

VFW POST 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	Todd Van Sant
Senior Vice Commander	
Junior Vice Commander	Gary Bean
Quartermaster	Lynn Peterson
Chaplain	Robert Derrera
Adjutant	Marvin Garcia

Auxiliary Officers

President	John Whisler
Senior Vice President	Bill Mason
Junior Vice President	Rachel Rodgers
Treasurer	Debra Blesh
Chaplain	Lisa Bernhardt
Secretary	Concetta Kile

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 it out to see the latest events and happenings.

<https://www.vfw9644.org>





Todd Van Sant
Post 9644
Commander

I am writing this article while at the National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. Phoenix in the summertime... I can't imagine a better place to be in the middle of the summer! This has been both an interesting and learning experience to be sure. Some of the stuff they teach here would have been helpful a year ago - but better late than never.

I'm also writing this as the Department Surgeon. If you were not aware, I was voted in as Surgeon at the Department of Colorado at convention in Greeley last month. This new task will take me all over the State of Colorado to sit with other posts and districts around the state. I'm looking forward to the challenge. I have a ton to learn, and I hope that all of this learning helps me be a better commander for all of you!

I'd also like to acknowledge Rachel who is putting together our newsletter this month - Thank you, Rachel! Shawn is taking a bit of a hiatus over the summer months heading back to the Midwest to be with family. I'd like to thank Shawn for all of the hard work over the last couple of years - Thank you!

Speaking of thank you - I have to keep saying this: For those of you who constantly step up, those of you who donate with your time, money, or even advice, those of you who serve, and those of you who make Post 9644 what it is - every freaking day, thank you! I'm able to come to Phoenix - and all of the other posts around the Department of Colorado as a Commander of a successful post with strong members who are up for the challenge. When it was asked if we wanted to host the Department Convention next year, you stepped up and voted to put the work in. This won't calm down as I advance through the Department chairs (if I'm lucky enough to be able to),

this will get more and more busy!

Now, we have a busy summer coming up. It seems that every season brings with it a slew of events, but our summer months tend to be some of our busiest of the year. We start with our Pig Roast this month - this is going to be a fun, food-filled event. Last year we had nearly 100 of our community come through the doors and spend time in the post breaking bread with us. Then we have our 3rd Annual Car Show which promises to be a fun event on September 9th. I know that the committee that works this event has been meeting several times every month to plan this event out - it is not to be missed! Both of the flyers for these events can be found in this newsletter!

Finally, a nod to a couple of our sponsors that you will find listed throughout this newsletter. I am open to getting financial contributions by some companies to offset the costs of creating the newsletter, hosting the website, and getting this newsletter into your email boxes. Previously, I've been paying that bill, which I'm prepared to do - but, if I can find a good veteran owned or veteran friendly business that would like to get their name on our website and in our newsletter, I am working to get those in here. If you have the ability to give them their business, and if they earn it, I recommend using the folks that support us! I will also let them write an article here and there as long as it's non-political, non-predatory, and is in support of the post. If I get enough to offset it, I'd consider assembling a list of folks that want a printed copy mailed to them. I want to make it clear that I will vet these companies to ensure that they are within what I consider worthy of your time and attention.



Gary Bean
VFW Post 9644
Jr Vice Commander

Monthly meeting on Wed the 2nd. Bring your donations for the Sheraton School Supply Drive. We have a good start, but if we all bring a little more we will ROCK this drive.

Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy Scholarships will need to be submitted online.

For the Patriots Pen please go to - <https://scholarsapp.com/scholarship/vfw-partiot-s-pen-colorado-district-10-post-9644>

The theme this year for the Patriots Pen is "How are you inspired by America?"

For the Voice of Democracy please go to - <https://scholarsapp.com/scholarship/vfw-voice-of-democracy-colorado-district-10-post-9644>

The theme this year for the Voice of Democracy is "What are the greatest attributes of our democracy?"

Pig Roast, Aug 12th 1pm (\$15.00

per plate) Please help put if you are available with serving this event, children activities are planed so please bring your kiddos.

