

95 Years

VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.ORG

January 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

As we begin the new year, let us pause and reflect on what we accomplished in the past year. We have been blessed in so many ways. We must also remember those that are no longer with us. Our Post has grown in so many ways and it is the result of all the hard work done by our members that truly care.

Most of you should be aware of the results of our Children's Christmas party. A very special thanks goes out to Dorothy White for all the hard work she put in to making it a success. Her addition of Blinky the Magic Clown really made the day for the kids. I believe we had 26 kids sign up for the party. Thanks to all who chipped in the day of the party.

If you haven't heard, the results of our charity cash register receipts are in for November. If you don't know how it worked, I will try and explain. Every time you purchased something from the bar, you were given a receipt from the register. We had three containers set up and you chose which one you wanted to put your receipt in. Each branch of the Post (Post 604, Men's Auxiliary, and VFW Auxiliary) chose a charity and then, at the end of November, we added up receipts and the Post wrote a check for 10% of the total amount in each container to the designated charity. Post 604 VFW had \$2,073.50 in their jar so a check for \$207.00 was sent to the Boys and Girls Club. The Men's Auxiliary had \$1,957.75 so a check for \$196 was sent to Boy Scout Troop 148. VFW Auxiliary had \$1,595.30 so a check for \$159.00 was sent to Hoosier Hills Food Bank. Thanks to all for participating.

We have a couple of special events upcoming in January. January 13th will be our Post birthday dinner and awards presentation for Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year. The dinner will start at 6:00 pm, at no cost, so come and join us. Our Post will be 95 years old.

On January 16th, the National President of the VFW Auxiliary, Francisca Gwilford, will be visiting the Post

Continued

Commander's Corner (Continued)

around noon for a luncheon. She would like to meet as many veterans as possible while she's here. State Commander, Buzz Weberding, will be accompanying her as well so come out and show your support. Welcome them to the Post and show how proud you are of our Post and of what we are doing.

"IMPORTANT NOTICE" - Our membership stands at 85.39%. We need 38 more people to pay their dues to be at 100% like we were last year. ❖

Commander - Joe Hardin

Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

The New Year has arrived, its 2016! It will take a while for me to write "16" on any paperwork or checks. (*Slow*) I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Joyful New Year.

The Men's Auxiliary is back in action. January 8th is our Fish Friday and then Sunday January 24th will be our Tenderloin Day.

Have you looked around the post lately? The new security system is up & running. The bar, dining room, deck, basement, and parking lot are all covered. So, SMILE – you could be on candid camera. ☺ Just another improvement from the Men's Auxiliary. There are a few more projects to do yet. With your continued support at our Friday Fish Dinners and at NASCAR Tenderloin Sundays – we WILL get 'r done!

Finally, November Charity Receipt donation was \$196.98, paid for by the Post to Boy Scout Troop 148 in the name of the Men's Auxiliary, then the Men's Auxiliary made a matching donation to Troop 148 of \$200.00. YOU make donations like these possible... Thank You! ❖

Tim Haney, President VFW Men's Auxiliary

VFW Auxiliary

As the end of 2015 approaches and we enter 2016, I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

We had a wonderful Christmas party for the children. Binky the Clown came and did lots of magic tricks for the kids. Needless to say, with Binky and Santa Claus here there was lots of laughter and joy for us all. Thanks to Dorothy, Sandi, and Karen for your efforts setting this up. Also, we want to thank Mark Taylor for all the donuts, milk, and juice.

You missed a lot if you did not come to the club during the holidays, with the beautiful decorations. Thank you to everyone who helped make it look so joyful. We received lots of compliments.

We have the honor of the National VFW Auxiliary President Francisca Gwilford visiting our post on Saturday January 16th 2016 for a luncheon. You are welcome and enjoy the activities. She will also be visiting Columbus, Seymour, and Spencer (if these posts are closer to you).

If you have not paid your 2015 – 2016 dues by December 31st, you will no longer be in good standing with the VFW Auxiliary.

On the fourth Friday of every month we will start having our VFW Auxiliary dinners. January through March we will be having taco dinners from 6PM – 8PM. \$6.50 and all you can eat until we run out.

My thoughts and prayers are with those of you who have lost someone close. If you are ill, I wish you well soon. To our veterans and their families, I wish you well and a very HAPPY NEW YEAR! ❖

Julia Curtis
President VFW Auxiliary
812-822-0028

TAPS

- ✎ **James Fritch, Korea, US Army**
- ✎ **Roger Kelley Sr., Life Member, WWII, USMC**
- ✎ **Paul Wilson, Life Member, WWII, US Army**

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

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

James C. Arnold
Chaplin, VFW Post 604

LAST YEAR WAS GREAT--2016 IS GONNA BE BETTER!!!

And we are confident in that statement, due to our members and our **Post 604 Volunteers** (Best in Bloomington!!). **Friday Night Dinners** are back (except for the 1st Friday night--cause that falls on New Year's Day and the Post is closed) and the 2nd Friday Night Dinner will be the Men's Auxiliary. Fish Dinner (**Jan 8th**)--all you can eat and only \$7.00!! Following right along with the 3rd Friday Night Dinner (**Jan 15th**) of 8 oz. Ribeye Steak with Baked Potato and Salad and Dessert all for just **\$11**. Yep! That's right—just **\$11**. But wait!! We have a 5th Friday Night Dinner this month (**Jan 29th**) which will feature All-You-Can-Eat Chile and Kicked-Up Grilled Cheese Sandwich for \$6.00. We have Great Cooks!—Good Food!--Good Prices!

