

Joseph J. Jacques Jr. Post 7945

THE POST OBSERVER

2015, Issue 5

10217 Quivas Street, Thornton, CO 80260

303-438-6700

Sept/Oct News

POST WEBSITE:

www.myvfwpost7945.org

Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary!

As we prepare to carry out our programs and service projects for the coming year I would like everyone to be aware of a significant organizational change which resulted from by-laws revisions enacted at the VFW national convention in July. There are new Auxiliary membership eligibility criteria and it will no longer be known as the "Ladies" Auxiliary. Men are eligible join what will now be known as the VFW Auxiliary. As National Auxiliary President, Francisca Guilford states, "Women comprise nearly twenty percent of our nation's military, and this change allows all spouses, fathers, grandfathers, sons, grandsons and brothers to serve others in honor of their veteran." There are still many misperceptions of what this actually means for us at the Post level. More details on these changes will be made available in the next few months.

Department headquarters has announced its membership recruitment goals for the year and initiated their membership drive at the Council of Administration meeting in Alamosa last month. State Commander Pete Buchanan hopes to increase Colorado's VFW Post membership by 500 and has charged each Post to recruit at least 5 new members. Both VFW Post and Auxiliary members are eligible to participate in the drive. For every new Post member that you recruit your name will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win an all-expenses paid trip to Mesquite, Nevada. Including air fare! There will be two drawings held in the next year. The first will held on December 31st.

Thank you all for your many contributions to our Post activities! I'm looking forward to a very successful year for all of us.

Leroy Chavez, Post Commander

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I hope you all had a great summer with lots of fun activities, outdoor adventures, great grilled meals and patio time spent with friends. As the cool days of fall, with our beautiful Colorado colors, approach we will once again begin gearing up for meetings, aiding our community and work on our programs. See Sally Adam's articles on Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Creative Art. Encourage any youth you know

to enter these contests. Last year our District 10 winner went on to win at Department level. He and his family traveled to Washington DC where he was the first place winner of a \$30,000 scholarship!

The Junior Girls is no longer a National program but we would still like to have our young girls and boys involved with us. This summer Debbie Semmen's grandsons helped her with the VA coffee hour and they loved serving the veterans coffee and cookies and the Veterans loved interacting with them. They asked if they could skip school the second Tuesday of each month to continue!! If you would be interested in helping with the VA coffee program, Monday through Friday from 7-12, give me a call. It is so much fun to meet and talk with the veterans who are waiting for appointments.

As Commander Leroy stated in his article above, per National by-law change, the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars has become the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, opening its membership to male relatives of Veterans. We are excited to welcome you to our organization and know that this will increase the help we can provide our communities, our active duty and veterans, and their families. Membership requirements remain the same, fill out an application, provide a DD-214 from your veteran sponsor, and pay your dues: \$30 the first year and \$25 each year after. Even better, join as a Life Member and never receive a letter or call to renew your dues!!!

On September 19th we will have a Tea at the Post for all our Auxiliary members. It will begin at 2:00 with little tea sandwiches, little desserts and tea and coffee. This is a great time to get together with members you haven't seen for awhile, visit and wear a hat for our contest. We would also like to invite anyone who is interested in joining our Auxiliary. Come and get some information and meet our members.

I am looking forward to the coming year. I know how much energy and talent you all have to offer. Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00. Department President, Gloria Otwell's motto for this year is "Cultivate the Caring for our Veterans and their Families". We can grow a whole bunch of caring, with your help.

Shelley Schlieman sshelbell@aol.com 303-550—7689

Phil Garcia 303-655-9115

Shirley Colvin 303-427-2982

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Please call our Chaplains, Phil or Shirley with any card requests due to illness, hospitalization or deaths. Funeral luncheons will only be provided for deceased members of our Post or Auxiliary, upon request of the family. If the deceased was not a member of our Post or Auxiliary, the family may contact Doug Gohr, (303-238-6700) about use of the Post for a luncheon.

TAPS

CANCER GRANT CHAIRMAN

Shirley Colvin 303-427-2982

The National and our Auxiliary Cancer Grant applications are available at the Post. Please contact me at 303-427-2982 if you need any information. The Auxiliary Grant can be mailed to me at 8381 Delaware, Denver CO 80221.

