
VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.NET

January 2013

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

As 2012 has come to an end, it is time to reflect on what we have accomplished. We have made some real changes not only in the looks of our Post, but also in the way the community now sees the VFW. The VFW Posts throughout the state had written Post 604 off. The thinking was that we would never open again. Now we are part of the VFW again and participating in all the functions that the VFW offers to our Veterans. We were named All State Team Post and that doesn't happen unless you have met all of the criteria needed. Thanks to all of our officers and members that helped us achieve these milestones.

We are planning on having our Post anniversary dinner on January 9th at 6:00pm. I want to invite all of our members to attend. We haven't had a dinner for a few years, so as we continue to get back on our feet we want to return to some of the functions we have had in the past. It is important that your dues are up to date not only for the dinner but for the good of the Post.

As we start the New Year, I would like to thank our Ladies Auxiliary and the Men's Auxiliary for always being there to help around the Post. Without all of you it would be difficult to keep the Post alive. I know that both Auxiliaries are planning some fun things for the members of our Post. All you have to do is read our newsletter and see what is going on. Also if you would like to help we sure could use all of you.

I want to remind all of our members that we will be electing new officers for the Post and for both Auxiliaries in April. We can always use new officers and ideas. I ask that everyone comes out and participate as much as you can to make this the best Post in the state.

In closing, I hope everyone had a great Christmas and will have a happy New Year. Don't forget our service members and those in need in your prayers and always help those less fortunate than ourselves. May God bless all. ❖

Commander - Joe Hardin

Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

First, a reminder to all members of the Men's Auxiliary who have a 2013 card, that you are also invited to come out to the post for the membership appreciation dinner on January 9th. We have contributed \$300 toward the event and want to thank everyone who has renewed their membership or joined for the first time.

Many thanks to everyone – vets, auxiliaries, etc. – who came out and helped us enjoy the Colts Party Open Sunday we had a couple of weeks ago. It was a big success and is just the first of many, fun open Sundays the Men's Auxiliary will be hosting in the New Year. Special thanks go out to Kathy Haney, Mary Baker, Leonard Heldman and Tim Haney for the work they poured into that Open Sunday. They did all of the food preparation ahead of time and cleaned up everything up at the end of the day.

The next Men's Auxiliary Open Sunday will be NASCAR's Daytona 500 on Sunday, February 24. Make plans now to come out early because we'll be serving another delicious brunch that day.

Looking ahead, we want to plan a bus trip to a casino this spring. Most likely, it will be on a Saturday or Sunday in March, April or May. If you have any suggestions, let me know. ❖

All the best in the New Year to everyone!

Michael Pipher, President VFW Men's Auxiliary



VFW Ladies Auxiliary

Hope everyone had a Happy Holiday. The Ladies Auxiliary is still having Bingo at the Post on Thursdays at 5:30pm also Saturdays at 2:30pm. We have a lot of good food to eat, while enjoying playing the games with some friends. We have helped several with our donations this year. This is what the Ladies Auxiliary does at the VFW help Veterans. We would like to extend invitation to other ladies to join our post. My # is (812)876-3676 - for information give me a call. Looking forward to a busy year of people helping people. Keep all in your prayers. ❖

All the best in the New Year to everyone!

Janet Williams, President VFW Ladies Auxiliary

I-69 Section 5 – Tier 2 Public Hearing

Public hearing was held at the Monroe County Fairgrounds on December 6th, 2012 for interested persons to comment on the Section 5 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the I-69 Evansville to Indianapolis Tier 2 Studies. Well over 100 were in attendance, including Commander Joe Hardin, Senior Vice Commander Bob Lanning, and Quartermaster Mark Dammer.

For those who have been out of town for the last 20+ years, Interstate 69 is scheduled to come through Bloomington starting sometime in 2015. The current plan for Section 5 intends to use the State Road 37 roadbed to the maximum extent possible from SR-39 interchange in Martinsville – to just below Fullerton Pike south of Bloomington. Federal regulations preclude new interstate highways from having exits / entrances closer than one mile apart. To meet this requirement, the current plan is to remove the intersection at Vernal Pike and IN-37 and placing an overpass over I-69 from West Vernal Pike to 17th Street to the east with no access to the I-69 / SR-37 highway. Without further concessions by the I-69 engineers / planners, this will require our members to access the post from the west via Curry Pike / Vernal Pike – or – from the east via the 17th street crossing over I-69.

