

52 Continuous Years of 100% Membership

Issue 52-1 September 2019

Tom Judd & Sheila Lee-Eiler Elected to Lead AZ VFW in 2019-2020



Tom A. Judd was elected State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Department of Arizona on June 1, 2019.

Tom was born in Springerville, Arizona and grew up in Alpine, Arizona. He was in the United States Navy from 1970 to 1974 as an Interior Communications Electrician on board the USS Leonard F.

Mason DD 852 with two trips to Vietnam as gun fire support, Yankee Station, Sar and Operation Linebacker Two. Operation Linebacker Two they were the decoy as they were the older ship. In recognition of his service he received the National Defense Service Metal, Vietnam Service Metal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Metal. He retired from Arizona Public Service Company in 2016 after 25 years. After being eligible since 1972 he joined the VFW in 2008 at Post 9907 Show Low AZ where he has his Life Membership. In 2011 he became Post Commander to 2013 and District 6 Commander from 2013 to 2015. He is married to Melody Judd Sr. Vice President VFW Department of Arizona Auxiliary.



Sheila Lee-Eiler was elected as the Department of Arizona's President in June of 2019. She joined the VFW Auxiliary in March 2008 at the Sandy CoorPost 1433 in Glendale, Az., under the eligibility of her father, Chester H. Lee Sr. A Korean War Army Veteran who earned 4 Bronze Stars while in service.

Sheila has served her auxiliary as President 2009 – 2012. She also served as the District 3 President 2012 – 2015. She has served as Veterans and Family Support, Scholarship and Membership programs chairman for the Department of Arizona. Where she won National awards for all 3 chairmanships. Sheila is married to Dept. of AZ, VFW Sr. Vice Commander Jeffrey Eiler, Retired Navy Submarine Veteran. They have 3 children between them, and all are members of the VFW and Auxiliary. Future auxiliary members are grandchildren James, Lyra and Joshua.

What's Happening in D.C.

Sign up to receive Washington Weekly and stay in-the-know on key issues affecting veterans and military. You'll get the latest on what's happening with veterans' legislation, national security and other news affecting America's defenders. Go to: <http://capwiz.com/vfw/mlm/signup.htm> and follow directions. You may, of course, unsubscribe at any time.

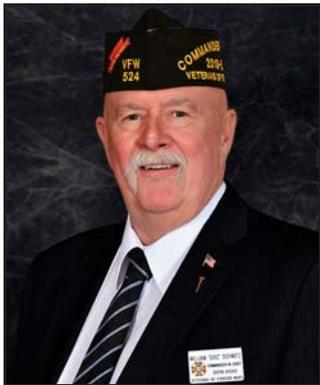


NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

New York Veteran Elected VFW National Commander 2019-20



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



William J. "Doc" Schmitz

KANSAS CITY, Mo.

William J. "Doc" Schmitz, of Corning, N.Y., has been elected the new leader of the 1.2 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Schmitz's election to VFW Commander-in-Chief occurred at the conclusion of the organization's 120th national convention in Orlando, Fla.,

which drew approximately 10,000 veterans, and military family members.

Schmitz takes office during a time of great momentum for the organization which recently announced its first increase in membership numbers in 27 years, reached a milestone achievement of more than \$8.3 billion in benefits and compensation collected from the VA on behalf of veterans, and fought for the successful passage of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. Through donations and corpo-

rate partnerships, the VFW has also surpassed \$11 million in financial grants and \$6.5 million in scholarships awarded to veterans, and is celebrating 100 years of its National Veterans Service and National Legislative Service programs which advocate for the best possible quality of life solutions and benefits on behalf of America's veterans, service members and military families.

"Doc" Schmitz served in the United States Navy from 1966 to 1970, with deployment to Vietnam as a corpsman attached to United States Marine Corps infantry and artillery. He then joined the VFW in 1971 at Post 524 in Corning, N.Y., where he has served the VFW in many vital leadership positions at the local, state and national levels.

During his tenure as national commander, Schmitz will log thousands of miles across the U.S. and abroad to promote the many objectives of the VFW. His charge to members and supporters the \$102 million nonprofit organization over the next year is to "Dare to Care," calling on individuals to help confront the challenges that hinder America's service members and families from living their best lives.

Arizona VFW State Officers 2019-20

National Councilman - Mike Ferguson 3632 Tempe
Commander - Tom Judd 9907 Show Low
Sr. Vice Commander - Jeffery Eiler 1433 Glendale
Jr. Vice Commander - Larry Williams 3713 Coolidge
Quartermaster - Ski Kuczynski 3632 Tempe
Adjutant - Gene Wood 9400 Sunnyslope
Judge Advocate - Mike Kemery 12043 Maricopa
Surgeon - Mark Short 9400 Sunnyslope
Chief of Staff - Ray Thomas 3632 Tempe
Chaplain - Phil Erickson 7968 Apache Junction
Service Officer - Mike Ferguson 3632 Tempe

