

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	Robert Derrera
Junior Vice Commander	Paul Askedall
Quartermaster	Gary Bean
Chaplain	Robert Derrera
Adjutant	Rod Rodriguez

Auxiliary Officers

President	John Whisler
Senior Vice President	Michelle Cordova
Junior Vice President	Greg Almendares
Treasurer	Rachel Rodgers
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
VFW Post 9644
Commander

From the Commander's Desk: Nobody Does More for Veterans

Have you ever heard the motto of the VFW? *"Nobody Does More for Veterans."* This isn't just a slogan—it's a promise. And it's one that VFW Post 9644 lives up to every single day.

Recently, after volunteering a full eight-hour shift raising funds during our annual Buddy Poppy Drive, I was told by a fellow member that we "don't do enough for veterans." That statement came despite the fact that many of you were out there beside me, handing out poppies to raise money that goes **directly into the pockets of veterans in need.**

This year, we've helped more veterans than ever before through our Relief Fund. We've streamlined our process, pursued grants to reimburse those costs, and reinvested that money back into helping even more veterans. If you don't believe we're making an impact, I invite you—challenge you—to *look closer*. Come to a meeting. See where your donations and efforts go. Don't just sit in the canteen and complain—**get involved where decisions are made.**

Investing in Our Future – One Brick at a Time

Did you know that we purchased our building back in 1948? It's stood strong for over 75 years—but in recent years, much of the maintenance has been deferred. That's changing.

Thanks to partnerships with Centimark and Roof Evolution, **half of the roof over our hall was donated.** We also installed **new swamp coolers** at a deep discount, thanks to member **John Powell**, who volunteered his time and skill for the install. If you see John around, he deserves our thanks.

Let's also recognize **Barry Mason**, who continues to donate his time and talent to fix up the building. Take a look around our hall—**Steve and Michelle Cordova** have done an incredible job making it shine. And of course, **Bill and Jandra Mason and their family** are always there to cook, clean, and make our events successful.

Keeping the lights on, the air cool, and the place welcoming—this is what allows us to do more for veterans.

Poppy Drive Success

If you missed the Poppy Drive, here's the big news: **we raised nearly \$14,000** in just three days for our Relief Funds! One generous donor gave **\$5,000 in memory of BJ McGee**, and I know **Ron Davies** would have been proud of the effort we all put in.

A huge thank you goes to:

- **Rachel Rodgers**, who organized the whole drive
- **Our local Scouts**, who tackled Fort Logan
- **Jandra and Bill**, for cooking an incredible Memorial Day meal that welcomed a huge turnout from the cemetery

This was a team effort—**and it worked.**

Stay Connected

Summer is here, and we have a full schedule ahead! Make sure you're staying informed by subscribing to:

- Our **weekly update email**
- This **monthly newsletter** you're reading now

Sign up online at www.vfw9644.org/news to get the latest on all our upcoming events and activities.

To Our New Officers – Stand Tall

To our newly elected officers: **I wish you a successful and meaningful year.** And I offer this advice—**don't listen to the vocal minority.** Don't let the loudest critics bring you down—especially those who don't attend meetings but are quick to criticize your leadership.

We are not failing. We are thriving. And we have so many reasons to be proud of what this Post continues to accomplish.

So, to those who think things are worse than ever—I challenge you to *do more than complain*. Come to a meeting. Roll up your sleeves. **Be the change** you want to see at this Post.

Thank you all for what you do, for what you give, and for being part of the best Post in Colorado—and, I'd argue, the best in the nation.

Nobody Does More for Veterans than VFW Post 9644.

Have a great summer—I love you all.

Todd Van Sant
Commander, VFW Post 9644



Gary Bean
VFW Post 9644
Quartermaster

Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

Our next **monthly meeting** is coming up on **Saturday, June 7th at 11:00 AM**. Your attendance is not only appreciated—it's vital. This is *your* Post, and the monthly meeting is where your voice carries the most weight. It's the time to ask questions, offer input, and stay informed about what's happening at Post 9644.