VFW Post 604 leaders were surprised by this to some extent, so much so that arrangements were made for Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) to come to the post and meet with VFW Post 604 and other Industrial Park Drive business leaders. This meeting took place on Wednesday December 19, 2012 and was attended by over 30 local business representatives.

Maps of the current I-69 plan are posted in the post dining area for your inspection. The public hearing phase of the project closes on January 2nd 2013. All interested parties are encouraged to submit comments. VFW Post 604 has submitted formal comments to the I-69 project with several suggestions to help mitigate stress on our members and the operation of the post as a whole.

For more information, see the I-69 project website at www.i69indyevn.org.

ROLLING OUT 2013!!!

However, before we get started on the New Year, let's get caught up on some items from 2012. November was our Fri. Night Meat Give-Away and the lucky winners were:

Steve Lang—Turkey Breast
Bob Hamm—Ham
Steve Lang—Turkey Breast
Brad Harris—Ham

And if your reading this before New Year Eve then make note that Brad Harris will be playing at the VFW, from 8:30 pm till 2013 New Years Eve—also—remember the Spaghetti Dinner!!

Now lets move on into 2013, the recessed lights have been installed in the bar area and they give the place a really nice glow. We will also be purchasing a new 60" or 65" Flat Screen Television for the dining area in the near future. We may not be making giant leaps of progress but little by little we are getting there. Come out and see for yourself.

Hey!! Jan 20th would be a great day to come out and see the Post. It is a Sunday; we will open at Noon and will be serving a **Meat Loaf Plate**—Yep! Meat Loaf, Green Beans, Corn, Mashed Potatoes, Rolls all for just **\$2.50**. So mark your calendar as follows: **Jan 20th-Dinner for Two for \$5.00-VFW Post 604-Noon to 6:00 pm**. There you have it—you don't have to cook that day!! ❖

House Committee



Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

January 2013

Closed Sunday	Open 1600 - 2200 Monday	Open 1600 - 2200 Tuesday	Open 1600 - 2200 Wednesday	Open 1600 - 2200 Thursday	Open 1600 - 2200 Friday	Open 1000 - 2200 Saturday
		New Year's Day 1	2	3 Bingo – 1730	4 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100  Commander's Drawing 1900 Brad Harris Entertains 1900	5 Bingo – 1430
6	7 * Vet to Vet – 1900	8	9 1800 - Post 604 Anniversary Dinner	10 Bingo – 1730	11 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100  Commander's Drawing 1900 Brad Harris Entertains 1900	12 Bingo – 1430
13	14 * Vet to Vet – 1900	15 Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800 Ladies Aux – 1800	16	17 Bingo – 1730	18 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100  Commander's Drawing 1900 Brad Harris Entertains 1900	19 Bingo – 1430
20 Open 1200 – 1800 Meat Loaf Dinners! Just \$2.50 a plate!!	21 * Vet to Vet – 1900	22	23	24 Bingo – 1730	25 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100  Commander's Drawing 1900 Brad Harris Entertains 1900	26 Bingo – 1430
27	28 * Vet to Vet – 1900	29	30	31 Bingo - 1730		

(* 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

Bingo License # 128637

Raffle License # 127960

Remission of Fees – Child of Disabled Veteran (ROF/CDV) Update

Here are three Christmas stories for Hoosier, service connected disabled, wartime service veterans and their children that might fund a college education. Each involves active duty wartime service, sacrifice, Indiana's gratitude, and a gift.

First story – veterans entered active duty before 1 July 2001 (Yes, WWII, Korean, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, and first Gulf war vets, this includes you. Your kids are 'grandfathered'. Be glad.):

Service: The veteran parent must 1) have served on active duty during wartime, or received a campaign or expeditionary medal; and 2) must have been an Indiana resident for at least three consecutive years.

