

# Cole-Miers Courier

## Elections Are Coming

Each year, around April timeframe, we nominate and then elect new officers for the ensuing year. This year is no different.

For Commander, our current Commander, Larry Koons, and Senior Vice Lucas Peterson were nominated.

For Senior Vice Commander,

Lucas Peterson and Liz Dawson.

Junior Vice, nominated were Liz Dawson and Charles Stearns.

Quartermaster nominee is Bob Bates.

3-year Trustee were Nate Rogowski and Randy Carson.

Chaplain: Ted Stoneburner

Other Positions to be filled are appointed positions, they are:

Judge Advocate, Service Officer, and Surgeon.

Best of luck to each of you, and thank you for your continued service to Veterans!

### Special points of interest:

- Elections are Coming
- Officer's Input
- Flyers
- Legislative Information
- Post Pride
- St. Paddy's Bike Night
- Post clean up day
- Calendar

## Upcoming Events

**Apr 6:** Cornhole Tourney

**Apr 7:** Post Meeting 6:30 joint/7:00 PM Membership meetings (Elections)

**Apr 9:** VFW Community Marketplace 8:00 AM

District 5 Meeting in Dequincy. 9:00 AM

**Apr 13:** Cornhole Tourney

**Apr 14:** Council on Aging Easter Party 9:00 AM

**Apr 16:** AARP Safe Driving Course

**Apr 17:** Easter Sunday

**Apr 19:** Planning Session 6:00 PM

**Apr 20:** Cornhole Tourney

**Apr 21:** Americanism Safety Banquet 6:00 PM

**Apr 26:** Riders Group Meeting 6:30 PM

**Apr 27:** Cornhole Tourney

**Apr 28:** Community Marketplace Committee Meeting 6:30 PM



## *Commander's Corner*

Comrades, welcome to another Commanders installment. Today I would like to discuss the outstanding support of the members of our Post. We have had a lot going on of late, and I cannot describe how good it makes me feel to see so many folks stepping up to help with the projects we have coming up. Our upcoming Community Marketplace is a HUGE opportunity to shine within our local community. Thank you to Comrade Lori Bates, Robert Bates and Elizabeth Hedt-Dawson, as well as numerous other folks on both sides of our organization for your tireless efforts putting this event together. We are cleaning up our post, as well as putting our best face forward to the community. We won't be stopping here either, we have many more plans on the horizon.

Also, this month's meeting is **ELECTIONS!** Please come out and let your vote count for this next year. We need your support now more than ever.

Larry Koons

Post Commander

## *Junior Vice's Voice*

This year the storms are hitting early & it's important that you prepare and ensure your loved ones are prepared for emergency events and bad weather. Please reach out to any member of the post including myself if you need assistance with the following:

**Check your generators** – Are they working, clean and ready to use? When is the last time you turned the generator on and let it run? If it's been more than a month or two, then you will want to start it up to ensure the fuel is still good. Also, don't forget to check the oil and sparkplugs.

**Electrical cords** – Having a generator is great but does you little good if your electrical cords are not in good condition. Check for fraying, exposed wires and bent prongs.

**Lighting & Cooling sources** – Check the functionality of your flashlights and oil lamps, fans and coolers. Start stocking up on batteries.

**Water & Food** – For most weather and emergencies, you will most likely stay local. Try to plan for 1 gallon of water a day per person in your home for at least 3 days (i.e., 1 person would need 3 gallons of water). Also, plan to sustain with enough non-perishable food items for 3 days.

**Radio** – **Call phone reception here is very spotty after a severe weather event.** The easiest way to get information during an emergency is still the radio. If possible, have a radio in your home that runs on batteries or can be plugged into your generator.

**Fuel** – Try to ensure you maintain a level of fuel in your vehicle that will allow for you to travel 100 miles. This will give you a grace period in case fuel runs out due to a rush on the pumps. This will also allow you to travel far enough to find gas in the event of an evacuation.

Rotate the fuel you fill your fuel cans with to maintain the freshness of the fuel. If possible, keep 1 or 2 full fuel cans at home. (Also, with the newer vehicles, you may need a special funnel to use a fuel can, much better to find out now than when you need it!)

**Vehicle Maintenance** – When was your last oil change? How good is the tire tread? Do you need a tune up?

**Important Documents** – Birth Certificates, Marriage & Divorce papers, Immunization records, Insurance (Life, vehicle, home etc.). These documents should be in a secure location. I keep mine in waterproof bags so when placed in my go-bag I don't need to worry about their getting wet.

