

# VFW 1st District of California



# DISPATCH



@vfwmighty1st



VFW District 1 Members at the Department Convention in Anaheim, CA

**Membership as of  
1 July 2023**  
**Auxiliary: 99.74%**  
**Comrades: 100.54%**

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## District 1 Commander

Greetings District 1 Comrades and Auxiliary members,

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your District Commander. I have great faith that we will have a successful year serving our Veterans and their families! District 1 has an incredible reach in our communities and are fortunate enough to have all of the benefits of being in a military town. I am encouraging all Posts to look at their Programs and see how they can make them better. The goal every year is to not only maintain our current memberships, but to exceed them by gaining new members. I am a firm believer in if Programs are run, the new members will come!

I also believe that to make membership goals it takes ALL of us working TOGETHER to make it happen. When we work together as a team, both our Comrades and Auxiliary organizations benefit. The best way to get more members and volunteers is to make our Posts be welcoming environments for all. I think of my Post as my second home, and I hope you do too. I want people to feel respected, comfortable and know that if they come, they will be well taken care of. Having great hospitality makes them want to come back and be a part of our organization.

I have already begun to visit Posts for their meetings (thank you Tom at Post 2111 for being my first visit). I will have all of our Posts visited by mid-October. I look forward to spending time at all of your Posts and seeing how your meetings are run. I have been taking notes of fun ideas that I want to share with other Posts about the great things you all are doing. If your Post is holding a special event or fundraiser, circulate the flyers for them. My goal is to encourage Posts to get a group together and show up in numbers for important events. I know I am going to show up for our Posts if I can, who's coming with me?

Lastly, being members, we all represent the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its mission. Take a minute to think about what that means. I haven't found anywhere in the National By-Laws where it states the function of a Canteen. Instead, it outlines our rituals, programs and procedures that are the foundation of our organization. I have never seen a VFW Program get a Post into trouble, but I have seen my fair share of bad Canteen practices get Posts on suspension. Do not let your Canteen be what represents your Post and not the values of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

You only get one chance to make a first impression.

Yours in Service, Alexis Henshaw

VFW District 1 Commander 2023-2024

VFW Department of California Buddy Poppy Chairman



## District 1 President

Greetings Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers!

I am very honored to be representing our district as our VFW Auxiliary District 1 President and look forward to working with our VFW District 1 Commander Alexis Henshaw in supporting our veterans and serving our members.

Bravo Zulu to both Past District 1 Commander John Lewis and Past District 1 Auxiliary President Sheila Snyder for a job well done!

Having attended the Department convention and with my first Council of Administration meeting as our District 1 Auxiliary President under my belt, I am excited to go forward and help bring back the word 'Mighty' in the Mighty First District! Congratulations to many of our District 1 Auxiliaries for bringing home quite a few awards!

We recently held our Line Officer and Program Chairmen's orientation, and they are busy preparing for our School of Instruction to be held on Saturday July 15, 10am, Carter Smith Post 5867. We will be having a treasurers' and trustee workshop at the same time and location so if these positions pertain to you, please do your best to attend. More details will be sent out soon.

Both the Commander and I will be participating in the Coronado 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, and I will be attending the National Convention the week of July 22 – 27. Congratulations to both Post 1512 and Post 1513 for celebrating their 96<sup>th</sup> year! Together Commander Alexis and I served as dessert judges at the anniversary party for Escondido Post 1513. It was a difficult job, but someone had to do it! If you are having a special event and would like myself and or other District officers to attend, please contact me, we are here to support you!

Upcoming Dates:

July 4<sup>th</sup>- Coronado Parade 10am

July 15- School of Instruction Aux 5867 10 am

July 18- Membership meeting Aux 5867 5:30pm

July 21 San Diego Stand Down Pechanga Arena

July 22 – 27 National Convention Phoenix AZ

August 3- District Officers practice for Official Visit Aux 5867 6pm

August 4- 5 Department Official Visit TBA

August 6 District 1 meeting (Official Visit) 9am  
Aux 5867

I hope to have a "Paw" some year as we are "Loyal in service to our Veterans"!

