
VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.NET

February 2012

V.F.W. Mission Statement

The purpose of this corporation (VFW) shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its institutions of American freedom, and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies, whomsoever.

Commander's Corner

Hi! It seems like I just finished writing last month's article and it's time again to put pen to paper. One of the most exciting things to happen to the Post is, I am proud to announce, that we have attained 100% membership. We were the first in the 7th District to reach that goal. I want to thank all of our old and new members for their continued support.

Bob Lanning and I attended the Winter Conference in Indianapolis on January 14th. The highlight for me was the recognition Post 604 received for getting the Post reopened and achieving 100% membership in only 6 months. This is something we all can all be proud of.

In last month's newsletter we announced that we sent 3,027 DVD movies to the troops overseas. We are now in the process of sending 12,000 golf balls and 100 golf clubs to the troops. I will let you know how this works out.

I know that our House Committee is working on new ideas for some events at the Post. We need all members to participate and attend these functions so we can continue to move our Post forward. With suggestions and help from our members, we can make our Post a place that is fun and enjoyable for all to come to.

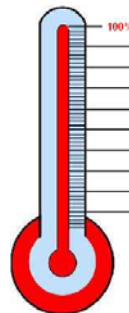
God bless our troops, God bless all of you and may God always bless America. Come out and see us.

Commander - Joe Hardin

Sick Call

James Glasgow, one of our Lifetime members, is in the hospital. If any of you who remember him wants to contact him may do so by calling St Catherine Regency Hospital at 2200 Market St in Charleston In. Phone number is (812)256-7484. His Case # 6176. If you want to contact his son Clint his number is (317)888-3162. Thank You

Post Membership Exceeds Goals



Membership in VFW Post 604 exceed 100% on December 21, 2011 as recorded by VFW Headquarters. Contributing factors in achieving this noteworthy milestone are the reopening of the Post and word of mouth of our members. As membership and participation continues to increase, the scope and number of activities planned by the Post and its Auxiliaries can also increase.

Elsewhere around the Post

Ideas for activities may be presented at club meetings held the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Meetings this month are to be held on February 21, 2012 (times listed on the calendar on page 3). It is important to consider the support needed to sponsor an event. There is no reservoir of people to staff these functions; therefore volunteers from our ranks are essential to have a memorable and successful function. Merriment recently experienced at Post 604 was observed at these occasions:

- ☆ Christmas Party
- ☆ New Years Eve Party
- ☆ Post 604 - 91st Anniversary Celebration

Please help us get the word out to friends and family members. The Post is up and running and while the Canteen is likely to be part of your experience, we also offer big screen TV with cable and Wii for entertainment, also free Wi-Fi and internet access - we even will provide you access to a computer if you don't bring your own.

The Ladies have initiated the process of bringing Bingo back to Post 604 from the Eagles. The process takes a while with required advertising, inspections and such. Look for next month's newsletter for updates to this effort.

Thank you for your patronage & Support

Just One Idea for the VA

Quality control and case management: Much is made of the VA's perpetual handicap of a partial paper-based system and partial computer-based system. Big deal. Your favorite federal agency and mine, the Internal Revenue Service, had a half-paper and half-computer based processing system which worked fine thirty-five years ago! Let's be specific: Tax Auditors with 12 semester hours in accounting (number crunchers) did individual and small business tax audits, Revenue Agents with accounting degrees (bigger number crunchers) did corporation audits, Revenue Officers with 6 hours of accounting (people meeters and dealers) collected from those individuals or corporations who owed and chose not to pay when they could.

Now to quality control – the biggest problem with the current VA adjudication "system": Each function within the Examination division in each district (Indiana is one district) had a Review Staff which randomly sampled audits before they were sent out. Review Staff was filled by rotational assignments of the best employees in each sub-function. When Review Staff found a processing error, which they really tried to do, they sent the case back to the originating examiner to fix. When the examiner had a few cases returned on the same issue, that examiner was retrained or, if retraining did not work, removed. Honest. Union grievances could not reverse removals based on empirical quality data comparing the occupational specialty norm to the individual employee's performance. On a more positive note, employees who seldom, if ever, received cases back from Review Staff received incentive awards. Also, standard training and Review Staff sampling were adjusted according to feedback from Review Staff findings. Worked great! Made the IRS look, if not good, at least more professional and much less time was lost in appeals because almost all the work was being done right the first time.