District Commanders

#1 **Dennis Dole** 769 Quartzsite
#2 **Alan Tobish** 7400 Cottonwood
#3 **Bobby Trujillo** 3715 Phoenix
#4 **Joe Dora** 720 Phoenix
#5 **Ray Gerving** 549 Tucson
#6 **Anthony Hernandez** 1704 Globe
#7 **Jim McCormick** 9972 Sierra Vista
#8 **David Price** 10005 Bullhead City
#10 **Jim Johnson** 9399 Apache Junction

Arizona Auxiliary State Officers 2019-20

National Council #15 - Kim Harney 9972 Sierra Vista
President - Shelia Lee-Eiler 1433 Glendale
Sr. Vice Pres. - Melody Judd 9907 Show Low
Jr. Vice President - Janae Kemery 12043 Maricopa
Secretary/Treasurer - Kim Sloan 10188 Tucson
Chaplain - Rhonda Follett 11014 Meadview
Conductress - Johnnie DeBoard 404 Mohave Valley
Guard - Bambi Johnson 9399 Apache Junction
Chief of Staff - Cathy Seippel 6739 Camp Verde
Patriotic Instructor - Garrett Gracy 40 Avondale

District Presidents

#1 **Charlene Parker**
#2 **Joy Bork**
#3 **Lois Moore**
#4 **Weezie Burrell**
#5 **Carol Gerving**
#6 **Brenda Kinghorn**
#7 **Reba Dermody**
#8 **Bobby DeBoard**
#10 **Melissa Martin**

AZ VFW Commander Tom Judd

Post 9907, Show Low



Comrades and Auxiliary,

First of all I would like to Congratulate Gene and Kim for a great job this past year and they could not have done it without all of the hard work of our members. Yes that is a tough act to follow but I know that we can do it as we still have our great hard working members who's heart is in their work. I am Honored to be the State Commander for Arizona as I believe it is one of the top Departments in the VFW. We have a lot of work to do and I know we can get it done as we have a great hard working Auxiliary. And once again I will ask if you don't have an Auxiliary why not?

We are doing a great job of

recruiting new members but when you are recruiting a new member are also trying to recruit members for the Auxiliary. By having a spouse/family member involved with the Auxiliary usually will ensure involvement by a new member within the Post and a higher rate of retention rate than individual members. So now I go to retention as we have over 3500 members in the Department of Arizona who have not paid their dues in the last two years and we have to fix that and find out what we are doing right and not doing right.

I would like to thank our "members at large" who renewed their dues this year. Your continued loyalty and support of our great organization greatly assists us to accomplish our membership goals. You can further assist us by reaching out and joining one of our many VFW Posts located throughout the state. So this is an OPEN INVITATION to all members at large to do just that. We would be happy to assist you in locating a Post near you and answering any questions you may have. Whatever the reason that you are a "member at large" now is the time to join a Post! We all know that there is strength in numbers and we hope that you will become an active member, at least to the

extent that your schedules will allow, so I ask you to join a Post. The many programs, scholarships given, hours of community service done, helping many of our veterans with their disability claims and compensation, the amount of monetary contributions made for so many causes. The list goes on and on. We all do our part and we hope you will assist us by transferring to one of our Posts.

Another motto we go by is "If not us, then who"! Let's make the voice of the VFW so strong that no one will ever doubt our cause or diminish our name! Please contact us if we can assist you in any way. I would thank you for all of your hard work, your many contributions to our programs helping Veterans and families and recruiting new members. Let's not forget we are going for 53 consecutive years greater than 100% for the Department of Arizona and that is you. And remember I am here to help and if I don't have the answer I will find someone who does.

*THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Arizona
State Commander
"Standing Watch"
Tom Judd*

KEEP IN TOUCH !!!



Everything at your fingertips
vfwaz.com

Congratulations Tim Borland, Jr Vice CIC Designee



Tim Borland, Life Member of James R. Bob Currieo VFW Post 9972 in Sierra Vista, Arizona, was elected our next National Jr. Vice Commander-in Chief Designee this past July at our Western Conference Meeting in Orlando and if all goes according to protocol, will become our next Jr. Vice Commander in Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States in Reno Nevada in July 2020. He is a Triple Crown winner, Western Conference Chairman, National Council Mem-

ber and has served in numerous National positions the last 19 years. Tim earned his eligibility to join the VFW during his 28-year long career in the U.S. Army, retiring as a First Sergeant at Ft. Huachuca in Sierra Vista in 2007, with deployments to Korea and Iraq. Tim and his wife Shannon reside in Benson, Arizona.

Tim's passion and loyalty for this organization is strong as he continues to travel all over the Nation promoting the VFW and encouraging younger members from Iraq and Afghanistan to join. A matter of fact, when Tim does become our Jr. Vice Commander in Chief, he will represent the first Iraq Veteran to do so. Tim's vision for the future is "Every Veteran Counts" which includes every conflict/war since World War I. Every veteran will not be forgotten nor will any veteran ever be left behind. We must remember our past, present and future generations who have served and are still serving today. Tim has a huge responsibility ahead of him being the first Iraq War veteran as our future Chief, but he looks forward to promoting this as his platform to help the

VFW grow. As did past generations before us join, so will our future members from Korea Service, Iraq, Afghanistan and other operations since the attacks on our great nation in September of 2001.



