

VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.NET

April 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. Spring came early this year and we are trying to get everything done at the Post to be ready for the summer months. Memorial Day is just around the corner and we are making plans for our ceremony at Valhalla. I hope that we don't have a mix-up on our start time like we had last year. We still haven't found out who called the newspaper and changed our start time. It has always been 10:00am.

It is time for our elections. We need people to step up and help. We have managed to keep the Post open with just a hand full of people volunteering and working hard to keep us going. We need more people helping or we will have to take a hard look at cutting our hours **AGAIN** and reducing further what we have to offer our members. This can be a great Post, but its members are the key. We must get more folks to participate and volunteer or we will lose everything that we have gained over the past two years. This past year we have done a lot of good and some neat things. I hope there are more members that will step up that want the Post to continue and grow.

I don't want to sound like everything is gloom and doom, it is not, but I know that I am getting worn out and know that some of our officers are in the same boat. **WE NEED HELP AND WE NEED IT NOW!!!**

Commander - Joe Hardin

CHANGED – New Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday 4PM – 10PM

Saturday 10AM – 10PM

We need volunteers to help tend bar. No experience is required. Help out a few hours a week and support the Post. Call the Post between 4:00PM and 10:00PM if you can help us. Without the help of volunteers, our post's future is uncertain.

Young People

You know, a lot of the news we hear or read about our young people these days is not good. Drugs, theft, shootings, and many other bad things. Here we would like to tell you about one young lady, Hope Moore who visited VFW Post 604 along with her mother Gena Moore on Saturday February 26th, unannounced and unsolicited. Hope said that they had some stuff that they wanted to donate to the troops who were serving in harm's way. Well, by the time they unloaded the car, there was approximately **12 LARGE** boxes sitting downstairs. The following is a listing of the contents in the boxes:

- ✓ 60+ Paper back books
- ✓ 15+ Hard cover books
- ✓ 90+ Magazines
- ✓ 15+ Crossword puzzle books
- ✓ 651 DVD Movies
- ✓ Several cans of nuts
- ✓ 44 Toothbrushes
- ✓ 40 Tubes of tooth paste
- ✓ 18 packages of Razors
- ✓ 35 Hand Sanitizer
- ✓ 13 packages of mouth wash
- ✓ 79 packages of gum
- ✓ 25 packages of candy bars
- ✓ 17 Decks of cards
- ✓ 12 Bags of Popcorn
- ✓ 23 packages of beef jerky
- ✓ 66 pens & pencils
- ✓ 76 packages of Tissues
- ✓ 44 packages of Kool-Aid
- ✓ And a whole bunch of other useful stuff

This young lady had collected all of this by herself. Her mother said she didn't help at all. So we asked Hope what her motivation was for doing all of this. Hope said that she just felt like she wanted to do something for the men and women who were serving to help keep her, her family and the United States of America free. Hope made up flyers, went

See Young People

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Another VA Problem and Recommended Fix

VA Form 21-526: Why does the VA still insist on combining non-service connected pension applications with service connected disability compensation applications on the same form? I know, the veteran “might be eligible for both and could then draw the greater benefit”. But how often does that situation come up? One in a hundred? So 99% of the time incorporating both program applications in one form confuses applicants, causes extra work, and wastes tons of paper? Let’s think about this a little. While you are pondering, let me admit that the current 21-526 is an improvement over its predecessor. It’s not as good as the 1970s version of the VA Form 21-526 which ran to only four pages to satisfy the exact same benefit application information requirements, but it’s better than the 1990s and 2000s VA Forms 21-526 which ran to around 13 pages. Really, is there a reason the VA ever asked “*Have you been exposed to ionizing radiation?*” The barely-high-school-educated-seventy-years-ago veteran claimants had no idea what ‘ionizing radiation’ meant. Wouldn’t it have made more sense to simplify the form to ask only what was necessary to process the application? Wouldn’t that be easier for both the claimants and for the VA adjudicators? If a vet said in the remarks block (as one of my clients did) that many of his current medical problems were caused by his excessive exposure to nuclear radiation during the Baker test of Operation Crossroads after he was erroneously cleared to board a target vessel that later proved much too “hot”, well, that’s what the ‘remarks’ block is for – remarking. If the intent was to gather weird information on applicants for some esoteric kinds of studies, why not survey the applicants by mail or telephone sampling or other statistically valid means and leave the 21-526 the heck alone as a disability application form? Fix: **Separate application forms for service connected compensation and non-service connected pension, and don’t ask for more information than necessary for adjudication of the claim.** Only in special circumstances will more information be needed. In those cases the information may be more carefully – as in specifically – requested during development of these cases. Contrary to Central Office belief, one size does not fit all.

Appeals, taking forever: “*What are they doing, waiting for me to die?*” I was a GS-5 trainee Veterans Benefits Counselor working in the Indy VARO the first time I heard a veteran make that statement. He was a WWII veteran. The most recent time I heard it from a Vietnam War veteran. I’ve lost count in between. None of these veterans were kidding. Let me restate

that another way – all of the veterans I have ever heard speak that not-so-rhetorical question were deadly serious. For an elderly and/or dying veteran, it makes poignant sense. I formerly discouraged the vets from that attitude as an apologist for the VA. Now I don’t answer at all. They may be right. Fix: there are several small-scope fixes, some of which I’ve stumbled into too late to help a deceased appellant. Here’s one: Do not elect for new information obtained during a hearing with BVA judge which has not been considered at the VARO level, to be considered by the VARO before going back to the BVA. The VARO is not usually going to reverse itself unless told to do so. Don’t waste the time. Send the best evidence you have straight back to the BVA and pray.