Participation is key to keeping our Post active and thriving. We've got a full calendar of events coming up, and we'd love to see you involved:

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- **Thursday, June 5** – Car Show Planning Meeting @ 6 PM
- **Saturday, June 7** – Monthly Meeting @ 11:00 AM
- **Sunday, June 15** – Father's Day
- **Monday, June 16 & Sunday, June 30** – Special events in the works! Stay tuned.
- **June 19–22** – State Convention – Support our incoming officers!

Weekly Activities at the Post

- **Barry's Bingo (Mondays & Thursdays)**
Come support the Post and Auxiliary! Whether you volunteer or play, your presence helps strengthen our Bingo program and its positive impact on our accounts. A huge THANK YOU to our Monday volunteers—your help does not go unnoticed
- **Tuesday Night Bingo & Dinner (5:00–8:00 PM)**
Enjoy a delicious meal, great fellowship, and a fun night of Bingo with a chance to take home some winnings.
- **Queen of Clubs Drawing**
Tickets available **Tuesdays & Fridays at 6:30 PM**
 - **Drawing Tuesday** – After Bing
 - **Drawing Friday** – 7:00 PM

Game Nights

- **Thursday Game Night** – Laid-back fun and great camaraderie.
- **Saturday Night of Games** – A different twist on fun—come check it out!
- **Friday Night Dinners (5:00–7:00 PM)**
Great food and great company! There's even talk of **Karaoke** making a return after dinner—stay tuned for updates.
- **Sunday Breakfast (9:00 AM–Noon)**
Start your Sunday off right with a hearty breakfast among friends.

Final Month for Current Officers

June marks the end of the current leadership term. On **July 1st**, our newly elected officers will officially step into their roles. Thank you to all who have served this past year—we look forward to continued growth and success under our incoming leadership.

Get Involved – We Need You!

This month, I challenge each of you to **volunteer** in some way. Whether you lead a project or lend a helping hand, your participation is what keeps this Post going strong. **It takes all of us** to create a successful, fun, and welcoming environment.

Let's continue to honor our mission by showing up, pitching in, and enjoying the camaraderie that makes Post 9644 one of the best in Colorado.

In Comradeship,

Gary Bean
Quartermaster



VFW POST 9644

Commander - Todd Van Sant
Sr Vice Commander - Robert Derrera
Jr Vice Commander - Paul Askedall
Quartermaster - Gary Bean
Adjutant - Rod Rodriguez
Chaplain - Robert Derrera
Service Officer - Paul Gremse
Officer of the Day - Paul Leveque
1yr Trustee - Gordon Eatherton
2yr Trustee - John Bredenberg
3yr Trustee - Jason Abbey

VFW Auxiliary 9644

President - John Whisler
Sr Vice President - Michelle Cordova
Jr Vice President - Greg Almendares
Treasurer - Rachel Rodgers
Secretary - Concetta Kile
Chaplain - Lisa Bernhardt
Conductor - Jason Hibsman
Guard - Joel Knutson
1yr Trustee - Jandra Czarnek
2yr Trustee - Vicki Rodriguez
3yr Trustee - Sherry Rock



Linktree



Robert Derrera
VFW Post 9644
Chaplain



June: A Time to Reconnect and Renew

Dear Comrades, Family, and Friends,

Summer is rolling in, and with it comes a new season of connection, energy, and purpose. June is often a time for family cookouts, vacations, and enjoying the outdoors — but it's also a great time to reconnect with your VFW family here at Post 9644.

We've got a lot going on around the Post this summer. Whether it's events, meals, meetings, or just some good old-fashioned back porch conversations, there's always something happening — and we want you to be a part of it. Your presence matters. Your story matters. And your willingness to show up helps keep the spirit of our Post alive and strong.

Remember: this Post doesn't run on autopilot. It runs on dedication — from folks like you who come out to volunteer, lend a hand, share a laugh, and offer support to one another. If you've been away for a while, June is the perfect time to stop by, get

involved again, and see some familiar faces.

As your Chaplain, I'd like to share a simple reflection and prayer for this season:

"May this month be one of renewal for all of us — a time to reflect on the strength we carry, the bonds we share, and the purpose we live out through service. May we be blessed with health, courage, and compassion. May we continue to honor the past by building a stronger future together."

