

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO
Department Chairman, Kelly Fouse
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Promotional #1, July, 2024

Hello everyone!

I am so excited to be the NM VFWA Membership Chairman this year! Our counterpart on the VFW side is Mark Decker; and I am positive he is as excited as I am. Thank you Madam President Renee for your faith in me as a Chairman. I fully believe, in our Department to once again, retain, recruit and reinstate members to be helping hands for our veterans, their families and our communities. That is who we are, advocates for veterans and their families!

Our National President, Brenda Bryant's theme this year is, "From our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to our Veterans". Madam National President Brenda, has appointed the dynamic and passionate Linda, "Littl Rain", Roloff, from Fairfield Alabama, as our National Ambassador. Ambassador Linda's commitment, enthusiasm and love for our great organization(s), veterans and families is unlimited. Our Western Conference Coach is Kathy Smith out of Orangevale California. As a Past California Department President, I have no doubt Kathy will lead the, "Best is the West", in an enthusiastic, fun and productive manner!

At Junior Vice Training, we were taught to ensure we highlight the National Ambassadors objectives, so for our introductory promotional, I will quote our Ambassador! (In italics)

This is directly from Linda Roloff's Membership program in Madam President's Book, "From Our Roots to Our Branches".

From Our Roots "Prepare Your Ask"

How many of us have read the Congressional Charter issued to the Veterans of Foreign Wars? It is a good reminder of WHO WE ARE!

- *The purpose include:*
- *To preserve and strengthen camaraderie among its members*
- *To assist worthy comrades*
- *To perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their surviving spouses and orphans*
- *To maintain true alliance to the government of the United States, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws*
- *To foster true patriotism*
- *To maintain and extend the institutions of American Freedom, and*
- *Preserve and defend the United States from all enemies*

Those are amazing reminders of the mission IF we adhere to that Charter. Our VFW Auxiliary Charter closely mirrors that o the VFW, and we are coming off the longest war in American history, so why are we not bursting at the seams with members?

I have much more to share from National Ambassador Linda, and it is new, exciting and refreshing!! I will give you this much more of a sneak peek. **“Get Your Ask In Gear” and “Don’t be Dead On Your Ask”**.

One last thing, ensure who you recruit qualifies! There is nothing more disappointing than to recruit a member, just to find out their relative did not actually serve in a Foreign War/Conflict. The VFW is a medal organization, with that being said, all medals do not qualify. It is in your By-Laws, and if that specific medal and year isn’t there, unfortunately they do not qualify. That doesn’t mean they cannot volunteer at events! Everyone can help!

I can come to a recruiting event; come to your meeting(s); answer questions or get answers, (nope I do not know it all, nor will I ever know it all); call me, text me, Messenger me, email me, I wouldn’t suggest snail mail at this time, as we do not know when we will have mail service again. However, I am here to do whatever I can to assist the VFW and VFWA of NM to grow and thrive. Yes, we can recruit comrades as well! We as a team, together, will continue to grow and serve!!!

Love and Laughter to all,
Kelly Fouse
Contact information in the header

CC: National Ambassador, Linda Roloff
Western Conference Ambassador, Kathy Smith
Department President, Renee King
Department Secretary, Jeanette Garcia
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