Case management? At each step of processing the work time applied to each case was electronically charged to that case. If auditor Jones was using more than the normal time on an individual taxpayer audit, he could explain the unusual complexity of the case to his boss – a boss who had been an auditor herself in the past and who could understand (she just left Review Staff) and approve or disapprove the increase. If auditor Smith screwed up and a case slipped by Review Staff sampling and got out and resulted in an appeal, a bunch of IRS time would be charged to that case and it would stick out like a sore thumb in the electronic workload data, crying out for "Don't ever do this again!" training or other management action. (IRS hates to lose appeals or court cases. Losing is not the voluntary compliance enhancing word the IRS wants on the street.

How I wish the VA would learn from their mistakes as well as the IRS does from theirs.)—Wouldn't you like to see

Just One Idea

continued

the VA do these Review Staff and time-charged-to-each-case things?

Fix: Look outside the VA for management ideas such as the IRS Review Staff and the charged time to each case workload management system. The same VA analyst employees who have been pondering their internal problems for decades will continue to come up with the same internally pondered "solutions" and disguise them as new. Secretary Shinseki, it's been three years now. Let's see some improvement.

John Tilford - Service Officer

Court to Decide on Stolen Valor Act

The Supreme Court of the United States to hear the case of **Unites States vs. Alvarez** in 2012. The case will determine the "right" of veteran impostors to lie about military service with legal impunity. The case centers around the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and the and integrity of the 2006 Stolen Valor Act, which makes it a crime to pretend to have been awarded any decoration or medal authorized by the US Congress for the Armed Forces of the United States.

Opponents of the act claim "white lies, exaggerations, and deceptions are in integral part of human intercourse" and "harm no one". In short they say, lying is protected as free speech under the First Amendment.

Critics counter that false statements are not entitled to such protection. The **Stolen Valor Act**, they say, "serves a crucial purpose in safeguarding the military honors system".

Military One Source will once again provide free tax consultation and free on-line tax filing services to military service members and their families during the tax season. As in previous years, participants will have free online access to the H&R Block At Home Basic tax product.

A brief overview of the program:

- ⇒ Participants must register for Military OneSource and log on to the site for access to the H&R Block At Home Basic product. A separate logon for the H&R Block At Home site is required.
- ⇒ Those eligible for the program are active duty, Guard and Reserve (regardless of activation status), spouses and dependent children (authorized in DEERS), family members handling the affairs of a deployed service member, and severely injured service members or family members handling their affairs.
- ⇒ Participants will have free access to the H&R Block At Home Basic product. Those with more complicated returns may incur charges if they upgrade to the H&R Block At Home Premium product.
- ⇒ Participants can file up to three state resident returns for each federal return that they file with the H&R Block At Home Basic product.
- ⇒ Participants can speak with a Military OneSource Tax Consultant if they have tax related questions, or need assistance using the H&R Block At Home Basic product.

Provided by the Department of Defense at no cost to active duty, Guard and Reserve (regardless of activation status), and their families. For more information call toll free 800-342-9647 or see <http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

See Just One Idea

continued above

Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

February 2012

Closed Sunday	Open 1000 - 2200 Monday	Open 1000 - 2200 Tuesday	Open 1000 - 2200 Wednesday	Open 1000 - 2200 Thursday	Open 1000 - 2200 Friday	Open 1000 - 2200 Saturday
			1	2 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	3 Groundhog Day  Commander's Drawing 1900 Brad Harris Entertains 1900	4 1945 - Yalta Conference ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer Bingo (Eagles) – 1430
 5 OPEN SUPER BOWL Party 1200 – Game Over	6 * Vet to Vet – 1900	7	8	9 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	10   Valentine's Dinner 1800 - 2100 Commander's Drawing 1900 Brad Harris Entertains 1900	11 ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer Bingo (Eagles) – 1430
12	13 * Vet to Vet – 1900	14 Valentine's Day	15	16 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	17  Commander's Drawing 1900 Brad Harris Entertains 1900	18 ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer Bingo (Eagles) – 1430
19	20 Presidents Day 1962 - John Glenn Orbits Earth * Vet to Vet – 1900	21 Fat Tuesday Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800 Ladies Aux - 1800	22 Ash Wednesday	23  1945 - Capture of Mt. Suribachi  Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	24  Commander's Drawing 1900 Brad Harris Entertains 1900	25 ALL DAY \$1.25 Beer Bingo (Eagles) – 1430
 Daytona 500 Post open 1200 - 1800	27 * Vet to Vet – 1900	28	29			

