



In Touch *Louisiana*

Website: www.vfwauxla.org

E-Mail Newsletter

February 2021 | Volume 2, Issue 8

“Honoring Our Mission to Serve Veterans”- Sandra Onstwedder, National President

“Serving Our Veterans, Military, and Their Families with Heartfelt Gratitude”- Wanda J. Farbe, Department

Department President's Corner

Happy Valentine's Day VFW Auxiliary Family!

Let's start off with some good news by welcoming the newest member to the VFW Auxiliary Family baby girl, Maria Fields! Yes, Auxiliary Senior Vice-president Ramel Fields and her husband, David recently added the newest member to their family (ours too) and she is a real “Sweetheart “! More good news! Currently the overall average statewide membership is **95.44%**, hip, hip, hooray! Winners of the January 31, 2021 Membership Contest will be announced at the June State Convention.

Yes, congratulations to the Auxiliaries who have achieved 100% and those who have 100% plus in membership! It is a job well done and well worth celebrating considering all the obstacles we have had and are still having here in our state. It shows your determination and fortitude in the face of adversity but most of all to service our Veterans and their families. There are many, who are almost at a 100% and some who have a little more work to do to achieve the goal. I know with your tenacious and “can do” attitude each Auxiliary will make their 100 % or more in membership. As reminded in last month's Newsletter, **the National Auxiliary periodically changes goals. The current change in goals for Membership for 2020-2021 is as follows:**

- **Any Auxiliary that is below 100% in membership on January 31, 2021 MUST be contacted by a Department Officer to determine a need for mentoring and/or other assistance. The Department Officer must contact the Auxiliary on or before April 15, 2021. The Department Officer must then report to the Department President by April 30, 2021.**

In order to encourage a little fun and friendly competition between auxiliaries to maintain members, re-sign inactive members and to add new members, and make sure every auxiliary makes the National Headquarters Membership goal and hopefully more, I am starting another Membership Contest. The contest will end on March 31, 2021. Rules are each Auxiliary that makes 100% or more membership by that date will be eligible to have their name put in a box for a drawing for \$25 and a certificate from me personally from me as President at the June State Convention.

Here are a few tips to do maintain and increase your membership:

1. Always work with your membership chairman. You are a team and teamwork will make the dream work.
2. Attend and participate in your regular auxiliary meetings whether they are in person, virtual such as ZOOM, conference call, Skype are some examples. If you need help with setting up and or holding a virtual meeting, please check with our media guru, Patricia Wesley, she is always willing to help you.
3. Start with family of the VFW Eligible Veteran. Under the VFW Auxiliary wheel, the family members that would qualify are husband, wife, mother, father, sister, brother, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, grand-daughter, son, and daughter. *Step- and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents, and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran.
4. Collaborate with the VFW membership chairman, see, if you can get referrals information from him or her about their new member's spouse, then contact the spouse and invite him/her to a meeting to see what the Auxiliary is all about. Always remember my thoughts and prayers are with you. May God bless and keep you safe.
5. Review the Unpaid Member Report on Malta and follow-up by contacting member(s) to find out why he/she/they are inactive and try to re-sign them, if possible.

Good News, we have a winner of the Sweetheart of the Month Contest for February 2021, the winner is from District 9, Hammond VFW Auxiliary 3652. They were engaged in several activities in an ongoing effort to bring some holiday cheer and acknowledgement to our veteran heroes during the months of November and December 2020. The Auxiliary had a representative participate in the flag-raising/wreath-laying ceremony held at a local cemetery on Veterans Day. In November, food items were contributed to a Thanksgiving meal provided by a local former veteran for the veterans housed at the Quad Vets facility in Hammond LA. Goody bags with snacks and hygiene items were sent to two deployed units. A Christmas Care package was sent to another deployed unit. Two members wrote encouraging notes and mailed them in Christmas cards to the veterans residing at the Veterans Home in Reserve, LA. A member of the Auxiliary purchased and placed wreaths for the "Wreaths Across America" campaign. This small auxiliary with only seven active members searches for and attempts to join in various projects that honor our service members, who have given so much for our country.

