

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	Gary Bean
Junior Vice Commander	Joe Camarillo
Quartermaster	Lynn Peterson
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

First off, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who supported VFW Post 9644 throughout last year. Truly, **No One Does More for Veterans** than our Post and Auxiliary, but our strength lies in our membership, our youth, and our community. To every volunteer who helps keep this Post alive—whether you cook, plan, decorate, serve on a committee, or simply show up and share your input—thank you! And to everyone who joins us for a meal, bingo, or an event, we do this for you, so your presence means the world to us. If I haven't said it to you recently, let me say it now: Thank you!

tional Cemetery—we've worked hard to keep our building alive and vibrant. Special thanks to Kemble Brothers Plumbing for their quick work on repairs that got us back up and running after being closed for 11 days earlier in the year.

Recognitions and Milestones: We celebrated our members and leaders, including Chaplain Robert Derrera, who was named Chaplain of the Year, and recognized community partners who make our mission possible.

This is just a snapshot of what we accomplished together in 2024. Let's carry this momentum forward into 2025 and continue to make a difference for veterans and our community.

Year in Review

As we look back on 2024, it's clear we've accomplished so much for veterans, our community, and to keep our Post thriving. Here are just a few highlights:

- **Supporting Veterans:** Our Veterans Service Office worked tirelessly to connect veterans with the benefits they deserve, providing free representation throughout the claims process. This year, between the Post and Auxiliary, we donated thousands of dollars to support the Veterans Service Office, ensuring they can continue their vital work. The VFW Airlift brought food and toys to over 1,600 veterans and their families across Colorado, ensuring they had a special holiday season.
- **Community Impact:** We supported food security with donations to food banks and programs like the VFW Airlift, which transported 10,000 pounds of goods to rural communities. We also hosted free events for children on major holidays, bringing food, toys, and joy to families in our community.
- **Youth and Scouting:** This year, we continued to support three scout troops and celebrated the promotion of three scouts to the rank of **Eagle Scout**, a tremendous achievement. We partnered with the Foothill Young Marines to inspire leadership and discipline among youth in our community. Our Post also hosted several flag retirement ceremonies, retiring thousands of worn and tattered flags with the respect and dignity they deserve. The VFW Band of Colorado brings music and community to our events and events all over Colorado.
- **Facility and Events:** From our successful car show to hosting over 50 events for the community—including City of Sheridan events and meetings for the VA and Fort Logan Na-

December in Review

We wrapped up 2024 with some incredible events that truly showcased the heart of our Post and Auxiliary:

- **Membership Dinner:** What a fantastic evening! We enjoyed the talented VFW Band of Colorado, delicious food, and even a beautiful performance by a young singer who graced us again this year. A big thank you to Michelle, Steve, Gary, and all the other volunteers who worked hard to make this evening a success. We also celebrated member milestones with anniversary pins and recognized some of our key community partners for their support throughout the year.
 - **Adult Christmas Party:** Following the membership dinner, we celebrated with a lively gift exchange, great drinks, and plenty of fellowship. Another big shoutout to Michelle for stepping up and making this party a success!
 - **Kids Christmas Party:** This event was a hit with tie-dye t-shirts, presents, and a special visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. The hall looked spectacular thanks to our dedicated volunteers, and we had a wonderful turnout from the community.
- Christmas Day Meal:** Our potluck-style meal brought together amazing dishes and even better company. A huge thanks to Britt and MJ Davies for organizing this cherished event, along with everyone who contributed food, helped with setup and cleanup, and shared in the holiday spirit.

I hope each of you had a merry Christmas and enjoyed these special moments as much as I did!

Looking Ahead to 2025

This year, we have a packed calendar with events like our Senior Lunch, Car Show, Pig Roast, kids' events, and so much more, including the three

meals we serve each week. Making these happen takes an incredible amount of volunteer hours, and I'm calling on everyone to step up.

Adding new members to our Post and Auxiliary is still a priority for 2025. If you have any friends, neighbors, or family members who qualify for the Post or the Auxiliary, let's work on getting them signed up. If you see someone wearing a hat that says Veteran, Vietnam, Iraq, or another conflict, ask if they're a member of the VFW. Share what the VFW has done to help you and how it could help them too. Invite them to stop by for a meal or an event. And if you haven't seen someone come by in a while, reach out and invite them back—we'd love to see them again!

Let's make 2025 a year of growth, service, and community for VFW Post 9644. Thank you for everything you do to keep this Post thriving!

