



9644 NEWS



Monthly Newsletter for *Verle Huffman VFW Post 9644*



From the Commander

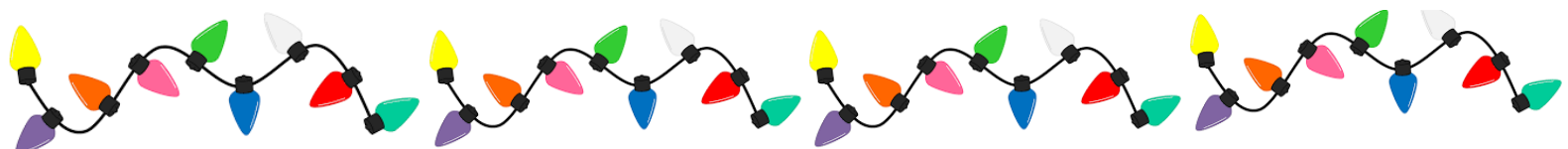
BY **PAUL GREMSE**



Just a week or two ago I saw a beacon of light at what I hope is the end of the tunnel. I'd define this particular tunnel as the madness we've all experienced relative to COVID. The beacon was our semiannual Poppy distribution that we were able to resume after a devastating one-year hiatus; devastating because this program is where our "Relief Fund" is traditionally reloaded twice a year. To the post and auxiliary members who volunteered their time to make our Veteran's Day distribution the success it was, please know I sincerely appreciate the precious time you offered to this cause! Whether you found two or twenty hours in your schedule for this cause, thank you! And the entire post owes you a debt of gratitude! And thank you Ron Davies for accepting the charge.

Then there's our truck! It's a 1936 Ford Flatbed (farm truck). Many of you aren't aware of it and know more or less about it than I do. Regardless, from what I understand, a now deceased member long ago donated the truck to our post for use in parades, exedra, and it was put to good use proudly exhibiting our post and the good we do. That, until age got the best of it. For years now, it has been deadlined! (I don't know who else understands that terminology but while I was on active duty, that was how inoperable vehicles were defined.) For as long as I've been a member here at 9644, that truck has sat on our patio in disrepair and with exposure to the elements, getting worse as each day passes. I've also been told many members have professed a desire to put the truck back on the road but those efforts or intentions never materialized. The one success is the engine that has been completely restored and ready to provide all the needed horsepower the truck needs. Other than that, the transmission was sent to be rebuilt and is now MIA. The bed of the truck is in the field just outside our patio. Over time, the one constant has been Ron Davies with the desire to see it operational and back on the road. The goal which has now fallen on his shoulders is to get something done. Ideally, that would be completing the sorely needed restoration. How that could be accomplished is only confined to one's concept and better yet, the contacts with the expertise to carry it out! Otherwise, we'll have to resort to salvaging as much of it as possible. If you have ideas or "know a guy", please contact either Ron Davies or me. We need your help!

Lastly, whether advertised or not, a main goal of mine has been and is energy efficiency at the post. We've already done the big stuff by replacing the inefficient furnace and swamp coolers. Now it's just the "little things" that, as a whole can produce significant savings. In that vein, I'm proud to sound like my father. His formative years revolved around the depression and therefore, my formative years included the same lessons. While I didn't understand it then, I cherish the lesson. One never left a room with a light on. Even if you were in the room, use only the light necessary for the task at hand. I learned to memorize where to expect most item's location in the refrigerator (I was privileged; "Ice Boxes" had been replaced long before my birth.) Regardless. If I looked at an open refrigerator for more than three seconds, I heard about it! This may a drawn-out way of asking each of you to do your part to conserve on power – our utilities.



I've installed motion sensors in the bathrooms so they're not left burning unnecessarily. (Those motion detectors can also be turned off before the preset time – simply tap the button.) Little things help. If you're leaving a room otherwise empty, turn the light off before you leave. If you see an unused light burning energy, turn it off! If you're a bit chilly, reach for a sweater or jacket before the thermostat. (No one should touch a thermostat without an officer's or Home Board approval.) It's these little things that can really make the difference! With these simple practices, I'm convinced we can not only save on the post's utility bills, but we can reduce our carbon footprint – I'm sure more than driving an electric car. Together, we can make a difference in the amount of energy our post consumes and the precious money we have to pay for it!