So come on down. Join us for a meal, help out with a project, or just be a friendly face at the Post. You never know who might need your conversation, your story, or your encouragement.

Thank you for all you do — seen and unseen — to keep VFW Post 9644 a place of honor, respect, and fellowship.

In faith, fellowship, and service,

Chaplain Rob
VFW Post 9644

MONTHLY MEETING

SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH
11:00 AM POST/AUX MEETING
FREE LUNCH TO FOLLOW





John Whisler
VFW Post 9644
President

Dear Members of Post 9644 and Auxiliary,

As we approach the close of another incredible year, I want to take a moment to reflect on all we've accomplished—and to express my heartfelt gratitude.

This has been a year full of challenges, hard work, and meaningful service, and I'm proud to say that the dedication of our members continues to shine brightly. With the Department Convention just around the corner in June, I know all of our collective efforts will be recognized and celebrated.

First and foremost, thank you to everyone who has supported our Post, our Auxiliary, and our wider community. Your time, energy, and commitment have made a lasting impact. I also want to extend my deep appreciation to the Auxiliary line officers and appointed chairs who have stood beside me. Your encouragement and collaboration have meant the world and have helped shape this year into a success.

Verle Huffman Post 9644 is one of the busiest and most active Posts in Colorado—and we have the wonderful community of Sheridan to thank for its continued support. When I look back on this past year, I'm moved by the many lives we've touched: veterans in need, families in crisis, and youth we've inspired through our programs. These moments remind me why we serve—and why

we must always strive to do more.

As your Auxiliary President, I've tried to bring a fresh perspective shaped by my background in Scouting. The Scout Law has always been my guide, especially its final point: "*A Scout is reverent.*" Reverence can mean different things to different people. It's about respect—whether that's in a place of worship, among fellow service members, or simply in our daily lives. Reverence ties everything together. Without it, we lose the foundation that holds our values in place.

This role hasn't always been easy, but it's been incredibly rewarding. I've learned from each of you, and I hope I've given something in return. I still stand by what I often say when someone apologizes for not being able to attend an event: "*You do what you can, when you can.*" We all have our lives, our responsibilities—and we cannot pour from an empty cup. Taking care of ourselves is essential to being able to support others.

As we look ahead, my hope is simple: that we continue to grow, reach further, and support more veterans, families, and youth in need. Together, we can—and will—make a difference.

With heartfelt thanks,

John P. Whisler
President, VFW Auxiliary 9644



Rachel Rodgers
VFW Post 9644
Treasurer

Dear VFW Post 9644,

As we welcome the warmer days of summer, I want to express my appreciation for your ongoing support of our Auxiliary and its mission. Your dedication—through dues, donations, and volunteer efforts—continues to make a meaningful impact in the lives of our veterans and their families.

We had an amazing May – from a very successful Day of Service, having great pizza for our Installation Dinner, and very rewarding Buddy Poppy Fundraising over Memorial Day weekend. We couldn't have had these events be so outstanding without the extraordinary volunteers that we have from the Post and Auxiliary!

Year-End Financial Wrap-Up

With the fiscal year ending on **June 30th**, we are working to complete our financial reports and prepare for the annual audit. If you have any outstanding receipts or reimbursements, please submit them no later than **June 7th** so they can be processed in time.

Membership Dues Reminder

If you haven't yet paid your **2024–2025 dues**, now is a great time to do so, you will have until June 30th before you will need to re-apply to be a member of the auxiliary. Early payment ensures you remain in good standing and helps keep our operations running smoothly. Life members, we thank you for your ongoing support.

Transparency and Trust

As your Treasurer, I'm committed to maintaining accurate records and open communication. If you ever have questions about our finances or would like to review our records, please don't hesitate to reach out or attend a meeting.

Thank you again for your trust and support. It's a privilege to serve in this role, and I look forward to continuing our shared mission in the months ahead.

Yours in Service,

Rachel Rodgers
VFW 9644 Auxiliary Treasurer
vfw9644auxtreasurer@gmail.com



Elizabeth Whisler
Troop 42
Scoutmaster

The Scouts helped with the Day of Service in May, and just recently helped hand out Buddy Poppies at Ft. Logan Cemetery on Memorial Day.

