

Commander: It is said volunteerism is, "...to offer to do something that you do not have to do, often without having been asked to do it or without expecting payment." VFW Post 4676 survival is dependent on volunteerism. Every aspect of the operations of our post depends on volunteers; post positions, committees, facility maintenance, VFW administrative requirements, and the list goes on. So please keep in mind, when a "volunteer" makes an *honest mistake, *forgets to do something, is *preoccupied (doesn't acknowledge your presence right away), *does not have an answer or a resolution or a solution of your issue on your time, *doesn't know or is not aware of a situation, and you expect immediate results because you have been a member of the VFW for a "long time" *does not automatically give you free reign to openly criticize a volunteer(s). Know that the volunteer is doing something only a handful of members has offered to do...we often "forget" what a volunteer is, and we should first give that person(s) the benefit of the doubt before upsetting yourself with your own expectations. I am reminded of those who have volunteered for many years and now can sit back and relax and support the current volunteers, as they need your backing. As always, ask me first. In closing, "Don't Get Upset, Volunteer."

Auxiliary President: Happy New Year! My wish is that the New Year brings hope for everyone. My 2024 goal for auxiliary is to work together to improve the lives of our veterans, service members, their families, and our community. 2023 brought many blessings, lessons learned, and laughter. We also remembered and celebrated the lives of our dearly departed loved ones. Our accomplishments and dedication to our organization predict the best is yet to come in 2024. Please keep a watchful eye on our Facebook page and website for opportunities to reach out into our community and serve our veterans. February brings the sweetest time of the year, please take time to send a card to a veteran, their families, and our caregivers. It is also the time to recognize our talented youth's creative minds and their family members. We are canvassing our high, middle, and elementary school creative artists for, "Illustrating America" art contest and K-12 talented voices for, "Get Excited for the Red, White, and Blue" a national anthem singing contest. If we continuously teach, support, and encourage our youths, our organization and mission will never fail. May you be blessed this year with love, happiness, and joy.

Quarter Master: Annual members, check the date on your membership card. My records indicate that 31 of you have dates ending in 2023. After 1/1/2024 you will no longer be a member in good standing. \$35.00 or upgrading to Life Membership will fix this issue. To all: please let me know if your email or street address or phone number has changed. qm4676@gmail.com

Auxiliary Chaplain: The hustle and bustle of the Christmas season has ended. As the New Year unfolds remember to delight in God's goodness and grace. "Jesus and His disciples left by boat for a quiet place, where they could be alone" Mark 6:32. No matter how busy you are or how many obligations you need to fulfill, make time to spend with God. Seek serenity of spirit through time away in prayer, solitude, and intimate moments. Remember that you are a human being, not a human doing. Set aside time for rest, retreat, and prayer. May your refreshed spirit bring you inspiration and happiness this New Year and a renewed energy to serve our VFW Post, veterans, and their families. Remember Benjamin Franklin's advice: "be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each New Year find you a better person".

Canteen: On behalf of all the canteen staff we would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. It is because of all of you that we can make a difference in our community and in the lives of all our veterans. We wish everyone a very blessed new year!!!

2023-2024 VFW Post Committees

(Current as of Dec. 24, 2023)

Community Service (Plan, coordinate, execute and involved in community service events)

Cheryl McClintock

Aaron Williams

Media Relations (Media, advertising, posting, website, Facebook, etc.)

Rob Henkel

Dan Goodrich

Bob Stone

Mike Mills

POW/MIA (Plan, coordinate and execute events. Maintain Honor Table)

Mike Garza

Programs (Scholarship, Youth, Teacher, First Responder, etc.)

Chrystal Coble

Historian (Research and keep record of significant post events)

Claire Wells

Jesse Hogue

VPR (Schedule, coordinate, present and record all required VPRs)

Alan Reams

Adopt a Unit (Supporting an active-duty military unit)

Chrystal Coble

Mary Crookham

Michelle Rennspies

Buddy Poppy (Plan, coordinate and execute minimum of 2 drives per year)

Charles Mechling

Melissa Strother

Alberto Mir

Joseph Berg

Mary Crookham

Lynda Hougum

Ann Strother

Carlos Foster

Membership (Plan, coordinate and execute minimum of 2 drives per year)

Mike Mills

Earl Bigham

Rafael Rodriques

Post Activity and Event (Plan, coordinate and execute holiday and post celebration events and activities)

Melissa Strother

Ann Strother

Lynda Hougum

Tammy Yamamoto

Sly Bigham

Kurt Hougum

Day Time Volunteer (Available to assist committees during daylight hours)