In closing, please accept my best wishes for a very Merry Christmas (or whatever holiday you do or don't celebrate). I sincerely hope my Christmas wishes don't offend anyone. If they do, I am sorry. Feel free to tell me and I'd be happy to have that conversation. Personally, I just refuse to allow so-called political correctness to dilute the majesty Christians find in Christmas. I'd ever push that on anyone but at the same time, no one should take that away from me or anyone else like-minded. Political correctness boiled over years ago fueled by a media that forgot its patriotic roots planted in our Constitution! Today, it's no better and we now have a similar agitator, social media piling on. Again, without regard for bias. Did I get off on a tangent? I'm sorry!

Truly, from my family to yours, may your Christmas and the new year be blessed and bear only the best for you and your family in the new year! And never forget Post 9644 is family!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Quarter Master

BY LYNN PETERSON



While written pre-Thanksgiving & no sign of forecasted metro Denver snow yet, upon receipt & reading, it's now December already. So....it's time to ask...are your exterior Christmas holiday lights & decorations up yet? How about your Interior holiday trimmings? Holiday cards? House cleaning? What ever the case, warm December Greetings!

Despite the on-going pandemic, your post continues to be a busy hub of activity; enjoying each others company; albeit an adult beverage, soft drink, Bingo, meals, game night, karaoke or just fellowshiping. Thanks to all our regulars, with a special invitation & welcome to all others. Come join us. Always something going on, as sent out in our weekly post comings & goings email notification. Also, visit our post website www.vfw9644.org.

Dollars & cents-wise, from a post perspective, we're gradually recovering from these past 18+ months. However, we have some financial challenges ahead.

So, now down to some brass tack basics. We need each other, you & your smiling face. Our post facility, an awesome 1948 aging structure, with many memories, is a piece of art & place to share. With it also, comes the challenges of care, maintenance, upgrading & TLC, as experienced this past year; remodeled kitchen, new/repared swamp coolers, new furnace, to include upcoming reconstruction of basement Auxiliary room resulting from water damage. Not to mention, currently needed repair of lower & upper restrooms & canteen appliances. All come at a cost we must share in, if/as able. Thanks for your consideration.

Also, our post hall is on the move, with increasing family event rentals booked; and soon to be open tavern license status & use for/by general public. Stay tuned...

Historically & continuing, our post's primary revenue source, Bingo, continues positively forward, but at a slow pace. Help the cause with some fun at our weekly Monday, Post Bingo & Thursday Auxiliary Bingo events at Barrys Bingo, including our Tuesday in-house Post Bingo. Our current Bingo jackpots are sizable & beckon your bingo numbered call!

On another positive note, our Post & Auxiliary had a very successful Veterans Day Buddy Poppy fund raising event. Special & appreciated Thanks to all post & auxiliary who volunteers; in raising upwards of \$10,000 for our shared veterans relief fund.

Moving post forward, additionally, we gained four new post members in November. Welcome aboard to new post members Gary Longfellow Jr. & Nick Herrera, as well as, new post transfer members Nathaniel Ellis & James Willis.

So what else is news worthy.....YOU - make your presence known!!! Come visit, renew friendships & camaraderie. A place to enjoy the upcoming holidays. Come one, come all....

Wishing you & family a joyous & blessed Merry Christmas and a safe & Healthy Happy New Year.

Auxiliary Jr. Vice

BY **RACHEL RODGERS**



Greetings! I'm so excited for the holiday season! I want to let everyone know that we will be having the Children's Christmas party this year. It will be on **Sunday, December 19th from 2 to 4pm** in the hall. I miss seeing all the kids' smiling faces and hope that we will have a great turn out. There is a sign-up sheet at the entrance of the canteen as well as you can call to add the number of kids we should be expecting. The number is 303.789.9733 for the bar.

I also wanted to mention that we will be having a new born baby drive this year. We will be collecting diapers, baby hats, onesies, socks, and other new born baby items. This will happen starting on **December 1st**.

There are also a lot of great activities that are available to our youth this year. There will be more information such as flyer and entry forms that will be available on the VFW 9644 website.

"Illustrating America". This is an art contest for students in grades K through 8th.

"Getting Excited for the Red, White & Blue!" This is a national anthem singing contest for youth in grades K-12. There are deadlines for scholarships that are approaching quickly. These again will be on the VFW 9644 website with more information and the applications.

1) The **VFW Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarship** which is open to those who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or a career direction at a vocational/technical school. This is **ONLY** available to the member, spouse, son or daughter of the member & the member must have been a member of the VFW Auxiliary for 1 year by the application date. It is \$1,000 scholarship to be used in the academic year following the completion of the contest. This is due to the National Headquarters by February 15th.

2)The **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest Scholarship** 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.

