
VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.ORG

January 2018

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

Comrades,

I am writing this in the wake of a very successful Post meeting. Through the efforts of our Quartermaster, we had an excellent view of our annual income and giving. Upon his motion, it was decided (UNANIMOUSLY) that we will make local contributions when they are requested. We will make a once a year (end of the year) contribution to the VFW National Home of 10% of our net income. This is a forward thinking policy that will insure the health of the Post (financially), and at the same time allow for the giving that the Post and its members are noted for.

Another thing that came out of the meeting is a warning. It seems that the Indiana Excise Police have increased their numbers and there will be increased enforcement at private clubs. That means, if you mean to exercise your canteen privileges, you must have your membership card with you. Also, if you bring guests, signing them in needs to be the first order of business.

The biggest event in January is our 97th Anniversary Dinner. This year it will be Saturday 13 January at 1800. Please make every effort to attend. We always have a wonderful meal. It is a great recap of the activities of the Post for the last year and a chance to meet the contest winners from Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy. ❖

Yours in true Comradeship,

Commander – Roy Smith

2018
HAPPY NEW YEAR

VFW Auxiliary

As we start a new year, let us take the time to remember our friends and loved ones that are no longer with us.

The Christmas party was GREAT, lots of friends and plenty of food! The children's party went over great - as far as I've heard, the kids all like their gifts from Santa. If any of you have an idea for gifts or things to do for next year, just let me know - fresh ideas are always welcome.

Hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Dates to remember:

December 31, 2017 - New Year's Eve Party
January 13, 2008 - Post birthday dinner
January 16, 2018 - Post and Auxiliary meetings
January 28, 2018 - district meeting 10:30 AM at Greenwood Post 5864

God bless all of our veterans and your families. God bless America - Merry Christmas & Happy New Year ❖

Dorothy J White
President - VFW Auxiliary
812-345-9025

TAPS

Robert E. (Bob) Fox Sr. VFW Post 604 Life Member

Ira M Russ, VFW Post 604 Life Member

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

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

James C. Arnold, Chaplin
VFW Post 604

Indiana Skool Benefit

When I first heard about the Indiana "Child of Disabled Veteran" (CDV) award, also known as Remission of Fees, in the 1970s it was pretty simple. The child of an Indiana veteran who had wartime active duty service and a service connected disability recognized as such by the Veterans Administration was entitled to a (from the perspective of the child) significant discount on his or her tuition to any state supported college/university up to 124 semester hours. There were clarification issues, such as were adopted children eligible (if adopted before age 24), would the child of a veteran who entered active duty from Indiana but currently lives in another state be eligible (Vet just had to live in Indiana for 36 consecutive months during his or her lifetime), was there a minimum percentage for the service connected total rating (no, a zero percent rating would qualify), was there an age limit for the child (no), and did the child have to be a resident of Indiana (for one year prior). Parallel bases for eligibility were a parent being a Purple Heart recipient or former POW

The above description was accurate from the perspective of the student applying for the benefit but behind the scenes Indiana money was actually changing hands. The tuition was not just reduced – the amount of reduction varied from school to school – the schools were being reimbursed for their respective shortfalls by the state. This complexity, difficulty in budgeting for reimbursement expenses, and student and parent complaints based on the different schools having different amounts of tuition reduction ended with an Indiana court decision in 1999. Summary: ALL tuition and mandatory fees up through 124 semester hours would be covered at the undergraduate rate for ALL state supported schools. The application form also changed to ask the applicant which school they planned to attend and when.

Our Man Mitch came to office and sent staffers out to find ways to reduce Indiana government expenses. The CDV bill which passed both houses and awaited Daniels' signature stopped eligibility for children of the zero percentage service connected disabled veterans and pro-rated the state reimbursement according to the percentage of disability. Only the children of 100% service connected disabled veterans or of a veteran who died a service connected death were eligible for the 100% reimbursement, e.g., a child of a 50% disabled veteran would receive a 50% reduction. Requirements for a lived-in-Indiana-before-entering-active-duty and had-wartime-service veteran and Indiana-resident student applicant remained as did eligibility based on a Purple Heart recipient or POW parent. But the bill did expand remission of fees eligibility to include the Purple Heart recipients themselves and not just their children.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, other military service organizations, and many others were not happy. Many disabled veteran parents had based their financial planning for their children's education based on the CDV/Remission of Fees benefits in their pre-Daniels form. One issue was the sudden loss of eligibility for the children of "the zero percenters". Another was the dramatic reduction of reimbursement for children of veterans rated at the lower end of the percentage scale, such as 10% or 20%. Veterans service organizations have legislative clout based on votes. The Daniels administration stopped to reconsider.