**Contact list** – A list of contacts written down in case you lose your phone. **Please call into the post after an emergency event so we know that you are okay or if you need any help.**

As always, serving you is an honor.

Elizabeth Dawson  
Jr. Vice Commander

## Quartermaster's Que

As we close out spring and move into the summer months and nominations/elections, let's take stock and see where we are standing currently.

Louisiana District 5 as of Tuesday, March 29, 2022

[Print](#)

Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent	Div	City	State	N/R LM	Prior Annual	Retention	N/R %
2130	5	137	1	1	26	165	219	75.34%	5	LAKE CHARLES	LA	2	64	42.19%	1.83 %
3106	5	552	5	2	52	611	679	89.99%	5	LEESVILLE	LA	2	107	52.34%	1.33 %
3619	5	254	12	5	174	443	578	76.64%	3	DE RIDDER	LA	4	269	44.98%	3.29 %
3686	5	38	0	0	6	44	51	86.27%	10	JENNINGS	LA	1	8	75.00%	1.96 %
3802	5	41	0	0	6	47	55	85.45%	10	DE QUINCY	LA	0	10	50.00%	0.00 %
4759	5	28	0	0	6	34	49	69.39%	11	STARKS	LA	0	14	71.43%	0.00 %
7321	5	130	1	4	22	157	174	90.23%	6	LAKE CHARLES	LA	1	49	61.22%	3.45 %
9046	5	22	0	0	0	22	24	91.67%	11	WELSH	LA	0	0	100.00%	0.00 %
9854	5	83	1	0	40	124	124	100.00%	7	VINTON	LA	0	31	100.00%	0.81 %
12203	5	8	1	0	4	13	23	56.52%	11	KINDER	LA	0	0	0.00%	4.35 %
<b>District Total</b>		<b>1293</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>1660</b>	<b>1976</b>	<b>84.00%</b>	<b>4</b>			<b>10</b>			<b>2.07 %</b>

15 New or Reinstated Members ....

A little over half of District 5 N/R Members and 40% of their New/ Renewed Life Memberships!

Pretty impressive Team!

After checking the All American Dashboard we need only be approved for 1 x partnering event and the grassroots signups.

After Viewing the KPI tools it's clear ....

Our Post does more for Veterans ..... their families and the community!

We have very stout numbers in every category .... We never do the bare minimum and that makes me proud of all of you, but that isn't why we do it!

I can't speak for everyone as to the why ..... but I know I do it for our brothers and Sisters to our left and right and for those who didn't make it Home!

We need roughly 25% of our members to pay their dues to make back to back All American Honors for our Post and Auxiliary, so let's stay in touch with those who may be taking some time off, moved off, scared away or are having fiscal issues in this dreadful year full of inflation! They need us now more than ever!

We can always add new members .... but let's check on our Post family!

Shane Fowler

Post 3619 Quartermaster

# Flyers

## VFW POST 3619 COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE



**COME SHOP LOCAL !**  
**1115 LA-27, DERIDDER**  
**10AM - 4PM**

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2022  
SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2022  
SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!**  
VFW 3619 COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

**VENDOR REGISTRATION  
BOOTH RENTAL**

VFW/AUXILIARY MEMBER \$25  
VETERAN/ACTIVE DUTY \$30  
COMMUNITY VENDOR \$35  
FOOD TRUCK \$35

**10X10  
BOOTH  
SPACE**

FUNDRAISER PROCEEDS GO TO  
OUR VETERAN PROGRAMS

**LifeShare**  
BLOOD CENTER

SCHEDULE TO DONATE

APRIL 9 9:30AM-4:00PM	MAY 21 9:30AM-4:00PM	JUNE 11 9:30AM-4:00PM

# RIFLE RAFFLE

FIVE RIFLES IN FIVE WEEKS

**ONLY 1000 TICKETS!**

## TICKETS 1/\$20

\*NON WINNING TICKETS ROLL-OVER TO THE NEXT WEEK\*  
MUST BE 18+ TO PARTICIPATE

<p>WEEK 1 - 5/6/22 SAVAGE AXIS 6.5C</p> <p>\$500</p>	<p>WEEK 2 - 5/13/22 SAVAGE 93 R 17HMR</p> <p>\$500</p>	<p>WEEK 3 - 5/20/22 REMINGTON 770 7MM REM MAG</p> <p>\$300</p>	<p>WEEK 4 - 5/27/22 CITADEL BOSS25 12G AR SHOTGUN</p> <p>\$800</p>	<p>WEEK 5 - 6/3/22 SIG M400 TREND 5.56</p> <p>\$1,800</p>
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**DRAWING: During BINGO Intermission**  
5/6, 5/13, 5/20, 5/27, and 6/3  
\*NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN\*