Auxiliary Treasurer



BY **DEBBIE BLESCH**



Greetings! As we enter the last month of this year it is a time for reflection and a time we are so busy we sometimes we forget what is important. December brings us many gifts, festivities, foods we don't normally eat and thoroughly enjoy, and our family and friends. It also brings winter, cold weather and this year we hope some snow. (hopefully not too much at a time)

It is also a time we miss those we lost, yet we can find comfort and peace in our memories. I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Peace, and all the blessings life has to offer. If you need a little camaraderie and beverage please come on down and visit. We would love to see you.

We are in the process of **scheduling a membership awards dinner in December**. Since we were shut down last year with COVID we were unable to celebrate our longevity awards. In preparing the list it was amazing to me how many members our Auxiliary has with 25+ years and more. We have two members with 50 years, and three members with 55 years. What great milestones to celebrate; it's just too bad things got in the way. In discussions with the Commander and a few other key personnel we have a **tentative date of December 17th**. We would like to cater in the meal so everyone can enjoy the time celebrating all the good our post does and the people who do it! We are tentatively looking at an RSVP in order to get a better count for our celebration. Watch for more to come in updates from our webmaster, Todd VanSant.

Now for a little business. Our membership is currently just over 97%. We continue to pick up some new members and welcome them to our great organization. We still have 9 members who have not renewed their annual dues. Please remember that after December you will become a member not in good standing and ineligible for benefits. You may convert to life membership at any time.

Our Auxiliary is still healthy as our weekly bingo is doing well. Last month we had a must go on our progressives. We had 2 very happy winners for a little over \$20,000 that are regular customers. Our Tuesday burgers and weekly bingo at the post is still raising funds for our general operating. We have kept prices down for now. Your support is appreciated very much. Stay safe and enjoy all the things this month has to offer.

Events and Fun Things at the Post

Please join us

FRIDAY NIGHTS & SUNDAY MORNINGS

Friday night meals are back in addition to Sunday breakfast
Please see calendar



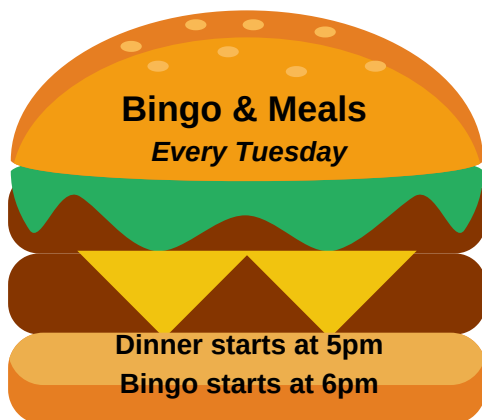
Karaoke Night

**Saturday December 18th
@ 6:00pm**

*AMERICA
Says*



**Thursday, December 16th
6-8pm**



WELCOME



**Nathaniel "Rowdy" Ellis
Gary S. Longfellow Jr
James T. Willis**



it's my birthday

Rodriquez, Vicki	3rd
Cardwell, Laurel	4th
Cordova, Bobby	6th
Hall, Conrad	9th
Jones, Fern	10th
Straka, Michael	10th
Day, Talon	11th
Engle, Greg	11th
Veith, Edward	11th
Archuleta, Andrea	12th
Keleman, Amy	12th
Bash, Dorothy	13th
Miller, Rachelle	13th
Cochren, Charlene	15th
Perkins, Roberta	15th
Lieby, Terri	20th
Martinez, Darlene	20th
Conway, Shirley	22nd
Kirsky, Ramona	22nd
Beckert, Charlotte	23rd
Carter, Mary	26th
Genova, Robin	27th
Goodsell, Donald	31st

Gonzales	Henry	1st
Leaf	Douglas	1st
Mongelli	Zebulon	1st
Nuss	Floyd	1st
Strother	Kenneth	1st
Brown	Walter	4th
Pushnik	Paul	4th
Loomis	Clayton	7th
Morgan	Paul	7th
Schreiner	Steven	9th
Selheim	Steven	14th
Barber	Robert	15th
Henson	Debra	15th
Martinez	David	16th
Berg	Danny	17th
Tellgren	Warren	17th
Childs	Ted	20th
Duran	Anthony	21st
Delaney	Danny	24th
Kirksey	Bill	24th
Campbell	Donald	25th
Stevens	Alan	25th
Bleau	Greta	26th
Cecil	Robert	27th
Hughes	Virgil	27th
Bowen	Fredrick	28th
Laforett	Edward	28th