Here we are today with the resulting compromise, a two-tiered program. The program as it was, with very few changes,

is still in effect for the children of veterans who first entered active duty before 30 June 2011. Children of veterans who first entered active duty on or after 1 July 2011 are covered by the new program. (Information for this article is from the official website of the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs at <https://www.in.gov/dva/2378.htm>)

Here's an excerpt from the "disabled veteran entered on 1 July 2011 or after" program pertaining to tuition reimbursement rates:

- the eligible applicant is entitled to a reduction in the educational costs that would otherwise apply as follows:
 - (1) If the individual's father or mother suffered a disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs with a rating of eighty percent (80%) or more, the individual is entitled to a one hundred percent (100%) reduction in education costs.
 - (2) If the individual's father or mother suffered a disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs with a rating of less than eighty percent (80%), the individual is entitled to a reduction in education costs equal to the sum of:
 - (A) twenty percent (20%); plus
 - (B) the disability rating of the individual's father or mother.

You'll notice the original Daniels "takes 100% to get 100%" was changed to 80% and up. It also can be read that a zero percent service connected rating would result in a 20% remission of fees, i.e., 20% is the floor of eligibility if one of the student's parents had wartime service and any service connected disability. (As with any state or federal VA benefit, when in doubt apply. The school's veterans affairs and financial aid offices can advise and assist.) The new program added grade point average and maximum age requirements (sufficient to show progress and less than 32 when enrolling) upon the students, a five year Indiana residency requirement for the veterans prior to their entering active duty, and other restrictions too numerous to list here.

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs stopped accepting the former CDV/Remission of Fees application State Form 20234 (R16 / 4-08) on 1 November 2017. Student applicants now must apply online through <https://scholartrack.in.gov> and "All students must upload a copy of their birth certificate or adoption papers with their online application." (I tried to work my way through the "scholartrack" system in order to describe the process but it locked up somewhere after I entered my high school graduation year. I didn't get a chance to "upload a copy of my birth certificate". 'Probably a good thing. There might have been an explosion.)

The children of most of our Post 604 VFW members would be covered by the "grandfathered" (in most ways the better) pre-July 2011 CDV/Remission of Fees program.

CDV/Remission of Fees applies only to the following schools: Ball State; Indiana State University; all campuses of Indiana University, Purdue University, Indiana University - Purdue University, and Ivy Tech Community College; University of Southern Indiana; Vincennes University; and Western Governor's University (WGU) INDIANA. ❖

John Tilford – Service Officer

Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

JANUARY 2018

Closed	Open 1200 - 2200	Open 1600 - 2200	Open 1600 - 2200	Open 1600 - 2200	Open 1600 - 2200	Open 1000 - 2200
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				 <p>Starts at 7pm</p> <p>* Vet to Vet – 1800</p>	 <p>6:00 PM - Gigantic Hand-Dipped Breaded Tenderloin, Mashed Potatoes & Corn plus Dessert</p> <p>Commander's Drawing 1900</p>	
7	<p>8</p> <p>HOT DOG MONDAY</p> <p>Open @ Noon</p>	9	10	 <p>Starts at 7pm</p> <p>* Vet to Vet – 1800</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Fish Fry 1800 - 2000</p>  <p>Commander's Drawing 1900</p>	13
14	<p>15</p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</p> <p>HOT DOG MONDAY</p> <p>Open @ Noon</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Meetings</p> <p>V.F.W. – 1800</p> <p>V.F.W. Aux – 1800</p>	17	 <p>Starts at 7pm</p> <p>* Vet to Vet – 1800</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Rib Eye Dinner 1800 - 2000</p>  <p>Commander's Drawing 1900</p>	20
21	<p>22</p> <p>HOT DOG MONDAY</p> <p>Open @ Noon</p>	23	24	 <p>Starts at 7pm</p> <p>* Vet to Vet – 1800</p>	 <p>6:00 PM - Chicken & Noodles, Fried Biscuits, & Green Beans</p> <p>Commander's Drawing 1900</p>	27
28	<p>29</p> <p>HOT DOG MONDAY</p> <p>Open @ Noon</p>	30	31	 		

