

VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.ORG

December 2016

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

Greetings VFW members!

As we move into the month of December and we reflect on events that occurred in November, I hope all Veterans had a great Veterans Day and were able to share some of the day with their families.

Most of you are aware of our programs for Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy. I am happy to say we had one of the biggest participations for Patriots Pen that we have had since I have been involved with the VFW. Thanks to Karen Cain, our Committee Chairwoman, we received 24 essays from students in Monroe County. We had enough participants that we were allowed to send 2 names to our District for judging. Thanks again Karen for all the hard work you put into this program.

December is going to be a very busy time for everyone. We have decided not to have our Friday fish dinner and steak night dinner this month. We are planning on having our kids Christmas party on December 10th and we will have a Christmas pitch-in dinner on December 16th. The Post will furnish the ham and turkey for the dinner and ask that everyone bring either a covered dish or a dessert. This way all can enjoy and won't be tied up in the kitchen. So mark your calendars and bring your favorite dish so we can all have a wonderful evening.

As we enter the Christmas and New Year holiday season please remember those who will not be with their families, but will be standing watch so we can enjoy and be safe during these times. Keep all of our service members in your prayers that they may return home safely.

Remember we need you to pay your dues, if you haven't already. We only need 33 more to pay their dues to reach our goal of 100% membership.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR! ❖

Commander - Joe Hardin

Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

Well the time has come for me to say thank you and good-bye. This is my last newsletter, as of the first of the year the auxiliary merger will be complete and Dorothy is our president. I look forward to working with her and see what lies ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to THANK YOU for allowing me to serve as your president for the past three years. It was an honor and a pleasure to work with a great group of guys. I will thank each of you in person as well, but will leave out names here for fear of missing someone. You all know who you are and what you have done. Nothing that was accomplished during my tenure could have been done without all of your help.

In the past three years we have worked and donated to the Post over \$20,000 and far too many man hours to track. I look forward to working together as one auxiliary in an effort to continue to support our Post.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, a safe holiday season, & best wishes for a Happy New Year!!! ❖

Tim Haney, President VFW Men's Auxiliary

TAPS

Clyde O. Fox

Clyde was a WWII, Navy Veteran.

Bobby L. Lanning

Bob was a Vietnam Air Force Veteran and former Commander of VFW Post 604.

"With each passing day, things will become easier. This is to let you know that there is tremendous support behind you today".

Clyde and Bob will be missed by all the Men and Women of VFW Post 604 and the 7th District. ❖

James C. Arnold, Chaplin

VFW Auxiliary

Veterans Day turned out good. Our auxiliary held flags again during the ceremonies. Assisting were Julie Martin, Sandi Taylor, Janice Martin, and myself. Also from American Legion Post 18 Auxiliary was Marilyn Burk, Linda Young, Eddwyna Newlin who were also flag holders. Julia Curtis and Paula Koontz helped me get through the ceremonies as they knew what to do and I am still learning. Thank you ladies.

After the ceremony we came back to the VFW post and had a great lunch of ham and beans, corn bread, and fried potatoes. Thanks to Frank Ozug and his helpers for cooking lunch and then thanks again to Frank and his helpers for the encore in cooking again at the Friday night fish dinner. WOW !!

VFW Post 604 is having a member's Christmas dinner on December 16th. The VFW is supplying ham and turkey and we as members need to bring side dishes or desserts to finish off the meal – so everyone bring something and come join us.

On December 10th 2016 we are having a children's Christmas party from 10:00 A.M. until noon. Binky the Clown will entertain us again this year. Members please sign up children at the post by December 3rd. Each child must be age 10 or younger for Santa to give them a gift and they must be present.

Men's Auxiliary members, if you haven't gotten your family member's DD-214 or Certificate of Discharge turned in, please come by the post and drop it off. If you think it should already be on file, please let us know who you joined under so we can check. We will need the name of the veteran you joined under. We are looking forward to working together for the post, as this is the reason we are here. Applications are at the bar for you to sign – just ask the bartender when you bring in your document. We do need the as soon as possible as the District Commander wants them in by early December so cards can be issued before December 31st, 2016 - - - THANK YOU!!

