospital Donations should be mailed to Department Treasurer, Cindy Anderson. The suggested Department Hospital donation is \$0.75 per member. Both donations are based on your June 30, 2025, membership number.
6. **District Presidents and Auxiliary Presidents:** Please be sure all Districts and Auxiliaries have filed their 990N or other appropriate 990 return by November 15, 2025. A copy of the acceptance confirmation for the 990N should be sent to Department Treasurer, Cindy Anderson.
7. **Standing Rules:** In accordance with Section 211 of the National Bylaws, Auxiliaries and Districts may establish Standing Rules to provide for specified operations, activities, events, expenses, and disbursements between meetings provided such rules do not conflict with the National or Department Bylaws. Standing Rules should be reviewed annually.
8. **VOD and Patriot Pen Entries** are due to the Post/Auxiliaries by October 31, 2025. Judging of these entries at the Post/Auxiliary level should be completed by November 15 and the results forwarded to the District. Judging at the District level should be completed, and winners forwarded to Department by December 15, 2025.
9. **Change in Officers:** Using the Officer Change Form, please notify National Headquarters and Department Secretary, Kathy Kurtenbach of any changes in Auxiliary or District Officers. The above should also be notified of any changes of meeting dates, places, times, and dues amounts. This form is available on the Colorado Department website at www.vfwco.org
10. **District and Auxiliary Officers:** All officers must hold a 2026 dues card or life dues card by December 31, 2025. Any officer or chairman who has not renewed their membership ceases to be a member in good standing on January 1, 2026, and cannot hold an office or chairmanship unless dues are paid.
11. **Buddy Poppy Orders:** Please place your orders for the New Metal Poppy and the Original Red Cloth Poppy with Department of Colorado VFW, 1400 Carr Street, Lakewood, CO 80214. The minimum order is 500 poppies. If the Auxiliary and Post order together, be sure to note on the order form the amount purchased by each. There are now two Poppy Orders forms that can be found on the Department website at www.vfwco.org and in the Colorado Program book. Please be sure to use the correct form for the style you are ordering. Poppies can be ordered by the Auxiliaries but must include a VFW member's membership number on the order. You must include freight in your payment as required per the order form.
12. **Special Events:** Please notify Department Secretary, Kathy Kurtenbach of an upcoming special event or celebration so that the Department and District Officers may attend if available.
13. **Auxiliary Treasurers:** Membership Chairman, Lucille Chavez asks that you please process 2026 dues for continuous members at least weekly. Send all new, rejoin, and transfer applications to the Department Treasurer, Cindy Anderson as soon as they have been accepted. Be sure that all applications are filled out and include signatures of the investigating committee and the date elected.
14. **District and Auxiliary Treasurers and Trustees:** The second quarter audit for the period July 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025, should be completed by October 31. The audit must be accepted by motion within 60 days after the end of the quarter and a copy sent to the Department Treasurer.
15. **District Dues** are to be remitted to the District Treasurer by September 30, 2025, of the current Auxiliary year or as established by the District Standing Rules based on the June 30 membership of the preceding year.
16. **A Special Thank You** to all of those who attended the Parade of Programs. The Program Chairmen did an exceptional job of promoting their programs and in providing information. Also, a special thank you to the Council Members and Auxiliary members who attended the Council Meeting on July 20, 2025. Remember that all members are encouraged to attend these events.

BY ORDER OF:
Rena Cales
State President

ATTESTED TO:
Kathy Kurtenbach
State Secretary

VFW Auxiliary Membership by District as of October 31, 2025

Number/City	2024	2025	%	Number/City	2024	2025	%	Number/City	2024	2025	%
No District				District #4				District #10			
4264 Stmbt Springs	28	0	0.00	3541 Sterling	45	29	64.44	3631 Aurora	92	89	96.74
4265 Craig	31	31	100%*	4671 Wray	18	18	100%*	4171 Golden	286	281	98.25
5843 Meeker	31	30	96.77	TOTAL	63	47	74.60	4331 Arvada	132	125	94.70
9374 Kremmling	24	26	108%*	District #5				4444 Cmmce City	154	146	94.81
TOTAL	114	87	76.32	101 CO Springs	72	64	88.89	7945 Thornton	268	251	93.66
District #1				3917 Security	192	177	92.19	TOTAL	932	892	95.71
1 Denver	186	153	82.26	4051 CO Springs	265	242	91.32	District #11			
322 Englewood	74	67	90.54	5221 Calhan	25	25	100%*	1247 Grnd Jcnctn	71	70	98.59
5061 Denver	182	167	91.76	6461 Fountain	156	143	91.67	3571 Delta	48	44	91.67
9644 Fort Logan	362	349	96.41	7829 Monument	37	0	0.00	3981 Grnd Jcnctn	40	36	90.00
TOTAL	804	736	91.54	TOTAL	747	651	87.15	9221 Cedaredge	52	49	94.23
District #2				District #6				TOTAL	211	199	94.31
2788 Penrose	49	31	63.27	336 Ordway	61	52	85.25	District #12			
3641 Pueblo	55	40	72.73	2411 Las Animas	101	97	96.04	4031 Durango	155	130	83.87
4061 Canon City	82	71	86.59	TOTAL	162	149	91.98	5181 Dove Creek	34	29	85.29
5812 Pueblo West	49	43	87.76	District #7				5231 Cortez	54	51	94.44
7305 Colo. City	22	20	90.91	899 Alamosa	42	26	61.90	TOTAL	243	210	86.42
8898 Boone	22	21	95.45	8121 Del Norte	104	99	95.19	District #13			
TOTAL	279	226	81.00	TOTAL	146	125	85.62	3411 Kit Carson	18	13	72.22
District #3				District #8				6612 Hugo	36	32	88.89
41 Loveland	113	96	84.96	859 Leadville	17	17	100%*	TOTAL	54	45	83.33
1771 Lafayette	235	238	101%*	11411 Lake George	47	47	100%*	15006 MAL	894	1010	113%*
1781 Fort Collins	130	100	76.92	12009 Conifer	41	45	110%*	TOTAL DEPT			
2121 Greeley	85	73	85.88	TOTAL	105	109	104%*	5794	5298	91.44	
2585 Johnstown	83	79	95.18								
2601 Longmont	154	0	0.00								
4334 Ault	42	42	100%*								
6624 Evans	179	169	94.41								
12189 Berthoud	19	15	78.95								
TOTAL	1040	812	78.08								

* = 100% Membership

Help Colorado be 100%+

