



Check out our Website: [VFW4412.com](http://VFW4412.com) or Facebook Page @ Tawney Rowe

## May 2026 NEWSLETTER – VFW POST 4412

### VFW Membership

Commander – Dr. Ron M. Wood  
Sr. Vice – Dan McClaren  
Jr. Vice – Edward Lorgan  
Quarter Master – Dale Cloutier  
Judge Advocate – Joe McGuire  
Chaplain – Harvey Warshawsky  
Post Adj – Debbie Perlberg  
Surgeon – Carl (Slim) Schendler  
Service Officer – Dale Clouthier  
Officer of the Day – Tag Hockenberry  
1<sup>st</sup> Yr. Trustee – Wayne Tuttle  
2<sup>nd</sup> Yr Trustee – John Clemo  
3<sup>rd</sup> Yr. Trustee – Michelle Fluke

### House Committee

Chairman – Edward Lorgan

### Members

Dam Stemmler, Dick Moore  
Joe McGuire, Dan McClaren  
Debbie Perlberg, Carl Schendler

Ex Officio: Commander  
Quartermaster

### AUXILLIARY

President – Kathy Vaughn  
Sr. Vice – Laura Katilus  
Jr. Vice –  
Treasurer – Diane Pace  
Secretary – Annette Lewis  
Chaplain – Chris Dorsey  
Patriot Inst. –  
Conductor – Valerie Stanton  
1<sup>st</sup> Yr. Trustee – Sandy Ciak  
2<sup>nd</sup> Yr. Trustee – Donna Bush  
3<sup>rd</sup> Yr. Trustee – Rhonda Campbell

### Canteen Manager

Nikki Burriss

### Kitchen Manager

Beverly & Larry

VFW Hours of Operation  
11:00am - Close

### RIDERS GROUP

Director – Dan Kowalewski  
Asst Director – Jack Julian  
Secretary – Tami Barton  
Treasurer – Ken Vaughan

### VA Outreach Program Bus

Mondays 12-2PM

Nick Frick Veteran Outreach Specialist

Check the White Board for possible.

Time changes or cancelations.

### Post Location

9734 Dick Street  
Hudson, FL. 34669

### Hours

Monday – Closed (Free Hot Dogs)  
Tues – Friday 4-7pm Sat 3:30- 7pm  
Sunday Breakfast 8-11am,

### PHONE

727-697-1602

# Commander's Corner

Dear Family:

It is hard to believe that there is one more month until our State Convention where all of the installations for the Department of Florida will become active for the 2026-2027 Year. As of the writing of this newsletter, we have 3 days out from our first Joint Installation Service in Post 4412 in over 2 years. Everyone I've talked to is excited about this event and I would encourage anybody in the area to drop by before 4pm on May 2 for the installation of Post 4412 Membership and Auxiliary Officers. Additionally, May 2 is DERBY DAY at the Post!!!!!!!

I spoke to our leadership recently about a diagnosis I received which is going to cause me to have to pull back from a great deal of my public appearances. To this end, the Senior Vice Commander will be on site a lot more often. If you have an issue, please let Dan McClaren know and he will get with me and the post quartermaster to see to any and all issues. To that end, please.... Please, please, be patient with us. We are doing the best we can.

Let me explain something about leadership which I've picked up during my several decades of VFW Leadership. Leaders come and go within the VFW, but the true leaders never leave our assemblies. Commanders and Presidents come from the membership and hopefully those holding those positions were active before their nominations and by the Grace of God, will be active members after their level of service. That is one of the most impressive aspects of the membership is that I can see across our meetings the years of experience gathered into one room. Good leaders arise from the ranks of membership, and those same leaders will revert back to active participation in any position needed within the VFW body. It is not uncommon in our membership meetings to have people that have held every position, a testament to the long-standing veracity of leadership. It is what makes an organization strong and is among the many reasons I love this post. I look forward to continuing in service with those who have decided to hang up active service regardless of what position they may or may not be elected.

You will notice a plaque honoring our former Auxiliary President Judy Kennedy affixed to our post officer wall. Last year the membership voted unanimously to provide 2 plaques for Judy's faithful service to the VFW. One plaque was to go home with Judy and one to be affixed to the post walls indefinitely. This was a membership action and did not require the favor of any other body. It was a decision of the ruling body to do so and requires no further ratification from anybody. One of the things I have come to love about our post is how we honor faithful leadership. Our walls are a testament to those who have put themselves out there and have served their beloved community. Another testament to our honoring our own.