Please note, we **will not** be having our Friday fish dinner or steak night in December.

God bless America

God bless our veterans, near and far, and keep them safe ❖



Dorothy J White
President
VFW Auxiliary
812-345-9025

ANOTHER YEAR FOR POST 604!!

First, let's run down how the **Friday Night Dinners** will go this month:

- ☞ The 1st and 2nd Fridays (2nd & 9th) there will **NOT** be a Dinner Special however the regular menu will be available.
- ☞ The 3rd Friday (16th) is our Post Pitch-in Christmas Dinner.
- ☞ The 4th Friday (23rd) the Auxiliary may have a Dinner Special - if not then the regular menu will be available.
- ☞ The 5th Friday (30th) there will **NOT** be a Dinner Special however the regular menu will be available.

And we are **NOT** going to have a **SUNDAY** opening this month as well.

Okay, that brings us to our Post 604 Holiday schedule—here we go! Christmas Eve (24th) falls on a Saturday so we will be **OPEN** from 10:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m. We will also have snacks for you to munch on. Then we get to the 31st (Saturday) New Years Eve—yes we are going to be **OPEN** at 10:00 a.m. and close at ?????? For the last two years we have had a **Pot Luck Pitch-In** for food and members have enjoyed it so we are going try it again — we ask that you bring your favorite dish, maybe a dessert also, the Post will have a pot of **B-B-QUE Pork** and from there we will just tip-toe our way into **2017 (we are not very noisy)!!** So make plans to come out and celebrate New Year's Eve with us here at Post 604!!!

The Post 604 House Committee would like to wish all of our Post Members/Volunteers along with Active Military Personnel, Veterans and their families (where ever they might be this year) a Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. ❖

House Committee

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

Christmas Pitch-in Dinner

December 16th from 6PM - 8PM

Come join us in celebrating the holidays.

Post will provide Ham & Turkey; all others bring a covered dish or dessert.

Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

December 2016

Closed Sunday	Open 1200 - 2200 Monday	Open 1600 - 2200 Tuesday	Open 1600 - 2200 Wednesday	Open 1600 - 2200 Thursday	Open 1600 - 2200 Friday	Open 1000 - 2200 Saturday
				 Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	 Commander's Drawing 1900	
4	5 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	6	7	8  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	9 Commander's Drawing 1900	10  10:00AM - Noon
11	12 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	13	14	15  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	16  Pitch-in Dinner 1800 - 2000 Commander's Drawing 1900	17
18	19 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	20 Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 V.F.W. Aux – 1800	21 	22  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	23 Commander's Drawing 1900	24
25 	26 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	27	28	29  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	30 Commander's Drawing 1900	31 

(* 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

Charity Game Night License # 141029

Raffle License # 141031

You got paid for travel to the VA med center? And I didn't?

A member asked if I could clarify the eligibility criteria for travel pay from Bloomington to the VA medical center on West 10th Street, Indianapolis. He knew other veterans, seemingly in similar situations, were paid and some weren't. My answer was, "No, I can't. But I'll try to find out."

There may no longer be visible travel pay people by the pharmacy, but there's still a travel pay function. I finally got through to the VAMC travel pay office at 317 988-2510. The travel pay supervisor, Laura, answered. Laura confirmed the current reimbursement rate at 41.5¢ per mile and also confirmed information on the VA "Beneficiary Travel" page at www.va.gov/HealthBenefits/vtp/Beneficiary_Travel.asp which showed the following:

You Qualify If:

- you have a service-connected (SC) rating of 30 percent or more, or
- you are traveling for treatment of a SC condition regardless of percentage rating, or
- you receive a VA pension, or your income does not exceed the maximum annual VA pension rate, or
- your income does not exceed the maximum annual VA pension rate, or
- you are traveling for a scheduled compensation or pension [This probably refers to a 'C&P' exam in conjunction with an initial claim] - See more at: www.va.gov/HealthBenefits/vtp/Beneficiary_Travel.asp#sthash.iXPmqODO.dpuf

