

VFW 1st District of California



DISPATCH



@vfwmighty1st



Above: District President & Commander at Past Commander in Chief Rainwater's grave site
Right: Pres. Sheila and CDR Lewis at Fort Rosecrans Memorial Day Service.
Below: Mighty District 1 Members place hundreds of American Flags on Mount Hope Cemetery Veteran's graves.



Contents:

- 2: Commander and President Letters
- 3-6: Special Dates
- 7-10: District Reports
- 11-13: News for Veterans

Membership as of
1 June 2023
Auxiliary: 99.74%
Comrades: 99.52%

District 1 Commander John Lewis



Comrades,

As we move into the month of June, we close out another successful year for the Mighty First District.

By the time you read this Memorial Day will have past. I want to thank you all for your service and always remember those that have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Thank you to all the District and Post leadership for the hard work you have put in for 2022/23, we are on track to earn All State and All American, pending membership. I look forward to presenting a check to the top 3 recruiters for the last quarter at the end of June.

I encourage you all to work hard spreading VFW awareness, to lose a post due to lack of participation would defeat the purpose of our existence.

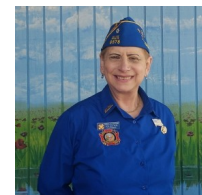
Continue to support your Veterans, families and communities and each other and leave no Veteran behind.

Thanks, yours in Comradery

**John Lewis, Commander,
VFW CA District 1
714-887-6702**



District 1 President Sheila Jo Toor-Snyder



Welcome to June to all brothers, sisters and comrades!!

Wow, 1/2 way through 2023 and my tenure is about complete!

Despite obstacles and issues along the way (including my husband's passing), we have all shown our strength, leadership, and courage to help our veterans and their families all year. Great job to everyone, and to pass your knowledge and mentoring to the new group and new members coming in!

I commend all Auxiliary members on their tenacity and willingness to move forward, learn and grow to expand their own groups, and contribute to the causes for our District as well as Department Auxiliary.

Please note that audits for January-March 2023 were due by 05/31/2023, and the next round will cover April-June 2023.

District 1 Commander John and I participated in the Memorial Day wreath laying at Fort Rosecrans as well as adding flowers to the interred site of Past Commander Rainwater. Special honors to all.

A check for my special project, "Final Honor" will be presented on June 25, at VFW Post 2275/S.A.B.L.E. and everyone is welcome to attend.

Our new incoming District 1 President, Diana Kulhanek, will be attending the Department Convention in Anaheim on my behalf as well as her own when she attends her 1st Council of Administration meeting as President.

Membership is still working on attaining 100% or higher before the end of June, we are at 99.74% and holding as of the writing of this article.

I also want to thank all Auxiliaries who came to me during the mass installation who were excited about their growth in many aspects of the organization including reports, contributions, etc. While I may have sent lots of emails to everyone, many Auxiliary members were grateful for the updates, flyers, messages, etc. from District and Department.

(Continued on page 18)



SPECIAL DATES

JUNE: PTSD Awareness Month

June 6: Anniversary of World War II Allied Invasion in Normandy, France (D-Day)

JUNE 7-11: Department Convention, Anaheim, CA

**JUNE 10: 23/24 Officers take office effective
June 10, 2023**

June 12: Women Veterans Day

June 14: Flag Day

June 14: U.S. Army Birthday

Week That Includes June 14th: National Flag Week

June 19: Juneteenth

June 23: U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday

June 25: Anniversary of the start of the Korean War (1950)

June 27: National PTSD Awareness Day



JULY

July 4: Independence Day

July 25: National Hire A Veteran Day

July 27: Korean War Veterans Armistice Day (1953)

July 28: National Buffalo Soldiers Day

July 29: Anniversary of the Army Chaplain Corps



AUGUST

August 1: U.S. Air Force Day

August 4: U.S. Coast Guard Birthday

August 5-6: Department Official Visit

**August 6: District 1 Comrades Meeting at
Lemon Grove Post 2082**

**August 6: District 1 Auxiliary Meeting at Lakeside,
Carter-Smith, Post 5867**

August 7: Purple Heart Day

August 8: VJ (Victory Over Japan) Day (1945)