Colorado Rockies vs Arizona Diamondbacks Aug 16th. Meet at post at noon, the game is at 1:10pm (\$12.00 per ticket).

Fort Logan Northgate School - Aug 7th Breakfast at 7:30am and the Opening Session for all Sheridan School District staff will start around 8:45am. We are invited to present the colors. Please let me know if you would be interested in attending.

2022 PACT ACT: I have information and the local contact numbers for those that still need to enroll. The law went into effect Aug 10, 2022. You must enroll very soon if you want to get the benefits to retro back to that date. Some information is in the lobby at the Post.

Colorado Rockies

VS

Arizona Diamondbacks

Wednesday August 16th @ 1:10PM

MEET AT THE POST @ 12NOON

Tickets are \$12 each

Sign-Up Sheet in the Lobby

If you have questions see Gary Bean



Lynn Peterson
VFW Post 9644
Quartermaster

Dear Post 9644 & Auxiliary Members:

August, besides its infamous hot, Dog Days of Summer, remains memorable as my induction & indoctrination into military life; fast forward now some 54 years later. Military life was not the greatest as an Infantryman, but in reflection, a blessing of on-going Americanism, patriotism, comradeship & Friendships. A story familiar to most veterans like you/us....Thanks "Continuing to Serve"!

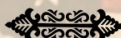
So from Friendships to Memberships. Based on our increasing VFW Post 9644 Membership applications received of late, we're moving forward. A Big Welcome to New Post Transfer Life Member Sean Malottke, US Air Force. Welcome aboard!!

As well, Thanks to all for your membership efforts; keep 'em coming!

Now to Leadership. As we begin a new fiscal year of elected comrade officers, thanks for your continuing support & volunteerism assistance. We need you & each other. Thanks for making a difference.

Lastly, with a host of summer-time activities upcoming; from August's Pig Roast/Fest, Colorado & Colorado Rockies Game, there's always something going on, to include Bingo. Come Join us. Besides growing, your Post is adding improvements, as well. Like Hall interior lighting, new Hall & Kitchen Patio Ramps & Railings, new patio tables, as well as, a upcoming new Hall Roof replacement. More other improvement planned & in progress too.

PIG ROAST

VFW POST 9644 VERLE HUFFMAN
 2680 W Hampden Ave  Sheridan, Colorado

Saturday, August 12
Starts at 1pm

Tickets: \$15 at the door

music, raffle, games and much much more!

Open to the public!





John Whisler
VFW Post 9644
President

Hello to the VFW Auxiliary

My name is John Whisler and I am the VFW post 9644 Auxiliary President. I would like to start by saying thank you to all the veterans and auxiliary members that I have met over the last 11 months since joining the auxiliary.

I would like to take a few minutes and tell you a little about myself and where I come from. I am a born and raised Colorado native. I have a beautiful wife named Elizabeth and 2 sons Gordon (20) and James (15). I was a scout as a youth and since having 2 boys have gotten back into the scouting program as a leader and Merit Badge Counselor. I currently help scouts earn merit badges in Camping, Cooking, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Family Life, Personal Management, Reptile and Amphibian

study, and Automotive Maintenance. I also help teach adults to be better leaders for their home units.

I have served in the Colorado National Guard as a wheel vehicle mechanic (63W). I have a hobby in between all my other activities which is I play and build hobby grade Remote Control rock crawlers and allow youth and adults to drive the vehicles.

I am looking forward to help the VFW Post 9644 and Auxiliary grow over the next year grow as a post and as a place to help out the community around the post.

Thank you for this chance to share with you all.

MONTHLY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2ND
5:30PM FREE PIZZA
7PM POST/AUXILIARY





Rachel Rodgers
VFW Post 9644
Jr Vice President

Welcome to August!

We had an amazing time in Phoenix, AZ for the VFW National Convention. I met a lot of amazing people and gained knowledge that will assist with helping our Post.

Information is now out the scholarships and art contests from National. The kids will submit to their local Post where we will vote on best to send to Department, at the Department Convention is where others will vote to move to National.