Donations: Once a member donates a picture or a plaque out of the goodness of their heart, that donation becomes the property of the post. Those donated items may or may not find their place on our walls, space permitting but are the decision of the post. Each year I collect donations

from many people. I place this note in the newsletter so that hurt feelings may be alleviated. My feeling is that if you give a gift with a requirement, it is really not a gift at all, but a requirement that may or may not be practical. That being said, If I tell you I'll do something, you can take it to the bank. It may not be at the time you expected, but things will eventually get done. Please be patient!

I want to address the newsletter. This medium is the primary tool for the Post Commander and Auxiliary President to get their information to the greater body proper. In recent months, I've received high praise from some and in one circumstance, public disdain. Please be advised that the contents of the newsletter are the primary property of the Commander and their line officers and is designed for the sole purpose of disseminating information to the largest audience. I say this because I think there has been confusion as to what the newsletter actually is. Ill admit that the last year has been very trying on this post and I've used the newsletter many times to convey information that stung at times. While I apologize to those who have no dog in a particular issue, I do feel like I've upheld my obligations to be as transparent as possible. I will continue to use this medium to conduct information sharing. Please be advised that when I write, I am writing to many people at one time and not just one person.

Negativity. A lot of negativity in our post commences at the canteen. I've met with the bartenders' staff last week and put the burden on the bartender staff to be listening for adverse comments from members towards the post. In keeping with canteen rules, it is not permissible to be discussing post business at the canteen. Now let's be honest, there are some forms of information that need to be shared such as times and dates. That is what is called transactional information. I have no problem with that. What I do have a problem with is those who come into our post with a chip on their shoulder and try to enlist others in their individual cause. I want to put a large shout out to the good and faithful people of this post. SHUT IT DOWN! This is your post! You should not be required to sit and listen to another members, especially a current or former officer or a member, running someone else down or criticizing policies and procedures that have already been adopted. If you don't like leadership, go somewhere else. Don't sit at our canteen and pollute the environment of those who simply want to come and have a simple cocktail with friends. Sharing bad information is tantamount to one thing: Gossip. Good things is, I know who these individuals are and so do you. There is an old saying that says that the wolf you feed will be the wolf who survives. Sisters and brothers, too many people have sacrificed and died for we the living to dishonor this post with negativity. I choose to speak with people who are optimistic, not those who feel life has dealt them harsh cards and the goal is to take as many down as possible. That is not what the VFW is about. I ask each and every one reading this to contemplate my plea to run negativity from our ranks.

I'm going to inset a piece from our post quartermaster regarding fraudulent activity in our post:

"FYI, we have had counterfeit bills passed here at the Posts, be advised that if you are caught passing counterfeit bills here at the Post you will be fully prosecuted by the law. If

you are a member of the VFW, you will have your membership stripped from you. If you are a non-member and you are caught passing counterfeit money you will be arrested and banned for life from the Post.

If this was intentional shame on you for taking advantage of Veterans.

You may have gotten away with it this time but trust me we will catch you.

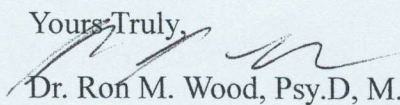
Thank You for your attention to this Matter,

Spread the word to your friends.”

Dale Cloutier  
Post 4412  
Quarter Master/Adjutant

In closing, I want to thank those who give out of the goodness of their hearts to make this post the success that it is. We've had a lot thrown at us in recent months but have arisen with grace and resilience. My hat is off to all of the peacemakers within our post and to those whose only goal is listening to our better Angels. If we do that, we can't fail.

Yours Truly,



Dr. Ron M. Wood, Psy.D, M.Div, M.A, LMHC

Post Commander



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

## AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S PEN – MAY 2026

May has appeared in a blink of an eye. Life on the Auxiliary front has been busy and very rewarding. It was truly exciting to see 60+ members at our April Auxiliary meeting where elections of new officers were held. We extend the deepest gratitude to the 2025-26 Auxiliary 4412 officers for your unwavering dedication, commitment and time devoted to serving our veterans. We congratulate and welcome our incoming officers 2026-2027 elected officers who will take their respective positions on 6/13/26 and will participate in a joint installation ceremony with our 2026-27 VFW officers on 5/2/26 at 4pm.