Tim and the Buddy Poppy Child at the National Convention in Orlando, Florida

The Department of Arizona and its Auxiliary are very proud to have Tim as our future Commander in Chief. This will be our Department's 3rd Commander in Chief and actually the 3rd Commander in Chief from James R. Currieo VFW Post 9972. Congratulation again to Tim and the best of luck in the years ahead.

Trust, But Verify... A Trustee's Guide to Proper Audit



Doveryai, no proveryai is an old Russian proverb that means, "Trust, but verify." Ronald Reagan is credited with making that a well known saying, using it frequently during his negotiations with the Russians during talks about the Intermediate-Range

Nuclear Forces Treaty in 1987.

VFW Posts would be well advised to adopt that saying also. In my 48 years of involvement with veterans organizations I would be hard-pressed to remember the number of times I heard, "We trust our quartermaster, bar manager, commander, etc." Then the next thing you know money and/or assets end up missing.

These losses can be mitigated and even prevented from ever happening if Post Trustees took the time to review and audit the books and records of the Quartermaster and Adjutant as they are required to do.

VFW National has a manual that Trustees can refer to when undertaking their audits. You can find it here: [vfwaz.com/resources/reports & forms](http://vfwaz.com/resources/reports&forms) "Trustees Guide for Proper Audit 2019-20"

Trustees were elected to do a job. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "The reward of a thing well done is to have done it."

Bob Wilson, Audit Chairman

Arizona Moves Ahead With Ground Breaking of Two New Veterans Homes in Yuma & Flagstaff

June 2019

Arizona will have two new Veterans' Homes in two years. A ground-breaking ceremony for the 10-acre Flagstaff site was held on June 1st and the ceremony for a facility of similar size occurred on June 22nd in Yuma by the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services.

The Arizona Legislature recently approved \$27 million for the two facilities. Seventy percent of the total cost of construction will be contributed by the federal government. The Weitz Company, a full-service top-rated construction company and the oldest commercial contractor west of the Mississippi was awarded the contract to carry out the projects. Their work is expected to be completed by mid-2021.

There are two existing Arizona veterans' homes in Arizona. In central Phoenix and Tucson there are 200-bed and 120-bed skilled nursing facilities

respectively. Each of the new homes will have three 20-bed skilled nursing units and 20-bed memory care units.

The ground-breaking ceremony in Yuma was especially well-attended with standing-room only under the canopy set up for the event. Representatives from VFW Yuma Posts 8242 and 1763, Wellton Post 6790, Havasu Post 9401, and Sierra Vista Post 9972 were present. The Disabled Veterans of America, the American Legion, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Military Officers Association of America, and the Arizona Veterans' Service Advisory Commission were also represented.

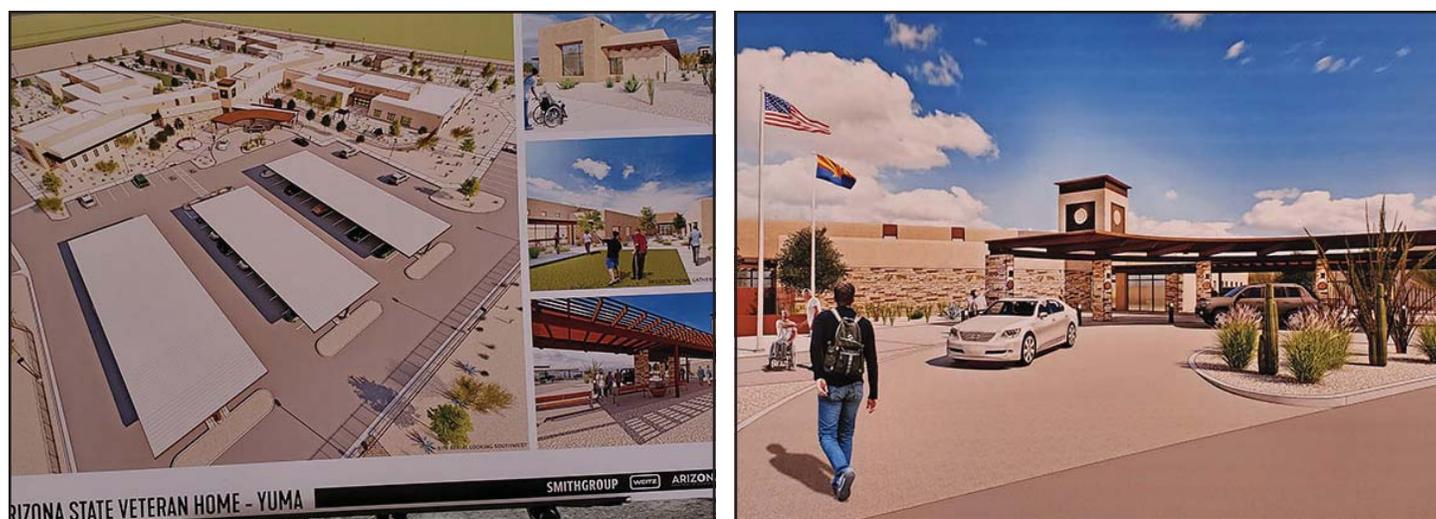
Wanda Wright, Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Affairs was the keynote speaker. She talked about her passion for assuring that all of Arizona's veterans should have the best care possible. Also attending was Steve J. Sample, the Assistant Director, Veterans

Health Administration, Southern Arizona Veterans' Administration Health Care System.