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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN**Lennie Dolan, Treasurer**

Members, remember that after December 31, 2015 you are no longer considered a member in good standing if you haven't paid your dues. The National Ladies Auxiliary (now the Auxiliary) changed their membership requirements at the 2014 National Convention. There is no longer a reinstate status which means that the membership year starts July 1 and dues should be paid by December 31 or you are considered a lapsed member and cannot hold office or vote until your dues are paid. If you haven't paid by June 30th your membership is terminated and you must reapply, you can't reinstate. It doesn't matter how many years you have been a member, once you terminate you start your membership over as year one. You must also wait for one year to apply for a Cancer Grant. What a great reason to become a life member and pay your one time life membership fee. Also Life Members need to send \$6.40 to keep your Cancer Grant current. Once again, we will convert your annual membership to a Life Membership if you have your dues paid by December 1, 2015. Send to me at 1170 Fulton Street, Aurora CO 80010. If you have any questions about this, please call me at 303-341-7488. Thanks!

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USO SHOW OCTOBER 3, 2014

Yes, it is that time of the year, time for our Annual USO Show. The theme this year is "Stand By Me". The focus of the show will be directed to the Korea and Vietnam era. Remember Mash? The performers have been hard at work on skits, music and dance and it is sure to be another entertaining evening of theater. Dinner will be served from 5-7 and in keeping with the theme this year we thought it was appropriate that we serve that military staple, SOS. Of course our SOS (beef and gravy) is far superior to the standard and it will be served on buttery mashed potatoes with mixed vegetables, tossed salad, buttered rolls and, if you have been to our shows before, you know we always have mouth-watering homemade desserts. The show will begin at 7 and the Post will be closed to everyone except ticketholders. \$12 is the price of this great evening and all monies raised will be placed in our respective relief funds to aid our Veterans. We can't wait to feed and entertain you so bring your friends and family and we will see you on October 3rd.

Please check your printed calendars, available at the Post, or or website calendars for all the events we have in September and October. Please plan on attending our POW/MIA Ceremony on September 18th at 7:00 at the Post. We can promote patriotism by flying our flags and teaching our youth what Americanism is about. Look into volunteering some time at the VA hospital, lift up those that are sick and lonely. Attend our breakfasts every Sunday as the money raised helps us support our National Programs, such as VOD, PP, National Home for Children, VA coffee admissions and our state VA nursing homes. We are so much more than a Post/Auxiliary building, we work together to make our presence known to our community and we "Cultivate the Caring for our Veterans and Their Families".

Scholarship Programs

For those members who are not familiar with these programs, I would like to give you a brief overview. Each program encourages writing skills in middle school and high school students. Competition is held first at the Post; that winner then competes against the winners of the other Post entries in our District; then the District winners compete to represent the Department of Colorado in the national competition.

Patriot's Pen is an essay-writing contest held each year across the United States for students in any school (public, private, home-schooled, etc.) in grades 6, 7, and 8. The program is designed to foster patriotism. Each contestant submits a 300-400 word, typed essay on the annual theme. . **This year's theme is "What Freedom Means to Me."** **Deadline for submission of the entry form is November 1.** The national first place winner receives a \$5,000 savings bond and an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. Other national winners receive savings bonds from \$1,000 up. The entry form is online at www.vfw.org: click on "Community", then "Programs"; then "Patriot's Pen"; scroll down to "How to Enter" and click on the link to the entry form and competition rules.

The **Voice of Democracy** scholarship program is an audio-essay contest for high school students in grades 9-12. Each contestant submits an original, typed essay between 3-5 minutes along with a CD recorded in the student's voice reading his/her essay. The national first place winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship that is paid directly to the winner's American university, college, or vocational/technical school. **Deadline for submission of the entry form is November 1st.** This year the theme is **"Why Veterans Are Important to our Nation's History and Future."** The entry form is online at www.vfw.org: click on "Community"; then "Programs"; then on "VOD"; scroll down to "How to Enter" and click on the link to its entry form and rules.

Please encourage any student in grades 6-8 (Patriot's Pen) and grades 9-12 (Voice of Democracy) to submit an entry.

If you have any questions concerning any of these programs, please feel free to **contact me at 303-452-0474**. Remember entries for Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy must be in my possession no later than November 1, 2015.