Our **Sunday Opening** this month will be on the **24th**- Post opens at Noon and the Men's Auxiliary are back with their **Gigantic Hand-Dipped Breaded Tenderloins**. May be a new year, but the same **\$5.00** price for this meal!!! **Texas Hold-'em Tournament** every **Thursday**, starting at **7:00 p.m.**

We would like to say a great big **Thank-You** to the **Elves** who decorated the Post for the Holidays. It looked very nice and Christmassy—your time and effort were greatly appreciated!! Oh! We have updated our Kitchen Menu with some new items so check it out on your next visit. ❖

House Committee



Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

January 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
					 CLOSED	
3 1959 – Alaska 49 th State	4 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	5	6	7  Starts at 7pm 1921 – Post 604 Chartered * Vet to Vet – 1800	8 Fish Fry 1800 - 2000  Commander's Drawing 1900	9
10	11 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	12	13 95 th Year Anniversary Dinner 6:00 PM	14  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	15 Ribeye Dinner 1800 - 2000  Commander's Drawing 1900	16 1991 – Iraq War Began
17	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 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 Taco Dinner 1800 - 2000  Commander's Drawing 1900	23 1968 – USS Pueblo seized
24 Tenderloin Sunday !!! Noon – 6PM	25 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	26	27	28  Starts at 7pm * Vet to Vet – 1800	29 Chili Dinner 1800 - 2000  Commander's Drawing 1900	30
31						

(* 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 # 137924

Raffle License # 137923

Money

Sometimes the obvious can surprise us. We all know that unscrupulous people will do just about anything to make money; steal, defraud, scam, etc. If there's a loophole in the law and gullible people to use – you get the idea. “A sucker is born every minute” and “Nobody ever went broke overestimating the intelligence of the American consumer” are statements too true for comfort.

On another (but unfortunately overlapping) realm, honest business men and women will also offer to fill just about any need to make money. They and/or their stockholders have to make a living/profit. If there's a marketable service which is not specifically barred by law and potential customers who are willing to listen to a sales pitch – here we are again. ‘Hard for you and me to tell the difference. Maybe there isn't any real difference, just a question of degrees.

Last month our Quartermaster was approached by a private law firm offering to represent any veteran who had been exposed to asbestos while on active duty and who was later diagnosed with mesothelioma. The firm cited wide experience, a great success rate, and – maybe – no cost to the veteran client! They wanted Mark to insert a brief advertisement for their service in the Post 604 newsletter. I'd guess the same request went to every VFW, American Legion, DAV post (and every other military service organization or club or society they could think of) in the country. They want free advertising. You'll notice Mark did not place their ad in this newsletter.

If any veteran has been diagnosed with mesothelioma and there is any reasonable chance of exposure to asbestos while on active duty, he or she should certainly file a service connected disability claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Any veteran with any permanent disability which can be reasonably established as having been caused or aggravated by military service should. If not for themselves, for their dependents. Assisting in the application and potential appeal processes really is a service. That service can be provided by a VA-approved attorney of the claimants' choice, by a VA accredited claims agent, by any military service organization Service Officer, by a representative at the Indianapolis VA regional office walk-in area on the

third floor of the Minton-Capehart Federal Building or over the telephone (if the call goes through), by any Indiana county Veterans Service Officer or assistant, or by your smart pre-law college sophomore niece. All are totally free. (With the possible exception of the niece.)

Or, veteran Jones could answer an advertisement and sign a contract with a business. Businesses exist to make money. Maybe it's a slice off the top of any back compensation. Maybe it's a fully and honestly admitted, up-front charge. Maybe the source is initially not mentioned, such as in the Aid & Attendance scams wherein completion of the VA pension claim forms is free but there are filing charges, administrative charges, mailing charges, and – worst of all – totally hidden kick-backs to the local scammer by the ‘financial management’ firms who cheerfully accept the veteran's money (which must be removed from the claimant's net worth to meet the asset test) and invest it in funds they administer primarily for their own profit. All these are legal. That does not make them good choices.

There are good attorneys in Bloomington. Mike Carmin and Angela Parker have both helped me, for examples. Most of the good ones do not advertise loudly on the telly and radio or hold ‘seminars’ with red, white and blue sales brochures in retirement living facilities. They don't have to. There are also crook attorneys in Bloomington who do highly visible public service things in order to look good. When I say ‘crook’ I do not mean illegal. I mean they are out first to make as much money as possible and second to help the veteran. But only if the second does not interfere with the first. In some cases, the crooks have been known to charge research fees to obtain critical documents, determine they aren't going to make enough profit from filing the claim, and throw the entire case file in the trash.

At least start with either the county Veterans Affairs office or your military organization's service officer. You don't sign a binding financial contract with us.

And have a wonderful New Year!

John Tilford – Service Officer

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

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"Oldest Post in the State"

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Phone: (812)-339-2375

95 Years

Still Going Strong !

**** Members Are Our Strength ****

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 Anniversary Dinner – January 13, 2015 at 6:00 PM