

# 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



Holiday season is fast approaching. I can't believe there's less than 45 shopping days until Christmas! Remember, daylight savings ends on November 6th – Fall back (you lose an hour of sleep).

Our season starts off with Veterans Day and a busy Buddy Poppy drive. Our relief fund is 100% donation based – and most of the donations that we get are from our two large Buddy Poppy drives each year. The Buddy Poppy drive we held during Memorial Day weekend yielded us roughly \$17k in donations over three days. Every single penny of that money goes to veterans or active-duty military in need. For these drives to be successful, **we need your help** to hand out Buddy Poppies at a few grocery stores around the area. We're focusing on three days: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Sign up sheets are in the lobby at the post, but if you are unable to make it down to the post, call the post and have them add your name to the sign-up sheets for you. I cannot stress the importance of your help during this critical fund-raising weekend for us. We want to top our record of \$17k raised earlier this year – and we need your help to do so!

Speaking of donations, the holiday season is the most stressful time for veterans, military, and their families. Help us reduce the stress on these folks by donating to your VFW post – on our website is a **“DONATE NOW”** link. You can donate a few bucks a month, or a one-time donation. Donation money from the website goes into the relief fund. Several of you have already set up a small donation of a few bucks a month – and this is helpful! I know begging for money is not a sexy way to talk in a newsletter, but we are a charitable organization – and our relief fund is 100% donation based, so I don't see any harm in reminding you all to toss a few coins here and there. Pass the link around your family and friend groups.

Our 75th Anniversary Celebration will be held on the evening of December 2nd. We will also be holding our membership dinner at the same time. You are required to RSVP for this event if you wish to attend. It is free of charge for members and their spouses. If you are not a member and you want to join us, there is a \$32 charge per person for the evening's events. You can head to our website to click the link to set your RSVP or come by the post and chat with Rachel. We will be having an excellent dinner. If you are interested in helping us organize this event, see me, or come by every other Monday night for the planning meetings. Those meetings are the 14th and 28th of November.

The kids Christmas party is coming up on December 10th, and the adults Christmas party is the following weekend on December 17th. Then there is the New Year Eve Potluck on the 31st of December, and the New Year Black-eye Peas Dinner on the 1st of January. I know the holidays can be a stressful time for many veterans and their families, so if any of you need anything, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of us at the post. If you are in crisis, please reach out to the Veterans Crisis Line by dialing 988 from your phone and press 1. It's open 24/7, confidential, and available even if you do not have VA benefits.

# ***POST VIEWS CONTINUED***

## ***From the Senior Vice Commander***

***By Paul Gremse***



I had some specific topics I planned to write about but with the timing, and the message offered below, I'm compelled to defer. My topics can wait a month!

While I too am concerned with the direction I feel some politicians are endeavoring to take this country, I do and always have tried to be respectful of another's opinion. Perhaps I haven't been perfect but is anyone. I think the message penned below is one we should all take note of – especially as veterans of the military and considering our oath to protect our Constitution!

A pledge by all of us to try a little harder when considering an opposite point of view can go a long way to reverse the divisiveness clawing at our republic. And, with any luck, our elected officials may – just may - follow our example! Thank you, John Brackney for a well-timed discourse.

### **Reprinted from Denver Post, October 23, 2022:**

Most of my family and close friends are advocating that I vote differently than I'm inclined.

I understand that they are sincere in their desire to ensure that autocrats or other forms of dictators don't gain and maintain power. I'm confident that their motives are sincere, and that weighs significantly in my decision. I may vote with them out of love, respect, and the possibility that I may be wrong.

I know for certain that they are not my enemy. They are family, friends, and neighbors with differing opinions. That is worthy of loving, not hating.

But political hate seems to be pervasive. A small but vocal percentage of Americans across the spectrum so completely distrust the other team that they indicate a willingness to tolerate and even support violence against other Americans. We must rally all our best efforts against this.