August 10: U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Birthday

August 10: Agent Orange Awareness Day

August 14: Navajo Code Talkers Day

August 16: National Airborne day

August 29: U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Birthday



2023

CALIFORNIA STATE CONVENTION

103rd ANNUAL

JOINT VFW & AUXILIARY SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 8, 2023

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm..... VFW/Auxiliary Registration.....Malibu
- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm.....VFW Headquarters Office.....Monarch
- 8:30 am - 12:00 pm.....Auxiliary C of A.....Laguna Newport Corridor
- 8:30 am - 10:30 am.....Rules Committee Meeting.....Huntington
- 8:30 am - 11:00 am.....Bylaws Committee.....Sunset
- 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm.....VFW C of A and Awards.....Hermosa/Huntington/Manhattan
- 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm.....Commander's Appreciation Dinner.....Grand Ballroom

Friday, June 9, 2023

- 7:00 am - 6:00 pm.....VFW Headquarters Office.....Monarch
- 8:00 am - 10:45 am.....Joint Opening/Memorial Service.....Grand Ballroom
- 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.....VFW/Auxiliary Registration.....Malibu
- 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm.....VFW 1st Business Session.....Hermosa/Huntington/Manhattan
- 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm.....Auxiliary 1st Business Session.....Laguna Newport Corridor
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm.....All-American Lunch.....Redondo
- 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm.....Horse Race Fundraiser.....Laguna Newport Corridor

Saturday, June 10, 2023

- 7:00 am - 8:30 am.....VAVS Special Guest Breakfast.....Redondo
- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm.....VFW Headquarters Office.....Monarch
- 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.....VFW/Auxiliary Registration.....Malibu
- 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.....VFW 2nd Business Session.....Hermosa/Huntington/Manhattan
- 8:30 am - 12:00 pm.....Auxiliary 2nd Business Session.....Laguna Newport Corridor
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm.....Past State Commanders Lunch.....Redondo
- 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm.....VFW & Auxiliary Joint Installation.....Grand Ballroom
- 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm.....Commander/President's Reception.....Veranda

Sunday, June 11, 2023

- 7:00 am - 4:00 pm.....VFW Headquarters Office.....Monarch
- 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.....District Commanders Training.....Hermosa/Huntington/Manhattan
- 8:30 am - 1:30 pm.....Auxiliary 1st C of A.....Laguna Newport Corridor
- 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm.....VFW C of A.....Hermosa/Huntington/Manhattan



CALIFORNIA STATE CONVENTION

103rd ANNUAL

TRAINING SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY JUNE 7TH

Lassen

8:00am - 9:30am	*Quartermaster/Trustee	Deb Johnson
9:45am - 11:15am	Parliamentary Procedure	Rodger Meier
11:15am - 12:30pm	LUNCH	
12:30pm - 2:00pm	*Quartermaster/Trustee	Deb Johnson
2:15pm - 3:45pm	Parliamentary Procedure	Rodger Meier

Sierra

8:00am - 9:30am	*Service Officer	Shanon Strickler
9:45am - 11:15am	Deported Veteran Workshop	Livy Lazaro
11:15am - 12:30pm	LUNCH	
12:30pm - 2:00pm	Canteen Operations	Dan Jennings
2:15pm - 3:45pm	*Service Officer	Shanon Strickler

Sequoia

8:00am - 9:10am	Recruiting/Membership	Mike Croy/Dan Jennings
9:15am - 9:30am	Poppies	Alexis Henshaw
9:45am - 11:15am	Dashboard/Website/All-State	Paula Jansen
11:15am - 12:30pm	LUNCH	
12:30pm - 12:45pm	Poppies	Alexis Henshaw
12:50pm - 2:00pm	Dashboard/Website/All-State	Paula Jansen
2:15pm - 3:45pm	Recruiting/Membership	Mike Croy/Dan Jennings