STATE LICENSE: #0768

Raffle Tickets Available at VFW POST 3619 Events & Canteen

## Legislative

These are the key Topics from this month. Please read through these and let me know your thoughts on how we can continue to show Louisiana, that our Elected Officials are committed to our Veterans.

### March 7<sup>th</sup>:

**VFW Commander-In-Chief Testifies Before Congress:** VFW National Commander Matthew “Fritz” Mihelcic testified before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans’ Affairs. The VFW delivered its top priority of toxic exposure reform, telling Congress to pass comprehensive legislation for veterans who were exposed to toxic chemicals during their time in service. “For generations, veterans have returned home from war with an array of unexplained health conditions and illnesses associated with the toxic exposures and environmental hazards they encountered in service. Today is no different, and toxic exposure has become synonymous with military service. For this reason, the time is now for Congress to change the way veterans receive health care and benefits to help save our lives.” [Watch the hearing.](#) [Read the testimony.](#)

**House Passes the Honoring our PACT Act:** The House passed VFW-supported [H.R. 3967](#), the *Honoring our PACT Act of 2021*. The passage of this comprehensive toxic exposure bill came the day following VFW National Commander Matthew “Fritz” Mihelcic’s speech at a press conference at the U.S. Capitol in support of this legislation and his testimony in front of a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans’ Affairs. The VFW now calls on the Senate to pass comprehensive toxic exposure legislation. [Watch the press conference.](#)

**VA Proposes New Presumptive Conditions for Burn Pits:** VA is proposing a rule to add nine rare respiratory cancers to the list of presumptive conditions for particulate matter exposure from service in Southwest Asia. The VFW sees this as a step in the right direction to help veterans exposed to burn pits, but remains committed to passing legislation such as the *Honoring our PACT Act* and the *COST of War Act* to codify VA’s presumptive process. [Read more.](#)

**VA’s Mission Statement Survey:** In accordance with the Deborah Sampson section of the VFW-supported *Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020* that was passed last year, VA needs to engage with veterans and gain an understanding of their perception of VA’s mission statement. As a result, VA recently released a survey asking for feedback on possible alternatives that are more inclusive. [Take the survey now](#) and share your ideas before March 11, 2022.

### March 14<sup>th</sup>:

**Congress Passes Government Funding Legislation with Veteran Provisions:** The House and Senate passed a government funding omnibus package that includes 12 appropriations bills for fiscal year 2022, supplemental funding to support Ukraine, and three VFW-supported provisions that would affect veterans. The first provision would increase the maximum rate of basic pay for VA nurses and physician assistants, allowing VA to offer more competitive salaries. The second provision would permit VA’s National Cemetery Administration to grant individual states the ability to decide who is interred in their state veterans cemeteries and to open their application process, ensuring all National Guard and Reserve members can be buried with fellow service members. The third provision would increase funding for VET TEC from \$45 million to \$125 million to meet the high demand for the program and enable its operation through the end of the fiscal year. The bill now heads to the president for signature. [Read more.](#)

**Women’s History Month:** Two million women in the United States are veterans, comprising 10 percent of the overall veteran population. America’s daughters have served and sacrificed alongside men in the fight to ensure our freedoms. The VFW and its Auxiliary salute these women for their unwavering courage, commitment, and contributions to a grateful nation.

**Brain Injury Awareness Month:** According to the Traumatic Brain Injury Center of Excellence, TBI has been diagnosed in more than 449,000 service members since 2000. VA has screened 1.5 million veterans for potential mild TBI in the last 14 years. The [Military Health System](#) and [VA](#) have events planned for the month of March to increase brain injury awareness and education. A *Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill* virtual briefing will be held by the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force on March 16.