This seemingly unending decay in politics and governance should dismay all of us.

It can be different, but only when we all engage thoughtfully in a different system: Voting for representatives to serve us, not rule over us.

If you're in Colorado, there is a 25% chance you've already voted. Another 25% of citizens will have voted by next weekend. Thank you. Eventually, we should all hope that all citizens will vote by election day. But too many everyday Americans have become foot soldiers in one powerful warring family or the other – almost medieval in its simplicity – but do not realize it, instead simply voting for the family brand no matter the issue or causes of the day.

# ***POST VIEWS CONTINUED***

## **What should American citizens do?**

Our priority must be to protect our pluralistic Constitutional Republic form of democracy. Determine that self-rule and self-determination are worthy of protection. The United States Constitution is essential, and we are a worthy (although imperfect) beacon of liberty and hope to the world. We'll then realize that our current "adversaries" are not enemies they are simply citizens with a different opinion.

For the next two weeks, ask everyone you know, especially those with whom you disagree, what their thoughts are on matters of local, state, national, and worldwide concern. Listen carefully to their answers. People generally care what their family, friends, and neighbors think. They may not vote with you, but they may be willing to reconsider their vitriol or animosity.

Pick a race that you are uncertain of and contact the candidates or proponents of the issue. See if you get a return communication and by whom. Ask a few questions and voice your opinions. Tell your spheres of influence what you've learned. Thank all candidates for their willingness to serve.

That's what we, as American citizens, must do, think through issues and advocate with our words. Physical fighting or threats of violence is a fight against what it means to be an American. Pull everyone you know back from that brink toward good citizenship and patriotism.

If the history of the human species is indicative, our tiny blip of a couple of hundred years in America is unlikely to succeed long-term. Autocrats and dictators work to ensure our failure. We cannot allow them to take our freedom and self-determination by setting us against one another.

Americans will gain and maintain power through a love of liberty, loyalty to the written rule of law, and the insistence that authoritarians do not get their way. Millions of citizens have done their part over decades — police officers, firemen, lawmakers, and members of congress all swear an oath to a set of principles (not the rule of man) outlined in our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and constitutional Amendments. We, as citizens, should take that same oath as our newcomer naturalized citizens do.

Let's honor this November all who choose freedom, self-rule, and loyalty to the foundational principle in our Declaration of Independence that all are created equal. Let's vote and honor all those who are willing to participate in self-governance.

My family, neighbors, friends, and I may never cast the exact same ballot, but I know in my heart we are all working to preserve, protect and promote America.

**John Brackney is a former elected official, Army Officer, lifelong Coloradan, and business leader. He hosts a weekly discussion on contemporary public policy with U.S. History Professor Stephen Tootle on Facebook live and posted on YouTube and Spotify. Contact him at [JohnBrackney@msn.com](mailto:JohnBrackney@msn.com).**

# AUXILIARY VIEWS

## *From the Quartermaster*

**By Lynn Peterson**



Dear Post 9644 & Auxiliary Members:

November.....So here we come, ready or not, another year drawing to a close.

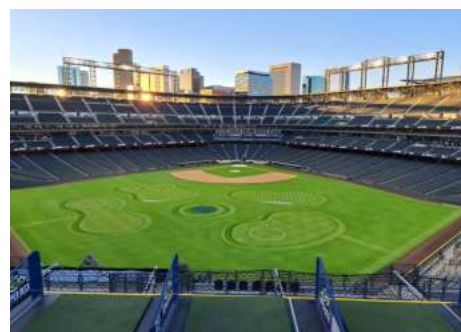
A bit off subject, but interesting. While the Colorado Rockies are but a past season bad dream, Coors Field remains a public end-of-season draw & end destination of a different sort & sport.....Golf. Yes, for you golfer or want-a-be's, it's the first of its kind, for Denver at Coors Field - an Upper Deck Golf Event. Enjoyable to work, but a busy place during its 3-day event, with thousands of beginner to advanced players participating. At \$80/person a pop, a shot in the arm for Coors Field. Maybe enough for the Monfort's to afford some worthy & proven talent for 2023.....????