Support from the local community was clearly visible. City Mayor Douglas J. Nicholls spoke passionately about the value his community places upon support for its veterans. He was joined by Yuma City Council members and the Yuma Police Department Honor Guard.

Also in attendance was a civilian group that demonstrated the community's support for its veterans in its own unique way. The Desert Quilting Bee from the Foothills area of Yuma brought examples of the quilts they are making for the veterans' home. When it opens in 2021, they are committed to completing 160 quilts to be donated to the veterans who will reside in the facility.

*Article and photos by:
Tom & Alice VonAhlfeld and
Joan McDermott*



Architectural overview and rendition of the proposed Yuma Veterans Home.

New Veterans Homes Ground-Breaking



Jeffrey Eiler, Dept Sr. Vice Commander

Post 1433 Glendale



Comrades, As we start the 2019-2020 year, I would like to again express my sincere gratitude for your support and trust you have provided me from the beginning.

As we all knew we could we made the 52nd year of 100%+ membership and we need to continue that momentum to achieve 53

years!!! AS we have all heard, the best value is the subscription life program. This is something we should be recommending to everyone we sign up.

In addition to the membership, one of my hot button items during the last year while I visited the district meetings were the Post and District Officers whose annual dues were going to expire in a relatively short time. Per the National By-Laws Sec.215 Pg.15

paragraph 3, "Any officer or committee member whose membership is not in good standing by reason of failure to pay current dues by their anniversary date SHALL forfeit eligibility to hold any office in that administrative year." So keeping this in mind please ensure all your post officers pay their dues ahead of time. I would love nothing more than to attend the District meetings and be able to commend everyone for staying off the list.

Finally, as I am sure you will get tired of hearing, lets start working our programs. Review the requirements for All-State and All-American Post and Districts. There really isn't any reason we cannot have every Post All-State if we just work our VFW programs!!

Again Thank you for the honor of being your Department Sr. Vice Commander!

*With Honor,
Jeffrey Eiler STS1/SS USN Ret.*

Help a Homeless Veteran

If you are a homeless veteran, at-risk of homelessness or a provider trying to assist a homeless veteran, please call the National Homeless Veterans Resource line at: 877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838).

Larry Williams, Dept Jr. Vice Commander

Post 3713, Coolidge



Hello Brothers and Sisters

I would like to thank you all for letting me represent you as your Jr. Vice Commander I'm looking forward to a great year. Had a wonderful year as your Judge Advocate. As we begin the year let us remember all those that are not able to be here or with their families.

I want to say congratulations to all the officer's that have been elected or appointed for this year. You can make it great if you have a positive mind set. What we need to remember we are one team both the Comrades and Auxiliary if we want to make the VFW grow in membership and strength. We need to work together in the Post's and the District's along with the State. When we work together, we are the strongest. Now with, that being said let's get to work on this year's Reports, Programs and Membership (RPM).

Remember that the VOD and Patriots Pen are both a Comrades and Auxiliary programs. Also,

this year you need all three Teacher of the year which High School, Middle School, and Elementary teacher to qualify for All American. If you have any questions about the programs, please look on the Department website vfwaz.com it has a lot of information. Commanders please remember that you are responsible for all programs and the reports to the respective comrades that are in control of the programs or the reports be sure you ask from each comrade that you send the programs and reports to send you acknowledgment that they have received your reports and or programs. If you are having an event of some kind, please contact us if you what someone from Department to show up at the event so we can work it into the schedule. I know there is a lot of things that are going on inside of the state. Communication is the key to the success so let all keep communicating with each other for the benefit of the VFW.

Let's get 100 +% for 53 years in a row! With this all being said I want to Thank You all again for your support and help though the years that I have been in the VFW.

*Department Jr. Vice Commander 2019-2020
Larry Williams*

Mike Kemery, Dept Judge Advocate

Post 12043 Maricopa



A start of a new year and many of us have new positions within a Post, District, or Department. As with any new position, we feel a little timid because everything is untried territory for us. By being a Judge Advocate means being an advisor to the Commander and it is sometimes the first position

to where our knowledge means so much. None of us want to do things wrong.

Some study time of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure in the Podium Edition for 2019 should relieve a lot of questions. Forms are also illustrated within the book. Most of the issues faced would be discipline and information on that would be found Article IX - Discipline (Section 901) of both the By-Laws and Procedures in the book. Certainly time studying the Department By-Laws, District By-Laws, and most importantly, the Post By-Laws, would make a Judge Advocate very important to your Commander.

Most of you are at the Post level. It is here that

many arguments arise due to the wording of the By-Laws of the different committees and their responsibilities. Also, study Article II – Posts, of the Manual of Procedure, specifically Section 218 – Officers and Chairman, Duties and Obligations. Many things can be cleared up easily.