(* For Vet-to-Vet Held at IVY Tech, 200 Daniels Way room A118 – Check website <http://www.vetovetbloomington.com/> to confirm location)

Telephone Number (812) 339-2375

PPT License # 124405

Bingo License # 125265

Raffle License # 124404

Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

At our meeting this month the Auxiliary donated money to the VFW National Home. The VFW National Home is trying to generate \$33,000.00 for bathroom renovations at the guest lodge on campus. The money we donated was from our Bingo players. We want to thank our dedicated players for supporting the VFW with their donations.

In the National By-Laws, members voted to increase National annual dues by \$1.50 per year per member starting January 2012.

After much discussion on uniform resolution, members voted to table all discussion. They then voted that National President Gwen Rankin choose what members will wear for the 2011-2012 year and form a committee to research options for a uniform in the current Auxiliary blue. National Line Officers are now the members of this committee.

Also, to help with time constraints at Auxiliary meetings, the Ritual is to be amended as follows;

- At the wish of the Ladies Auxiliary, meetings may be conducted according to Demeter's Manual of Parliamentary Law and Procedure; thus a round table meeting is held.
- The opening prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, checking of dues cards, minutes, Treasurer's report and closing prayer are all still required, but meetings are complete without the Ritualistic ceremony presently prescribed.

Back to dues for a moment, revised dues for the Ladies Auxiliary are now \$20.00 a year which includes Cancer insurance. New members are also required to pay a \$5.00 application fee.

Send a card or make a call to our shut-ins. Keep all in your prayers. ❖

Janet Williams, President VFW Ladies Auxiliary

Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

Just a reminder that everyone's 2011 membership cards expired at the end of December. We've been issuing 2012 cards since last summer, so if you know anyone who's carrying an expired card, please encourage them to drop by the Post and renew.

The Men's Auxiliary is hosting this year's Super Bowl party at the Post on Sunday, February 5. The Post will be open to the public that day. Come on out for a good time and bring a busload of friends. If you'd like to help out, there's a volunteer sign-up sheet hanging in the Club

See Men's Aux.

continued above

February 2012

Room at the Post.

It's never too early to remind our Auxiliary members that we'll be holding officer elections in just a few months. Holding an officer's position is not really difficult and, as long as everyone is sharing the weight, it doesn't have to be time-consuming. Every truly good organization has a dedicated officer corps. We hope you'll consider putting your name in to help out in the coming year.

Ideas are always welcome. We exist to assist Post 604 in its efforts to support veterans. We're always looking for new and better ways to do that. The Post now has use of its basement area. It's wall-to-wall carpeting down there, tables and chairs, even a fully-functioning bar – great for meetings and private parties!

Come join us for our next Men's Auxiliary meeting – Tuesday evening, February 21 at 6pm here at Post 604. ❖

Mike Pipher, President VFW Men's Auxiliary

Vietnam Education Center Needs Photos

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is still seeking photos of all 58,000 men and women whose names are inscribed on The Wall in Washington, D.C. The collection will be used to highlight their service and sacrifice inside the new VFW-supported Vietnam Memorial Education Center, which is scheduled to break ground hopefully by Veterans Day 2012. More than 30,000 photos have already been submitted by families and fellow comrades-in-arms, but more are still needed.

Please submit photos to:

Jan Scruggs
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund
2600 Virginia Ave. NW - Suite 104
Washington, DC 20037

Include the deceased's name and location, unit, and approximate month/year the photo was taken. Digitized photos can be e-mailed directly to jscruggs@vvmf.org.



