
VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.ORG

July 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

Hi Everyone! June has come and gone and July has arrived. I can tell you that things have been hopping here at the Post. We are gearing up for the 4th of July parade. We want to have as many members on the float as possible so come by the Post and sign up. As I have stated before, we are sponsoring the parade this year. Let's let everyone know that VFW Post 604 is leading the way.

Our Memorial Day service was enjoyed by many Veterans, lots of patriotic people in Monroe County and people from surrounding counties as well. I want to thank all who came out to our program and all the people who participated to make it a great event.

We also held our State Convention in Indianapolis in June. There was a great turnout from throughout the State and several from surrounding states.

As most of you know, our new Post officers took office as soon as the new State Commander was sworn in. I am asking everyone to get behind our new officers and keep Post 604 as the best Post in the State.

We were also invited to the Family Day Program held by the Headquarters Battery 2D Battalion 150th Field Artillery on June 19th at the National Guard Armory. As a result of attending, we signed up 5 new members to our Post. I want to thank everyone who attended the Family Day Program and took time away from Father's Day to help. The Auxiliary also signed up 2 new members. Thanks to Dorothy White for being there.

The Saturday before Memorial Day we placed flags at Clear Creek Cemetery. We had a great turnout from our members and volunteers that came out to help. We also picked up 5 new cemeteries this year. I am so grateful to all who stepped up and gave their personal time to make sure flags were placed on all Veterans' graves. We invited all who helped place flags back to the Post for a free breakfast to show our appreciation. List of people who helped place flags were : Aneisha Porter; Ady Miles; Bella Miles; Antonia Kieffaber; Zane Ketcham; Ben, Angie, Brennan, Paxton, and Brooklyn Gieger; Xander, Dominic, Lukas, and Mark Dammer; James Smith; Zandra Lafond; Roy Smith; Leo E. "Gene" Marcel; Joe Hardin; Julia Curtis; JoAnn Veernon; Debie Deckard; Bob Lanning; Joseph Hardin; Marcia Parker; John, and Polly Tilford; Joy, Jennifer, Jessica, Joshua, and Brian Stewart; and Dennis Knoy. If I missed anyone or misspelled your name please forgive me. Special thanks to Frank Ozug for cooking an excellent breakfast for all that helped place the flags.

Commander - Joe Hardin

Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

Hi there – hope everyone is enjoying this hot summer weather. We are just starting to throw some parties and have some fun on the deck. If you haven't been out and joined us yet you should try to get in and see what you are missing, maybe this month come out on NASCAR Sunday July 24th and try one of our tenderloins you can watch the race and party on the deck with us. If that doesn't fit into your schedule we still have the all-you-can-eat fish fry on the 2nd Friday of the month and we have started cooking on the 5th Friday if there happens to be one and it looks like July is a 5 Friday month so we will have spaghetti.

Texas holdem is still going strong having almost 60 players each Thursday night. If you haven't stopped in and played a tourney with us you should we have a good group that supports us every week. Our 50/50 proceeds are matched by the Post and split between Riley Hospital for Children and the VFW Children's Home both very worthwhile and needy organizations.

I would like to try and clear up any confusion there might be regarding the Men's and Ladies' Auxiliary at Post 604. National has approved for the two auxiliaries to merge making it all just one auxiliary not labeled men or ladies. What has been referred to as the ladies has a charter and unfortunately the men's do not. So this merge put the two together under the existing charter. However, it was left up to each individual Post to vote on and decide if they were merging or keeping the auxiliaries separate. Post 604 voted (along with a few others) to keep them separate. You say, what does that mean to me, well if you so choose you could join both auxiliaries or nothing has to change you can still join or renew your dues with the men's auxiliary and we would love to have you. Both auxiliaries are here to work together to support the Post and the veterans we are so proud of and we will remain as two until we are forced to merge -if that happens- until then we are going to remain the Men's auxiliary. Couple of projects we are working on and pricing is over \$3,000 worth of siding to the front and side of the Post and starting to looking into the A/C figuring that project will be between \$4-7,000. Can't do any of this without your support.

Hope you plan to visit us soon.