President – Laura Katilus, Sr. Vice President – Kellie Papadopoli, Jr. Vice President – Laurie Forand, Treasurer – Diane Pace, Chaplain – Chris Dorsey, Conductor – Andrea Arcides, Guard – Gene Cadden, 1<sup>st</sup> Yr Trustee – Donna Busch, 2<sup>nd</sup> Yr Trustee – Rhonda Campbell, & 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Trustee – Patricia Smith.

Thank you to all who donated items in our Auxiliary drive for the One Community Now 's Veterans Standdown held 4/24–4/25. A Lieutenant Sponsorship check, 4 cases of water, a bicycle, clothing, and Walmart gift cards were delivered on 4/7/26. Your generosity and caring is second to none.

In honor of National Girl Scouts Day (3/12) and so show our appreciation to Girl Scout Troop #50419, Auxiliary 4412 hosted an Appreciation Pizza Party on 4/6/26. A Youth Group Supporting Our Veterans Certificate was presented for their time, dedication and support they have given to our Auxiliary and to our veterans such as homemade Valentines for veterans, Family Fun Day Petting Zoo, and participating in our Wreaths Across America laying wreaths upon our veteran's graves.

Youth Acts of Kindness Certificates will be presented at 6:30p prior to Auxiliary's 5/6/26 meeting to recognize and thank two youth for their help and assistance at our VFW Post 4412 Free Family Fun Day. Today's youth are our tomorrows leaders!

Our Auxiliary received an Appreciation Certificate from the Department (State) of Florida's VFW Veterans Village in Fort McCoy, Florida for adopting Room 211. These restricted funds ensures repairs and improvements for residents and to help maintain quality living conditions. We also participate in the Adopt-A-Vet Program at Veterans Village. Our current veteran will be celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on 5/29/26. Please join us in sending a card to Dewy Moya – 13005 NE 135<sup>th</sup> St.- Fort McCoy, FL. 32134

As one of the VFW Auxiliary District #21 Mission 21 "Flight Crew Ambassadors", my role in the Honor Flight Project is to help District #21 sponsor 21 local veterans. We have partnered directly with Honor Flight of West Central Florida who is a 100% volunteer organization dedicated to flying our WWII, Korean, and Vietnam War veterans to Washington, D.C. for the day to visit the memorials built in their honor. For many, these trips are a "WELCOME HOME" they never received. Trips for the veterans are absolutely free! Our goal is to raise \$10,500 to fully sponsor 21 veterans for the upcoming flight season. Do you know of any veteran(s) that would like to go? Applications are in the post on the table near the membership applications and I can assist you with any questions or filling out forms! I am seeking anyone that would like to help in the following ways: locate veterans willing to go, help at least 2 veterans in our area fill out an Honor Flight Application (top priority is now being given to WWII, Korean, Vietnam War veterans and those terminally ill), (20 thank you cards written to these veterans to be given in their "mail call" on their way home, and cheerleaders – at least one group of Auxiliary members who will carpool and go to St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (PIE) and "WELCOME HOME" our veterans. Together we can do so much! A donation letter to businesses and individuals are available also. A huge shout out to those who have made monetary donations. Your generosity may very well be a gift more precious than you could ever imagine. Bless you!

We extend our gratitude to all who support our weekly bake sales and monthly 50/50 and Shotgun Bingo. Funds raised in these events allow us to help our veterans, veterans families, community and youth. We could not do all that we do without you. Thank you! We are always looking for volunteers to bake, work the bake sales, sell 50/50 tickets, and assist with Shotgun Bingo.

Membership progress is doing great as we are at 122.57%. Welcome new members! Our monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting will be 5/6/26 7p. To all members, we hope to see you there!

