

## Commander

First and foremost, on behalf of all associated with VFW Post 4676, my sincerest gratitude and appreciation for the leadership of Past Commander Alan “Al” Reams. For the past 3 years, he has led our post through unpredictable and rough times. Despite personnel, personal, and organizational trials, Commander Reams kept what is most important at the forefront, “Serving veterans of foreign wars and their family.” The results speak for itself! Thank you, Al!

Secondly, a shout-out appreciation to Daniel “Dan” Goodrich, who carried the Jr Vice torch for the past two years. His commitment and dedication to serving wherever and whenever needed helped our post achieve its mission. Thank you, Dan!

The Auxiliary plays an integral part of our mission of service. With their assistance we are at our best. I fully support and look forward to partnering with our auxiliary team members and make our post the best in Texas...and beyond.

How I think, which leads me to how I act:

- Family is most important.
- Ask me.
- Question me.
- I care, but I don’t care.
- I will walk away from a confrontation that has no purpose or does not contribute to our mission.
- I believe in doing what is right as long it does not conflict with law, policy, regulations, or is a safety or health hazard. \*Law, policy, and regulations can be changed to make it right.
- I respect the diversity of every human being, their nationality, race, religion, politic, and their choice to choose.
- I know my words and actions have consequences.
- Only I control my emotions and feelings.
- Life is too short to be miserable.
- There is always someone worse off than me.
- There is always someone better than me.
- Disparaging remarks (verbal or written) are foolish.
- I believe we can always improve the way we do business.
- I am fully aware and understand “change” will ruffle some of the, “But that’s the way it has been done for years,” folks.
- I hold our mission tight and my preferences loosely.
- All our activities are membership driven, not by one individual or a cluster of people.
- Our post canteen is an activity (place) for **ALL** Veterans of Foreign Wars, their family and invited guests where everyone feels “they belong” and are welcomed.

### First Year Goals

- Increase participation of mission requirements, community activities, and post events.
- Continue to build membership, and partner with community and veteran organizations.
- Re-establish committees as required or recommended which will be overseen by Sr and Jr Vice Officers.

\*Sign up to be on a committee at our website or Facebook page.

- Community Service (plan, coordinate, and execute community service events)
- Public Relations (media, advertising, posting, etc.)
- POW/MIA (plan, coordinate and execute events)
- Programs (Scholarship, Youth, Teacher, First Responder, etc.)
- Adopt a Unit (supporting an active-duty military unit)

- Buddy Poppy (plan, coordinate, and execute 2 drives per year)
- Membership (plan, coordinate, and execute 2 drives per year)
- Historian (research and keep record of significant post events)
- Post Activities and Events (plan, coordinate, and execute in union with canteen manager)
- VPR (schedule, coordinate, brief and record all required VPRs)

*“Committees can be the most important working forces of an organization. They serve as work units of the organization, taking work and breaking it into meaningful and manageable chunks. They efficiently carry out the work of the organization.”*, Collins J. Effective Committees. March 2012.

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Ask me...[cmdr4676@gmail.com](mailto:cmdr4676@gmail.com).

Melvin M. Yamamoto Jr., Commander  
VFW Post 4676

### **Auxiliary President**

Here is to the New VFW Auxiliary Year! I want to start by thanking our members for all the hard work you have done. I can't wait to see what our new year brings.

Our Officers this year will be the same, with the addition of Ann Strother as the 3-year trustee. We appreciate our members' support as we start off our year with a mission to support our veterans, their families, and our community like we have never done before.

My goal for this year is to continue increasing participation levels at our meetings, breakfasts, and other events. We will also work hard to bring our youth back into our post. We cannot grow our organization without encouraging our youth to become involved.

Our membership goal this year is 100% +1. Melissa Strother, Sr. Vice President, wants to remind everyone we are all recruiters. I want to challenge everyone to recruit one new member before our membership deadline of December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Our Auxiliary was recognized at the VFW Auxiliary State Convention in Division IV for promoting the Sing, Red, White, and Blue contest. Promoting our youth scholarship events is one of the many ways we can get our youth involved.

I extend an invitation to all to participate in our upcoming events. Our organization, veterans, and community all benefit when you share your time and talents.

Please let me know if you have a great idea to promote our programs or would like to become a chairman for one of our programs.

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated at Breakfast on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month.

Hope to see everyone at our monthly meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 1900 hours.

Remember, we work hard for our veterans, their families, and our community, and with many hands, we make light work and double the fun.

Jennifer Group, Auxiliary President  
VFW Post 4676

### **Post Quarter Master**

Another VFW year is about to close and a new one begins. We gained 78 new or reinstated members this year but we lost 16 deceased and 28 who did not renew for one reason or another. Annual members, please respond promptly when you get your notice from National. You can pay at the Post or directly to National or online at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org).

Robert “Bob” Stone, Quartermaster  
VFW Post 4676

### **Service Officer**

We have assisted veterans with claims related to the PACT Act. The PACT Act added 20+ presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures and added more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation.

If you believe you have a now presumed medical condition or if you were denied compensation for a now presumed medical condition, please contact me at [SVCOfficer4676@gmail.com](mailto:SVCOfficer4676@gmail.com) or text me at 913-240-8712. I will schedule an appointment with you to file your claims.

If you file your claim submitted by August 9, 2023, and it is approved, you may receive benefits backdated to August 10, 2022.

