



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**

John H. Kraus Post 454  
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Non-Profit Organization  
Heyworth, IL  
US Postage Paid  
PERMIT #19

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All the Newsletter information will be posted on the Post Web Page [www.vfwpost454.org](http://www.vfwpost454.org) . Please go to the Post Web Page and Register to receive your Newsletter by e-mail. Some copies of the Newsletter will be available at the Post Lounge.



**The Next Paint Nite (Winter Forest Sunset)**  
To Register Go To: [paintnite.com](http://paintnite.com)

**Monday, January 21st at 7 pm**  
Use the Code "PaintBloNo"

**Cost is DISCOUNTED to \$27.00!**

## COMMANDERS COMMENTS

Happy New Year,

I hope everyone had a great holiday with their families and friends. Thanks to all those who helped with and participated in the last feather party and the New Years Eve party. They were great times.

The past year for the post has continued to bring many improvements, updates and changes, such as leasing the kitchen and serving food once again, refurbishing the lanes in the bowling alley and parking lot improvements.

We have also had some grave losses amongst our ranks and our auxiliary. We say goodbye to Mary Sheehan, a long time Auxiliary member and supporter of this Post and veterans programs. She will be missed.

No one knows for sure what the year ahead will bring but in memory of those who came before us and gave so much, we will keep the Post moving forward. With your help and support we will keep the Post growing.

Some key dates this month are:

1 <sup>st</sup>	New Years Day
15 <sup>th</sup>	Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Stay safe and hope to see you at the Post.

**Adam Jacobs**  
**Post Commander**

## AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all Auxiliary members. Hopefully, you all enjoyed a wonderful Holiday Season and a great time with family and friends.

Thanks to all who helped and provided goodies for our bake sale on Dec. 8th.

January 20th, we are going to Pontiac (Post 886) for the 7th District Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Scholarship Banquet. This event is open to all Post and Auxiliary members. The cost is \$15.00 for an excellent meal.

Our Auxiliary group had a fun Christmas

meeting in December. Thank you CJ Wahmann and Mary Walker for all your work organizing everything so well.

Christmas parties were held at the Illiana VA and the Manteno Veteran's Home. Thanks to all who were able to attend and the donations received.

Our next bake sale will be Feb. 9th from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Stop by and pick up some goodies. Also, we will be packing boxes at 9 a.m. this same day.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the family of Mary Sheehan, my dear friend, mentor and a wonderful lady. Mary will be missed by all.

Our next Auxiliary meeting will be Jan. 2, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.

As we enter 2019, I wish you all health, happiness and a wonderful time spent with family and friends.

"HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE"

**Murleen Swafford**  
**Auxiliary President**

## VFW 454 RIDERS GROUP

We know that winter is here and riding would be very cold and a bit hazardous, but now is the time to consider joining our group and helping to plan some fun events as soon as the weather gets warmer.

Our meetings are held once a month, with our next one on Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm in the conference room of our Post.

We are always looking for new members to be part of the Riders Group. If you like to ride and have fun or want to help set up a fund raising event please come to our meetings and join up.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Pop Up Chicken Shop

Their food selection is growing along with their customer base. We are receiving a lot of exposure due to the good food and service they are providing their customers. Please come out and try

one of their delicious menu items. You can't go wrong.

At the December Feather Party, they served a meal consisting of two large chicken tenders, green bean casserole, mashed potatoes and gravy with a dinner roll. The meal was very filling and well priced. Thanks Chicken Shop for helping to make our event a huge success.

### **December Feather Party**

This was a fun event. We saw many familiar faces and lots of new ones. We completed 14 rounds and gave away a lot of prizes.

We thank Dan and Linda for organizing another successful event. We also thank all of the ticket sellers and prize runners for donating their time to make this event worthwhile. The money raised goes to support our veterans programs and the local community.

### **Post Membership**

We just want to share a cool membership story with you. We have a new member who lives in Minnesota. We won't put him on the spot by listing his name. He joined our Post because his grandfather had been a member here years ago. He and his wife still have family here in Bloomington and visit several times a year. They want to stay connected to this area and our Post.

Its things like this that make us proud and want to continue our work supporting veterans programs and the local community. We can't do this without the support of our members. So help us keep the Post alive by recruiting new members and showing them why we exist and do the things we do.

Membership is the key to a successful Post. Annual members consider accepting the Post's offer to help you become a "Life Member". The Post will pay \$100 towards a life membership. Contact the Post at 309-827-9733 and ask for Jim (our Quartermaster). He can help you become a Life Member.

### **Auxiliary Annual Dues**

If you have not paid your 2018 - 2019 dues, they are due now. Please send your

\$25.00 to Diane Hawk, Treasurer - 1006 E Lincoln St - Bloomington 61701.

If you are having financial or health problems, let us know. We have ways to assist you. Call Diane at 309-828-3534.

### Danville and Manteno Christmas Parties

The Post and Auxiliary contributed to the success of these events. The veterans at both facilities had a great time and deeply appreciated the gifts they received and the time spent with them.

The joy in their faces makes all our hard work worthwhile. There are always opportunities to help with our programs and hospital visits, so please consider donating your time and join us in putting a smile on a veterans face.

### Christmas Cheer on Christmas Eve

We had our annual Tom & Jerry's event on Christmas Eve. We had a great turn out of people, who came by to enjoy the camaraderie of friends and relatives.

