
VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.ORG

March 2017

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

Spring is just around the corner so we need to come up with a plan to get our members involved for a great summer. This has been mentioned by a few people that we need to have a Vietnam War Veterans picnic at the post. I have also heard mentioned about having a picnic in the parking lot with a band on the deck with dancing and a tent in the back parking lot. If you have any ideas please bring them to the post meetings so the members can discuss them. Let's make this a summer to remember.

On the 11th of February we hosted the 7th District Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy awards at the Post. We had a great ☺ turnout. We stopped counting attendance when we got to 65. Awards were made to the 7th District winners by our 7th District Commander, Senior Vice Commander, and Auxiliary President. We served pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, and chips plus dessert. Everyone had a great time and complimented the post for a good job. I want to thank the Auxiliary and Post members for all the help to make this a great event.

We are continuing to grow at the Post due to the outstanding membership that steps up and volunteer like no other Post that I know of. It is hard for other Posts to believe what we have done and continue to accomplish at Bloomington's VFW Post 604. It is noticed by all around the state.

Don't forget this month we have a Spring Conference meeting to attend, so check our newsletter calendar to see the times and places. It would be wonderful if we had more of our members to attend. Don't forget that we will have elections coming up in April, so drop your name in the pot for an office. We always need members to get involved with the Post. We all work together so no one is overwhelmed. We are always there to help you if you need help or assistance with your office.

We are closing in on the due date for paying your membership dues for 2017 so drop by the post or mail in your dues as soon as possible. We must continue to keep our membership up so our voices will be heard in

Washington to support our veterans and their needs in this Great Country, the United States of America.

May God Bless all of you and may God bless all of our Veterans. I want to see everyone at the Post. We have a marvelous time and we do good work and we laugh a lot. ❖

Commander - Joe Hardin

Post 604 Auxiliary

Welcome to March... We are one step closer to spring. The weather this year has been really weird so far. Guess we will see if it continues to be the same or if it will change.

Our ½ and ½ winners for February were Mary Baxter, Rosalee Anderson, and Sarah Dennison; congratulations to you all and thank you for playing.

As the weather gets warmer, we will need some lighter meals. Most of us are meat, potatoes, vegetables, and salad cooks. We need to have some suggestions for something different to serve. Do you have any ideas? Also, any help to assist our volunteers is always welcome. Come by, make yourself available, and we'll be happy to put you to work ☺

I'd like to thank Barney White for the roses. He has lots of good ideas, just usually I end up doing the work. Not true this time, I had to do nothing. The chicken dinner in February was his work and he cooked too (he's better at chicken than I am.) I hope you were able to come out and hope you enjoyed it.

May God bless all of our veterans and their families.
May God continue to bless the United States of America ❖

Dorothy White
President VFW Auxiliary
812.345.9025

TAPS

Paul H. Goodman, U.S. Navy, WWII, age 101

"With each passing day, things will become easier. This is to let you know that there is tremendous support behind you today." Felix will be missed by all the men and women of VFW Post 604.

James C. Arnold
Chaplain
VFW Post 604

7th District Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Awards Presentation

VFW Post 604 hosts the 7th District awards presentation on Saturday February 11th. Thanks to all who assisted in its preparation.



7th District Commander Mike Curl and 7th District VFW Auxiliary President Esther Murphy present 7th District Voice of Democracy award to Myranda Knepp, entrant from Post 9627 Odon.



7th District Patriot's Pen award winner Delaney Collier, entrant from Post 1257 Martinsville, reads her essay to those in attendance at the 7th District awards presentation.

MARCHING RIGHT ALONG!!!

Remember that period of time?? But anyway the 1st **Friday of the Month Dinner Special**—this month may just hit the spot. **Big Ole Bowl of Chili and Grilled Cheese Sannich**—just **\$6.50!!** **March 3rd**---Serving starts at 6:00 pm till we run out!! New cook on the chili so we are thinking this meal will be great just like all of our Friday dinners are!!!! Plus Desserts naturally.