Tim Haney, President VFW Men's Auxiliary

VFW Auxiliary

I'd like to thank all our officers for their hard work over the past year and to welcome our new officers for the coming year 2016-2017. Our President Julia Curtis is taking time off. Thank you for all your time and effort over the past 2 years.

Post 604 is totally run by volunteers including our meals and functions. Please let them know that they are appreciated. Come out and enjoy all our Friday dinners and Sunday openings. We do all these for our members. I would personally like to invite our Auxiliary members to attend a meeting to see what changes have been made. We are also open for suggestions and ideas. The meeting is held downstairs at 6PM on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. July 19, 2016 is our next one. If you don't like stairs we have a door at the back of the post for easy access.

The menu for July 22nd is meat loaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, and desserts.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

July 4th – Bloomington 4th of July parade

July 17th – District mtg 10:30am – Post 6606, Clay City

July 19th – Post 604 Auxiliary Meeting – 6PM at the Post

God bless our veterans both near and far and god bless America.

Dorothy White
President VFW Auxiliary
812-345-9025

TAPS

Joseph Richard Davis

Joe served in the Air Force in Germany

"With each passing day, things will become easier.

This is to let you know that there is tremendous Support behind you today."

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

James C. Arnold. Chaplin
VFW Post 604
Past VFW 7th District Commander

Hot Weather & Fireworks & Parades & !!!!!!!

July 4th, Independence Day, Parade Day, and the Post will **OPEN** at 10:00 a.m. and we will be serving all day long our **Jumbo Hot Dogs with Duke's Beans (Bush)**—with fix'ins—plus who knows what will be available to go along with this meal. Cost you ask??---Just a mere \$3.00.

We are going to cool down our **1st Friday of the Month Dinner Special (July 1st)** by serving a **Chicken Salad & Fruit Plate** just a mere **\$6.50**---well sure Desserts will be in there also!! We still have our **Mens Aux. Fish Dinner** on the **2nd Friday** of the month (**July 8th**)-all you can eat!! And would you believe just **\$7.00??** From there we go to our **3rd Friday of the Month STEAK NIGHT (15th)!!** 8 oz. Ribeye with Baked Potato and Salad and Dessert all for just **\$11.**

And then we are going to the races—**Brickyard 400 (NASCAR SUNDAY)** on the **24th of July.** We will **OPEN** at **NOON**, and of course this is being brought to you by our Men's Aux and their **Gigantic Hand-Dipped Breaded Tenderloin Sandwiches.**

Check out The Auxiliary article for the 4th Friday of the Month Dinner Special And then—yes we do have the **5th Friday of the Month (29th) Dinner Special** this is where the **Tim & Tim Boys** get together to feature their **Spaghetti Dinner with Garlic Bread & Salad & Desserts** Now we did hear these two guys bragging about how good their meal is!?!?!?---so hey!!, for **\$6.50** we shall find out!! And don't forget we still have our **Texas Hold-em Tournament** every **Thursday**, starts at **7:00 p.m.**

House Committee



*****NOTICE*****

The post has two electric mobile chairs and wheel chairs for the handicapped for loan to any member or family of any member. Contact Cmdr Joe Hardin for details.

Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

July 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
					1 Serving Dinner 1800 – 2000  Commander's Drawing 1900	2
3	 4 Independence Day Serving Hot Dogs & Bush Beans Open @ 10 AM	5	6	7  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	8 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000  Commander's Drawing 1900	9
10	11 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	12	13	14  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	15 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000  Commander's Drawing 1900	16
17	18 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	19 Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 V.F.W. Aux – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800	20	21  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	22 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000  Commander's Drawing 1900	23
24  Brickyard 400 30 Open @ 10 am	25 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	26	27	28  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	29 Serving Dinner 1800 - 2000  Commander's Drawing 1900	30

(* 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

Unintended Consequences

– or as the supply sergeant usta say –

“Lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part.”