**NOTE:** So Golf has it's hazards, besides sand traps, as well, especially if you're unlucky enough to be on the field herding up golfballs!! Hazardous duty pay....

So what else is newsworthy at the Post? While not quite the magnitude of a past Babyboomer boast in population, the Post is welcoming, upon Post membership approval, an estimated six new added comrades to our membership. Yay!! Thanks & keep up Post 9644 growing. Additionally, at the Post-level, as we prepare for our "Diamond White" 75th Post Anniversary, mark your Calendar to RSVP for our Friday, December 2022 event. Watch for postal mailing & more info upcoming. Special Thanks to all those currently planning & helping make this a success.

Again, as in late September/Early October, I had the welcomed opportunity, a month later, of traveling back to the Badger/Cheesehead/Packer Land, State of Wisconsin; visiting & tending care to my knee replacement recovering brother. Enjoying cheese curds, perch & some "liquid suds", including family & high school classmates. Unfortunately, as is the case in Bronco Nation, the "Pack is Not Back" in 2022 either!!

As always, stay tuned to our weekly Post/Auxiliary happening activities emails. Better yet, come down & visit for some good food, fun times & comrade fellowship, along with some Bingo & \$\$, as well. In closing, as always....Thanks in your membership, support & participation; adding value to our prized Post 9644. That's All Folks!!



# AUXILIARY VIEWS



## *From the Junior Vice President*

***By Rachel Rogers***

Thank you all that helped with the Halloween Carnival!! A special thank you to the Boy Scouts that volunteered to help man all the stations that were available!!

The Children's Christmas Party is on 12.10.2022 from 11am to 1pm. We look forward to having all the kids back to have crafts, games, tie dye and Santa Claus!! We are also needing volunteers to assist with the different stations available.

There are also a lot of scholarship/contest opportunities available for all ages! Please see all the below information for all the fun that kids can do to win money!!

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. Here is the site for the fillable application for the scholarship: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/new-Continuing-Education-Scholarship-application.pdf>.

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 31st . 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 8th. All art must be submitted by March 31st 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 31st. 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 31st, 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 31st, 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

## *From the Treasurer*

***By Deb Blesh***



Autumn has been a beautiful season this year with comfortable weather and beautiful colors throughout the city.

Soon winter will be sneaking up on us and cooler weather and snow in our forecast. We have had quite the summer of events: Memorial Day and Labor Day events, Summer Tuesday meals and bingo, game night with America says (my favorite), a pig roast, and a car show, (in spite of the weather). The 1st Tuesday of the month is auxiliary burgers and bingo. Please join us for a good burger and some fun.

We offer a variety of meals on our other Tuesday nights. Our membership annual renewal letters were mailed out in August and we had a minor issue. After the labels were put on the envelopes, the letters were inserted without verifying addressee with the labels. We will be sending out a reminder notice to unpaid annual members this month. Dues must be paid by December in order to remain a member in "Good Standing". You can still send your payment, or process your dues online in VFW Auxiliary and select the Malta login. Your Auxiliary can receive an award if we reach 100%. Our Auxiliary is healthy due to successful bingo to raise funds and we continue to recruit new members, Hope you will visit your post a reconnect, have some fun and meet new members.

We will have the Veterans Day celebration and poppy drives to raise money for our relief fund which helps Veterans in need. If you can give us a couple hours to volunteer we happily welcome you assistance. Thanksgiving and Christmas are always a treat for kids and adults alike. Watch future newsletters for more information from your Commander. Our Post is celebrating its 75th anniversary in December. It promises to be an epic event. Hope everyone is doing well and hope to see you soon.

You too..Alan!