Let your Commander know that you are active and interested in being the best Advisor you can be. Rest assured, no one knows it all, but be accurate in what you do know. This will let the Commander make the best decision. Also, never be afraid to call your next higher counterpart for advise on any situation that you are not certain.

Since being elected as the Department Judge Advocate I learn things each day. An interpretation of how something is written does vary from person to person. Opinions do matter. Don't be afraid of yours. But do it by knowing as much as possible. Study is the best weapon in getting a situation resolved. The Judge Advocate position can be an extremely valuable tool for the Commander.

I will do my best that I can. Now do yours in making the Department of Arizona the best of them all.

Mike Kemery, Dept. Judge Advocate

VFW: NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

VFW National Relief Fund, Help Those in Need

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is accepting donations to help veterans, service members and military families impacted by Hurricane Dorian.

From hurricanes to raging wildfires, each year natural disasters leave many in desperate need of assistance. The VFW's Disaster Relief Fund provides our organization the opportunity to react quickly with immediate relief to those in the affected areas.

To support the VFW Disaster Relief Fund, donate by sending checks payable to the VFW, earmarked "Disaster Relief" to:

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Quartermaster General
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

In addition to individual gifts, the VFW is encouraging its Departments, Districts and Posts to contribute to the relief efforts. (Post Relief Funds can be used to assist per Section 704 (a) of the Manual of Procedure.)

The VFW Department of North Carolina is currently collecting disaster relief/recovery supplies for those impacted by Hurricane Dorian. They have designated two locations to receive items:

VFW Department of North Carolina Headquarters
917 New Bern Ave.
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

VFW Post 670
3928 Doc Bennett Rd.
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28306

Service Office Opens in Tempe at 6423 S. Ash Ave, Tempe, AZ 85283

As the largest organization of combat veterans, we understand the frustrations that can arise when filing a claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs. The claims process can be confusing and one that service members and veterans shouldn't try to navigate alone. That's why the AZ VFW established an office in Tempe to help all veterans, service members and their families. VFW Service Officers are with America's veterans every step of the way once they're ready to file a claim. This is a service the VFW is proud to offer--free of charge--to anyone seeking assistance with the claims process.

At this time we only have one Service Officer servicing the Tempe location every Tuesday from 10:00am to 2:00pm. We are looking for volunteers to serve as a Service Officer at the Tempe location so that we will have the office staffed 5 days a week. If you are interested in volunteering or wish to file a claim, please

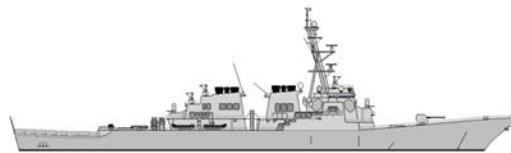
call 480-941-5258 (Mon-Fri 8 to 3pm) for an appointment.

We have service officers who are experts in dealing with the VA and are the key to your success. Our cadre of highly-trained and professional advocates help veterans cut through bureaucratic red tape. In 2016 alone, VA reports veterans represented by the VFW received more than \$7.2 billion in earned benefits. VFW Service Officers are trained experts, helping veterans develop their case with ease by reviewing and applying current law, pertinent legislation, regulations and medical histories. As skilled professionals, we assist in filing for disability compensation, rehabilitation and education programs, pension and death benefits, and employment and training programs. Furthermore, we won't hesitate to request hearings before the VA and the Board of Veterans Appeals to present oral arguments when needed.

TOM JUDD

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA COMMANDER 2019-20

HOMECOMING



USS Leonard F. Mason (DD-852)



September 21, 2019 4:00pm to ???

VFW Post 9907 Show Low, Arizona

Saturday... BBQ Rib Dinner, Fun, Karaoke etc...

Sunday... Scout Breakfast.... all this for only \$30.00

Contact: Melody Judd, 928-940-0694

melodyjudd@frontiernet.net

Mail Checks to:

Melody Judd

381 N. 3rd Avenue

Show Low, AZ 85901



DEPT. OF ARIZONA
VFW & VFW AUXILIARY
FALL CONFERENCE 2019
OCTOBER 4-6, 2019
Hilton Tucson East
7600 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ 85710

Room 99.00 + Tax Reservations number:1-800-445-8667
ask for: "VFW FALL CONFERENCE 2019" group rate
HOTEL RESERVATION DEADLINE SEPT 4, 2019

Tentative Schedule:

FRIDAY Oct 4, 2019 - Surf 'n' Turf at Post 549. 5-7pm
(Shuttle to/from hotel will be available).

