

# VFW 9644 NEWSLETTER

## NEWS, VIEWS, AND HAPPENINGS

Verle Huffman VFW 9644 & VFW Auxiliary



Award-winning VFW, est. 1947, closest Post to Fort Logan National Cemetery

### *VFW Post Officers*

Commander  
 Senior Vice Commander  
 Junior Vice Commander  
 Quartermaster  
 Chaplain  
 Adjutant

Todd Van Sant  
 Paul Gremse  
 Shawn Jones  
 Lynn Peterson  
 Daniel Micka  
 Marvin Garcia

### *Auxiliary Officers*

President  
 Senior Vice President  
 Junior Vice President  
 Treasurer  
 Chaplain  
 Secretary

Concetta Kile  
 Shelly Hall  
 Rachel Rodgers  
 Debbie Blesh  
 Lisa Bernhardt  
 Bill Mason

#### Post Address

2680 W Hampden Ave,  
Sheridan, CO 80110

#### Post Phone Number

(303) 789-9733



We have an updated website thanks to our Commander Todd Van Sant. Please check out our website to see the latest events and happenings.

<https://vfw9644.org/>



# POST VIEWS

## From the Commander

By *Todd Van Sant*



2023 is going to be an exciting year. I went super-long last month, and this month I'm going to keep it short.

Last month, I spoke a little about creating a foundation to keep ourselves alive and relevant - that happened last month. We formed the VFW Post 9644 Foundation with the objective of supporting veteran needs and the local community. This may sound similar to the mission of the post and auxiliary, and it is. I've become a bit of a nerd for this topic - I'll try not to bore you too much, but here it is in a nutshell...

We are currently a 501c19 organization. Our mission is veterans, and our makeup is veterans. It's a very special and unique subset of the nonprofit world. Only veteran posts (Legion, VFW, etc.) can be a 501c19. Every dollar we have or need must be raised through internal fund raisers or events such as poppy drives - or through the canteen, bingo, pull tabs, or car shows. There is no external source of money except for the hard work of the folks that volunteer here.

A 501c3 is still a nonprofit organization but it is tax exempt which means it can take donations, apply for grants, and fundraise outside of the constraints of the 501c19. Our mission for this organization is to raise funds for veterans causes as well as to support the local community. In doing so, we can apply for grants that could improve the energy efficiency of the post home (for example) - or raise money to offset our relief fund. Both of these are exciting - our building is literally falling apart and to make all of the repairs, we'd need hundreds of thousands of dollars. Also, being able to do bigger and better veteran drives, school drives, or scholarships would be another excellent use of money raised.

This is going to take more work, and I've tapped several members to assist us in our efforts. One thing we will need is a good grant writer. You'd think that we'd have to go out and find someone to do this work - but several of you can easily take on this task. Now obviously, computer, typing and research skills would be required - but there are several online courses in grant writing. If you have the time, energy, and desire to be a grant writer - it would be a great use of some free time. Basically, the job is this:

- Research grants that fit our needs.
- Make contact with the grant to see if there is a good fit between us and them.
- Research and discussion to understand the grant, the people involved, and how the grant solves a problem (the bulk of the work is here).
- Write and submit the grant application - could be a short letter to a hundred page narrative on how the grant impacts our mission.
- Follow up with the foundation to learn what worked and didn't work.

# ***POST VIEWS CONTINUED***

If you have the time and energy to learn this, let me know. I'd be interested in putting you together with some potential places of learning. If you want to be involved in any way on this - show up to the Post and Auxiliary meetings or contact me.

Enjoy your short month of February. We have a bunch of exciting things happening this month that I'll report on next month. Then our summer hits with its usual activities. We could use your help around here - find a way to get involved (or re-involved). Exciting times are coming - it's time to step up!

## ***From the Quartermaster***

***By Lynn Peterson***



Dear Post 9644 & Auxiliary Members:

With February 2023 knocking at the door, hopefully, it's You coming to visit & join your Post 9644 comrades, family & friends. Welcome, come on in!! Now that you've arrived, join us for some fun & fellowship, nice conversation, food & beverage, bingo, raffle, pull tabs, revamped & reloaded quarter dozer machine, special events, along with just relaxation or even volunteering for KP duty. Much needed. Every hand(s) appreciated. Thanks for Coming!!! Enjoy & remember to Come Back.

On that note, a special welcome to recent new Post Member Joshua Wells. A local Navy veteran & area neighbor.

Now for some Post bingo news. In one recent January weekend, we had Post Monday Barrys Bingo Red & Purple progressive winners, to additionally include Post Tuesday Bingo winner, as well as, Post Queen of Clubs; totaling whopping payouts of \$16,500.00+. Congratulations to all winners!! Come join us. You may end up a winner too.