Family and Getting Along

Finally, in today's society, there are so many reasons provided to us why we shouldn't get along—from politics to religion, race, ethnicity, and more. The world, the media, and social

media work hard to keep us divided. That divisiveness often seeps into our daily lives and, ultimately, into the Post. Let's fight against this and come together to work together this year. We are not divided—**united we stand**. Let's find bridges between each of us to keep ourselves united.

We are all volunteers at this Post. I cannot individually ask each of you to do something, nor can I individually thank you for the work and dedication you bring to this place. I may miss recognizing your service or a special day. Most of us who are volunteering here juggle other jobs and life stresses, which sometimes prevent us from appreciating the work others are putting in. Many of us bring the weight of work, family life, and other pressures to the Post—let's remember not to release that on one another.

Every single one of you is loved. This Post cannot exist without each of you and the time, effort, money, and attendance you contribute. Let's all work together to make 2025 a better year for the overall attitude of the Post. Let's stay in our lanes, appreciate each other, understand when someone is stressed, listen to one another, help out a little more, and not hold a grudge from 2024.

MONTHLY MEETING

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 4TH
11:00 AM POST/AUX MEETING
FREE LUNCH TO FOLLOW**





Lynn Peterson
VFW Post 9644
Quartermaster

Dear Post 9644 & Auxiliary Members:

Our quarter century 2025 has arrived, as we trustfully anticipate major changes ahead in our economy, democracy & patriotism. As comrades, we continue to say Thanks to All our service men & women for ensuring our Freedoms, Land of the Free & Home of the Brave.

January begins the start of our moving forward, wearing a smile & turning a new leaf, as needed. As we approach the dead of Winter, keep a positive attitude, Looking ahead, not behind, will serve us well. Change is inevitable; embrace it.

New Post members are increasing; let's welcome them. Come visit & join our ranks for fun & games & give them a big warm howdy duty, hand salute. Welcome... Carlos Garcia, USMC, John Powell, US Army, Steven Rael, USMC & John Graf, US Army.

Plug yourself in; there's an opening awaiting....Thanks!! Remember, we wear no rank, respecting each other and the privilege of serving our fellow Veterans & Families.

So Bingo you say, be it 12Noon Monday @ Barrys Bingo, 6PM Tuesday @ Post or 12Noon Thursday @ Barrys Bingo. Plenty of opportunities to get lucky. Being our primary revenue sources, come join us to participate or help, you're invited & welcome. There's room for you. On Mondays it's 55 to 65 guests, Tuesday its 40 to 50 members & guests and Thursday it's 35 - 45 guests. I think I hear your numbers calling!! Take a chance for some fun. It definitely helps us pay our bills along with helping your post meet its ever-present financial needs.

As always, thanks to all who help make it happen each week & month.

Lynn E. Peterson
 QM, VFW Post 9644
 lepeteron47@comcast.net
 720-292-6992

New Year's Day

1.1.2025

*Canteen Open at
 11:00 AM*

*Black Eyed Peas &
 Cornbread at 2 PM*





Gary Bean
VFW Post 9644
Sr Vice Commander

Happy New Year to All!

It has been a rewarding two years since I joined Verle Huffman VFW Post 9644, and I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended the Membership Dinner, as well as the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen Award night. A special shoutout goes to my three judges: MJ Davies, Debbie McGee, and Robin Bean for their invaluable contributions.

As we step into this new month, we have a busy schedule ahead!

Upcoming Events:

- **Sunday Breakfast:** January 26th from 9am to 12 pm. Join us for my first Sunday breakfast, and I hope to see all of you there!
- **Saturday Meetings:** January 4th at 11am Your participation is important and adds to the vibrant atmosphere of our post.
- **District 1 VOD and Patriot Pen Award Luncheon:** January 11th at 11am. At VFW Post 5061, located off Sheridan and Warren Ave. A wonderful opportunity to celebrate our youth and their achievements.

- **Monday Night Participation Meetings:** January 13th and January 27th at 6pm

Queen of Clubs has new rules. It will be open to all post and auxiliary members in good standing, along with their bona fide guests. Guests are those that sign in to the guestbook in the foyer. The Queen of Clubs is drawn on Tuesdays after Bingo which is around 8pm, Fridays after dinner at 7pm. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Calendars are available at the post, and I encourage everyone to get involved. The more active we are, the more enjoyable our post activities become!

Thank you to each and every one of you who have made my first two years so memorable. I look forward to continuing this journey together.