If you are the widower of a Veteran who died from a now presumed medical condition, we can also assist you with filing for VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.

More detailed information about the PACT Act can be found at <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>

Mike Mills, Sr Vice, Service Officer  
VFW Post 4676

### **VFW Chaplain**

Hello Comrades! As we draw spring to a close and welcome summer into our midst, we must remember that even though we have already endured the heat of the beginning of the season that we are blessed. We are blessed that we have the opportunity to endure what looks like a long, hot summer once again. We must all keep the Faith that we shall be blessed in His love that He may keep us out of harm's way – out of the sicknesses that this heat can cause.

We must also remember that there are those that have not been as blessed as we. Let us remember to spread His love to others, be it a comforting visit or even a fan to help keep them cool during these impending hot months. Let us remember those that have passed on to the Post Everlasting and enjoy knowing that they no longer have to suffer these future hot months.

Let us strive to share His caring hands to those that are afflicted – those that are not as blessed as we have been – so that they, also know that we, as Veterans, Family and Friends understand their plight... and that we are there to help them through their hard times.

As we look forward to the next few months, let us always be thankful for what we have instead of what we do not, thankful for the chance to help others in need, and thankful that those still with us that can do the same.

Ecclesiastes 8:15 – “So I commend pleasure, for there is nothing good for a man under the sun except to eat and to drink and be merry, and this will stand by him in his toils throughout the days of his life which God has given

him under the sun.” This verse can apply to any faith that you follow – and may we keep this in mind as we go forward to new and exciting adventures.

Rob A Henkel Sr., Chaplain  
VFW Post 4676



### **Auxiliary Chaplain**

Our thoughts about July 4<sup>th</sup> often include picnics, fireworks, and those red, white, and blue flags displayed in front yards along your neighborhood. The American flag is the emblem of the greatest nation on earth. It is placed on the graves of our honored dead who fought for us to remain a free nation, and it flies high during times of peace, as well as war. “Old Glory” is its name.

There is another real freedom we can have. We can display it every day of the year, and that is our freedom “In Christ” to live a life to glorify Him, so that His banner of love, truth, and peace can be seen by all. Just like the flag that represents freedom, Jesus is a banner over us, protecting and shielding us.

July 4th is a time to reflect on God’s goodness to us as a nation. While we look with gratitude to the past, may we also look in faith to the future, and commit it and our lives to God and His will. “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord” (Psalm 33:12).

Please pray for our nation and those who serve to protect us. Let freedom ring out in your heart today.

Chrystal Coble, Auxiliary Chaplain  
VFW Post 4676

### **Cootie Corner**

Hey listen up Bugs. These are the last words of wisdom you unruly lot will be getting from me. As I leave my lofty position as Seam Squirrel to resume my position as just a lowly bug, I want to thank each and every one of you for your support. I wish the new Squirrel luck in getting all insects to go in a somewhat forward direction. Don't forget last Sunday of the month breakfast.

LD “Buck” Owen, Past Seam Squirrel  
L.O.C.T.S.



### **MOCA**

The MOCA Grand Convention was held June 2nd-4th in Copperas Cove TX. Newly elected officers included the following individuals from UCKISHE 55 MOCA: Chrystal Coble, Grand Treasurer; Bobbie Rollins, Grand Secretary; Elaine McNulty, Grand Trustee; and David Bigham, Grand Banner Bearer. Our newly elected Grand President is Karen Kaylor, from Dood-It 13 MOCA in Copperas Cove. Her theme is “Bringing Joy, Smiles and Happiness to our Veterans and Families.

At the awards banquet, our auxiliary received several awards including 1<sup>st</sup> Place Membership for the most new and reinstated members, Supreme President's Special Project Most Original Fundraiser, and Most Original Scholarship Donation Fundraiser. In addition, Terrie Reyes was named Grand of Texas Chaplain of the Year and Chrystal Coble was named Grand of Texas President of the Year. The Past Grand Presidents of Texas selected Phyllis Stensgaard as Outstanding Auxiliary Member of the Year. Thanks to everyone who participated in these programs and helped us achieve these honors!

We believe our veterans deserve the best and are proud to serve with VFW Post 4676 and the VFW Auxiliary!

*Chrystal Coble*, President  
UCKISHE MOCA 55  
VFW Post 4676

### Canteen

Happy Hot Summer Y'all! We will be integrating a new POS system on July 1, 2023. There will be a lot of enhancements in our ordering processes, accounting, and inventory. Please be patient with the Canteen staff as we learn about the new equipment. We are going to start with just the basics. Eventually, you will be able to place food orders on our Facebook page and our website for pickup and delivery through Doordash. We thank you in advance for your patience.

We are also looking for someone affordable to do Karaoke on Saturday afternoon or early evening. Please have them contact me at 210-658-9163 if interested.

I have had members ask if they can supply food/snacks for Friday night Happy Hour and the answer is most definitely. I just ask that you coordinate with me on the dates that you would like to host a happy hour so that we don't have duplicates or nothing at all.

We will be rolling out a new Canteen menu with the new POS system. The members/employees have been requesting new items lately, so we added new additions. You'll have to stop by the Post to see our new menu. There have been some price increases and decreases according to most recent costs.

Breakfast Bloody Mary & Burrito's has stopped due to lack of participation. Sorry! Until next time...stay cool and thank a veteran.

Rhonda Reams, Canteen Manager  
VFW Post 4676