

VFW POST 604 NEWS

July 2011

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

TO ALL MEMBERS - WE ARE OPEN, LET ME SAY THAT AGAIN ...

WE ARE OPEN

I can proudly say once again we are VFW Post #604 of Bloomington, In. Our doors are open for business and for the enjoyment of our members. It took a lot longer than we had anticipated and we are sorry for any inconvenience it may have caused. I want everyone to understand it took a lot of hard work to get the doors open, and I want to give a Big Thank You to all the members and non members that spent a lot of time and effort to make this happen.

Information on our rededication is elsewhere in this newsletter, so be sure and mark your calendars. We want everyone to come out and see our new building, and join us in the celebration.

We still need volunteers for the bar and kitchen. Please step up and give some help. Thank you!!!

Commander - Joe Hardin

Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

Let the party begin!

After several years of waiting, Indiana's oldest continuously operating VFW post is once again open for business. That's a fact worth celebrating and we plan to do it with a special rededication ceremony on Sunday, July 10.

Laurens B. Strain Post 604 is located on the northwest corner of Bloomington at 2404 West Industrial Park Drive, not far from the intersection of Vernal Pike and State Road 37.

Festivities will get underway at 10am on the 10th. Guests will be treated to free food and soft drinks (in addition to burgers and dogs, Tom Vernon will be smoking a hog). This is a family-friendly event. Kids are encouraged to take advantage of face painting, games and balloons. Adults will be able to enjoy a cash bar, raffles and a grand prize give-away.

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Men's Auxiliary

Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

What a good feeling is it to have the post open. Some times we thought it was not possible, but there are people who never gave up and kept pushing - not giving up on having a Post Home for our Veterans. We can't thank them enough. Be sure to let them know when you come in - shake their hand and let them know you care.

The Auxiliary women are still having Bingo on Thursdays at 5.30pm and Saturdays at 2.30 pm. Come and visit us and maybe win some \$\$\$.

Please pay your dues now and let us know if you have had a changed of address.

(Tradition on Caring) Remember, our freedom and the right to make our own decisions are because of

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Ladies Auxiliary



“Get your Aid and Attendance!” scam back again!

A few months ago the Post 604 newsletter carried an article about shysters pushing “Aid and Attendance pension” to elderly wartime veterans. Last week the Pastor of our New Unionville Baptist Church was approached by one of these . . . people. He wanted to make his pitch to the congregation!

There is no such thing as “Aid and Attendance Improved Pension”. Aid and Attendance (“A&A”) is the highest level of both the Department of Veterans Affairs veterans’ non-service connected pension and the survivors’ non-service connected death pension. The A&A level is one notch above Housebound, which is one notch above basically qualified. A&A is what it sounds like – the beneficiary requires the aid and attendance of others for the basic needs of living: bathing, eating, management of medications, use of bed pans, etc. A&A eligibility is assumed by the VA without a physical examination report if the pension applicant is a PATIENT in a NURSING HOME. Housebound is what it sounds like – the veteran or surviving spouse can rarely get out of their home because of vision, balance, or other mobility issues. Basic qualifications for a pre-1980 veteran are minimum one day of wartime service, minimum 90 days total service, and permanent unemployability [assumed if 65 and over]. Basic qualification for a surviving spouse is that their wartime veteran spouse is deceased. Both pension programs are “needs based” with different income limits at each of the three levels for each program and an approximate \$80,000 net worth limit [not counting their home]. Too much countable income or too much net worth means no pension, regardless of degree of physical handicap.

MEDICAL expenses can be subtracted from gross income to reach “countable income”. Your WWII grandfather who is a patient in a nursing home probably has zero countable income because his \$4,000 per month medical expenses exceed his \$2,500 income. He would be entitled to the maximum A&A rate for non-service connected pension, currently \$1,644 per month for a vet with no dependents. BUT healthy veterans living in an “independent living community”, or even “assisted care” in many circumstances, are NOT paying a medical expense to the living facility. They are paying RENT. Rent may NOT be subtracted from gross income.

The veteran or surviving spouse is left with a big overpayment debt to Uncle Sam when a fraudulent claim for pension is discovered by the VA. The “we’re here to help veterans” speakers move on to their next presentation, the retirement facility gets a few more leases signed – all with penalties for early cancelation

Aid and Attendance scam

continued

– and the suckered veterans and surviving spouses get a nasty surprise.

I offered to review the presentation materials used by the . . . person who approached our Pastor. ‘Went to the meeting as scheduled. ‘Turned out he wanted me to pay up to “settle” his threatened civil suit for libel because I used the best non-curse words I could think of when advising our Pastor to not cooperate – words such as “crook”. I told him to go ahead and sue. The . . . person never did show me the materials. You might want to warn your minister/pastor about these kinds of . . . people.