Best wishes,
Gary Bean
Sr Vice Commander

Troop 42 and VFW Post 9644 Community Blood Drive

SUNDAY, JAN. 12
9:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

2680 W HAMPDEN AVE, ENGLEWOOD
INSIDE THE HALL

The need for blood is constant, and YOU can make a difference by signing up today to donate blood.

Schedule your blood donation appointment by visiting donors.vitalant.org and search using Blood Drive Code: 100560503 or scan the QR Code.

For more information visit us at vitalant.org or call 877-258-4825. **Because of you, life doesn't stop.**



vitalant.



Robert Derrera
VFW Post 9644
Chaplain



Welcoming the New Year with Purpose and Gratitude:

Happy New Year! As we step into 2025, I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. January is a time for reflection, renewal, and reconnection—a time to honor the past while embracing the opportunities that lie ahead.

Looking back at 2024, our Post accomplished much to be proud of. From supporting veterans in need to fostering camaraderie among our members, your dedication and service embody the true spirit of the VFW. I am grateful for the honor of serving as your Chaplain and for the moments of fellowship, remembrance, and inspiration we have shared together.

As we set our sights on the year ahead, let us keep in mind our sacred duty to one another. Let us continue to support our brothers and sisters in arms and their families, extend our hands to the community, and honor the sacrifices of those who came before us.

This month, I encourage & challenge you to consider a few resolutions that align with the mission of our Post:

- **Renew Your Commitment:** Attend monthly meetings, participate in events! Your involvement strengthens our Post.
- **Reach Out:** A simple phone call or visit to a fellow veteran can make all the difference. Let's make it our goal to connect with those who may feel isolated or in need of a friendly face.

- **Volunteer:** Opportunities to serve abound within our Post and community. Share your talents and passion to make a lasting impact. Be a part of the solution!

In the spirit of renewal, January also brings the hope of a fresh start. Let us lean on our shared values of service, patriotism, and camaraderie as we navigate the challenges and triumphs of the coming year. Together, we can achieve great things.

This month, I encourage you to join us for our first meeting of the year on Saturday January 4th at 11am. Let's start 2025 with renewed energy and purpose. We'll discuss plans for upcoming events, ways to support our Post, and how we can better serve those in need. Your voice and participation are vital to our continued success.

May 2025 be a year of blessings, prosperity, and peace for you and your loved ones. Wishing you a blessed and prosperous New Year. Here's to another year of service, brotherhood, and making a difference! If you ever find yourself in need of support, prayer, or simply someone to talk to, please don't hesitate to reach out.

As your Chaplain, my door is always open. If you or someone you know is struggling, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Remember, you are never alone.

In comradeship and faith,
Chaplain Rob,
VFW Post 9644



VFW POST 9644

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

VFW Auxiliary 9644

President - John Whisler
Sr Vice President - Michelle Cordova
Jr Vice President - Greg Almandares
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





John Whisler
VFW Post 9644
President

Greetings Verle Huffman Post and Auxiliary members,

As we begin the New Year, I encourage us to reflect on two simple mottos from Scouting: "Do Your Best" and "Be Prepared." These principles guide Scouts to excel and can inspire us in our daily lives. Resolutions can be hard to sustain, but focusing on doing our best and staying prepared can help us navigate life's challenges.

Let's also remember to show kindness and understanding, as everyone faces unseen challenges. I'm proud to be part of an organization united by a mission to support veterans, their families, and our community. While we may not always agree on methods, our shared goal binds

us. This year, let's embrace new ideas while maintaining traditions that work, ensuring every voice is heard.

January's Scout Law point, "A Scout is Obedient," reminds us to listen and collaborate. Together, we can make a difference by learning from one another and working toward our shared mission.

Here's to a year of doing our best, staying prepared, and making a positive impact— together.

Yours in service,
John Whisler
President

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



Rachel Rodgers
VFW Post 9644
Treasurer

Welcome to 2025!!

As we step into the New Year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the achievements we've made together as a post and look forward to the exciting opportunities ahead. 2024 was a year filled with dedication, support, and unity, and as we move into 2025, there is much to look forward to.

As your Treasurer, it is my responsibility to ensure the financial health of our post, and I am pleased to report that we have continued to maintain a strong financial position, thanks to the generous contributions and support from each of you. Your membership dues, donations, and participation in fundraisers allow us to provide vital services to veterans, support community programs, and continue our mission of service.

As we enter this New Year, we are planning several exciting events to engage our members and continue supporting veterans and their families. From fundraising events to volunteer opportunities, there will be numerous ways to get involved. Your continued support will be key to the success of these initiatives.