Yosemite

8:00am - 9:30am	Post Inspections	Tony Precie
9:45am - 11:15am	*Commanders Training	Dusty Napier/Tim Bryant
11:15am - 12:30pm	LUNCH	
12:30pm - 2:00pm	Post Inspections	Tony Precie
2:15pm - 3:45pm	*Commanders Training	Dusty Napier/Tim Bryant

*School of Instruction classes and Service Officer classes will provide All-State credit for next year

State Convention Training				
#	Time	Training Topic	Trainer	Contact Info
2	90 minutes	Service Officer	Shanon Strickler	sstrickler@vfwca.org
2	90 minutes	Dashboard/Website/All State	Paula Jansen	paula.jansen@att.net
1	90 minutes	Deported Veteran Workshop	Livy Lazaro	dvlazlivy@gmail.com
2	90 minutes	Post Inspection	Tony Precie	pseawolf877@aol.com
2	90 minutes	Parliamentary Procedure	Rodger Meier	meier@vfwca.org
2	90 minutes	Commander Training	Dusty Napier/Tim Bryant	bryant@vfwca.org / napier@vfwca.org
2	90 minutes	Quartermaster/Trustee	Deb Johnson	djohnson@vfwca.org
2	75 minutes	Recruiting/Membership	Mike Croy/Dan Jennings	mcroy2@gmail.com
2	15 minutes	Poppies	Alexis Henshaw	alexishenshaw@hotmail.com
1	90 minutes	Canteen Operations	Dan Jennings	danieljnnngs@yahoo.com

Lassen				
8:00 AM	9:30 AM	Quartermaster/Trustee	Deb Johnson	
9:45 AM	11:15 AM	Parliamentary Procedure	Rodger Meier	
11:15 AM	12:30 PM	Lunch		
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DISTRICT REPORTS

Chaplain Report

Hello Comrades!

This is our fourth month that we are able to witness. Therefore, let's be appreciative of the livelihood, that we are able to celebrate with families and friends.

As Veterans, Legionnaires that have served and still are serving, has made history in our lives to share unforgotten memories with family and friends.

Hopefully, all will participate in an Easter egg hunt, or whatever activity of faith for celebration. Those that are believers recognize that He has risen on the said day.

Let's not forget those enduring their life's situations of hardship one way or the other.

As I say to all remember your fellow comrade and family as you bow to whom you serve and entrust your faith.

May the harvest of blessings continue to fall upon you.



VFW Chaplain One, Samuel Cummings

Text: (619) 418-1959 or

Email: samcummings628@yahoo.com



Auxiliary Chaplain Report

A Life Well Lived

A life well lived is a precious gift
Of hope and strength and grace,
From someone who has made our world
A brighter, better place.

It's filled with moments, sweet and sad
With smiles and sometimes tears,
With friendships formed and good times shared,
And laughter through the years.

A life well lived is a legacy
Of joy and pride and pleasure,
A living, lasting memory
Our grateful hearts will treasure

Author Unknown

Christina Davis Falls



A Reminder from Commander Lewis

DELEGATES

Per National Bylaws Section 222

(a) Delegate strength shall be one for every thirty members or fraction thereof in good standing. Delegates and alternates shall be elected in accordance with the Manual of Procedure.

(d) Each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee.

Per National Manual of Procedure Section 222

Delegates and alternates for the District Convention and Meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Delegate strength will be based on members in good standing as of March 31st.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Per National Manual of Procedure Section 217

Nomination. Prior to the opening of nominations, the Post shall decide which form of election shall be used, unless the Post Bylaws specify the manner of election. Any nominee shall have the opportunity to decline nomination for the office to which they have been nominated before nominations are closed. A member making the nomination of an absentee for any office shall have presented to the Adjutant, in writing, the consent of the member being nominated prior to the opening of nominations. Nominations of Post Officers shall open in March and remain open until the Post is ready to vote, provided, however, that when a poll system is used, as hereinafter described, nominations must be closed at the meeting prior to the election to allow the Adjutant to prepare a printed ballot.