John Tilford - Post Service Officer

More Eligible for TSGLI Payments

Servicemembers who suffered traumatic injuries between Oct. 7, 2001, and Nov. 30, 2005, could be eligible for as much as \$100,000 under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI) program, according to the VA. Previously, servicemembers had to have served in Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom between these dates to have been eligible---those who suffered qualifying injuries from Dec. 1, 2005, forward were already eligible. Now all troops, regardless of where the injury occurred, could qualify for TSGLI if they suffered a qualifying injury, such as loss of limb or sight, brain injury or burns. Payments for the newly eligibility group will not begin until Oct. 1, but eligible individuals may file for the benefit immediately. The traumatic insurance supplement was a tremendous VFW legislative victory back in April 2005, when the proposal went from bill to law in 27 days. For more information on eligibility or to apply, go to www.insurance.va.gov/sgliSite/TSGLI/TSGLI.htm.

Chaplain's Corner

Comrades, we have moved in to the new post. One of the finishing touches is putting up the Hospital/Sick Call message board. I am open to suggestions as to the place that it should be so that it get the most viewing. Also I still need an update on any comrades that are in long term facilities.

Chaplain Roy M. Smith

someone's sacrifice. Have a lump in your throat and perhaps a tear in your eye as you watch our American Flag pass by. Also remember it is because of loyal, dedicated American heroes, many of whom laid down their lives for their country, we have these rights. Help keep patriotism alive. Work closely with your Americanism Chairman so that everyone continues the (TRADITION OF CARING).

Let's all call our friends and invite them to come back to Post 604. See you at the Grand Opening

May God bless our country,

Janet Williams, President VFW Ladies Auxiliary

Landscaping Day

Putting in the finishing touches



At the heart of the party will be a noontime rededication ceremony featuring special guest speakers, flag-raising, and symbolic presentation of a key to the building.

A membership table will be set up for those who are eligible to join the VFW, as well as the Men's and Ladies' Auxiliaries. Those who are renewing previous memberships will be able to get their new cards. Applications and eligibility rules will be available for those who are considering a new membership.

With so much happening throughout the day, we still need plenty of volunteers to help cover all of the activities. Stop by Post 604 before the 10th and add your name to the sign-up sheet if you can spend some time: setting up on Saturday July 9th, helping with cooking/food service, selling pull tabs, membership table, balloons, or clean-up.

Our Rededication Day is open to members and non-members alike. The VFW has a long and proud tradition of supporting programs that benefit veterans as well as the entire Bloomington community.

Mike Pipher, President VFW Men's Auxiliary

Adhoc Computer Training to be offered

Post-604 has WiFi and two house-PC's available for patron use at no charge. Also at no cost, Thursday evenings from 6:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. and Saturday mornings from 10:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. the Post will answer computer questions and provide assistance with understanding computer software. Open to VFW or Auxiliary members and will be limited to Microsoft Office, Microsoft Windows, Internet, and email issues. Delivery shall be tailored depending on the level of interest, and participation.

Email question (topic) in advance if possible to Mark using post address VFW-604@COMCAST.NET.

Electronic Newsletter Delivery

If you would rather receive the VFW Post 604 Newsletter in email verses a paper copy, please send an email to VFW-604@comcast.net with your name, email address, and a short message as to what the email is for. We will add you to the emailing list and send you this newsletter as your first emailing to confirm your request. If you do not get the electronic newsletter, or have trouble viewing it, please feel free to call me after 7:00PM at the number provided in the Officer's listing under the calendar on page 5.

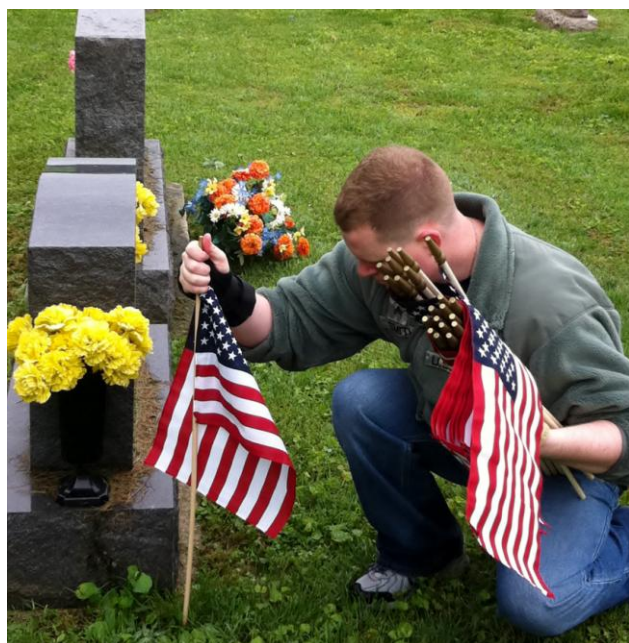
Aside from saving a tree and reducing production costs to the Post, you will likely receive it days earlier as it will be emailed to you when it is sent to the printers.