Upcoming Events :

5/2 – 10A VFW Post 10209 – Spring Hill - District #21 Convention/Election & Installation of New Officers/Bring a Side Dish

5/2 – 3p-Post 4412 – Kentucky Derby Party

5/2 – 4p Post 4412 – Joint VFW & Auxiliary Installation of new 2026-27 Officers

5/5 – House Committee Meeting 7p

5/9 – 2-4p District #21 Social -6180

5/10 – Mothers Day @ Post 4412

5/25 – Memorial Day

6/6 – 12-230p - Quarterly Auxiliary Blood Drive

6/11-6/14 – Department Convention – Orlando

Proudly serving,

Kathy Vaughan

VFW 4412 Auxiliary President

# May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> BOGO 11-4pm Fish Fry Auxilliary Bake Sale 4-7pm 50/50 Drawingj 6:45pm 7 O'Clock Toast Shotgun Bingo	<b>2</b> Joint Installation of 2026-2027 Officers 4pm  Free Pool All Day Bar Poker 3pm Weekly Draw 4pm Steak Nite 4-7pm Live Music- 5pm-9pm Queen of Hearts 7pm Commander's Call 8pm
<b>3</b> Breakfast 8-11am	<b>4</b> BOGO Monday W/4412 Shirt OR A VFW Challenge Coin Pool League 6pm	<b>5</b> Karaoke 5pm House Committee Mtg 7pm Pavilion	<b>6</b> Euchre 1pm Bar Poker 3pm Auxillary Meeting 7pm Kitchen Open 4-7pm	<b>7</b> Free Pool All Day Karaoke 6pm	<b>8</b> BOGO 11-4pm Fish Fry Auxilliary Bake Sale 4-7pm 50/50 Drawingj 6:45pm 7 O'Clock Toast Shotgun Bingo	<b>9</b> Free Pool All Day Kitehen open 4-7 Bar Poker 3pm Weekly Draw 4pm Live Music- 5pm-9pm Queen of Hearts 7pm Commander's Call 8pm
<b>10</b> Breakfast 8-11am	<b>11</b> BOGO Monday W/4412 Shirt OR A VFW Challenge Coin Pool League 6pm	<b>12</b> Karaoke 5pm	<b>13</b> Euchre 1pm Bar Poker 3pm Members Meeting 7pm Kitchen Open 4-7pm	<b>14</b> Free Pool All Day Karaoke 6pm	<b>15</b> BOGO 11-4pm Fish Fry Auxilliary Bake Sale 4-7pm 50/50 Drawingj 6:45pm 7 O'Clock Toast Shotgun Bingo	<b>16</b> Free Pool All Day Kitehen open 4-7 Bar Poker 3pm Weekly Draw 4pm Live Music- 5pm-9pm Queen of Hearts 7pm Commander's Call 8pm
<b>17</b> Breakfast 8-11am	<b>18</b> BOGO Monday W/4412 Shirt OR A VFW Challenge Coin Pool League 6pm	<b>19</b> Karaoke 5pm	<b>20</b> Euchre 1pm Bar Poker 3pm Riders Meeting 7pm Kitchen Open 4-7pm	<b>21</b> Free Pool All Day Karaoke 6pm	<b>22</b> BOGO 11-4pm Fish Fry Auxilliary Bake Sale 4-7pm 50/50 Drawingj 6:45pm 7 O'Clock Toast Shotgun Bingo	<b>23</b> Free Pool All Day Kitehen open 4-7 Bar Poker 3pm Weekly Draw 4pm Live Music- 5pm-9pm Queen of Hearts 7pm Commander's Call 8pm
<b>24</b> Breakfast 8-11am	<b>25</b> BOGO Monday W/4412 Shirt OR A VFW Challenge Coin Pool League 6pm	<b>26</b> Karaoke 5pm	<b>27</b> Euchre 1pm Bar Poker 3pm Kitchen Open 4-7pm	<b>28</b> Free Pool All Day Karaoke 6pm	<b>29</b> BOGO 11-4pm Fish Fry Auxilliary Bake Sale 4-7pm 50/50 Drawingj 6:45pm 7 O'Clock Toast Shotgun Bingo	<b>30</b> Free Pool All Day Kitehen open 4-7 Bar Poker 3pm Weekly Draw 4pm Live Music- 5pm-9pm Queen of Hearts 7pm Commander's Call 8pm
<b>31</b> Breakfast 8-11am						

# *May Music*

## *Schedule*



*May 9, Andrew Michael Danderson*

*May 16, Chris Dupree.*

*May 23, Adam Stackpole*

*May 30, TBD*