## Legislative

**Public Service Loan Forgiveness Waiver:** Many individuals with outstanding federal student loans may be eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF), including eligibility from time served on active duty. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Education is offering a limited-time waiver to allow borrowers to receive credit for past periods of repayment on loans that would otherwise not qualify for PSLF. Individuals must have been working full time for a qualifying employer. This waiver is available through October 31, 2022. [Learn more and check your eligibility.](#)

**VA Women Veterans Health Podcast:** Women veterans have unique health care needs, which is the focus of VA's podcast [She Wears the Boots](#). Reproductive, pelvic, musculoskeletal, and mental health issues, as well as infertility and menopause are among the topics discussed. The podcast also provides information on VA resources and services for women veterans. [Read more.](#)

### March 21<sup>st</sup>:

**Ranking Member Holds Mock Hearing with Student Veteran Fellowship Class:** House Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Member Mike Bost (R-Ill.) held a mock hearing with this year's VFW-SVA Legislative Fellows. Each fellow had the opportunity to testify on their proposal and answer questions. Topics included work-study parity, preventing toxic exposure, ensuring non-VA health care provider awareness of veterans, VA health care services, and extending the Forever GI Bill to include all veterans who left service after Dec. 2001. [Read more about the fellowship.](#)

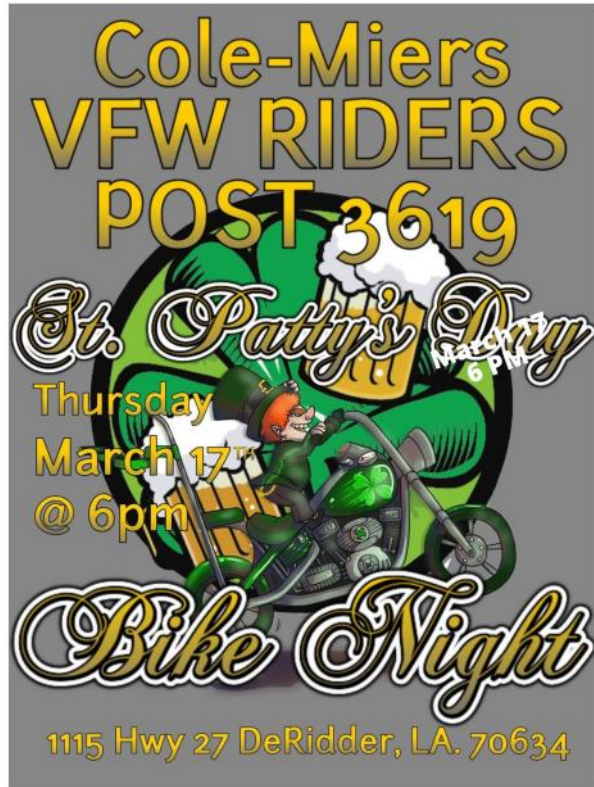
**House Hearing on Pending Health Legislation:** The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health held a hearing to discuss pending health care legislation. VA representatives responded to questions on its policies and procedures regarding non-VA emergency care reimbursement, long-term care alternatives, lactation stations, and an increase in the structural alterations amount for disabled veterans. In a statement submitted for the record, VFW National Legislative Deputy Director Tammy Barlet commented on [H.R. 5754](#), the *Patient Advocate Tracker Act*, which stemmed from a proposal by 2021 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellow Cameron Zbikowski. [Watch the hearing](#) or [read the testimony.](#)

**House Hearing on Pending Economic Opportunity Legislation:** The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing to review legislation regarding education, employment, transition, and housing. Proposals included creating permanent policies to protect VA education benefits in cases of national emergency, expanding eligibility of the self-employment track within Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E), and making it easier for veterans facing housing insecurity to receive rental assistance. In a statement submitted for the record, VFW National Legislative Associate Director Emily DeVito commented, "The COVID-19 pandemic's massive impact on higher education and training, including unforeseen closures and rapid changes to modalities, brought to the forefront the urgent need for permanent legislation that would direct VA in these times of crisis." [Watch the hearing](#) or [read the testimony.](#)

**House Hearing on Health Care Workforce:** The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs conducted a hearing to address VA health care workforce recruitment and retention challenges. VA highlighted steps it is taking to attract and retain employees, such as maximizing bonuses, increasing opportunities to advance, and investing in programs like VHA Reduce Employee Burnout and Optimize Organizational Thriving (REBOOT) to ensure employee well-being. [Watch the hearing.](#)

**VA Claim Sharks:** Have you been charged unnecessary fees to file a VA disability claim? If so, we want to hear from you. The VFW reported in the June/July 2021 issue of the [VFW magazine](#) that predatory companies, referred to as "claim sharks," coach veterans in filing VA disability claims with promises of increased ratings while charging them fees and taking a portion of their compensation. Veterans service organizations like the VFW have [accredited service officers](#) who provide claims assistance to veterans free of charge, as is the law. If you or someone you know has been charged unnecessary fees for VA claims assistance, please contact the VFW at [vfwac@vfw.org](mailto:vfwac@vfw.org).