Service Officer - John Tilford

Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

It's Spring weather, time to work in our yards. My flowers are coming up. Hope a frost doesn't get them.

Sad news we have lost two more Auxiliary members this past month; Kathleen Thompson and Gertrude Hurst, also Mary Bohenkamp lost her husband John. Let's keep Bill Figg in our prayers he's back in the hospital.



We must Recruit New Members. There are many people out there who have not been asked to join our organization. Now is the time to ask people to become a part of this wonderful organization; one that assists America's heroes to get **all** of their entitlements; one that assists our youth; one that

assists our communities; one that totally supports America's troops at home and abroad. Won't you join us in making our organization stronger by assisting in a recruiting campaign and signing up new and reinstated members. The best recruiting tool we have is our visibility in the community. If people see all of the great work we do, they will want to be a part of us too! Ask The Questions to see if they are eligible. We will never know if we don't ask.

At our April meeting we will have our election's for the coming year officers. We don't have a date for the (bingo) move so watch the newspaper or news letter or you can call the post. If anyone wants to help move our Bingo back please let the post know. Keep us in your prayer's. ❖

Janet Williams, President VFW Ladies Auxiliary

New Hours

Laurens B. Strain - VFW Post 604

April 2012

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
1  Post Open - 1200 - 1800	2 * Vet to Vet - 1900	3	4	5 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	6  1900 - Commander's Drawing 1900 - Brad Harris Entertains	7 1917 - US Enters WW I \$1.25 Beer Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
8 Easter	9 1865 - Robert E. Lee surrenders * Vet to Vet - 1900	10	11	12 1861 - US Civil War Begins Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	13  1900 - Commander's Drawing 1900 - Brad Harris Entertains	14 \$1.25 Beer Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
15	16 * Vet to Vet - 1900	17 Club Elections Meetings V.F.W. - 1800 Men's Aux - 1800 Ladies Aux - 1800 	18	19 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	20  1900 - Commander's Drawing 1900 - Brad Harris Entertains	21 \$1.25 Beer Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
22	23 * Vet to Vet - 1900	24	25	26 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	27  1900 - Commander's Drawing 1900 - Brad Harris Entertains	28 \$1.25 Beer Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
29 1975 - Fall of Saigon * Vet to Vet - 1900	30					

(* 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

PPT License # 124405

Bingo License # 125265

Raffle License # 124404

604 Canteen - Lunch Menu

LUNCH OUT OF BUSINESS

APRIL FOOLS DAY

NO FOOLIN', the calendar says winter is over—**SERIOUSLY - NO FOOLING** the weather outside says winter is over—**SERIOUSLY** we think it's a good idea to be **OPEN April 1st**

Sunday April Fools Day. We are going to have **HOT DOGS-CONEY DOGS** plus fixings and Duke's beans (Duke is the dog Bush's Bean commercial). **NASCAR** is at Martinsville, so that's a short track which means a bunch of bumping and grinding. The green flag flies at 12:30 pm and we will be open at Noon till 6:00 pm.

Oh Heck, let's have **PICK-YOUR-DRINK-DAY** also! Explanation Please!?!? It's easy, for \$2.00 you take your blind pick from the jar and that's the drink you get. It may be beer or shot of José or glass of wine or ?????? and guaranteed you will get your monies worth.

Just remember its April Fools Day so come on out (get the dust blown off of ya from winter and have a dog, some beans, watch a little racing and have a whole lot of fun.

HEY, LET'S GET THIS SUMMER ROCKIN HERE AT YOUR VFW POST 604!!!! Just remember, we are here—we just need **YOU!!!!** ❖

House Committee

Young People

Continued from page 1
around to local businesses asking for donations, had a Facebook page dedicated to her effort, and even had a Twitter following. **Incredible!!!**

Hope is a senior at Bloomington South High School, lives in Harrodsburg, and aspires to become an Oncology nurse working with children. If the effort she put into this project is any indication, we feel very confident that she will become one fine nurse.

So to Ms. Hope Moore, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 604 would like to say **THANK-YOU**. You are one fine person. From our own experiences, we are sure that our military men and women will greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness and donation. Needless to say we know mom is **PROUD** too!

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



Member participation is desired and encouraged!!!

Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D)

VFW members in good standing are eligible to enroll in affordable voluntary AD&D coverage, underwritten by Monumental Life Insurance Company. This coverage is a great way to supplement the \$1,000 of coverage provided to VFW members in good standing with their membership, to help with unexpected costs of an accident.

To request free information call 1-800-749-6983 or visit the Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment page on <http://www.vfwinsurance.com>

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

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Phone: (812)-339-2375

VFW Bingo & the Move Home

To bring VFW Bingo back to Post 604, the Indiana Gaming Commission requires we advertize the move for 4 weeks in the local newspaper. As of this writing we are in week one. A specific date has not been set as of now.

Watch VFW Post 604 Newsletter next Month for updates or check out our Web Page www.vfw-604.com

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
Bloomington, IN*
(Fraternal Order of Eagles) Bingo License # 125265