A list of the contest are:

- 3-D Patriotic Art Contest for grades 9 to 12
- Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest (2-D) for grades 9 to 12
- Illustrating America Art Contest for grades K to 8 (there are three categories which are grades K to 2; 3 to 5; and 6 to 8)

- Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! (The Star Spangle Banner singing contest) for grades K to 12 (there are two categories which are grades K to 8 and 9 to 12)

More information for these contests will be available on the vfw9644.org website in Programs.

For the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy the QR codes below can be used by students to submit or the information can be found at vfw9644.org in Programs.

Future dates to keep in mind are October 21st for the Childrens Halloween Party and December 16th for the Childrens Christmas Party.

We have merchandise available for sale if you would like to show your support for the Post. Please see myself or bartender to purchase.

2023 - 2024 SCHOLARSHIP PATRIOT'S PEN AND VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

PATRIOT'S PEN

"How Are You Inspired by America?"

- Open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students enrolled by Oct 31st deadline
- Submit a 300 - 400 word Essay
- National Prize is currently \$5,000



VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

"What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?"

- Open to students in grades 9 - 12 enrolled by Oct. 31 deadline
- Submit a 3 - 5 minute audio and written essay
- National Prize is current \$35,000





Jandra Czarnek
VFW Post 9644
Canteen Manager

We have several events happening in August and September. Pig Roast on August 12th @ 1 pm, \$15.00 per plate. Car Show on September 9th. Karaoke August 19th, 6 pm (John - our old Karaoke guy will be back for this one). Friday dinners and Sunday Breakfasts. Bingo every Tuesday, dinner 5-7 pm, Bingo starts @ 6 pm. Watch for information on Labor Day weekend.

As most of you know the cost of goods continues to rise, so the Post floor voted to increase drink prices, effective August 1st.

Come down enjoy some comradery, food and drink at the Canteen.

Hope to see you at the Post.

Dash Plaques for the first 50 Cars & Motorcycles

VFW Post 9644
3rd Annual Patriots Day
CAR SHOW
 Saturday, September 9th 2023
 10am to 2pm Rain or Shine




\$20.00 Entry Fee
 Registration at 8am
 Pre-Registration available at www.vfw9644.org

Food ~ Drinks
 Trophies ~ Awards
 Raffles ~ 50/50 Drawing
 Vendors

FOR MORE INFO:
 Joel Knutson @ 303.547.2448
 Michael Shaug @ 303.232.6658

Music provided by "Maverick Mike" 

VFW POST 9644 GUN RAFFLE




TAURUS G3C 9MM PISTOL

**2 GUNS
 2 RAFFLES
 \$10 PER TICKET**

PSA PA-15 CLASSIC AR-15 RIFLE

**DRAWING TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH
 DON'T NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN
 WINNER MUST SUCCESSFULLY PASS CBI BACKGROUND CHECK**



Todd and Rachel had an amazing time in Phoenix, AZ for the VFW National Convention!

We went to many classes and different programs that provided a wealth of knowledge for us to bring back to share with all of you.

We collaborated and share ideas with current friends and posts. We made many new friends from all over the U.S. and Europe during our time at the convention.

The VFW Department of Arizona was an amazing partner for us as we shared the hospitality suite open to all that attended. As first-time attendees we appreciated all the guidance from VFW Department of CO Commander John Keene and VFW Department of CO President Phil Reinbold, the many that came from Colorado and from many other states!

We would love to see more of our Post members attend and definitely recommend going to support the VFW.

Congratulations to all of the newly elected National Officers!

- Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento
- Sr Vice Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt
- Jr Vice Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore
- Adjutant General Dan West
- Quartermaster General Marc Garduno

- National President Carla Martinez
- National Sr Vice President Brenda Bryant
- National Jr Vice President Lois Callahan
- National Secretary-Treasurer Ann Pantel-eakos



On the 29th of July, Post 9644 hosted a membership table at Freddy's Frozen Custard in Littleton. We had a large turn-out of Post and Auxiliary members from our post, Post 1, and Post 322. Thank you all for coming out to help us with this event. We did sign up one new member while

out there for those two hours! We all sat down and had some good food and frozen custard. This was a pilot project partnering with Freddy's. We hope that the relationship grows and we are able to do this again at other restaurants in the future!