February 26, 2012

OPEN 12:00 - 6:00 PM

Come to the Post - The **Post 604 Pit Crew** will be here!!!

WATCH THE RACE... Ham & Beans - Full Bar - GREAT fun
One lucky patron will win ?????? - come & see what !!!



Game Day
 Plan Now!!!
 Sunday February 5th 2012

Super Bowl Sunday

Mark your calendar for Sunday, February 5, 2012. The Post will be open to the public for the big Super Bowl Party and everyone who comes out to see us will have a super time.

- ☺ Doors will open at noon and remain open until the game is over (late Sunday night)
- ☺ Free food throughout the afternoon / evening (chili, sandwiches, snacks)
- ☺ Club Room bar will be open all day
- ☺ Big screen TV – great seats throughout the house
- ☺ Raffles throughout the day/evening (pull tabs, half-n-half, misc prize raffles)
- ☞ Want to help? Sign-up sheet in the Club Room of the Post

Have a large group? Post basement available by making arrangements in advance – See bartender.



Valentine's Dinner

Date : February 10, 2012

Time: 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Price: \$10.50

Dinner: includes 8 oz Steak, baked potato or fries, salad, & dinner roll. Desert offered for an extra .50 cents

Reservation Required: Call 812-339-2375 or see the Bartender

Just plain ole COLD!!

Not much more you can add to that heading is there?! Hey! Remember the food barrels we had at the Post, well we collected for two months and according to Hoosier Hills Food Bank our total donation was 315 lbs. They wanted the members of Post 604 to know that they greatly appreciate our involvement and Thanks-A-Lot. There you have it—your guys did grrreeaaaattt!! As Tony the Tiger would say.

OK, so February is going to be not only cold but busy here at Post 604—Let's get this month rolling with a Valentine's Day Dinner on the 10th (Friday Night). How about an 8 oz. Top Sirloin Angus Steak with baked potato or fries, salad, and rolls for only \$10.50 per person--Want more?—Cheesecake dessert for a mere \$.50. Now add that up to a Grand Total of \$11.00 which we are sure will get you a smooch from your bride or SO. We are asking for you to make a reservation , so call it in or make your reservation when you're at the Post. It's a great meal deal even if it's only for you.

We know its cold outside but there are signs of warmer weather on the way. What Signs??? Well, right after the Super Bowl comes Daytona—**NASCAR**—February 26th. And the 26th falls on a Sunday so we are going to be OPEN, the TV's will be revved up, the Ham & Beans will be gassed up, and we will OPEN at NOON so the Pit Crew (that's us) will be ready for the Green Flag at 1:00 p.m. Now what are we forgetting?!--OH! Well shoot, heck yes--**We need you guys!!**—but you knew that didn't ya!! So make plans to come out and watch the race with us. The Post will close at 6:00 p.m. By the way here is a little inside info for ya—one lucky member who is with us to watch the winner cross the finish line will win ?????? Yep!, you guessed it—you have to be with us that Sunday to find out what the question marks are about, but we will tell you that he/she will be happy that they watched the race right here at the V.

Now let's not forget about the Super Bowl-Feb 5th. That's a Sunday also and the Men's Auxiliary will be putting on a wing-ding for the game here at the Post—plus its an OPEN HOUSE so everybody can come with ya, your in-laws, out-laws, your former girlfriends sister, bring em-all. Be sure to read the Men's article to get the punt-kick-u-lures.

One more thing—Brad Harris will be playing at the Post every Fri. night 7 pm till 10 pm in February. Come out and give him a listen—he's good! See Ya at the Post!! ❖

House Committee

Laurens B. Strain V.F.W. Post 604
2404 W Industrial Park Drive
Bloomington, IN 47404-2690

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
BLOOMINGTON IN 47401
PERMIT No. 205

"Oldest Post in the State"

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Phone: (812)-339-2375

Friday Evenings at the Post



Live Entertainment



7:00 PM = Closing
Admission - Free

7:00 Commander's Drawing

Come spend an evening with us!!!