Other newsworthy & good Post news updates include: financial efficiencies with our new thermostats throughout Post and added monthly revenues from food truck storage, kitchen use outsourcing & Hall facility improvements & marketability for rentals. Collectively, they are intended to help the post supplement in meeting our ever increasing financial needs.

For you squirrel lovers.....that's it in a nutshell.

In closing, as always....Thanks in your membership, support & participation; adding value to our prized Post 9644.

# AUXILIARY VIEWS



## *From the Junior Vice President*

*By Rachel Rogers*

There is still time to have your children earn some money for school. Below are the scholarships that are available with deadlines coming up in just 2 months!!

For children in K to 12 there are a few contests available for both art and singing. All of the following are due to the local VFW by March 31 st . Please see the information for the different grades that are eligible for each of the contests.

The first is “Illustrating America”. This is an art contest for students in grades K through 8 th . All art must be submitted by March 31 st to the VFW 9644. This is the site for the fillable application for this contest:

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/new-Illustrating-America-entry-form.pdf>

The second is “Getting Excited for the Red, White & Blue!”. This is a national anthem singing contest for youth in grades K-12. All entries need to be into the VFW 9644 by March 31 st . This is the site for a fillable application for this contest: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/new-Red-White-and-Blue-Singing-Contest-entry-form-1.pdf>

The third is a 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest Scholarship. This is open to all students (including home-schooled) in grades 9 through 12. The deadline for submissions is March 31 st , 2023. There are multiple amounts that are available based on the place of the art piece. Here is the site for the fillable application for this contest: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/new-3-Dimensional-Patriotic-Art-entry-form.pdf>

The forth is a 2-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest. This is open to all students (including home-schooled) in grades 9 through 12. There are multiple amounts that are available based on the place of the art piece. The deadline for submissions is March 31 st , 2023. Here is the site for the fillable application for this contest: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/new-Young-American-Creative-Patriotic-Art-Contest-entry-form.pdf>

# AUXILIARY VIEWS CONTINUED



## *From the Treasurer*

***By Deb Blesh***

Hope everyone is finding a way to stay warm these past few weeks. Spring will be here before you know it. Our Auxiliary is doing well and membership is, as of this writing, over 102%. Thank you to everyone who has paid their dues. We still have a few who haven't, and if it is you, please get them in.

A special welcome and thank you for recruiting and signing up new members. We welcome our new members and hope to see you all soon.

We have many events planned for this month. Check out the calendar for the schedule of meals and events and the end of this newsletter and maybe save a day and come on down. The annual Senior Citizen luncheon which is always close to Valentine's Day is February 11 this year. We hope to see you there for a good luncheon and fun and games. The VFW band will also play for us and it is a great time.

Our Tuesday meals and bingo is still going strong and we continue to strive for variety and a good meal. Come on down and give us a try. The 1st Tuesday of the month is always hamburgers with chips or fries. All other meals are prepared by other Auxiliary members. If anyone would like to join us and prepare a meal, please let us know. It doesn't have to be elaborate or time consuming. Simple is best, and you can even get in a little bingo. If you would like to, you can call me any time.

In closing, I would like and encourage everyone to smile, be courteous and respectful to all and most of all enjoy "your" post.

## *Canteen Manager*

***By Jandra Czarnek***

Super bowl Chili Cook-off is on Sunday, February 12, 2023 at 3:00 PM. Please bring your best green or red chili or just come down to taste test and judge the best and stay and enjoy the super bowl. All entries need to be at the Post by 2:30 pm. Just a reminder, Tuesday nights are bingo and food, Thursday nights are game nights, Friday nights are dinner and Sunday mornings are breakfast. Come down, have a drink or soda, enjoy talking to friends, have dinner or breakfast or play some bingo. Volunteer to cook or serve if you can (I know not everyone cooks in large quantities - I learned at a young age) or just support the people who do and in turn support the Post, Auxiliary and Canteen.

Until next month.

# ***WELCOME TO THE POST***



***Joshua Wells***

*United States Navy*

New Post Member

Denver, CO



# ***MORE VFW HAPPENINGS***



*45th Annual Salute to Seniors Lunch*

Saturday, February 11, 2023  
11am to 3pm

---

We are hosting our annual senior citizen lunch!! We are looking for volunteers. Please see Concetta if interested OR sign up in the lobby!