Financial Transparency: In the spirit of transparency, I will be providing regular updates on our financial status at our Monthly Auxiliary Meetings. This includes a summary

of all of our accounts. If you ever have questions about our finances, please feel free to reach out. I am here to answer any questions you may have.

Membership Dues & Contributions: I would like to remind everyone to pay their membership dues for the New Year. Your dues are vital in helping us maintain the services and programs that benefit our fellow veterans. If you haven't renewed yet, please take a moment to do so and encourage others to do the same. The more members we have, the stronger our voice becomes in advocating for veterans' rights. As a reminder, the dues are increasing to \$40 as of January 1st.

Lastly, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you. Your commitment to our post and to the veteran community has been inspiring. Let's continue to work together in the year ahead to support our veterans and honor their service.

I wish each of you a prosperous and fulfilling New Year. Let's make 2025 a year to remember!

Respectfully,
Rachel Rodgers
VFW 9644 Auxiliary Treasurer
vfw9644auxtreasurer@gmail.com



Elizabeth Whisler
Scout Troop 42
Scoutmaster

A Note From The Scoutmaster

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday.

With the start of 2025 Troop 42 has an announcement! We have a girls Troop! Now we have Troop 42 B (boys) and Troop 42 G (girls). This has been a long time goal of both the Troop and mine so to see it happen is a big step.

I have been thinking about the phrase "The Season of giving", why does it have to be just a season?

We teach the Scouts to "Do a good turn daily". What is a Good Turn you may ask. I will tell you.

To do a "Good Turn Daily" is to perform a kind act or helpful deed for someone else every single day, essentially encouraging a daily practice for helping others in small or large ways.

Did you know that this could be as small as saying Hi to someone?

I know it is easy to be kind and give for only 2 months out of 12, but how about making it a new goal to do a "Good Turn Daily" every day.

Have you signed up to donate blood this January?

Elizabeth Whisler
Troop 42 Scoutmaster



We had a very busy but fun December 2024. Thank you to everyone that participated and volunteered to make all of our events so successful! From the VFW Airlift, our Membership Dinner, Adult Christmas Party, Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Dinner, and New Year's Eve! Here is to an amazing 2025!!



January 2025 VFW Post 9644



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>UPCOMING EVENTS 7/4 JULY 4th PICNIC 7/6 ROCKIES GAME 8/16 PIG ROAST 9/13 CAR SHOW</p>	<p>CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE. See website VFW9644.ORG for latest calendar.</p>		<p>1—OPEN @ 11 AM 2-4 PM—Dinner (Black Eyed Peas) NEW YEAR DAY</p>	<p>2—OPEN @ 3 PM 6 PM—Games Night</p>	<p>3—OPEN @ 2 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner—Steak and/or Shrimp 7 PM—Queen of Clubs</p>	<p>4—OPEN @ 4 PM 10 AM—Finance Meeting 11 AM—Post/Aux Meetings 5 PM—Games Night</p>
<p>5—OPEN @ 9 AM 9 AM—Breakfast</p>	<p>6—OPEN @ 2 PM</p>	<p>7—OPEN @ 3 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner 6-8 PM—Bingo 8 PM—Queen of Clubs</p>	<p>8—OPEN @ 3 PM</p>	<p>9—OPEN @ 3 PM 6 PM—Games Night</p>	<p>10—OPEN @ 2 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner 7 PM—Queen of Clubs</p>	<p>11—OPEN @ 4 PM 5 PM—Games Night</p>
<p>12—OPEN @ 9 AM 9 AM—Breakfast</p>	<p>13—OPEN @ 2 PM 6 PM—Participation Meeting</p>	<p>14—OPEN @ 3 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner 6-8 PM—Bingo 8 PM—Queen of Clubs</p>	<p>15—OPEN @ 3 PM</p>	<p>16—OPEN @ 3 PM 6 PM—American Says</p>	<p>17—OPEN @ 2 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner 7 PM—Queen of Clubs</p>	<p>18—OPEN @ 4 PM 5 PM—Games Night</p>
<p>19—OPEN @ 9 AM 9 AM—Breakfast</p>	<p>20—OPEN @ 2 PM INAUGURATION DAY MLK JR DAY</p>	<p>21—OPEN @ 3 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner 6-8 PM—Bingo 8 PM—Queen of Clubs</p>	<p>22—OPEN @ 3 PM</p>	<p>23—OPEN @ 3 PM 6 PM—Games Night</p>	<p>24—OPEN @ 2 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner 7 PM—Queen of Clubs</p>	<p>25—OPEN @ 4 PM 5 PM—Games Night DEPT VOD/PP BANQUET @ 3917</p>
<p>26—OPEN @ 9 AM 9 AM—Breakfast</p>	<p>27—OPEN @ 2 PM 6 PM—Participation Meeting</p>	<p>28—OPEN @ 3 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner 6-8 PM—Bingo 8 PM—Queen of Clubs</p>	<p>29—OPEN @ 3 PM 6 PM—Home Board Meeting</p>	<p>30—OPEN @ 3 PM 6 PM—Games Night</p>	<p>31—OPEN @ 2 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner 7 PM—Queen of Clubs</p>	