The Great Backlog of Department of Veterans Affairs Initial Claims has declined. The number of claims older than 125 days peaked a couple of years ago somewhere around 800,000. I suppose reducing that somewhat questionable number is good, but to adjudicate initial claims at an accelerated rate to do so – under, as you recall, significant pressure from the national media, all the veterans service organizations, the public and therefore our fickle Congress (which controls the money) – VA management decided to pull VA employees from other types of work and assign them to processing initial claims. To use a military illustration, sort of “There’s an enemy breakthrough on the perimeter! Grab all the headquarters troops and the walking wounded and get them out there now!” The immediate assault is repulsed (crisis addressed) and everyone feels more secure (VA management can keep their jobs). And then we realize the S-4 shop didn’t get more ammunition, potable water, and medical supplies. The S-1 didn’t get the dead accounted and processed for burial. The S-3 staff didn’t continue to plan for the next operation. The S-2 shop didn’t monitor incoming message traffic or the listening devices and has no idea where the enemy is and what they might do next. And everyone felt [past tense] more secure until the next crisis hit, and the next, and kicked in the realization that all these functions – big and small – are ultimately critical to overall mission accomplishment and all are needed. The commander who does not assure that all are being addressed is not doing his or her job.

Now there’s a huge backlog of appeals cases. Measured in terms of wait time, well over two years (and counting) have been added to the already significant wait for a Board of Veterans Appeals hearing. The common remark among appellants is, “What is the VA doing? Waiting for me to die?” Just as you would suspect, people are now complaining about the appeal situation, service organizations are testifying before Congress, Congress wants to look like they care, the VA comes up with an “Appeals will be our top priority!” response, and VA employees from other areas get detailed into processing appeals.

Peter Drucker was one of the most influential and respected management analysts of the 20th Century. One of his many quotations is, “So much of what we call management consists of making it difficult for people to work.” Imagine yourself working for the VA and being jerked around. A high proportion of your time, often months at a stretch, you are assigned to do work with which you are not all that familiar while your regular work is neglected. When the appeals people were thrown into the initial claims backlog work a couple of years ago they made mistakes more often than did the initial claims people. Now many of those mistakes are being appealed – and those appeals are from the claimants who know their rights. Claimants who don’t, don’t. They just stay cheated.

Drucker is considered the father of Management by Objectives (MBO). Determine what it is you want to do, then reverse plan all the functions that must be done in order to accomplish the objectives. An implied task for management is to timely supply sufficient resources, including staffing, to do those functions. Quality control was part of each step.

However, even in the best of VA times, the actual error rate in the initial adjudication of claims was much higher than it should have been. This results in many cases having to be worked again and again at higher and higher levels of appeals until the claimant can’t go any higher or wins what he or she was thereby proven (through this lengthy quasi-legal process involving highly paid specialists and attorneys) to have deserved back at the beginning, years earlier. Not only do early mistakes hurt the veteran claimants, but the VA greatly increases its own workload and the hourly cost of processing that expanded workload.

These are not the best of VA times. There are scandals regarding medical appointment wait times, ‘secret’ internal guidance to intentionally misdiagnose disabilities, executives getting themselves reassigned in order to get real estate reimbursement bonuses, and – here we are – ‘whack-a-mole management’ whereby employees are thrown against the crisis currently drawing attention rather than being stable in applying their training and experience.

There are proposals to privatize VA medical care. A review of the service organization magazines discloses impassioned pleas before Congress to preserve the VA medical system, just fix it.

On the adjudication side of the VA, there are now proposals to limit appeal rights. Proposed changes are no more than one appeal per denial, choice of no more than one or two levels of appeal, appeal fees, etc. The rationale is “There are too many appeals.” My counter is, “If the VA would process the claims accurately the first time, there would be very few appeals within the existing framework and appeal rights.” I think that Drucker would agree that the VA appeal system workload should be, if the VA was doing their job the right way from the start, self-regulating. When many appeals are ‘won’, meaning denials are reversed (confirming VA initial errors) and retroactive benefits paid, more appeals are encouraged. When the initial claims processing is done well and most appeals are ‘lost’, meaning the initial denials are confirmed as accurate and most appeals turn out to be wastes of time and trouble, appeals are discouraged.

Well, I wish I could say I feel better now . . .

John Tilford – Service Officer

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