**LVI** 

SUPER BOWL

**VFW Post 9644 Chili Cook-Off**

**Sunday, February 12, 2023 @ 3pm**

**BRING YOUR BEST GREEN OR RED CHILI**  
**ENTRIES NEED TO BE IN BY 2:30PM**  
**PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED**

**Stay & Watch the game at 4:30pm**

# ***MORE VFW HAPPENINGS***

## **VFW Egg Demo-Derby**

**Presented by VFW Post 1 & VFW Post 9644**

**Sunday, April 2, 2023**

Egg Roll at 1pm

\$5 children 12 & under ~ \$10 adults 12 & older ~ \$5 per extra egg  
(Egg Salad Sandwiches Provided)

Door Prizes ~ Raffles

Trophies for Winners of the Derby

**Proceeds go to Colorado Hospitality Room at National Convention in Phoenix, AZ**

# VFW CALENDAR

February 2023

Food
Meetings
Post Events
Calendar Events

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30	31	1 Post & Aux Meeting 7:00 pm	2 Ground Hog Day	3 Friday Night Dinner 5:00 pm Four Chaplains Day 🙏	4	5 Breakfast 9:00 am
6 Burgers, Bingo, Beer 5:00 pm	7	8	9 Game Night 6:00 pm	10 Friday Night Dinner 5:00 pm	11 Senior Citizen Lunch and bingo 6:00 pm	12 Breakfast 9:00 am
13 Burgers, Bingo, Beer 5:00 pm Valentine's Day 🍷❤️	14	15	16 Game Night 6:00 pm	17 Friday Night Dinner 5:00 pm	18 Karaoke Night 6:00 pm	19 Breakfast 9:00 am Coast Guard Res. Bday
20 President's Day	21 Burgers, Bingo, Beer 5:00 pm	22	23 Game Night 6:00 pm	24 Friday Night Dinner 5:00 pm	25	26 Breakfast 9:00 am
27 Burgers, Bingo, Beer 5:00 pm	28	1	2 Game Night 6:00 pm	3 Friday Night Dinner 5:00 pm	4	5 Breakfast 9:00 am

Future dates to be aware of

--

# ***DONATE TO POST 9644***

## ***Red Oak Claims***

***Red Oak Claims donated \$360 for website advertising***



RED OAK CLAIMS is a Colorado based company that is proud to support your VFW! Our expertise is serving as advocates for policyholders. If a property owner is facing an extensive property loss and claim, our team would work on behalf of the insured to ensure that they receive a favorable settlement in a timely manner. Our role is to prepare, present and negotiation the claim, always with the insured's best interest in mind. We are licensed by the Division of Insurance as Public Adjusters. By the nature of our license, we always work for the policyholder. We never work for the insurance companies as that would be a conflict of interest. RED OAK CLAIMS is your claim advocate! COMPASSION FOR YOU. AUTHORITY FOR YOUR CLAIM

## ***Donate to VFW 9644***

***Use the QR Code to donate to your local veterans through your VFW Post. Donations go directly to veterans in need.***



(This QR Code will take you to PayPal where you can add your donation.)

# VFW CELEBRATIONS

## *Post Birthdays*

David Briggs	Feb 1
Norman Chilcote	Feb 1
Delane Ihli	Feb 1
Patrick Fraley	Feb 6
Kenneth Kingsley	Feb 8
John Benedetti	Feb 11
Michael Cox	Feb 11
Henry Fellerman	Feb 11
Richard Karnik	Feb 11
Larry Keller	Feb 11
Nicholas Ricci	Feb 12
James Gowans	Feb 13
Matthew Goligoski	Feb 14
Tommie Brunz	Feb 16
Jack Carbaugh	Feb 16
Tony Nickerson	Feb 17
James O'Donnell	Feb 18
Carlos Peralta	Feb 19
Juan Gonzales	Feb 19
Sam Searcy	Feb 21
Leamon Lane	Feb 22
James Steele	Feb 23
Elden Rasmussen	Feb 26
Jerry Cutshaw	Feb 27
Cyrus Henman	Feb 27
Christopher Basquez	Feb 28
Jeffrey Marten	Feb 28
Fabian Arreola	Feb 29

## *Auxiliary Birthdays*

Jan Lingle	Feb 1
Kimberly Swanson	Feb 1
Janet Lapp	Feb 2
Linda Scrivner	Feb 3
Barbara Maschka	Feb 4
Carol Corsaut	Feb 6
Teresa Howell-Longfellow	Feb 6
Virginia Winklepleck	Feb 7
Florence Zamora	Feb 7
Maxine Blaine	Feb 10
Connie Hohn	Feb 10
Karen Breslin	Feb 12
Joel Knutson	Feb 12
Susan Martinez	Feb 14
Barbara Mondragon	Feb 14
Michael Traudt	Feb 17
Eileen Rodriguez	Feb 21
Helen Smart	Feb 22
Sherry Rock	Feb 23
Karen Davidsmeyer	Feb 24
Sue Murphy	Feb 24
Mary Fisher	Feb 25