Linda Reeves

***All members are welcome to volunteer on a committee. If you would like to join a committee and support our operation and VFW's mission and programs, contact any member of the committee or post officers.**

January 2024

VFW Post
4676

| December '23 | | | | | | | February '24 | | | | | | |
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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| 31 6p New Years Eve Post Party 5p Hall Rental DJ Ralph | 1 Happy New Year! | 2 11a Taco Tuesday 5p Pinochle Group 6p UC Bass Club | 3 | 4 7p Pool & Dart League | 5 11a Red Shirt Friday 11a-4p Blood Drive 5p Happy Hour: Music | 6 8a-11a Aux Breakfast 10a Dist Joint Training |
| 7 | 8 Martin Luther King Jr. D 5p Bingo | 9 11a Taco Tuesday 5p Pinochle Group 6p SAPD Bass Club | 10 6p House Committee M 7p Submarine Veterans | 11 7p Pool & Dart League | 12 11a Red Shirt Friday 5p Happy Hour: Music | 13 9a Roadside Cleanup |
| 14 3p Ruff Ryders MCG | 15 5p Bingo | 16 11a Taco Tuesday 5p Pinochle Group 6p Metro Bass Club | 17 6p General Membership | 18 6p VPR-Sinking of the USS Maine 7p Pool & Dart League | 19 Mid-Winter Conference 11a Red Shirt Friday 5p Happy Hour: Music 5p Commander Fundrai Pre-Sale Meal Ticket | 20 Mid-Winter Conference 9a Cub Scout Pack 338 |
| 21 3p TOROS MCG | 22 5p Bingo | 23 11a Taco Tuesday 5p Pinochle Group | 24 7p Auxiliary Meeting | 25 7p Pool & Dart League | 26 11a Red Shirt Friday 5p Happy Hour: Music | 27 6p FPR-Vietnam Peace Accord |
| 28 8a-11a MOC Breakfast | 29 5p Bingo | 30 11a Taco Tuesday 5p Pinochle Group | 31 | 1 7p Pool & Dart League | 2 11a Red Shirt Friday 5p Happy Hour: Music | 3 8a-11a Auxiliary Breakf |

February 2024

VFW Post
4676

| January '24 | | | | | | | March '24 | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|---|--|---|
| 28 | 29 Happy New Year! | 30 11a Taco Tuesday 5p Pinochle Group | 31 | 1 7p Pool & Dart League | 2 11a Red Shirt Friday 5p Happy Hour: Music | 3 8a-11a Aux Breakfast 12p Flag Retirement Cub Scouts Pack 338 |
| 4 | 5 5p Bingo | 6 11a Taco Tuesday 5p Pinochle Group 6p Metro Bass Club | 7 6p House Committee M | 8 7p Pool & Dart League | 9 11a Red Shirt Friday 5p Happy Hour: Music | 10 |
| 11 3p Ruff Ryders MCG | 12 5p Bingo | 13 11a Taco Tuesday 5p Pinochle Group 6p SAPD Bass Club | 14 7p Submarine Veterans | 15 6p VPR-Sinking of the USS Maine 7p Pool & Dart League | 16 11a Red Shirt Friday 5p Happy Hour: Music | 17 |
| 18 3p TOROS MCG | 19 5p Bingo | 20 11a Taco Tuesday 5p Pinochle Group 6p Metro Bass Club | 21 6p General Membership Meeting | 22 7p Pool & Dart League | 23 11a Red Shirt Friday 5p Happy Hour: Music | 24 |
| 25 8a-11a MOC Breakfast | 26 5p Bingo | 27 11a Taco Tuesday 5p Pinochle Group | 28 6p VPR-Operation Desrt Storm 7p Auxiliary Meeting | 29 7p Pool & Dart League | 1 11a Red Shirt Friday 5p Happy Hour: Music | 2 8a-11a Auxiliary Breakf |

“The Dash”
by Linda Ellis

*I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning...to the end.
He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke the following date with tears,
but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.
For that dash represents all the time that they spent alive on earth.
And now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.
For it matters not how much we own -- the cars...the house...the cash.
What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash.
So, think about this long and hard. Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left that can still be rearranged.
If we could just slow down enough to consider what's true and real,
and always try to understand the way other people feel.
And be less quick to anger and show appreciation more.
And love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.
If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile,
remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.
So, when your eulogy is being read with your life's actions to rehash,
would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent your dash?*