August 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 Dinner/Bingo	2 Finance Meeting 6pm Post/Aux Meeting 7pm	3	4 US Coast Guard Birthday Friday Night Dinner	5
6 Sunday Breakfast	7 Purple Heart Day Car Show Meeting 6pm	8 V-J Day (Victory Over Japan Dinner/Bingo	9	10 Agent Orange Awareness Day US DoD Birthday	11 Friday Night Dinner	12 Pig Roast
13 Sunday Breakfast	14 Navajo Code Talkers Day Car Show Meeting 6pm - Participation to Follow	15 Dinner/Bingo	16 National Airborne Day CO Rockies vs AZ Diamondbacks	17	18 Friday Night Dinner	19 Karaoke VFW Dept of CO COA - Burlington, CO
20 Sunday Breakfast VFW Dept of CO COA - Burlington, CO	21 Car Show Meeting 6pm	22 Dinner/Bingo	23	24	25 Friday Night Dinner	26
27 Sunday Breakfast	28 Car Show Meeting 6pm - Participation to Follow	29 US Marine Corps Reserve Birthday Dinner/Bingo	30	31		

Weekly Happenings:

Monday - Post Open at 2pm
 Tuesday - Post Opens at 3pm; Dinner & Bingo 5pm to 7pm; Bingo starts at 6pm
 Wednesday - Post Opens at 3pm
 Thursday - Post Opens at 3pm
 Friday - Post Opens at 2pm; Friday Night Dinner 5pm to 7pm
 Saturday - Post Closed

Monthly Happenings:

1st Wednesday - Finance Meeting at 6pm, Post/Aux Monthly Meeting at 7pm
 3rd Saturday - Post Opens at 4pm; Karaoke at 6pm
 Last Wednesday - Home Board Meeting at 6pm

Upcoming Events:

3rd Annual Patriots Day Car Show - September 9th
 CO Rockies vs Chicago Cubs - September 13th
 Sheridan Celebrates - September 30th
 VFW 9644 Childrens Halloween - October 21st
 VFW 9644 Childrens Christmas - December 16th

For an updated/detailed calendar please visit ~
vfw9644.org/calendar



Post

Ronald Swensson	August 1
Joe Vigil	August 1
Joseph Davis	August 1
Aaron Debellis	August 1
Norman Lillard	August 1
Gerald Wittig	August 2
James Burke	August 2
John Trotter	August 3
David Hutchins	August 3
Douglas Mayotte	August 5
Robert Graham	August 8
George Johnson	August 8
Michael Stern	August 9
Dean Hoffman	August 9
Roger Waufle	August 10
William Orłowski	August 10
Joseph Schiel	August 12
John Quirin	August 14
Daniel Finger	August 16
Thomas Smola	August 17
Ralph Mason	August 18
Lance Cabazos	August 23
Frank Talmadge	August 24
Ronald Wilson	August 24
Roy Hager	August 24
Katrina Hall	August 25
Alexander Rocha	August 26
Dennis Starr	August 30

Auxiliary

Jacqueline Leaf	August 2
Loretta Peterson	August 4
Melitta Steinmiller	August 4
LaVon Cheryl Begaii	August 5
Sheri Marshall Winstanley	August 5
Charlene Delvescovo	August 7
Rebecca Martinez	August 9
Patricia Fatchaline	August 10
Susan Kay Griffith	August 13
Mary Geer	August 15
Linda Barnes	August 16
Phyllis Vigil	August 17
Leslie Hernon	August 18
John Feist	August 20
Sharon Simmons	August 22
Kevin Demsky	August 23
Loveta Price	August 24
Jayda Riedesel	August 24
Doreen Ruby	August 24
Nancy Inman	August 27
Christina Draper	August 29
Patricia Pare	August 29

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 Post 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 PayPay where you can add your donation)