Loyally,  
Diana



# SPECIAL DATES

## JULY

**July 4: Independence Day**

**July 25: National Hire A Veteran Day**

**July 22-27: VFW National Convention, Phoenix, AZ**

**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 4-6: 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**



## SEPTEMBER

**National Suicide Prevention Month**

**National Service Dog Month**

**September 2: VJ (Victory over Japan) Day**

**September 4: (First Monday) Labor Day**

**September 11: Patriot Day**

**September 15: (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday): POW/MIA Recognition Day**

**September 15 thru October 15: Hispanic Heritage Month**

**September 17 thru 23: Constitution Week**

**September 18: U.S. Air Force Birthday**

**September 18: U.S. Air National Guard Birthday**

**September 24: (Last Sunday): Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day**

## DISTRICT REPORTS

### Auxiliary Chaplain Report



Hello Everyone,

I am Mary Vannoy, Post 3788 Kearny Mesa Auxiliary and I am very honored to be your new 2023-24 Auxiliary District Chaplain. If you would like cards sent or phone calls made on behalf of our 1<sup>st</sup> District, please contact me if you are aware of any of our Auxiliary Sisters or Brothers who are experiencing losses, difficult times or illnesses.

619-962-2449 (text/voice mail) email: [maryv4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maryv4@sbcglobal.net)

The very best to all of you!

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#### Editor's Note:

This issue of the Dispatch will complete my fourth year as your Editor. I wish to thank the many Officers, Chairs and Members of District 1 for their kindness, their understanding, and their support in providing their input and talents towards making this newsletter a helpful and informative document.

Each year brought a new team, yet each year confirmed that the District 1 leaders are professionals that work hard to put our veterans and their families first.

It has been an honor and a joy to be a part of a publication that helps serve and spread the word that our veterans are important, and that we are all here to serve their needs.

Richard T. Vannoy II  
LT (LDO), USN, Retired

## What things will look like going forward for the Dispatch.

As we are now.

A Dispatch is developed by numerous people gathering information.

The editor then must assemble the publication, it must be reviewed and then published.

What we have found is that the enormous amount of hours putting the Dispatch together is not in line with the value/timeliness of the information. As soon as the dispatch is published something is always out of date or is not included. In this electronic age, every section of the dispatch is contained on our website, Dept website or National website. Our time would be better spent, making sure the appropriate chairman, Chaplin, President, Commander perform the updates directly to our website.

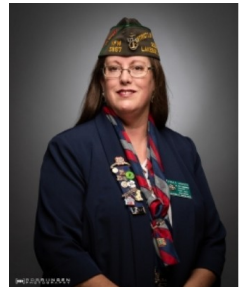
What we are going towards.

Starting in the month of July everyone who contributes to the Dispatch/website will be given a log in so that they will be able to post content. The site has training videos to help or Chris and I can help, the sites are designed so anyone can post content easily. You do not have to have any specialized training or programming ability. Any Post or Aux can forward flyers for events (not meals) they will then be posted in the flyer section, they will also be put on the calendar. If a post uses WebSolutions the information will automatically flow to the post in the district, just like Dept and National flows down now.

We have also started using the slack app for District items, all post commanders has access to this.

We will still have due dates for items to be updated by appropriate chairman, chaps, President or Commander. The member roster for the website has been updated. This consist of both comrades and auxiliary. Should someone says they are not getting notifications then they will need to update OMS or Malta and send us an email letting us know to update the member roster. In the future this will become automatic from National. They could have opted out of notification in the beginning, and we can fix that also, we just need to know.

On a specific date each month an email we will be sent to everyone on the members roster with the Commanders & Presidents message and directing them to the website for all other information. All program information is contained on the public side of the website, so anyone can access it. The members only can only be accessed by a member who is on the member roster.



Paula Jansen



# LAKESIDE BOLL WEEVIL'S SUPPORTING VFW AUXILIARY DISTRICT 1 GENERAL FUNDRAISER



## BOLL WEEVIL'S

9741 WINTER GARDENS BLVD  
LAKESIDE 92040  
619-334-1718

★ **20% OF SALES**  
★ **RAFFLE TICKETS**  
★ **50/50 OPPORTUNITY DRAWING**  
**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE**  
**FOR YOUR SUPPORT**



**WED SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 5PM - 9PM**



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Be prepared.

Save the number in your phone today.

Dial 988 then Press 1