SATURDAY Oct 5, 2019 9:00am

Welcome and Introductions, Programs Presentations

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

4:00-5:00 pm - No Host Social Hour

5:00 pm - POW-MIA Ceremony / Dinner / Recognition of Volunteers

SUNDAY Oct 6, 2019 **C of A Meetings 9:00am**

Deadline for Dinner Reservations is Sept 15, 2019

\$35.00 (after Sept 15 - \$40) (Menu is being negotiated at this time)

Send Dinner Checks to:

Veterans of Foreign Wars
6423 S. Ash Ave
Tempe, AZ 85283

Payable to:"VFW Dept of AZ"

Please note on check:

"Fall Conf. Dinner"

*Table reservations may ONLY be made
for tables of ten. \$350.00 must be on ONE
check and noted "Fall Conf. Table of 10".
All other seating is first come, first served.*

For more info:

Ski Kuczynski 480-941-5258
email - azvfw3@gmail.com

VFW & Auxiliary C of A Meetings are Sunday at 9:00am

VOD / Patriots Pen Entries Now Being Taken



Voice Of Democracy Scholarship Contest: Need money for college? The Veterans of Foreign Wars ... the VFW ... gives out more than 2 million dollars in college scholarships every year to 9th ... 10th ... 11th and 12th grade students through its Voice of Democracy scholarship contest. All you need to do is write and record a 3 to 5 minute audio essay on a patriotic theme. This year's theme is "What Makes America Great." The top National prize is a \$30,000 scholarship and first-place state winners receive a trip to Washington, D.C. Visit the VFW's website at: www.vfw.org for additional information. The student entry deadline is October 31, 2019. For applications and info:

<https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>



Patriot's Pen Essay Contest: Would you like to win money for college? The Veterans of Foreign Wars ... the VFW ... gives out over 1 million dollars in awards every year to 6th, 7th and 8th grade middle school students through its Patriot's Pen essay contest. All you need to do is write a 300 to 400 word essay on a patriotic theme. This year's theme is "What Makes America Great." The top National prize is \$5,000. Visit the VFW's website at: www.vfw.org for additional information. The student entry deadline is October 31, 2019. For applications and more info:

<https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>

AZ VFW Visit to Washington DC

Some years back, I remember listening to a senior member of a particular veteran's agency speak at a meeting that was held to discuss what was to be done to fix a catastrophic breakdown in this agency's practices. The senior officer was defending the agency's negligent position, saying that they were just following the directives they were given. Years later, we are still fighting to correct that kind of thinking within government offices. A systemic failure, wagon circling, or laziness? The lessons learned since that meeting is that oversight and direct action by "people in the know", when missing or ignored by the system, causes failures at all levels. What we have started to do right since that meeting is to make agencies more accountable, but more importantly, we include more of those "people in the know" into the process by seeking their input and participation in formulating the practices and policies that are crucial to good results, getting help from the very people who were affected by any defects in the agency's practices and policies. Those "people in the know" are us! We have always had a horse in this race,



Glenn Hohman, Gene Wood, Jim Ellars & Tom Judd

and we have also for years been saying 'why don't we have better people running things so that mistakes aren't being made'. Well, we do, but only if we include ourselves in the process! When these agencies or our congressional reps ask us to fill out surveys in order to get our input...fill them out! If they ask for suggestions...suggest! In fact, don't wait to be asked. All services we utilized for our various needs have a means for feedback. USE IT! Congress is definitely no different. They need and want your input and help. Never assume that the people who are elected for office come with a suitcase full of worldly knowledge about the committee's they are assigned to or the myriad of issues that Congress handles. WE are a vital extension of their staff. They are our representatives, it's our Congress...help yourself by helping them! Start by being knowledgeable. Don't wait for others to tell you...sign up for the VFW's Action Corps Weekly Bulletin (vfw.org) and make yourself smart about what Congress is really doing, or not doing, for us!

*Jim Ellars, VFW, Dept. of Arizona
Nat'l Legislative Officer*

Gene Wood, Dept Adjutant, PDC

Post 9400, Sunnyslope



Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

Most of you know this past VFW year was an unforgettable year for The Veterans of Foreign Wars and our Auxiliaries. As for The Department of Arizona, we are 71 Posts strong with 66 Posts achieving 100% in membership. Of those Posts 17 made

All State with 11 achieving All American. The 71 Posts make up 9 Districts With 8 Districts achieving 100% in membership. Of those Districts 5 made All State with 4 Districts achieving All American. Knowing that the last time National made 100% plus was 27 years ago. The Department of Arizona made 52 years in a row at 100% as a result The Department of Arizona achieved All American. The difference this year we made it well before our State Convention. It would be 7 years since the last time that was accomplished.

We all worked hard as a team to accomplish everything that was needed to put Arizona at the top. The Department purchased a trailer for Membership and National with our ideas developed an eye catching wrap that includes the new VFW logo. The Membership Team got on fire with Mark Short in the lead and recruited 1698 new and 485 recovered Members. The events that we were able to attend were the Ar-

izona National Guard Muster, 2 NASCAR races, Humana's Rock & Roll marathon, COMiCON, and events at Pleasant Harbor Lake Pleasant just to name a few. We started new events. (1) During the Fall Conference recognizing those Special persons that take the extra step to provide services and assistance for Veterans. (2) During the Winter Conference taking the VOD/PP students on a tour to the State Capitol and Wesley Bolin Plaza. (3) We are in the early stages of a program with Department of Correction where Veterans incarcerated and are reaching their discharge dates can start the process of filing for any service connected issues. We are also in the early stages of a Service Dog Program. As with all new programs things move slow at first. We will continue to move forward with these new programs.