# ***POST PHOTOS***



# ***VFW HAPPENINGS***



## **BURGERS, BINGO AND BEER NIGHT**

Every Tuesday starting at 5pm



## **GAME NIGHT**

Every Thursday starting at 6pm



## **FRIDAY PM & SUNDAY AM MEALS**

Friday starting at 5pm & Sunday starting at 9am



## **KARAOKE NIGHT**

Every third Saturday starting at 6pm

# VFW CALENDAR

**November** 2022

**National Veterans & Military  
Family Month**

**Food** **Meetings** **Post Events** **Calendar Events**

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31 Halloween 🎃	1	2 Post & Aux Meeting 7:00 pm	3	4 Steak & Shrimp Dinner 5:00 pm	5	6 Breakfast 9:00 am Daylight Savings Time
7	8 Burgers, Bingo, Beer 5:00 pm Election Day 🗳️	9	10 Game Night 6:00 pm Marine Corps Birthday	11 Friday Night Dinner 5:00 pm Veterans Day 🇺🇸	12	13 Breakfast 9:00 am
14 Burgers, Bingo, Beer 5:00 pm	15	16 Game Night 6:00 pm	17 Friday Night Dinner 5:00 pm	18 Karaoke Night 6:00 pm	19	20 Breakfast 9:00 am
21 Burgers, Bingo, Beer 5:00 pm	22	23 Game Night 6:00 pm Thanksgiving 🦃🍂	24 Friday Night Dinner 5:00 pm	25	26	27 Breakfast 9:00 am
28 Burgers, Bingo, Beer 5:00 pm	29	30 Game Night 6:00 pm	1 Friday Night Dinner 5:00 pm	2	3	4 Breakfast 9:00 am

## Future dates to be aware of

VFW Post 9644 75th Anniversary - Dec 2022

# VFW CELEBRATIONS

## *Post Birthdays*

Richard Nolan	Nov 1
Craig Fagerness	Nov 1
James Reynolds	Nov 1
Jeremy Roberts	Nov 1
Jerald Toovey	Nov 2
James Hughes	Nov 3
Michael Cartwright	Nov 3
Robert Goldsmith	Nov 4
Andrew Smith	Nov 5
Ernest McDonald	Nov 5
Marvin Foust	Nov 7
Alfred Poeppel	Nov 8
Robert Bray	Nov 9
Frederick Torok	Nov 11
Michael Katich	Nov 13
Robert Messbach	Nov 13
Carl Cozine	Nov 15
F Linker	Nov 16
Dennis Beayvais	Nov 18
Ralph Rodriguez	Nov 18
Cecile Novak	Nov 18
Karl Schneider	Nov 19
Dionisio Blan	Nov 20
Edward Neis	Nov 20
Clarence Sliger	Nov 20
Glen Pike	Nov 21
John Vaglianti	Nov 23
Robert Smith	Nov 27
Warren Tellgren	Nov 28
Bache Whitlock	Nov 29
Linda Demarche	Nov 29
Gary Wilson	Nov 30
Van Blackard	Nov 30

## *Auxiliary Birthdays*

Sandra Field	Nov 2
Paulette Proctor	Nov 2
Wendy Simoneau	Nov 2
Donell Kotowski	Nov 3
Elaine Spies	Nov 3
David Tansey Jr	Nov 4
Lois Arnold	Nov 5
Carol Connelly	Nov 7
Vrnda Dasi	Nov 9
Robin Lamorueaux	Nov 12
Greg Almendares	Nov 13
Mary (Dell) Dunst	Nov 14
Leann Delaney	Nov 16
Susan (suzy) Smith	Nov 16
Heather Wagner	Nov 16
Ramona Armstrong	Nov 18
Josephine Jones	Nov 18
Nancy Brock	Nov 21
Tracie Siragusa	Nov 21
Virginia Gonzales	Nov 24
Carl Maschka	Nov 25
Christina Snyder	Nov 29
Pamela Cruz	Nov 30
Brody Engle	Nov 30
Kathy Romero	Nov 30