In the meantime, we are praying that if God is willing and things get better Commander Bobby and I will hold our Joint Testimonial on Saturday, March 13, 2021 at his Post 3750 @ 140 Angus Drive, Luling LA. The \$25 ticket includes food, prizes, and dance (Junior LaCrosse). After last year and the beginning of this one, we ALL deserve some fun, so come on out and pass a good time, "Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler" all my "Sweethearts". Please contact me for tickets.

In conclusion, keep up the good work and remember you ALL are part of the "Sweetheart Team" and are important in our mission to help our Veterans and their families. Never forget, Teamwork makes the Dream work! God bless and keep you. Thank you for all you do!

Wanda J. Farbe, President

Home: 985-882-9494 Email: farbej@bellsouth.net

**"Honoring Our Mission to Serve Veterans" by "Serving Our Veterans, Military,
and Their Families with Heartfelt Gratitude"**

Secretary's Notes:



PRAYERS – GET WELL WISHES/ THINKING OF YOU:

Joycelyn Edler, Department Chaplain, Recovering from shoulder surgery. Cards can be sent to: 401 Maryland Dr., Luling, LA 70070.

Barbara Batulis, Aux 5735 Treasurer, Recovering from hip surgery. Cards can be sent to: 461 Walda Dr., Biloxi, MS 39531.

Please keep all Members, and family, who may be suffering through illness in your prayers; especially those affected by COVID.

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DEEPEST SYMPATHY:

PSC Max Arends sent out a notification on the death of PSC 1971-72, Stan Kolniak, Tuesday, January 26, 2021. See funeral arrangements listed below. Sympathy cards may be sent to Ms Julia Kolniak, 2540 Beene Blvd E235, Bossier City, La 71111. Stan will long be remembered for his input on VFW resolutions and by laws. Department could always count on him to make suggestions to better prepare the wording for resolutions and by laws passed by the Department.

Please remember our VFW & Auxiliary Members who have gone to their Heavenly Home in your prayers.

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ROSTER CORRECTIONS:

The following were reported: NOTE: All corrections must go through the Department Secretary directly.

Department Conductress, Ella Wilson email is ejbwilson_90@outlook.com.

DST 11, Aux 1809: President's correct email, bunny04271016@gmail.com.

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**2020 – 2021 DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA
VFW AND AUXILLIARY**

COMMANDER/PRESIDENT TESTIMONIAL

MARCH 13, 2021 AT 1:00PM – 5:00PM

VFW POST 3750; 140 ANGUS DR., LULING, LA

TICKET INCLUDES, FOOD, DOOR PRIZES AND DANCE (JUNIOR LaCROSSE)

\$25.00

**“BUDDY” POPPY &
NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM**

FEBUARY 2021

MARY JOHNSON
1081 OLD RIVER ROAD
STARKS, LA 70661

mary_johnson_kamebb6@yahoo.com

337-287-388

“BUDDY’ POPPY” PROGRAM

WE ARE AT A HALF-WAY POINT OF THE YEAR, NOT WHAT WE HAD PLANNED BUT WE HAVE MADE IT. I WAS LOOKING SO FORWARD TO SEEING ALL AT MID-WINTER BUT THAT ALSO DID NOT WORK OUT. WE HAVE TO HOLD FAST THE JUNE CONVENTION AND NATIONAL CONVENTION WILL HAPPEN.

JUNE CONVENTION WE WILL HAVE THE “BUDDY” POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST, SO NOW IS THE TIME TO GET THOSE POPPIES ORDERED. ALSO, TIME TO START PLANNING. HOPE TO HAVE A GREAT TURN OUT, WITH THE DISPLAY CONTEST.

BUDDY ‘POPPY DRIVES ARE WELL UNDER WAY, WE HAVE HAD TO MAKE MODIFICATIONS WITH COVID BUT WE CAN STILL HAVE THOSE.PLEASE SEE PROGRAM BOOK FOR CATAGORIES.