We celebrated with good music, food and of course Christmas Eve raffles of turkey and liquor items. A good time was had by all. Thanks to all those who come by and shared Christmas cheer with us.

### Packing Boxes

We are packing service member boxes on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. All donations of single serve food items and hygiene products would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any names and addresses of our military in a combat zone please get them to the Post or Auxiliary Office by the end of January 2019. We want to continue sending these care packages so long as our service members are deployed in combat areas. Thank You for your continued support of this project.

### Entertainment Events

We are continuing our Paint Nite Events in 2019. Here are the next ones coming up in January and February. Hurry and get your tickets.

January 21 <sup>st</sup>	Winter Forest Sunset
February 18 <sup>th</sup>	Labs in Love
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Painting TBD

We will do our best to have one band event each month, depending on room rentals and other Post & Auxiliary events. So pay close attention to our monthly newsletters, facebook page and local newspaper or radio advertisements.

### District Meetings

Here are the dates for the District 7 meetings taking place throughout the rest of the fiscal year.

Please plan to attend these meetings and find out what is happening at the District and State levels as well as other posts within our District.

Feb 17 <sup>th</sup>	Pontiac (Post 886)
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Champaign (Post 5520)

The joint Post and Auxiliary meeting begins at 11:00 am. Lunch is served at noon. Individual meetings begin at 1:00.

### Deceased Life Member Wall

A worthwhile project is now updated. Many of you know the panel had to be enlarged to accommodate more name plates for the veterans that we have lost. Adding more names to that panel is not something we look forward to doing.

It took quite a while to put all the name plates on the new panel. At the present time there are over 700 names listed.

I would like to thank Randy Wolcott for his perseverance in helping me drill all the holes and putting the plates up so that our friends and families can once again see the names of their departed veteran.

### Safety & Security

Just this last month we had someone cut one of the patio curtains. It wasn't an expensive repair, but an unplanned expense none the less.

The holidays are behind us, so we encourage you to take your safety and security seriously. Especially with all the robberies that took place the last month.

Make sure you are parking in well lit areas. Check your surroundings when entering or exiting your vehicles. Keep your homes well lit outside and your phones close by.

Now that winter is truly upon us, ensure that you are keeping your vehicle well maintained; your tires in good condition and maybe include a blanket just in case you do break down. Because everyone knows, we like to see our members and friends safe and sound.

### Room Bookings & Events

2019 means we are starting a new and exciting year. Remember that we rent our dining room out for all types of events. Large events are what help to raise money for our veterans programs and local community charities.

If you know of family or friends needing a large area to host an event please refer them to us. We also host charitable benefit type events. Just have the person contact the Post and we will do our best to make their event a success.

### Video Gaming

We have a very nice semi-private gaming area for use of our members, guests and friends who like to partake in this entertainment. We try to keep it in clean and presentable at all times. If you are at the Post and the area needs attention please let the bartenders know. We want our customers to be pleased they stopped by for a visit.

### IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES AND SISTERS

Debra Sepesy (Nov)  
Mary Moran (Nov)  
Mary Sheehan (Dec)

Verna Wilson (Nov)  
Phyllis Livers (Dec)  
Agnes Rousey (Dec)



## JANUARY 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 <b>Happy New Year Post Is Open</b> Pool 7 pm	2 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm	3 Pool 7 pm	4 VFW Darts 7 pm	5 VFW Darts 7 pm
6 VFW Riders Meeting 12:30 pm Celebration of Life 1 pm	7 House Mtg 5:30 pm	8 Post Mtg 6 pm Pool 7 pm	9 Pool 7 pm	10 Pool 7 pm	11 VFW Darts 7 pm	12 VFW Darts 7 pm
13	14	15 Marine Corps League Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm	16 Pool 7 pm	17 Open Mic Night 7 pm Pool 7 pm	18 VFW Darts 7 pm	19 VFW Darts 7 pm
20 7 <sup>th</sup> District Scholarship Banquet (Pontiac Post)	21 Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	22 Pool 7 pm	23 Pool 7 pm	24 Pool 7 pm	25 VFW Darts 7 pm	26 VFW Darts 7 pm
27 Schooner's Bags Tournament TBD	28	29 Pool 7 pm	30 Pool 7 pm	31 Pool 7 pm	1 VFW Darts 7 pm	2 VFW Darts 7 pm
3 VFW Riders 12:30 pm	4 House Mtg 5:30 pm AMVETS Mtg 6:30 pm	5 Post Mtg 6 pm Pool 7 pm	6 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm	7 Pool 7 pm	8 VFW Darts 7 pm	9 Packing Boxes 9 am Bake Sale 11 Triathlon Club 6 pm VFW Darts 7 pm
10	11	12 Marine Corps League Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm	13 Pool 7 pm	14 <b>Happy Valentine's Day</b> Pool 7 pm	15 VFW Darts 7 pm	16 VFW Darts 7 pm
17 District 7 Meeting (Pontiac)	18 Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	19 Pool 7 pm	20 Pool 7 pm	21 Open Mic Night 7 pm Pool 7 pm	22 VFW Darts 7 pm	23 VFW Darts 7 pm
24	25	26 Pool 7 pm	27 Pool 7 pm	28 Pool 7 pm	1 VFW Darts 7 pm	2 VFW Darts 7 pm

**Band Information:** Dates and Times TBD