Election. Post officers shall be elected in April. Balloting for Post officers may be conducted by open vote or written secret ballot (handwritten or printed) at a regular Post meeting, or, if required by Post Bylaws or authorized by Post vote prior to the opening of nominations, by a poll system. Absentee ballots and proxy votes are prohibited.

John Lewis
Commander
VFW CA District 1
714-887-6702
vfwcadist1.org

MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE ANNOUNCEMENT

Starting 1 April, we will begin a new recruiting incentive. The District 1 VFW member that recruits the most new members between 1 April and 31 May will be awarded a cash prize of \$300.

Second place will receive \$100, and 3rd place \$50.

The members post must be at 100% by the end of the year to be eligible.

Commanders, please inform all post members.

UPDATES WILL BE SENT OUT WEEKLY. GOOD LUCK



Be prepared.

Save the number in your phone today.

Dial 988 then Press 1



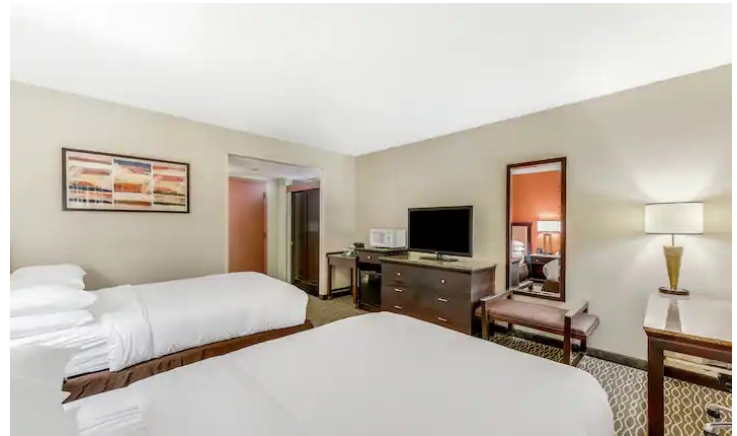
VFW 103rd Annual State Convention

June 7-11, 2023

DoubleTree by Hilton Anaheim/Orange County

100 The City Drive

Orange, CA 92868



Room Rates \$139 per night plus tax
Parking \$5 per night

Tentative Agenda:

- 6/7 - Various trainings (QM, Reporting, Inspections, Etc.)
- 6/8 - Council of Administration
- 6/9 - Business Sessions
- 6/10 – Business Sessions, Elections, Joint Installation, Reception
- 6/11 – 23-24 Council of Administration Meeting

Auxiliary Community Outreach Program

The Auxiliary Community Outreach Program focuses on the VFW Auxiliaries volunteer work in our communities. This program covers things that are not reportable in any other program. If you are volunteering as a Poll Worker with the Registrar of Voters that is reportable under the Legislative program not under the Auxiliary Outreach program. Make sure the organization is voted at your meeting on as a partner before the you can report volunteer hours with that organization.

Programs in San Diego looking for volunteers:

[I Love A Clean San Diego](#) - Beach or Canyon clean ups

[Traveling Stories](#) – Help children build their reading skills

[Meals on Meals](#) – Bringing meals to seniors

Check out www.volunteermatch.org for more opportunities near you.

Website/Social Media/Dispatch

The web/social media team is working on the Department and District websites. We are asking that if you notice something that needs to get fixed please email.

www.vfwca.org Members Only login in is your VFW number password is your last name. example Smith

The Dashboard is up but will have modifications in the future. Please check it for items you have submitted to make sure you have received credit. Please contact me if you have a problem. The weekly update from Department is also available in this section, so check it out to see what is being put out.

The reporting section is working, so continue to do reports. Reminder you won't see the reports on the dashboard until they are approved, they will however show on the All Program Reporting.

The updated **All State** and **ALL American** guides are available on www.VFWCA.org programs. We also have all the required forms under resources and forms

Watch our social media for updates. Please send us your Event flyers (not meals) so we can help promote them, and pictures after the events.

National is asking all post to have a public social media with two admins.

They are looking for you to share content from National, Department, District and the community service your post is doing, not just taco Tuesday or canteen happenings.