The VFW and Auxiliary Team all understood the mission. The programs that needed to be acted on took priority for one goal that was to finish at the top with everything.

I want to thank Kim Harney and her Auxiliary for being part of my TEAM and the VFWAZ TEAM. We are 25,110 members STRONG! I am proud of each one of you. Now let's get started on the 2019/2020 year for Commander Tom Judd and President Sheila Eiler. "Communication! Key to Successful Service"

*Gene Wood
Department
Adjutant /PDC*

Kim Harney, Jr. Past Dept. Auxiliary President

Post 9972 Sierra Vista



What an incredible year the VFW Auxiliary had in Arizona! We did very well at the National Convention. We won first place in our group for Veterans and Family Support, Americanism, Chief of Staff and Historian. We won second place for Membership and Youth and third place for Buddy Poppy/National Home. Legislative won an award

for the most creative education, resources and training on the Priority Goals, Action Corps Weekly and the overall legislative process while Youth won an award

for best promotion of creating youth groups and/or engaging youth groups in Auxiliary programs. The Patriotic Art Scholarship Department winner from Auxiliary 720 won third place on the National level. The Department was also recognized in the Circle of Excellence ceremony.

It was my honor to work with my Department Commander, Gene Wood this year. As a team, everyone did amazing work for our Veterans and their families. I can't thank you enough for everything you did for the Department!

*Kim Harney
Jr. Past Department President*

VFW Foundation Post Grants... <https://www.vfw.org/foundation>

If your Post or Auxiliary is interested in a receiving a grant to help with the cost of your next community service event, the VFW Foundation may be able to help! Community service projects that involve a local branch or affiliate of a VFW National corporate supporter may be eligible to receive up to \$500 in additional funding. For more information and for a list of approved supporters you can work with please go to:

<https://www.vfw.org/community/community-initiatives/post-grants/supporters>

VFW Foundation Community Support Grant

VFW community service projects are extremely important and shouldn't be hindered by budgetary limitations. In an effort to help VFW Posts and Auxiliaries succeed in serving their communities, the VFW Foundation - the official 501(c)(3) charity of the VFW - established the VFW Foundation Post/VFW Auxiliary Community Support Grant to help fund local community service projects.

Available to any VFW Post or Auxiliary, a VFW Foundation Post/VFW Auxiliary Community Support Grant will provide up to \$1,000 for performing important and needed qualifying outreach projects in your community! With an easy and streamlined application process, Posts and Auxiliaries can expect to receive a decision within thirty (30) days of the application submission.

The application period for the 2019-20 fiscal year will start Sept. 2, 2019. Please check back for more information closer to the next application period.

VFW Foundation Regular Grant

No one understands military and veteran support quite like we do. To help VFW Departments, Posts and Auxiliaries, as well as qualifying nonprofits provide the vital support America's heroes and their families deserve, the VFW Foundation has established the VFW Foundation Regular Grant.

Grants ranging from \$1,000 - \$15,000, will be awarded for activities that directly benefit veterans,

active duty military personnel and their families. Requests displaying innovation in service delivery, unique program design that addresses an under-served need and the likelihood of sustainability after the grant period ends will be given special consideration.

The 2019-20 fiscal year grant application period will open September 2019, so please check back for more information later this year.

The Home Depot Community Impact Grant

The Home Depot is now accepting applications for its 2019 Community Impact Grant. VFW members can receive up to \$5,000 to fund repairs or construction projects at their Post building. Grants will be awarded in the form of Home Depot gift cards which can be used to purchase tools and materials at your local Home Depot store. All projects must be completed within six months of their approval date, so time your application accordingly. Get more information and apply today! There is a step by step on the correct way to fill out the application on the State Web Site:

vfwaz.com. Click "Resources", "Reports and Forms", "Home Depot Grant Guide"

Attention VFW Chairmen!

For your convenience, all VFW Chairman Guides and Department training tools and resources can now be accessed by logging in and visiting the VFW Training and Support section on the My VFW page at VFW.org.

VFW Member Services is for All Members

The VFW's Member Service Center staff inside VFW National Headquarters in Kansas City, MO, are ready to assist members. All VFW Store orders, including returns and exchanges, can go through the service center. At the Member Service Center you can pay your dues, convert to life membership, change your mailing address, replace your membership card and a host of other services. If a member has misplaced an issue of VFW magazine, calling the service center will guaran-

tee you get the issue in the mail. Any Veteran can call about ANYTHING.

One of the most common phone calls concerns questions about the Online Membership System, or OMS. The center has been known to walk callers through the training in OMS We try to get new members up to speed on how to navigate the OMS system.