PERSONAL AWARDS:

MOST OUTSTANDING ‘BUDDY’ POPPY EDUCATION PROGRAM. 150 WORD ESSAY IS REQUIRED, DESCRIBING YOUR PROGRAM. **DUE JUNE 7,2021**

VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM

PLEASE CONTINUE THE HARD WORK YOU ARE DOING FOR THIS PROJECT.

????? DO YOU KNOW ANY MILITARY AND /OR VETERAN?????

STRUGGLING WITH UNEMPLOYMENT, POST TRAMATIC STRESS OR OTHER CHALLENGES?

HAVE THEM CONTACT THE HELPLINE 1-800-313-4200.MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:00-4:30

THIS IS NATIONAL HOME HELP LINE!!! ALL VETERANS LIVES MATTER!

CONTINUED FINANCAL SUPPORT FOR THIS IS ALSO VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.

PERSONAL AWARDS:

MOST OUTSTANDING PROMOTION ENCOURAGING MEMBER TO JOIN NATIONAL HOME.150 WORD ESSAY DESCRIBING YOUR PROGRAM. PHOTOS ARE ENCOURAGED.
DUE JUNE 7,2021



Chief of Staff/Extension

Patricia A Wesley, Chief of Staff 2020-2021

241 W. St. Peter St. ~ New Iberia, LA 70560 ~ (337) 321-3959 Cell

E-mail: pwinspire@aol.com



Dear Auxiliary,

February 2021

Have you completed the 5 Essentials of an Auxiliary Yet?

The National Organization requires only five (5) things of an Auxiliary:

1. Auxiliaries should have at least ten (10) business meetings per year. (Sec. 210) Five (5) members in good standing (of that Auxiliary) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. (Sec. 212)
2. Dues should be paid by at least ten (10) members on or before February 1 of the current year. (Sec. 207)
3. Quarterly Audits by Trustees must be submitted. (Sec. 814)
4. Officers elected, installed and reported to National Headquarters no later than June 30th. This generates the bond application via email. (Sec. 804A and 806A)
5. The offices of President and Treasurer MUST be bonded by August 31.



NATIONAL AWARDS FOR MEMBERS

1. \$25 VFW Store Gift Certificate to one member in each of the four Conferences who assisted in revitalizing/rejuvenating a struggling Auxiliary and utilized *Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation* in their efforts. Any member at level of the organization can be nominated by the revitalized/rejuvenated Auxiliary. Nomination form (required) available in this program book and at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources.

Nomination forms are due to the Department Chief of Staff by **March 31, 2021**.

The Department Chief of Staff must sign and send a copy of the completed Department winning nomination form to the National Chief of Staff by April 30, 2021 for judging.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS FOR MEMBERS

1. **Honor Award** to each District President that use the "*Talking Points for District Presidents*" during your District Meetings. (inserted in our Program Book)
2. **Gift & Citation** to each District President or Member that arrange a "*Why Having an Auxiliary Can Boost Your Post*" PowerPoint Presentation or Video with a Bachelor Post.
3. **Heartfelt Gift of \$25** to each District President with 100% Reporting by the presidents in your Districts including the District President.

Extension Award for Members No. 1

Nomination Form • 2020-2021 Program Year



1. **\$25 VFW Store Gift Certificate** to one member in each of the four (4) Conferences who assisted in revitalizing/rejuvenating a struggling Auxiliary and utilized *Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation* in their efforts. Any member at any level of the organization can be nominated by the revitalized/rejuvenated Auxiliary.

Nominators are to send this form to their Department Chief of Staff by March 31, 2021.

Nominee's Name: _____

Department of: _____ Auxiliary No.: _____

Nominee's Member ID No.: _____ Nominee's Phone No.: _____

Nominee's Email Address: _____

Share why the nominee deserves to receive the 2020-2021 Extension Award for Members No. 1. Describe how the nominee utilized *Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation* to revitalize/rejuvenate this Auxiliary. Please attach any additional information.