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

Telephone Number (812) 339-2375

Charity Game Night License # 144211

Raffle License # 1414210



Lakeview School Patriot's Pen Participant Recognition Ceremony



VFW Auxiliary Chairperson Karen Cain Recognizes Patriot's Pen Essayists at Lakeview School on Dec 5th 2017

Voice of Democracy Winners

- 1st Place - Kate Powers – BHSS
- 2nd Place – Eli James – Eastern Greene
- 3rd Place – Josephine Sparks - BHSS

Patriot's Pen Winners

- 1st Place – Emma Hoff – Lakeview Elementary
- 2nd Place – Chase Arnold – Lakeview Elementary
- 3rd Place – Kylan Pittman – Batchelor Middle School
- 4th Place – Elisabeth Axsom – Lakeview Elementary



Post Chaplain Jim Arnold places Christmas wreath for former VFW Post 604 Commander Bobby Lanning as part of the Wreaths Across America Campaign in Madison, IN

FRESH START---NEW YEAR 2018 POST 604!!!!

There will **NOT** be a Sunday opening this month. We know a lot of members look forward to those tenderloins, but hopefully things will work out for next month.

Now keep reading 'cause we are still here with our **Post 604 Volunteers** (Best in Bloomington!!).

Friday Night Dinners are back--- Serving begins at 6:00 p.m. and goes until we run out.

1st Friday night—(**Jan 5th**) You can still get **The Tenderloins** because we will be featuring **Gigantic Hand-Dipped Breaded Tenderloins** (made just like on Sundays!!), but with **Mashed Potatoes & Corn plus Dessert**---and still only **\$7.00!!!!!!** . But wait!!

2nd Friday night — (**Jan 12th**) The Auxiliary is serving their **All You Can Eat Fish Dinner** -all you can eat and only **\$7.00!!**

3rd Friday night— (**Jan 19th**) Features our 10 oz. Angus Ribeye Steak with Baked Potato and Salad and Dessert all for just **\$11**. Yep! That's right—just **\$11**.

4th Friday night— (**Jan 26th**) Brought to you by the Auxiliary—Chicken & Noodles, Fried Biscuits, & Green Beans!! We have Great Cooks!—Good Food!-- **LOW** Prices!

Texas Hold-'em Tournament every Thursday starting at 7:00 p.m.

We would like to say a great big **Thank-You** to **Dorothy White** and her **Elves** who not only decorated the Post for the Holidays but we heard from a lot of people that they put on a **Fantastic Kids Christmas Party** enjoyed by the kids and adults alike!!—everybody's time and effort were greatly appreciated!!

Thursday Night Cooks and Runners

The House Committee is looking for volunteers to help cook and run orders on Thursday night for the weekly 5 Card Hold 'em Poker. Anyone interested in giving us a hand, contact George Kristoff, Barney White, Debbie Deckard, or let the bartender know. Looking forward to working with you.

Choice Angus Steak Night - Friday 19 January

We are pleased to announce we will resume our monthly steak night on Friday January 19th. We will be serving our 10 oz Choice Angus steaks cooked to order, baked potato, salad and dessert. Not to mention the sautéed mushrooms and onions. All for \$11.00. This will be our 3rd Choice Angus Steak Night and the response from our members has been very positive. Choice Angus is one of the highest qualities of beef you can buy. Come to the post and try one. We think you will be very happy you did. ❖

House Committee

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

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BLOOMINGTON IN 47401
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"Oldest Post in the State"

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Phone: (812)-339-2375

VFW POST 604

97 Years

Still Going Strong !!

Chartered on January 7, 1921, VFW Post 604 is the longest continuously chartered Veterans of Foreign Wars post in the state of Indiana.

Come Join Us at the Anniversary Dinner – Saturday January 13, 2018 at 6:00 PM