You Qualify For Special Mode Transportation If

(Ambulance, Wheelchair Van etc.): - See more at: http://www.va.gov/HealthBenefits/vtp/Beneficiary_Travel.asp#sthash.aDfETM7l.dpuf

- you meet one of the 'You qualify if' basic eligibility criteria, and
- your medical condition requires an ambulance or a specially equipped van as determined by a VA clinician, and
- the travel is pre-authorized (authorization is not required for emergencies if a delay would be hazardous to life or health)

The 'You qualify if' information' seemed pretty straight forward except for 'your income does not exceed the maximum annual VA pension rate' being repeated twice, having to guess what the last 'bullet' was intended to say, and not telling the reader how to find out what 'maximum annual VA pension rate' really means: My best guess is the current 'without dependents' and 'with dependent' income limits at all three levels of non-service connected total disability pension; i.e.; basic, housebound, and aid & attendance. (These three levels can be roughly translated as 'unemployable', 'can only get out for medical appointments and necessities', and 'should be in a nursing home'. The most severe two can be claimed via a VA Form 21-2680.)

VA non-service connected pension rates for 2016 from: http://www.benefits.va.gov/PENSION/current_rates_veteran_pen.asp

	SINGLE	WITH 1 DEPENDENT
Basic	12,868	16,851
Housebound	15,725	19,710
Aid & Attendance	21,466	25,448

How does a veteran get qualified for travel pay if his or her income is the same or less than the appropriate limit? - by submitting VA Form 1010EZR, which is available online at <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov>, at their local VA medical center or clinic, or by contacting 1-877-222-VETS (8387) to have the form mailed. Pension countable income adjustments used for pension claims – such as unreimbursed medical expenses – also apply when the VA determines countable income for travel pay purposes.

There is a deductible for VA travel pay of \$3.00 one-way (\$6.00 for round trip). The deductible requirement is subject to a monthly cap of \$18. Upon reaching \$18 in deductibles or three round trips, whichever comes first, in a calendar month travel payments for the balance of that month will not be reduced by the deductible.

Apply for travel reimbursement by completing [VA Form 10-3542](#) (Veteran/Beneficiary Claim for Reimbursement of Travel Expenses) and, within 30 calendar days from the date the travel is completed by -

- Visiting the Beneficiary Travel Office after completing an appointment, or
- Calling the Beneficiary Travel Office (this method will require an added step to complete and sign the travel reimbursement form), or
- Sending the travel reimbursement form via either secure fax or mail to the Beneficiary
- Or by just asking the VA employee about travel pay at the reception desk of the VAMC area where you just completed your appointment. He or she might say, "Sure! Please sign the electronic signature pad!" Laura went on to say that a unique tracking number appearing on the screen immediately after your 'Sign this electronic sensor pad' entry confirms the travel pay has been successfully requested.

Maybe some of those veterans who did not get paid forgot to apply or ask.

Here's a comment from a VAMC employee who reviewed this article: "I would also add something that is often overlooked, if veterans are not subscribed to the direct deposit or direct express debit card process we could be sending a check to an outdated address if they have not updated their address with our fiscal office. Unfortunately our financial system and our registration system do not update each other and thus a very manual reconciliation process happens regularly when we receive returned checks. If at all possible I would appreciate you adding in the direct deposit process in this write up as some veterans may have been paid but the check came back to us in finance and we have not been able to track those patients down as of yet to get the payment to the correct address. I have attached the pamphlet we send to those we are in contact with and it offers more information which will benefit all of your prospective readers." (From the pamphlet: "For questions concerning the Direct Deposit process, contact the Patient Travel office at (317) 988-2510, option #2.") ❖

John Tilford – Service Officer

Laurens B. Strain V.F.W. Post 604
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Bloomington, IN 47404-2690

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** MERRY *
CHRISTMAS **

*Cheers **

*LOVE
PEACE
JOY*



*HAVE
THE
happiest OF
HOLIDAYS*

*HAPPY
New
year*