Facebook VFW CA Mighty 1st Dist & Aux

Department website www.vfwca.org

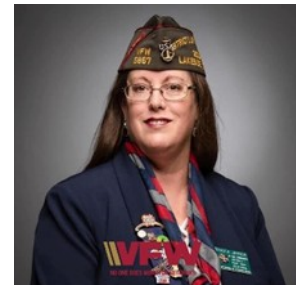
District website www.vfwcadist1.org

PDC Paula Jansen
619-261-0463
Paula.jansen@att.net

Chris Ingraham (Website)
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Tony Maffini (Social Media)
760-224-3076
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Richard Vannoy (Dispatch)
619-370-7840
editor@vfwcadist1.org





Partners In Patriotism

GIVE MONTHLY TO HELP OUR HEROES



Partners in Patriotism is a win-win monthly giving option to make things more convenient for you ... and allow us to do the best job we possibly can for America's sons and daughters.

Partners in Patriotism is the most effective way to help our proud veterans, service members and their families. When you sign up, you support life-changing programs every month of the year. *It's a great way to show you care!*

Partners in Patriotism:

- Keeps administrative costs down so more money goes to programs.
- Allows for better budget planning and program funding to help more veterans, service members and their families.
- Cuts down the amount of mail you receive. You will only receive the *VFW Supporter Quarterly* newsletters.

Sign Up Today!

NAME _____ PHONE # (_____) _____

ADDRESS _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CHOOSE HOW YOU DONATE

Option 1: Credit Card

- Visa MasterCard
- Discover American Express

ACCOUNT NUMBER

EXP. DATE

Amount to be charged: \$ _____

- monthly
- quarterly
- annually

• Minimum amount is \$10.00, processed on/or around the 20th of the month.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

Option 2: Checking Account Deduction

Please send us a voided check along with the completed information below and return it to:

VFW National Headquarters
406 West 34th Street, Suite 718
Kansas City, MO 64111

Amount to be charged: \$ _____

- monthly
- quarterly
- annually

• Minimum amount is \$10.00, processed on/or around the 20th of the month.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

Return this form to VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Suite 718, Kansas City, MO 64111 or fax to (816) 968-1129. Questions? Please call Donor Services toll-free at 833-VFW-GIVE (833-839-4483), or email vfwfundraising@vfw.org. **Thank you!**

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

District 1 Events

Photos from events can be viewed
on the District 1 Facebook page:

[VFW CA Mighty 1st Dist & Aux](#)

(President remarks, continued from page 2)

They realized that communication is key to learning and without that, members feel left behind or forgotten to not know what is happening within District 1. I have total confidence in Diana Kulhanek that she will continue in the same footsteps as I have shown her to stay in contact with everyone.

Thank you to the team for the awesome fashion show last November, that was a blast, lots of folks came out to buy, eat, mingle, and overall, have fun. I enjoyed seeing the buddy poppy creations for the contest this year and looking forward to assisting next year. Get those creative juices flowing with your own Auxiliaries to see how we, as the Mighty 1st District, can be winning an award for 2023-24!

In closing, this year has sped by very quickly. I know in my heart that I did my best to include everyone in everything possible for their growth. Each of us must lead by example, decide what is best for the team, not for self-seeking as our By-laws tell us. Be honorable, trustworthy, and truthful. Don't wait for someone else to step up, take the bull by the horns and be a future leader!

Thank you to my team, my advisors, and many members who have reached out (and continue to do so) on my new journeys as a 'single' even though I will miss my hubby. Those of you who attended the funeral services in April at Miramar National, I again thank you most sincerely for the fabulous send-off. Hubby is with his folks, my folks, his extended family and the 9 dogs we sent to Rainbow Bridge in our 36 years of marriage.

Please give your support to Diana Kulhanek as incoming District President, let's make sure she has a very successful year too!

Best wishes to all the new incoming District 1 and individual Auxiliary line officers. Make your team the best it can be! I know you will be proud of your auxiliary sisters and brothers!

Respectfully yours:

Sheila Jo / District 1 Auxiliary President