Sacrifice: The veteran must be rated service-connected disabled or suffered a service connected death by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense. (Yes, this is one more reason to file your claim with the federal VA for service connected disability – like that chronic ringing in your ears you've had since the big generators / flight line jet engines / M-60 machine gun / artillery / mortar round / whatever-else-very-loud nearly deafened you while on active duty.) The service connected disability may be to any percentage, from 0% (such as for a face scar) through 100% (totally disabled). The service connected disability does not have to be related to the wartime service. (It might have been incurred during reserve duty before or after wartime.)

Or: The veteran received a Purple Heart.

Or: The veteran was an Indiana resident upon entry and declared a POW or MIA after January 1, 1960.

Gratitude: The state of Indiana established the Remission of Fees (ROF) program for 124 semester hours of education – a "full ride". (Not so coincidentally, 124 semester hours is the minimum for a four year college degree.) The amount paid is 100% of tuition and mandatory fees. ROF may be used for undergraduate and graduate work but is limited to the undergraduate rate.

Gift: For academic year 2012-2013 the student first applies to the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs using State Form 20234. The IDVA returns the approved form to the student, who then applies for the funding through the school's financial aid office. Schools include Indiana (all locations), Purdue (all locations), IUPUI, Indiana State, Evansville, Ball State, and Vincennes universities and Ivy Tech Community College (all locations).

Second story – veterans entered active duty on or after 1 July 2001 (same benefit as the first but with the following exceptions):

For academic year 2012-2013 the student applies using State Form 54961.

Students may not use ROF for graduate hours under the new program.

Adopted children are eligible under the old and new programs, but must have been adopted before age 24 under the old and before age 18 under the new.

There still is no age limit for the student to use, and no deadline for their use of, ROF under the old program. However, under the new program, students are limited to no more than eight years after first use of ROF, must not have reached their 32nd birthday at the time of first application, and must meet grade point average requirements in order to maintain eligibility. The school checks the GPA requirements.

Funding is prorated under the new program: only children of veterans rated 80% service-connected disabled or higher by the VA or whose veteran parent received the Purple Heart will receive 100% fee remission (the "full ride"). Children of veterans rated less than 80% service-connected disabled will receive 20% fee remission plus the veteran's disability rating percentage.

Third story – Purple Heart veterans themselves are now eligible for a modified version of the Indiana ROF1.

Some other observations:

Illustration: As a Vietnam veteran with a 60% service connected disability rating, I could, under the old ROF program, adopt a 23 year-old tomorrow who would then be eligible for 124 semester hours tuition and fees fully paid at Indiana University, with no time or age limit for use, and the ROF could be applied – albeit limited to the undergrad rate – to graduate hours. If had not entered active duty until 1 July 2001 or after, and all other factors were the same, the ROF for the 'child' would be at the 80% rate (60% + 20% = 80%). I would have had to have adopted the student before their 18th birthday. The student could not use ROF for any graduate hours, even if some of the 124 were left over. They would have only 8 years to use the ROF once started, and they would have had to start before age 32.

The current application forms for both the old and new programs are academic year specific. The current application forms are for the 2012-2013 academic year. Old application forms are obsolete.

The general rule regarding a student who becomes eligible during a term regarding use of ROF retroactively for that term is that all the application procedures be completed through the school financial aid office thirty days prior to the last day of class.

Tuition and mandatory fees at Indiana University, Bloomington campus for the fall and spring 2012-2013 academic year, Indiana resident flat rate for 12 through 17 semester hours (normal full time load) each semester, is \$10,034. Guessing tuition increases, probably at least \$45,000 for four years. Maybe you have more than one child. Two kids? \$90,000. I'd say that's worth the time to fill out a VA Form 21-526EZ and a 45 cent stamp to mail it to Indianapolis, wouldn't you?

John Tilford – Service Officer

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

Monday December 31 - Open 4PM until 2013

NEW YEARS EVE
Party - Party - Party
VFW POST 604

Spaghetti Dinner
7:00 PM
Free - Free - Free

ENTERTAINMENT
BRAD HARRIS
No Reservations Required
8:30 PM until 2013!!!
No Cover Charge



NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION!