
VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.NET

March 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

Hello, I have a few things to report this month that have been good for the Post. I mentioned in last month's newsletter that we were trying to ship 13,000 golf balls and 150 golf clubs to our troops in Afghanistan. That has been completed. Our dinner for Valentine's Day was very successful. We had good feedback from those who attended.



We have also been passing out awards to students that participated in The Voice of Democracy and the Patriot's Pen contests. Our Voice of Democracy contestant, Avery M. James, came in third in the 7th District and received \$250.00 for her efforts.

The Voice of Democracy Program is open to students in grades 9-12, who are enrolled in public, private or parochial high schools or home study program in the US. Congratulations and well done!!

We also had five contestants in our Patriot's Pen Program. The Patriot's Pen program is open to students in grades 6-8, who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial school or home study program in the United States. Each of our entrants will receive \$50.00 from the VFW. Way to go !!!

Brianna M. Hendricks
Julihannah P. Crux
Zachary L. Hawkins.

Kelsie Robinson
Isaiah R. Shake

We are still working to increase our membership, so if you know of anyone that would like to join or

renew please let us know. VFW Post 604 is at 103.55% at this time. We are getting close to moving bingo back to the VFW. We are in the process of dotting all of our i's and crossing all of our t's to make the transition as smooth as possible for everyone.

I would like to invite all to come out for lunch, good conversation, comradeship, a cool drink (alcohol or non-alcohol) and enjoy the Post.

Commander - Joe Hardin

Golf Balls for the Troops

VFW members Kenny Strong, Fred Jones and Clint Strong collectively donated over 13,000 golf balls, 150 golf clubs, and 3 Golf Bags to be sent to troops serving our great nation. As with the movies donated a few months ago by Yellow Cab owner John McNeely, VFW Post 604 was asked to assist in coordinating the logistics in this effort. Arrangements were made and all material was picked up from Post 604 by the National Guard on Wednesday February 07, 2012.

Our thanks are extended to these VFW Members for their generosity in putting the welfare and recreation of our deployed forces on such a high pedestal. We're sure the troops in Afghanistan will enjoy knocking them around.



Another VA Problem and Recommended Fix

“Regionalization”: The VA takes basic compensation and pension claims and sends them to designated regional offices for portions of the United States. The Milwaukee RO is the central processing regional office for service connected death and pension claims originating in Indiana. Again, the most observable result is balancing out the backlog which, overall, accomplishes zilch. **The best regional offices are punished instead of the worst being fixed.**

There are two more curses of this practice:

1. First, say Ellettsville, Indiana widow Gertz (fake name, real case) wants a personal hearing in conjunction with her appeal of a Milwaukee Regional Office denial? The lady who just lost her husband after years of his declining health due to Agent Orange poisoning, she gave him years of home care, the VA has just denied her service connected death claim (erroneously, it turns out – the denial was reversed on appeal), she lives by herself because her kids are grown and have moved away, now she gets to find and fund her own way to Milwaukee, Wisconsin for her personal hearing? We firmly requested a personal hearing in Indy. Even when such a change of hearing location is granted, the Indy people are not familiar with Milwaukee cases and have to learn them from scratch. Not efficient or effective.
2. Second, Milwaukee VA employees are not familiar with Indiana crooks. There are several firms which encourage gullible veterans to file fraudulent pension claims, e.g., *“Get your \$1,644 per month A&A now! \$1,949 if you’re married! Fill out our special forms! Have our contract doctor state you must have your medications administered! Maintain your active life style here in our retirement community!”* Bear in mind that “Aid and Attendance” means that the individual whose severe medical condition is so categorized requires the aid and attendance of others in order to live – such as a patient in a nursing home. A&A qualification is inherently incompatible with “active life style, independent living”. Indianapolis VA employees were about to get a handle on

these firms when the Indiana pension cases were routed to Milwaukee. **Milwaukee VA employees don’t know beans about Indiana crooks, and probably have no reason to care.** They just want to get those cases off their desks. Again, your taxpayer dollars down the tubes AND, in the unlikely event a few of these fraudulent claims are actually discovered, guess who would be “left holding the (overpayment debt) bag”? The gullible veterans who signed the claims and were improperly paid the benefits!

Fix: Forget “regionalized” (centralized by regions) claims processing. Indianapolis VA employees need to process, and take pride in processing, claims from Indiana veterans, Indiana surviving spouses, and Indiana dependent children. Indiana claimants and their representatives need the easiest/closest access to their respective claim folders. Indianapolis VA employees need the chance to learn and deal with the Indiana crooks and scams. Indiana appellants need an easier/closer personal hearing location for their unreimbursed travel.

Service Officer - John Tilford

Post 604 Men’s Auxiliary

Super Bowl Sunday was a super party. Many thanks to those who came out and had fun. Even more thanks to Joe, Mike, Greg and anyone else who pitched in throughout the day. We raised several hundred dollars that will wind up going right back into the Post. It’s a good example of what we’re all about: have a little fun and lend a helping hand to Post 604.

Do you have an idea for another event in the future? We’re always open to any suggestions.


In light of the mild weather we’ve been experiencing, it’s tempting to think we’re already into spring. I’m sure Mother Nature still has a few surprises awaiting us before we get the official seasonal change later this month. Nevertheless, springtime is usually a good opportunity for house cleaning. Undoubtedly, we’ll have a few projects in the coming weeks that could use your assistance. Also, springtime means elections for new officers and

See Men’s Aux.

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Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

March 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
				Peace Corps Established 1961 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	1900 – Commander's Drawing 1900 – Brad Harris Entertains 	\$1.25 Beer Bingo (Eagles) – 1430
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	* Vet to Vet – 1900			Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	USS Monitor vs. CSS Virginia 1862  1900 – Commander's Drawing 1900 – Brad Harris Entertains	\$1.25 Beer Bingo (Eagles) – 1430
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	* Vet to Vet – 1900			Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	 1900 – Commander's Drawing 1900 – Brad Harris Entertains	Saint Patrick's Day \$1.25 Beer \$2.00 Irish Coffee  Bingo (Eagles) – 1430
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	War with Iraq Begins 2003 * Vet to Vet – 1900	Spring Begins 1:14 A.M. Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800 Ladies Aux - 1800		Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	 1900 – Commander's Drawing 1900 – Brad Harris Entertains	\$1.25 Beer Bingo (Eagles) – 1430
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	* Vet to Vet – 1900			Armed Forces Leave Vietnam 1973 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	 1900 – Commander's Drawing 1900 – Brad Harris Entertains	\$1.25 Beer Bingo (Eagles) – 1430

(* 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

it would be great if you'd step up and take a turn at the helm.

We're not too far away from dates such as National Armed Services Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, etc. Every one of these dates is an opportunity to hit the pause button on your busy life and reflect on the services of men and women who have worn the uniforms of our nation's military corps. There's almost nothing we have today that can't be traced back to someone else's military service. Membership in the VFW Men's Auxiliary is just one way of saying 'thank you' to those who have served. ❖

Mike Pipher, President VFW Men's Auxiliary

Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

At our last District meeting in Spencer, the Ladies Auxiliary 604 received an award for 97% IN MEMBERSHIP. Patty Pate, Julie Curtis, and Janet Williams attended this meeting. I am happy to report to you the new USO at Camp Atterbury is now open! It has a complete kitchen with full size range, microwave, refrigerator, dish washer and garbage disposal. In the lounge are three televisions and a 180-inch drop screen T.V. There are ten X-box games with head sets. The internet cafe has nine computers with web cams and scanners. Also available are ten lap top computers with WiFi to use in the lounge. There is no government funding to the support USO, all funds are received from corporate and private donations. From January 1, 2011 to December 2011 there have been 128,268 troops signed in at the USO. Just arrived to Camp Atterbury are 600 troops from Texas for training along with the PRT's already there training for deployment in February 2012.

From Bingo the Ladies Auxiliary has donated \$500.00 to Camp Atterbury. Also 25 turbans were donated to Radiation Oncology Clinic on Tapp Road. Also 25 turbans were taken to the Cancer Care Center on West 2nd. Street. in Bloomington. Thank You for all that you do supporting and donating your time and money for the troops at USO Camp Atterbury. May God bless and protect the troops serving this great country we live- ❖

Janet Williams, President VFW Ladies Auxiliary

Good Golly We Had Fun!!

The Super Bowl Party, put on by the Men's Auxiliary was an absolute blast. Well, we are not sure if your team won but we had a really good time watching the game at the Post. A good crowd showed up and the Men's Aux was ready for them. We would like to say Thanks to the Men's Aux for hosting this event.