Post

Walter Allen	January 1	Tom Keeton	January 1	Robert Weins	January 1
George Askins	January 1	Eric Koppelmaa	January 1	James Kirst	January 2
Gerald Bates	January 1	Christopher Lapham	January 1	John De Oliver	January 10
John Bechtold	January 1	Paul Leveque	January 1	Raul Gierbolini	January 11
Dale Becker	January 1	James Lingle	January 1	Warner McMichael	January 11
Darrel Benton	January 1	Charles Marler	January 1	Clint Cator	January 12
Robert Blanshan	January 1	Bryan Mc Gee	January 1	David Ollila	January 12
David Bleau	January 1	James Mcdonald	January 1	Paul Martinez	January 13
Robert Brake	January 1	Leo Muniz	January 1	Rory Mathias	January 13
Micheal Brosh	January 1	Levi Myers	January 1	Frank Rodriquez	January 14
Delmar Brown	January 1	Ruben Ortega	January 1	Jason Abbey	January 16
Dennis Cushman	January 1	Donald Peters	January 1	Donald Black	January 17
Robert Czarnek	January 1	James Phenix	January 1	John Wigle	January 18
Fletcher Eames	January 1	Mark Rawdon	January 1	John Bredenberg	January 21
Ronald Fagler	January 1	Roy Richards	January 1	Darell Larson	January 21
Lee Gaskill	January 1	David Ritchie	January 1	James Cardinal	January 22
Frank Gill	January 1	Travis Roundtree	January 1	Chelsea Lavelle	January 22
Robert Grimes	January 1	James Shattuck	January 1	David Morgan	January 22
Delavan Hansen	January 1	Michael Steinbach	January 1	Terrance Goad	January 24
Steven Harris	January 1	Karl Taylor	January 1	James Golden	January 25
Clifford Heitzman	January 1	Barton Trujillo	January 1	Ray Navarro	January 26
Raymond Herrera	January 1	Bennie Trujillo	January 1	Duane Ammerman	January 27
Martin Hixon	January 1	James Turner	January 1	Joseph Guerrieri	January 28
Nathan Hunter	January 1	Sylvvester Walorski	January 1	Michael Hill	January 30

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



Auxiliary

Meggie Davies	January 1	Sara Leatherwood	January 10
Diane Fraley	January 1	Mary Johnson	January 11
Sandra Hall	January 1	Rebecca Moors	January 11
Barbara Harberson	January 1	Judy Scott	January 13
Norma Henderson	January 1	Yvonne Tatham	January 13
Phyllis Horton	January 1	Masha Maez	January 15
Tina Mabe	January 1	Christine Lux	January 15
Marian Maschka	January 1	Pablo Espinoza	January 16
Whitney Mason	January 1	Annette Sue Williams	January 18
Agnes Pankoski	January 1	Eileen Krasovec Perez	January 19
Louise Seggerma Penn	January 1	Sharon Rodriguez	January 21
Patricia Pinner	January 1	Sharon Vine	January 22
Mary Rice	January 1	Bonnie Hardin	January 22
Sherol Roy	January 1	Pauline Theuer	January 22
Catherine Stoner	January 1	Mary Blackard	January 25
Rita Webber	January 1	Terra Synder	January 25
Gladys Winner	January 1	Deborah Connelly	January 27
Catherine Zawicky	January 1	Patricia Sampers	January 27
Tanya Shiflett	January 3	John Whisler	January 27
Carol Neises	January 4	Ila Alred	January 28
Ginny Dumas	January 7	Michelle Hall	January 30
Carol McMenamin	January 7	Amanda Czarnek	January 31
Lora Hodson	January 8	Andrew Hahn	January 31
Pamela Novotny	January 8	Linda Wilkerson	January 31
Tony Italiano	January 10		

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)