They are ready to help. To reach the Member Service Center, call its toll-free number:

1-833-VFW-VETS (1-833-839-8387) or email MSC@vfw.org

*Arizona Veterans of Foreign Wars
and Auxiliary Present*



Winter Conference



Organizational Training Jan 11-12, 2020

Voice Of Democracy

Patriots Pen & Teachers

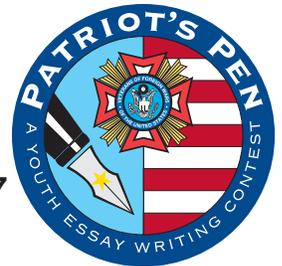
Awards Banquet Saturday January 11, 2020

Four Points by Sheraton

2532 W. Peoria Ave

Phoenix, AZ 85029

Reservations number: 1-888-627-9057
ask for the "Veterans of Foreign Wars
Winter Conference 2020" group rate



Deadline for room reservations: Friday, December 20, 2019
Room rate \$109 includes FREE Breakfast for up to 2 persons per room.

8:30-12:30AZ Capital Visit (Students, Parent only)

9:00-NoonVFW and VFW Auxiliary Training

4:00pm Student/Parents/District Commanders & Presidents Reception (Pictures)

5:00pm No Host Cocktails - Banquet Room Foyer

6:00pm Dinner & Awards

SUNDAY 9:00am C of A Meeting

*Deadline for Dinner Reservations is Jan. 1, 2020 - \$35 (after Jan. 1 - \$40)
(the Menu is being negotiated at this time)*

Send Checks to:

Veterans of Foreign Wars

6423 S. Ash Ave

Tempe, AZ 85283

Payable to: "VFW Dept of AZ"

Please note on check:

VOD Dinner

*Table reservations can ONLY be
made for tables of ten (10). \$350
must be on ONE check and noted
"VOD Table of 10". All others are
first come, first served.*

VFW & Auxiliary C of A Meetings are Sunday at 9:00am

Veterans Court in Arizona <https://dvs.az.gov/veterans-court>

Veterans Court is a collaborative process that includes the prosecutor, defense counsel, Judge, the Department of Veteran Affairs and other community based support organizations. The goal of Veterans Court is to rehabilitate and restore veterans as active, contributing members of their community.

The Veterans Court program focuses on veterans who are currently in, or entering, the Criminal Justice System. The Court creates and supervises treatment plans to address the underlying causes of the veterans behavior and substance abuse issues. Issues commonly addressed by the treatment programs include:

- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Anger issues
- Domestic Violence
- Alcohol abuse
- Drug Abuse

By focusing on the root problems that contribute to involvement with the criminal justice system and providing specific rehabilitation programs, the Veterans Court provides an opportunity for the veteran to return to the community in a more advantageous and beneficial manner.

Eligibility

Each Veterans Court is going to be operated differently depending on the needs of the individual jurisdiction. Veterans with cases in jurisdictions without a Veterans Court will have to address

their case within the court in that jurisdiction and will not be eligible for Veterans Court. Each Veterans Court establishes its own eligibility rules but, in general, a veteran must request to be placed in the Veterans Court program. The prosecutor, defense counsel and the Judge must all agree that Veterans Court is the appropriate forum for the management of the case. The veteran remains eligible for Veterans Court by making satisfactory progress in their court ordered treatment program and by complying with the other Veterans Court requirements. It is important to remember, no veteran has a "right" to have their case assigned to Veterans Court. Once in Veterans Court, the veteran must continuously "earn" the privilege of remaining in Veterans Court by complying with all the Court's requirements.

Process

Eligible veterans may participate in the court by voluntarily requesting their case be transferred to Veterans Court which meets as a separate court docket. The prosecutor and the defense counsel evaluate each case and must agree that the case is appropriate for Veterans Court. The case is then presented to the Judge for final approval. The Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Justice Outreach specialist then verifies the veterans eligibility for veteran's benefits and conducts an initial assessment of the veteran's treatment requirements. The veteran, if eligible for VA benefits, is then directed to the

local VA medical facility for a more in-depth assessment. It is from this assessment the parties agree upon a treatment plan for presentation to the Judge. Upon approval of the plan by the Judge, the veteran begins the treatment programs called for in the plan.

Progress in the treatment program is closely monitored by the Court. Non-compliance with the treatment program can lead to sanctions which may include incarceration, community service, and reprimand by the Judge. In cases of continuous non-compliance, a veteran may be removed from Veterans Court. The favorable terms of any plea agreement may be revoked and a sentence imposed.

Upon successful completion of the Veteran Court program, diversion eligible veterans may have their cases dismissed. Veterans on probation may have their probation successfully terminated.

Veterans in Veterans Court can expect to be subjected to more frequent reviews by the court to monitor the veteran's progress in their treatment programs. Veterans making satisfactory progress will be recognized by the Court and offered words of encouragement. Veterans not making satisfactory progress may expect words of encouragement of an entirely different nature and sanctions may be imposed.

Successful completion of the Veterans Court program will be marked by "graduation" from the program. For more info go to:

<https://lawforveterans.org/veterans-courts>

Computer Tips & Tricks

Sometimes web pages are a little too big or too small and it would be nice to be able to zoom out or in to make the page easier to read. In order to zoom in, you just press control (Windows) or command (Mac) and the + (plus) key. To zoom out, press control/command and the - (minus) key, and to set things back to normal, press control/command and the 0 (zero) key.