Nominated by: _____

Department of: _____ Auxiliary No.: _____

Nominator's Member ID No.: _____ Nominator's Phone No.: _____

Nominator's Email Address: _____

Signature of Department Chief of Staff: _____ Date: _____

Department: _____

The Department Chief of Staff is to sign and send the completed Department-winning nomination form to National Chief of Staff & Extension Gloria Dobbie by April 30, 2021 for judging. The National winners from each of the four (4) Conferences will be announced at the 2021 National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland.

Any forms sent to National Headquarters will not be processed and will be returned. The submission deadline still applies.

MEMBERSHIP

February 2021

Catherine Ortolon
5107 Buddy Johnson Road
Starks, LA 70661
T: (337) 912-3243
E: catherine.barks@yahoo.com

"HONORING OUR MISSION TO SERVE VETERANS"
by "SERVING OUR VETERANS, MILITARY, AND THEIR FAMILIES
WITH HEARTFELT GRATITUDE"

Hello all and welcome to 2021! I am so proud of the work accomplished by you all! Keep working your rosters and gaining new members and re-signing past members! You all are doing an amazing job for our Sweetheart, Madame President Wanda Farbe!

Keep in mind that the good works you are doing is for our greatest asset, our veterans. We can accomplish so much on their behalf by building our membership and joining with the VFW to make a difference in our veterans lives locally and nationally.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK! WE ARE ALMOST THERE!!

INVITE -- INCLUDE -- INVEST

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

Year: 2020 – 2021

Chairman:

Joyce Edler

401 Maryland Dr.

Luling, LA 70070

Jedler4@yahoo.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

[504-858-2264](tel:504-858-2264)

ELIGIBILITY:

- *Must have been a member of the VFW Auxiliary for at least one year.
- *Cannot be nominated for the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer in the same year as nominated for this award.

PROCEDURE:

- *Any Auxiliary member in good standing can nominate appropriate members for this award by completing applications and sending them to the Department Community Chairman.
- *The Department Community Chairman will arrange for judging and the recipient of this honor will be selected from the applications received. The volunteer does not have to belong to the nominators' auxiliary.

DEADLINES:

- *Chairman **MUST** receive the applications for judging by **JUNE 1, 2021**.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- *Please complete application in its entirety. Do not Send more than three (3) additional pages.
- ***DO NOT** send scrapbooks or photos.
- *Applications must be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from the person nominating the volunteer, which should be typed on letterhead of the organization.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS:

- *DIXIE RITCHIE MEMORIAL PLAQUE + BUDGETED MONETARY AWARD

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

NOMINATING FORM

(To be completed by Nominator)

AUXILIARY NAME & NUMBER_____

AUXILIARY LOCATION (CITY/STATE) _____

NAME OF MEMBER NOMINATING THE VOLUNTEER_____

ADDRESS & CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE_____

TELEPHONE NUMBER_____

NAME OF VOLUNTEER_____

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER_____MEMBER SINCE_____

I HOPE Y'ALL ARE GIVING A LITTLE THOUGHT TO AN
OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER. THIS IS
A GOOD TIME TO HONOR SOMEONE WHO GIVES
TIME AND THEMSELF TO THE COMMUNITY.

DEADLINE FOR THE ATTACHED FORM IS JUNE 1,
2021. EVERYONE HAS SOMEONE THAT FITS THIS PROGRAM.

HOPE TO SEE A LOT OF ENTRIES.

THANKS,

JOYCE

Outstanding Community Volunteer

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

(To Be Completed by Volunteer Nominated)

NAME_____MEMBERSHIP NO._____

ADDRESS_____

CITY/STATE/ZIP-CODE_____

PHONE NO._____

AUX. NAME & NO._____

YEAR, AUXILIARY NAME & NO. YOU FIRST JOINED

WHY DID YOU BECOME A VOLUNTEER?