NASCAR Sunday will be on **March 19th** with the VFW Aux. revving up with their **Great Big Ole Tenderloin Sandwiches**. Post opens at Noon and close somewhere around 6:00 p.m. It's more than just a sandwich—it's a meal and a good time—you get both for only **\$5.00!!** <<<<<**Did you notice the Price????**

May not have 60° weather for our **3rd Friday of the Month STEAK NIGHT (17th)!!** But we do have our 8 oz. Ribeye with Baked Potato and Salad and Dessert all for just **\$11**. This meal would easily cost \$13 and change--minimum anywhere else but here at your **VFW Post 604!**—That's right—just **\$11**. **Texas Hold-'em Tournament** every **Thursday**, starts at **7:00 p.m.** Also the **VFW Aux. Fish Dinner** on the **2nd Friday** of the month (**Mar 10th**)—all you can eat!!

If that's not enough then the **4th Friday of the Month (24th)** presents **The VFW Auxiliary** with their **FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER**—Meat loaf, smashed spuds, green beans, salad, and dessert.

We move along to the **5th FRIDAY of the MONTH (Mar 31st) DINNER** where we will be featuring **Cube Steak** cooked in **Mushroom Gravy & Mash Potatoes** with **Corn & Rolls**. Just so you know we served 55 dinners the last time we had this and ran out in 1 hours time so we are cooking more and you need to be here---it's that **GOOD!!!** Now we give you a knife & fork with the meal but you only need the knife to put butter on your rolls, you can cut the steak with your fork—so tender!! But of course it just cost **\$7.00!!**

Did you notice the Post was very nicely decorated for Valentine's Day?? Plus all the ladies received a **ROSE!!** We would like to say **Thank-You** to all our Post 604 Volunteers—**SUPER JOB!!** ❖

House Committee

Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

March 2017

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
			1	 2 Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	 3 Chili & Grilled Cheese 1800 - 2000 Commander's Drawing 1900	4
5	6 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	7	8	 9 Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	 10 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000 Commander's Drawing 1900	11
 12	13 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	14	15	 16 Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	 17 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000 Commander's Drawing 1900	18
 19 Race day !!!! Open at NOON	20 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	21 Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 VFW Aux – 1800	22	 23 Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	 24 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000 Commander's Drawing 1900	25
26	27 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	28	29	 30 Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	 31 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000 Commander's Drawing 1900	

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

Telephone Number (812) 339-2375

Charity Game Night License # 141029

Raffle License # 141031

Too Many Appeals Part II

What Were the Most Recent Changes to 'Fix' the VA Appeals Process? (Continued)

The United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims was established by Congress in 1988 to provide veterans denied through the BVA level a chance for their day in court. The Court is under the Department of Justice and not the Department of Veterans Affairs. Whereas only attorneys may represent appellants before the Court, there is a 'helpful links' tab on the Court's website which lists several attorney organizations which may provide pro bono (free of charge) legal representation.

Why not determine what caused the backlog in appeal cases and see if we can address the cause rather than the symptom? Surprise! Adjudication errors cause appeals.

- Detailing of appeals specialists to work down the backlog of initial claims reduced the rate of processing the appeals they had to 'put on hold' while absent from their regular appeal work and directly contributed to the present backlog.
- Detailing adjudication specialists from other fields to work initial claims increased the already high error rate for initial claim decisions which resulted in more appeals.
- The detailing just exacerbated an already existing problem.
- Claimants with questionable denials or lower than expected rating decisions tend to file appeals.

How high are VA adjudication error rates?