The troop has been working hard on many things.

They have been working on their Citizenship in the world merit badge. This merit badge teaches the scout how to understand [Citizenship in the World](#), where we had 2 guest speakers.

One of the speakers was from Venezuela where he lived there until he was 10 years old and had to move due to war. Our other guest lived in the Ukraine for 27 years and told of the difference of how long kids go to school there.

They had to explain how one becomes a citizen of the United States.

- Do you know the step it takes to become a US citizen?

The scouts have also been working on their next fundraiser for the VFW Car Show. No popcorn this year, sorry all you popcorn lovers. Just a little secret you can order online from a scout though.

Soon the Scouts will be jumping in to do some camping at some of our favorite sites.

They will be also learning how to weld this summer also.



Jandra Czarnek
VFW Post 9644
Canteen Manager

SUMMER BREAKFASTS AND DINNER MENUS

BREAKFAST - SUNDAYS FROM 9AM TO 12PM -- \$8 EACH

- Sunday, June 1st
Bacon, Eggs Any Style, Fried Potatoes, Toast Juice & Coffee
- Sunday, June 8th
Biscuits & Gravy, Fried Potatoes, Scrambled Eggs, Juice & Coffee
- Sunday, June 15th
Ham Steak, Fried Potatoes, Eggs Any Style, Toast, Juice & Coffee
- Sunday, June 22nd
Smothered Breakfast Burritos, Juice & Coffee
- Sunday, June 29th
Cooks Choice

DINNER - FRIDAYS FROM 5PM TO 7PM -- \$9 EACH

- Friday, June 6th
Salad and Potato Bar
- Friday, June 13th
Barbeque Pork Sandwich, Potato Salad, & Dessert
- Friday, June 20th
BLT Sandwiches, Salad, & Dessert
- Friday, June 27th
Salad, Schnitzel, Roasted Potatoes, Vegetable, & Dessert

HOPE TO SEE YOU DOWN AT THE POST TO ENJOY GOOD COMPANY AND GOOD FOOD!!



MUST GO!

Thursday June 5th

Noon doors open at 11 am

\$10,000 Plus

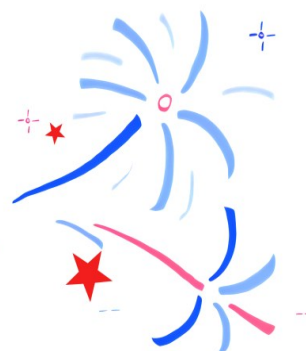
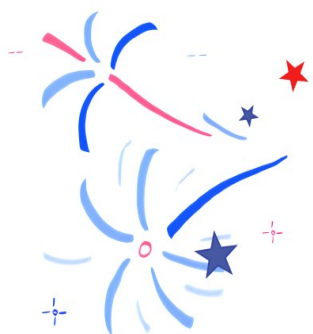
VFW 9644 Auxiliary