## Saint Paddy's Bike Night





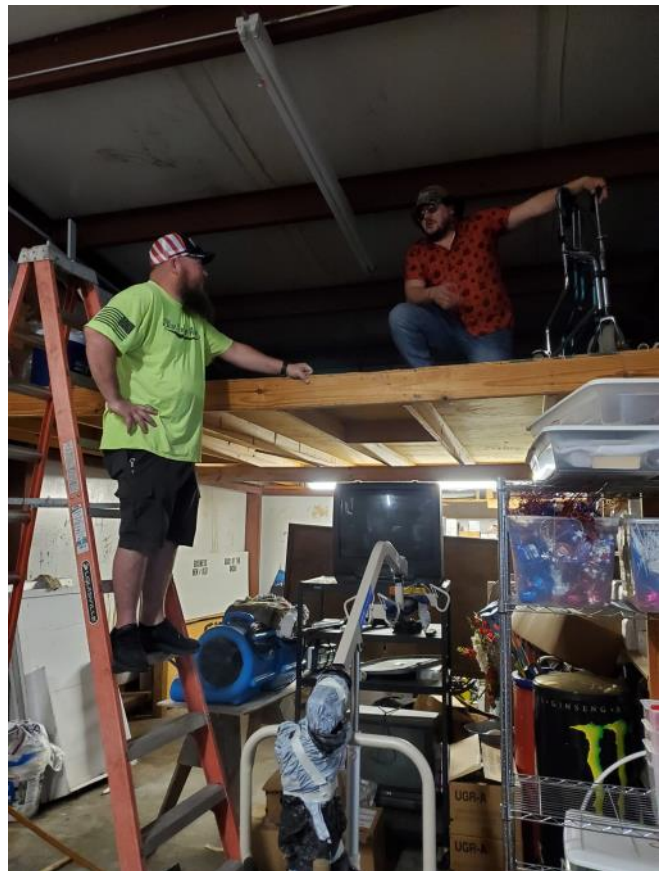
# *Saint Paddy's Bike Night*



## *Saint Paddy's Bike Night*



## *Post Clean Up*



## *Post Clean Up*



**Burning and throwing away old items**



**Cleaning the Storage Building**

## *Post Clean Up*



Throwing away old items



Cleaning the Sheds



Throwing away old items

VFW Post 3619  
 1115 Hwy 27 South  
 DeRidder, LA 70634

*Points of Contact*

Commander: Larry Koons  
 Auxiliary President: Sonja Lambert  
 Post Secretary: Mary Gibson  
 337-463-3977

**No One Does More For Veterans  
 than the VFW!**

LOOK FOR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

[https://www.facebook.com/VFW.Post3619/?epa=SEARCH\\_BOX](https://www.facebook.com/VFW.Post3619/?epa=SEARCH_BOX)

AND WEBSITE

<http://vfw3619.org>

# APRIL 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
					Bingo	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bingo			<b>Cornhole tournament/ Karaoke</b>	Joint Meeting 6:30 Reg. Meeting 7:00 Elections	Bingo	Community Marketplace 8:00 AM District 5 Meeting in DeQuincy 9:00 AM
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Bingo			<b>Cornhole tournament/ Karaoke</b>	Council on Aging Easter Party 9:00 AM	Bingo <b>Good Friday</b>	AARP Safe Driver Course 8:00 AM
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
No Bingo Easter		Planning Session 6pm	<b>Cornhole tournament/ Karaoke</b>	Americanism & Safety Banquet 6P.M.	Bingo	Hall Rental
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Bingo		Riders Group Meeting 6:30 PM	<b>Cornhole tournament/ Karaoke</b>		Bingo	Hall Rental
		NOTES:				



**Veterans Of Foreign  
 Wars Post 3619**  
**Cole-Miers**  
**DeRidder, La. 70634**  
**Commander:**  
**Larry Koons**  
**Auxiliary**  
**President:**  
**Sonja Lambert**