- VA claiming error rates to the hundredth of a percent accuracy for an adjudicative process requiring subjective interpretation and application of written standards to widely varying human disabilities is misleading and gives the false impression of exact metrics. Example: "94.39% 3-month issue-level accuracy as of 2/17/17."
- Initial claim decision error rates publicized by the VA are dramatically understated. One American Legion study showed a 55% error rate. One VA Office of Inspector General accuracy study found error rates between 22% for claims remaining in the assigned office and 31% for 'brokered' claims assigned to one office but worked in another.
- All VA decisions are subject to appeal for one year. Many appeals result in reversals of initial decisions. Any error rate claimed by the VA for initial, "issue-level" adjudication decisions can logically only apply to decisions prior to their release date and could not include corrections due to appeals.
- The VA's methodology for defining 'adjudication error' is not sufficiently transparent for your service officer to understand. (One would assume that all the initial decisions I've helped veterans and surviving spouses get reversed were considered as 'accurate decisions' by the VA before the appeal process forced a reversal.)
- Approximately 30% of BVA appeals result in reversal of initial decisions. Consistent with the American Legion and Inspector General studies mentioned above.
- The US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims reverses an unknown additional proportion of BVA denials. The proportion will probably remain unknown because

most Court decisions result in remand to the BVA for reconsideration rather than a Court decisive 'yes or no' decision.

- Many claimants do not appeal denials regardless of the merits of their case. They don't know about the appeal process, are afraid of 'Boards' and "Courts", are intimidated by twelve page statements of the case, don't know where to find good advice or representation, or just don't have the energy or patience to go through any more stress. Their cases stay denied by passive default and not because of initial claim accuracy. But, as stated earlier, those cases stay counted in the 'accurate' column by the authors of the VA "94.39% initial-level accuracy."

Reducing the real error rate in adjudication of initial claims would reduce the number of appeals, thereby reducing the backlog in appeals, and obviate the VA-claimed need for revisions to the current appeal system.

The current high level of initial decision errors corrected by appeals encourages more appeals. In the years following hypothetical progress in VA accuracy in initial claims adjudication the proportion of successful appeals would decline, the great majority of appeal decisions would confirm accurate initial adjudication decisions, and the incentive to appeal would decline.

Appeal decisions should be used to refine the present system of adjudication. Initial claim decisions should not be denied on a basis which was reversed on earlier appeal by a similarly situated claimant, yet they all too often are. The VA complains about their appeals workload. A high proportion, if not the majority, of that workload is created by bad management.

As long as any initial claim adjudication decisions are in error, which some residual proportion inevitably will continue to be in spite of everyone's best efforts, we must not reduce or otherwise harm the protections for veterans' rights inherent to the current appeal system. To do so would harm the veterans, surviving spouses, and dependent children who have no other realistic avenues to pursue.

The VA appeal proposals to Congress would combine the worst of both worlds: claims initially adjudicated during the 'close these backlogged incoming claims quickly, higher than normal error rate era' denials are getting dumped into a constrained 'streamlined appeals process' with reduced options and fewer rights for the veterans. 'Greater likelihood of adjudication errors combined with reduced opportunity for corrections, a double whammy.'

The VA and USCAVC appeals system should remain as it is.

Significantly reducing the incoming flow of appeals would make the VA-claimed systemic appeal problems moot. The existing, thorough system (without proposed tack-on constraints) used not nearly as much would not cause significant overall harm to the appellants or the VA; would result in the best possible decisions; and would maintain the best aspects of the current appeals process; i.e., protection of veterans' rights and the historical guidance of established roles, relationships, and case law.

John Tilford – Service Officer

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Phone: (812)-339-2375

MARCH HAPPENINGS AT POST 604

Friday Dinner Specials – 6-8PM

March 2nd Bowl of Chili and Grilled Cheese Sandwich Special

March 10th Fried Fish Dinner – All you can eat

March 17th Rib-Eye Steak, Baked Potato, Salad, & Dessert

March 24th Meat Loaf Dinner, Salad, & Dessert

March 31st Cube Steak Dinner, Salad, & Dessert

Every Monday - open at NOON – ¼ pound hot dogs - \$1.50 ALL DAY – GREAT price

Thursdays – 7PM till Midnight – Texas Hold ‘em Tournament

Sunday Opening March 19th – Camping World 500 – Noon–6PM - Enjoy a tenderloin and watch the race.

MARCH HAPPENINGS AT POST 604