Sally Adam, Scholarship Chairman

Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 7945

Young American Creative Patriotic Art

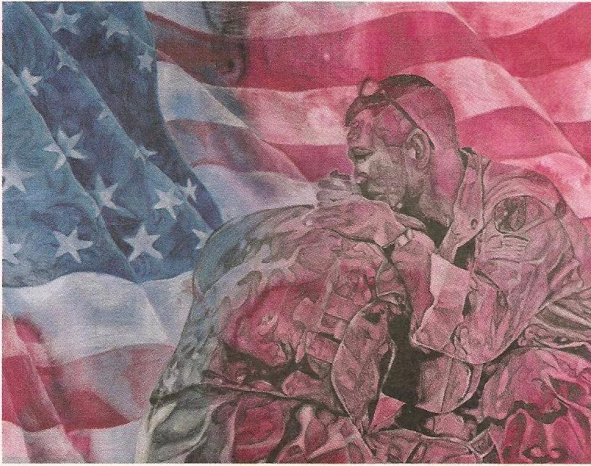
The Creative Patriotic Art competition is open to all students in grades 9-12 enrolled in public, private or parochial high school or home study program **in Colorado**. Students are required to submit their art on paper or canvas in water color, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen-and-ink or oil (no digital art will be accepted). The art should not be framed; submit canvas entries on stretcher frames. Other entries must be matted on white. Do not use other color mats. In matting, use heavy paper to reinforce back. Mounted and floating mats may also be used. The art should be no smaller than 8" x 10" or larger than 18" x 24", not including mat. The entry form is online at www.ladiesauxiliaryvfw.org: click on "Scholarships"; then "Young American Creative Patriotic Art Brochure"; you will find the entry form and rules. Attach the entry form to the back of the entry. **Complete rules are on the entry form. Please read them carefully.**

Judging originality of presentation, patriotism—how relates to clarity of the technique, work and its Deadline is 2016. If you questions program, **please contact me at** The national first receives Shown below is Winner's art.

Sally Adam,
Chairman
Auxiliary to
7945

★ **WINNERS**

2011 Young American Creative Patriotic Art



First Place
\$10,000
MAGDALENA SIMONA SANDU
Graves-Ray-Stark Auxiliary 9851
Hendersonville, Tennessee

FORGOTTEN FACADES

"In my drawing, I wanted to depict an image that would capture the sensitivity and heartbreaking aspect of a soldier's life, the forgotten factors. With the semi-transparent flag and soldiers, I tried to symbolize how the emotional burden on soldiers blends into the background and is left unnoticed by society.

"Everyone pictures a soldier as a fighter, fierce and brutal, but these are not the only components of their identity...This is why I chose an emotional picture and the American Flag to create my own interpretation of what a true patriot is. These men and women are heroes because they do not only fight for our country, but they also experience the loss of close friends and comrades which many of us are fortunate enough to never have to experience."

10 LADIES AUXILIARY VFW MAGAZINE

is based on concept, and the content patriotism, the idea, impact of the uniqueness. March 31, have any concerning this **feel free to 303-452-0474.** place winner \$10,000. a past National

Scholarship

VFW Post

POST DIRECTORY

PHONE 303-438-6700

Commander	Leroy Chavez	chavezl.msudenver.edu	720-724-6773
Sr. Vice Commander	Micheal Ayers		303-594-8898
Jr. Vice Commander	George Sandoval		303-948-4920
Quartermaster	Ron Schlieman	sshelbell@aol.com	303-349-5615
Chaplin	Phil Garcia		303-655-0115
Judge Advocate/Adj.	Dave Garcia		303-979-0977
3 Yr Trustee	Darwin (Ole) Haydeen		303-451-1296
2 Yr Trustee	Tony Garcia		303-736-2379
1 Yr Trustee	Chis Stillman		720-209-1502
Service Officer	Scott Evans		303-457-1999
5 Yr. Home Board	Terry Timberlake		
4 Yr Home Board	Bruce Dolan		303-421-1630
3 Yr Home Board	Scott Evans		303-457-1999
2 Yr Home Board	George Apodaca		303-906-8661
1 Yr Home Board	Bill Bingham		303-880-8620

AUXILIARY DIRECTORY

President	Shelley Schlieman	sshelbell@aol.com	303-550-7689
Sr. Vice President	Cat Apodaca		303-906-8671
J r Vice President	Debbie Semmen	djsemmen@comcast.net	303-438-9893
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Guard	Pat Legge		
3 Yr Trustee	Brigitte Dolan		720-394-5474
2 Yr Trustee	Brandi Dolan		303-353-9629
1 Yr Trustee	Sally Adam		303 -452-0474
Patriotic Instructor	Brandi Dolan		303-353-96299
Web Master	Kristi Wood		720-201-4062

POST HOURS

Monday Thru Thursday 12:00 – 8:00 Friday &

Sat. 11:00 – 2:00 Sunday 8:00 – 9:00

Sunday Drink Special 8:30 – 11:30 is Bloody Mary's and Screw Drivers for \$2.00