@ BARRY'S BINGO

VFW POST 9644
PRESENTS

4TH OF JULY

BBOQ



POST OPENS AT 2PM ~ FOOD AT 3PM
FREE HAMBURGERS & HOT DOGS ~ BRING A SIDE OR
DESSERT TO SHARE

FOOD - FUN - GAMES - RAFFLES
FRIDAY JULY 4TH

VFW POST 9644 - 2680 W HAMPDEN AVE, SHERIDAN, COLORADO 80110

MONTHLY MEETING

SATURDAY, JULY 5TH
11:00 AM POST/AUX MEETING
FREE LUNCH TO FOLLOW





VFW Post
9644

Happy Hour
Everyday
3pm to 5pm

2680 W Hampden Ave, Sheridan, CO 80110



SATURDAYS

VETERAN

★ GAMES ★
— NIGHT —

@VFW POST 9644

2680 W HAMDEN AVE, SHERIDAN, COLORADO

POST OPENS AT 4 PM

XBOX - NINTENDO - CARD GAMES - D&D - CROKINOLE

June 2025 VFW Post 9644

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1—OPEN @ 9 AM 9 AM—Breakfast	2—OPEN @ 2 PM 6 PM—Participation Meeting	3—OPEN @ 3 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner 6-8 PM—Bingo 8 PM—Queen of Clubs	4—OPEN @ 3 PM	5—OPEN @ 3 PM 6 PM—Games Night	6—OPEN @ 2 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner 7 PM—Queen of Clubs D-Day	7—OPEN @ 4 PM 10 AM—Finance Meeting 11 AM—Post/Aux Meetings 5 PM—Games Night
8—OPEN @ 9 AM 9 AM—Breakfast	9—OPEN @ 2 PM	10—OPEN @ 3 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner 6-8 PM—Bingo 8 PM—Queen of Clubs	11—OPEN @ 3 PM	12—OPEN @ 3 PM 6 PM—Games Night	13—OPEN @ 2 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner 7 PM—Queen of Clubs	14—OPEN @ 4 PM 5 PM—Games Night FLAG DAY
15—OPEN @ 9 AM 9 AM—Breakfast FATHERS DAY	16—OPEN @ 2 PM 6 PM—Participation Meeting	17—OPEN @ 3 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner 6-8 PM—Bingo 8 PM—Queen of Clubs	18—OPEN @ 3 PM	19—OPEN @ 3 PM 6 PM—Games Night DEPT CONVENTION in COLORADO SPRINGS	20—OPEN @ 2 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner 7 PM—Queen of Clubs DEPT CONVENTION	21—OPEN @ 4 PM 5 PM—Games Night DEPT CONVENTION in COLORADO SPRINGS
22—OPEN @ 9 AM 9 AM—Breakfast DEPT CONVENTION in COLORADO	23—OPEN @ 2 PM	24—OPEN @ 3 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner 6-8 PM—Bingo 8 PM—Queen of Clubs	25—OPEN @ 3 PM	26—OPEN @ 3 PM 6 PM—Games Night	27—OPEN @ 2 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner 7 PM—Queen of Clubs	28—OPEN @ 4 PM 5 PM—Games Night
29—OPEN @ 9 AM 9 AM—Breakfast	30—OPEN @ 2 PM 6 PM—Participation Meeting				CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE. See website VFW9644.ORG for latest calendar.	UPCOMING EVENTS 7/4 JULY 4th PICNIC 7/6 ROCKIES GAME 8/16 PIG ROAST 9/13 CAR SHOW



Post

Donald Roy	June 1	James Flanagan	June 23
Robert Hohn	June 1	Lester Petersen	June 23
Robert Stimpfling	June 1	Kenneth Butts	June 24
William Brewer	June 1	Anna White	June 27
David Tortorelli	June 2	James Martin	June 27
Larry Burleson	June 2	Theodore Bornhoeft	June 27
Paul Skizinski	June 2	William Rayburn	June 27
Ben Spies	June 3	William Byassee	June 29
Roger Edwards	June 5		
Daniel Micka	June 7		
Irma Vasquez	June 7		
Peter Herring	June 8		
Ellen Baker	June 9		
Kerstin Broughton	June 10		
Andrew Otjen	June 11		
Mark Whisler	June 11		
Robert Consolver	June 11		
Joshua Wells	June 12		
Robert Boston	June 12		
Gary Beardsley	June 13		
Louis Sebok	June 15		
Aaron Lawson	June 16		
Jerry Romero	June 17		
Albert Sanders	June 22		

Auxiliary

Heather Duran	June 2
Val Bomgardner	June 3
Jeanne Pruess	June 4
Holly Flanagan	June 4
Lahoma Gutierrez	June 8
Jesse Fish	June 11
Ruth Loftesness	June 13
C Colleen Daniel	June 13
Cathy Mays	June 13
Jason Hibsman	June 13
Ruth McNamara	June 14
Thomas Soto	June 19
Ruble Montgomery	June 20
Anthony Martinez	June 22
Colette Scott	June 24
Jandra Czarnek	June 26
Judy Kaber	June 28
Bob Van Sant	June 29
Pauline Ortega	June 29
Cathie Nickell	June 30
Alane Pettee	June 30

If you are seeing that your birthday is incorrect please let Gary Bean, Post Quartermaster for the Post side or Rachel Rodgers, Auxiliary Treasurer for the Auxiliary Side.

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)