And then we had Cupid's Day (Valentine Dinner), if you weren't there for that then you miss one great meal. Big Thanks to Bob Lanning and his crew for cooking up all the good food. Now we can't leave out Kathy Hardin and the Ladies Auxiliary for all the really nice decorations and handling food orders plus "to your table" serving of the dinner—Big Thanks to the Ladies! Naturally the Commander (Joe Hardin) handed out Carnations to all the ladies in attendance — he's such a smush or—come to think of it—is he?? Brad Harris entertained us with his music and even took request from the audience. By the way Brad is still playing here on Friday nights!

So, we now come to March, which brings OD Green—well maybe not that color of green but we are going to have Irish Coffee on St. Patrick's Day for \$2.00. The luck of the Irish falls on Saturday, March 17th, so ye ole Coffee Special will be all day long—come out and enjoy one or two with us.

We are sure to have more events of this nature in the future but you see this is why--**YOUR VFW Post 604** -- is such a great place. All three areas of the Post working together to have fun, eat well, and enjoy each other's company. This is what we are about!!!!

House Committee



February 18, 2012 - Avery M. James, 7th District Voice of Democracy 3rd place winner recognized by VFW Post 604 Commander Joe Hardin

604 Canteen - Lunch Menu

Serving Monday through Friday 1100 - 1400

Appetizers & Sides

Battered Onion Rings	\$2.00
Chicken Strips/Fries.....	\$4.50
Cole Slaw	\$1.75
Cottage Cheese	\$1.50
French Fries	\$1.75
Potato Salad	\$1.75
Seasoned Waffle Fries.....	\$2.00

Sandwiches

Breaded Chicken Sandwich	\$4.25
Breaded Pork Tenderloin	\$4.75
Cheeseburger	\$3.50
Chili Dog	\$2.50
Double Cheeseburger.....	\$4.75
Fish Sandwich.....	\$5.25
Grilled Cheese	\$2.75
Grilled Pork Tenderloin	\$4.25
Hamburger	\$3.25
Patty Melt.....	\$4.00
Philly Cheese Steak.....	\$5.00
Steak Sandwich	\$4.50

All Sandwiches served with Pickle and Chips
Add Cheese/Deluxe for \$.25 each

**Call ahead for carry-out
(812) 339-2375**

Post & Auxiliary Elections

Annual Office elections for V.F.W. Post 604, Ladies Auxiliary, and Men's Auxiliary are upcoming. Nominations from, Nominees submitted, and voting is limited to members in good standing. Offices as follows:

V.F.W. Post 604 Offices

Nominations: Open March 20 2012- Close April 17, 2012
Open Voting: April 17th 2012 meeting after nominations close

- Commander
- Sr. Vice Commander
- Jr. Vice Commander
- Quartermaster
- Chaplin
- Judge Advocate
- Surgeon
- 3-Year Trustee
- 3-Year House Committee

VFW Ladies Auxiliary Offices

Nominations: Open April 17, 2012
Open Voting: April 17th 2012 meeting after nominations close

- President
- Sr. Vice President
- Jr. Vice President
- Treasurer
- Chaplin
- Conductress
- Guard
- 3-Year Trustee

VFW Men's Auxiliary Offices

Nominations: Open March 20 2012- Close April 17, 2012
Open Voting: April 17th 2012 meeting after nominations close

- President
- Sr. Vice President
- Jr. Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Chaplin
- 3-Year Trustee



February 21, 2012 – Patriot's Pen participants (l-r) Zachary L Hawkins, Isaiah R. Shake, and Brianna M. Hendrix recognized by VFW Post 604 Commander Joe Hardin and Ladies Auxiliary President Janet Williams. Also pictured, Bachelor Middle School Asst. Principal, Mr. Nick McGinnis and Teacher Ms. Marcea Davis.



Member participation is desired and encouraged!!!



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

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VFW Bingo & the Move Home

*Bingo is to move from the Fraternal
Order of Eagles back home to
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 604.*

*Waiting for Indiana State Gaming
Commission to process the change
request and as of this notice a
specific date has not been set.*

*Watch VFW Post 604 Newsletter
next Month for updates.*

Please Support Bingo



Conducted by V.F.W. Ladies Auxiliary

Thursday – Sales open 5:30PM – Play starts 6:30PM
Saturday – Sales open 2:30PM – Play starts 3:30PM

Location **3100 S Walnut St**
(Fraternal Order of Eagles) **Bloomington, IN**
Bingo License # 125265