Renewing Membership

Your continued membership is important to us. The V.F.W. and its Auxiliaries are the life-blood of our post. If you know of someone desiring to join our ranks please do not hesitate to contact one of our officers.

Annual membership renewal forms are mailed to each V.F.W. and Auxiliary member. Dues shall be forwarded per the directions contained in the notice received by the member with the renewal form. If you do not receive a renewal notice, please contact the Post 604 Quartermaster or one of your club officers for assistance. ❖

Memorial Day



News from around the Canteen

Naturally the very best news you have already read about and with the Post being open that means the CANTEEN is OPEN. So, from now until July 11th we will have Special's on all of our beer and a couple of mixed drinks. And hey! If we get good participation on these Special's we may just extend them out to the end of July. So come on out-bring your better half or a friend or your buddy that you like to argue with - it won't take a whole bag of coins to wet your whistle and see the Post. Any of our volunteer bartenders will be happy to serve up your favorite brewski during the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday. We also have had questions concerning if we were going to be open on Sundays. This is being considered, but it won't happen right away. Sunday openings would be for Member's only and we need to find a volunteer to tend bar say from Noon to 6:00 p.m.-these are things we are working on.

Now as for the Kitchen, we are not too far from opening for at least Lunch to begin with and the food we have ordered will not only be tasty but there will be good size portions at very reasonable prices. We are working on the menu and still looking for volunteers to cook-mostly for lunch - it will be sandwiches to start with.

If you would like to volunteer to bartend or cook, please let us know. There are not many of us volunteering at this point and we are trying to do our best. It sure would be nice to have more members raise their hand and increase our volunteer base.

At any rate be sure to make note of our Grand Re-Opening on Sunday July 10th starting at 10:00 AM - Free Food & Sodas. Cash bar will be available where your alcohol drinks will cost you just a smidge. Of course we would like to see you at the Post before then. Almost forgot-YES - we will be open on Monday July 4th.❖

House Committee



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

Please call ahead to confirm whether the Post Canteen is open

Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

July 2011

	10:00AM – 10:00PM	10:00AM – 10:00PM	10:00AM – 10:00PM	10:00AM – 10:00PM	10:00AM – 10:00PM	10:00AM – 10:00PM
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	Independence Day 4  * Vet to Vet – 1900	5	6	7	8	9 Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
10 VFW Post 604 Rededication and Grand Reopening 10:00 AM – Closing	11 * Vet to Vet – 1900	12	13	14 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	15	16 Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
17	18 * Vet to Vet – 1900	19 Men's Aux Mtg – 1800 Ladies Aux Mtg - 1900 (Eagles) V.F.W. Mtg – 1800	20	21 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	22	23 Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
24 31	25 * Vet to Vet – 1900	26	27	28 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	29	30 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 Numbers

Post 604 – Canteen (812) 339-2375

PPT License # 124405

Raffle License # 124404

Bingo License # 121844

Post Officers

VFW Post 604			Men's Auxiliary to VFW Post 604			Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 604		
Commander	Joe Hardin	(812) 334-8479	President	Mike Pipher	(812) 334-0748	President	E. Janet Williams	(812) 876-3676
Senior Vice Commander	Bill Halliday	(812) 360-4862	Senior Vice President	Joe Crawford	(812) 330-1343	Senior Vice President	Millie Briles	(812) 336-8409
Junior Vice Commander	Ty Briles	(812) 360-6518	Junior Vice President	Mark Sink	(812) 336-4566	Junior Vice President	Mary Figg	(812) 876-4971
Quartermaster	Mark Dammer	(812) 824-3367	Treasurer	Mike Griffith	(812) 349-2563	Treasurer	Patty Pate	(812) 339-6045
Adjutant	Bob Lanning	(812) 327-7953	Secretary	Mike Griffith	(812) 349-2563	Secretary	Kathy Hardin	(812) 334-8479
Chaplin	Roy Smith	(812) 626-9829	Chaplin	Eric Sink	(812) 336-4566	Chaplin	Joyce Grubb	(812) 336-6447
Service Officer	John Tilford	(812) 336-5574				Patriotic Instructor	Wilma Hays	(812) 332-5329
1 Year House Committee	Cathi Johnson	(812) 876-5745						
2 Year House Committee	Leonard L Heldman	(812) 361-9129						
3 Year House Committee	John Martin	(812) 339-1113						

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"

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Phone: (812)-339-2375

REDEDICATION

Members, Families, Guests, & Public Invited

July 10, 2011

10:00 A.M. until Close

VIP's from City, State, and Federal Government in Attendance

Open Cash Bar

Free Food & Refreshments