EXPLAIN YOUR VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES DURING THIS PAST
YEAR_____

EXPLAIN YOUR VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO THIS PAST
YEAR_____

DESCRIBE YOUR MOST REWARDING AND/OR UNUSUAL EXPERIENCE AS A
VOLUNTEER_____

Lisa Delaney
222 S. Cloverleaf Dr.
Haughton, LA 71037
Phone: 318-294-2292
Email: lisald1960@yahoo.com

Scholarship Program 2020-2021



VOD District Winners



Dst 2	Kallie Carrigee	Post 3750
Dst 3	Brennon M. Mayon	Post 4222
Dst 4	Samantha Marx	Post 9210
Dst 5	Keeley James	Post 3619
Dst 7	Hannah Benoit	Post 8971
Dst 8	Logan Kern	Post 3693
Dst 9	Garret Lafollette	Post 5735
Dst 10	Layla Hill	Post 1736
Dst 11	Zoe Graham	Post 3615
Dst 12	Diya Desai	Post 4588

Congratulations to all!

VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Hello Sweethearts!

Hope you are all doing well. February brings Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras! Even though we cannot celebrate our holiday like we want, we can find ways to show our love for our Veterans and active service members.

- Send a care package,
- Buy a telephone card so they can talk to family.
- Donate to your local VA hospital or medical centers,
- A note to say thank you,
- Donate to projects like our National and Department Presidents have; just to name a few.

Thank you to those auxiliaries who sent in reports in December. Please remember to send reports in April. Get credit for the hard work you are doing! If any of the VA reps or medical center reps have anything to add, please email Madame Secretary, Cyleria Guidry-Gerrets so she can add to newsletter. Keep up the good work you are doing! Looking forward to seeing you soon! God Bless.

Sincerely,

Ella Wilson

Veteran and Family Support Chairman



Youth Activities

Sonja Lambert-Chairman

I hope everyone is safe and well. Wow! What a year 2020 was, but we are Louisiana Strong. As we get into the New Year there are so many things that we should be grateful for, everyday things that we take for granted sometimes and especially those that go that extra step without knowing it, that puts a smile on our face and makes our day better that they have existed. So, this year take that extra step to be that person for someone.

Our youth, how do we look at the youth today? Are they really any different than we were? Maybe so, but then let's look at their role models and ours. Our youth today live in a world that is ever changing, a world of uncertainty and for some no future but the life they know. So, what do we do, is it our responsibility, some say no and then some say what can we do. Those are the ones that will change a life.

Auxiliary members you can be that someone- Sponsor youth programs in your community, schools, churches. They are there. I want to say a Great big thank you to all the Auxiliaries that sponsor youth programs and for those of you that have not here's your chance.

"Get Excited for the RED, WHITE & BLUE"-sponsor a contest at your post home, get the youth involved.

Young Creative Art Program- You can do this at your post, make it a fun day. Don't forget all those youth who volunteer at their churches, schools and for their community.



CHAPLAIN'S BLESSINGS



Please send this form whenever you have a death or serious illness within your Auxiliary.

Please send all names of deceased VFW Auxiliary Members to me by **June 1, 2021**. These names will be included in the Department Memorial Booklet.

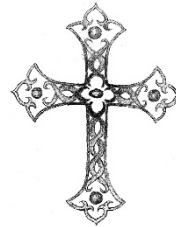
DEATH OF A VFW AUXILIARY MEMBER

Auxiliary # _____; District # _____; Date of Death: _____

Name of VFW Auxiliary Member and Number _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

MAIL TO:
JOYCE EDLER
402 MARYLAND DR.
LULING, LA 70070
(504) 858-2264
Jedler4@yahoo.com



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ILLNESS OF A VFW AUXILIARY MEMBER

Auxiliary # _____; District # _____; Date of Illness: _____

Name of VFW Auxiliary Member _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

If cards are to be sent to a VFW Auxiliary Member in a hospital, please include name of hospital, room number and mailing address.

Hospital Name _____; Room# _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

ATTENTION: VFW AUXILIARY TREASURERS – Please remember to report all deaths on MALTA and send information to our Department Treasurer, Margaret Nixon, 3526 Anthony Rd., Florien, LA 71429.
Thank You.

DISTRICT MEETING DATES:



FEBRUARY:

DST 5: February 20 at Post 3619, Registration - 9:00AM, Meeting-10:00AM, Lunch-Noon

DST 10: February 13 at Post TBA, Registration - 10:00AM, Meeting-11:00AM, Lunch(\$10.00)-Noon

APRIL:

DST 5: April 17 at Post 3802, Registration -9:00AM, Meeting-10:00AM, Lunch-Noon.

DST 9: April 24 at Post 5735, Registration -9:00AM, Joint Meeting-10:00AM, Meeting -11:00AM, Lunch-Noon.

MAY:

DST 2: May 15 at Post 3121, Registration -9:00AM, Meeting-10:00AM, Lunch (\$7.00)-Noon.

DST 3: May 22 at Post 4752, Registration -9:00AM, Joint Meeting-10:00AM, Meeting-10:39AM, Lunch-Noon.

DST 7: May 15 at Post 8971, Registration -9:00AM, Meeting-10:00AM, Lunch (\$8.00)-Noon.

DST 10: May 8 TBA, Registration -10:00AM, Meeting-11:00AM, Lunch (\$10.00)-Noon.

DST 11: May 15 at Post 1809, Registration -10:30AM, Meeting-11:00AM, Lunch (\$10.00)-Noon.

DST 12: May 8 at Post 4588, Registration -9:00AM, Meeting-10:00AM, Lunch (\$7.00)-Noon. Registration -9:00AM, Meeting-10:00AM, Lunch-Noon

NOTE: For any changes and further information, please refer to the Louisiana VFW website under News:
www.vfwdeptla.org



COVID-19 Vaccination Information for Veterans

Veterans who are enrolled in the federal VA health care system and would like to receive a COVID-19 vaccination should contact their VA Medical Center at one of the hotline numbers below:

Alexandria VA Health Care System in Alexandria; 318.483.5083

Vaccinating veterans enrolled for VA health care who are 75 years and older or are in high-risk groups.

Overton Brooks VA Medical Center in Shreveport; 318.990.5820

Vaccinating veterans enrolled for VA health care who are 75 years and older or who have serious underlying health issues as determined by the federal VA.

Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System in New Orleans; 504.507.2819 or 800.935.8387, ext. 72819

Vaccinating veterans enrolled for VA health care who are:

- 65 and older

- ages 16-64 in high-risk groups (Dialysis, Chemotherapy, Homeless or congregate living, Long-term care facility, Spinal Cord Injury (inpatient or outpatient) and Transplant)

- ages 16-64 with high-risk medical conditions as defined by CDC (Cancer, Chronic kidney disease, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Heart conditions such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies,

Obesity and Severe Obesity (BMI ≥ 30), Sickle Cell Disease, Smoking, Type II Diabetes and Pregnancy)

- any age and considered essential workers as defined by CDC (First responders (firefighters, police), Health care workers, Education (teachers, support staff, daycare), Agriculture and food processing workers Manufacturing, Corrections workers, US Postal Service workers, Public transit workers, Grocery store workers, Transportation and logistics, Food service, Shelter and housing (construction), Finance, IT and Communication, Energy workers, Media workers, Legal workers, Public safety (engineers) and Water and wastewater workers) (Must bring proof of work.)

Some designated family caregivers may qualify for vaccines.

Family caregivers who are enrolled in the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) are eligible for vaccination when the veteran they care for becomes eligible. If the veteran you care for meets the criteria above, both you and the veteran may be able to get vaccinated now.

If you are a veteran and are not eligible to receive a vaccination through the federal VA health care system, you may be eligible to receive it through the state's vaccine allocation. To find out if you're eligible and to locate a vaccination site near you, visit <https://ldh.la.gov/covidvaccine-locations/>.