



**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 (Harvest Wreath) is  
Monday, October 15th at 7 pm  
To Register Go To: [paintnite.com](http://paintnite.com)  
Use the Code "PaintBloNo"  
Cost is DISCOUNTED to \$27.00!**

1914  1918  
**FIRST WORLD WAR**

**World War I - Open House  
Sunday September 30<sup>th</sup> (2 – 5 pm)  
Learn About Adopt A Grave Program  
Help Find McLean County WWI Military  
Grave Sites & Genealogy Search**

## COMMANDERS COMMENTS

Comrades,  
Thank you for keeping me in your thoughts while I was away at training. I survived and made it back home.

It is hard to believe that it is October already. It has been a great summer at the Post in large part due to your contributions and involvement. We are blessed at this Post to have so much involvement from our members and can't thank you enough for your support.

Across the state, some posts are having compliance issues and their charters have been suspended for specific periods of time. I am proud to say, due in large part to the efforts of our Quartermaster, we have nothing to worry about at this time. We have reached out to other posts to help where possible but now more than ever we need to promote VFW Membership and Support to offset the negative things being portrayed.

The Flu season is upon us and if you weren't able to make it out to the Post in September to get your flu shot hopefully you are able to get one elsewhere. If you find yourself sick or ill from the flu or anything else may you heal quickly so we can see you at the Post.

Some Key Dates in October:

7 <sup>th</sup>	Ms. Veteran America Pageant
8 <sup>th</sup>	Columbus Day
13 <sup>th</sup>	U.S. Navy Birthday
15 <sup>th</sup>	Paint Nite at the Post
16 <sup>th</sup>	Open MIC Night
19 & 21	Big Ten Conference
26 <sup>th</sup>	National Day of the Deployed
27 <sup>th</sup>	Halloween Party Jury's Out Band
28 <sup>th</sup>	American Kids Halloween Party
31 <sup>st</sup>	Halloween Night

Don't forget to stop by the Post and partake in our events.

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

## AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all Auxiliary members. I want to extend my thanks to those who

marched in the Labor Day Parade. What a great day this was.

Our trip to the Quincy Veterans home is October 27th. We are leaving the POST at 9 am. If you want to travel with us please meet at 8:45 am.

The annual American Kids Halloween party will be Sunday, October 28th from 2 - 4 pm at the Post in the dining room. Costumes will be judged and a cake walk will take place. We are asking for baked goods for prizes on the cake walk. So get dressed up in costume and come join us for a fun time.

At our last Auxiliary meeting, we were honored with a visit from Vickie Roach, 7th District President. She made an Assistance visit and we passed with flying colors.

Our next Auxiliary meeting will take place, Wednesday, October 3rd at 6:30 pm. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Thanks for all you do for our Veteran's and families.

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

## VFW 454 RIDERS GROUP

Our meetings are held once a month, with our next one on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm in the conference room of our Post.

Our "Salute to Freedom Ride" took place on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. We had 19 bikes (riders and several passengers) roll out at 10:30 am. The weather was good and the ride was well executed allowing all personnel to return safely.

Upon returning we had our silent auction and dinner. A to Z Catering did a wonderful job with the food. We were able to move all the auction items. Once that was complete, we moved into the next phase of the event and that was musical entertainment by Champaign Freight. Everyone enjoyed the music. After all expenses, first glance appears that we raised almost \$1,000 for our specific programs. We are so excited for

doing so well and this being the first Riders event. We are already looking forward to next year's ride.

We are always looking for more members. You don't have to ride a bike to be a member and have fun with us.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### FLU Shot Clinic

**Monday, Sep 24th from 3 - 6 pm.**

We didn't have a very good showing at this event. We had 4 or 5 people show up to take advantage of the service provided by Hy-Vee. Would have been great to see lots of members and community support for this event. Hopefully, we will have a better turnout at the next one.

### **2018 - 2019 Scholarship Programs** **Voice of Democracy (VOD) Theme**

"Why My Vote Matters"

**Patriot's Pen Theme**

"Why I Honor The American Flag"

Don't forget about these programs. The submissions are due to the Post by October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. So get this information out to family, friends and anyone in the public sector to let them know that the VFW supports the local community and our local students. The success of this program depends on getting the information out to those young students.

These programs are open to high school and middle school children. We will have printable copies available on our website ([www.vfwpost454.org](http://www.vfwpost454.org)) and at the Post.

### **Remembering WWI**

Post 454 hosted a special program, "You, Your Family and WWI" - tracking your family in WWI, at the Post on Sep 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm as part of a yearlong recognition and remembrance of WWI.

The event was well received and we had 35 attendees. Chris McDonald's presentation provided helpful insight into searching military history and genealogy techniques. We are continuing the search to find the gravesites for Mclean County service members who died in WWI and assisting in documenting the location of

their gravesites.

Those wanting assistance or information on WWI or help finding relatives or needing to speak to a genealogist should bring pictures, letters, documents and other materials that can be shared with others. The next event is taking place on Sunday, Sep 30<sup>th</sup> between 2 - 4 pm. We are here to help.

### **Kitchen! Kitchen! Kitchen!**

We are proud to announce that VFW Post 454 has signed a lease agreement with the Pop Up Chicken Corp. They are opening up the Pop Up Chicken Shop here at the VFW. The anticipated opening date is Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup> serving lunch. That is barring any unforeseen circumstances. So keep your fingers crossed.

### **Quincy Veterans Home Trip**

The Post and Auxiliary will be going to the Quincy Veterans Home on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. Please save the date.

They are asking for books with large print, jigsaw puzzles and clean, neatly pressed and boxed clothes. New or slightly worn shoes are also acceptable. If you like to bake, homemade cookies are welcome. There is also a need for sugar free cookies. The bingo games will start at 1:30 pm. If you have a pickup truck and would like to volunteer to take our packages down please let us know.

We are leaving the Post at 9 am and should arrive around 12 - 12:30 pm at Quincy. We have time for lunch at the snack bar. Bingo takes place in the Lippincott Center.

We invite all members, old and new to join us. Contact Mary Sheehan at 309-585-0489.

### **Post Membership**

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. There have been a couple of members and a new member that has taken advantage of our generosity. So, if you are an annual member please consider converting to a Life Member.

### **Auxiliary Annual Dues**

Your 2019 annual dues (\$25) can now be paid. Send a check to Diane Hawk, Treasurer, to 1006 E Lincoln St., Bloomington, IL 61701. Become a Life Member and you never have to pay dues again.

### **Packing Boxes**

We will be packing boxes Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 9 am at the POST. Our current needs are, hygiene products, food (snack items), socks, batteries, hand warmers and anything else you feel our men and women could use while overseas. This is also our Christmas box mailing. So let's make sure these service members know we care. Thank you for all your help and donations.

### **Pot Belly's Veterans Fund Raising**

Ladies and Gentlemen, this is a fund raising event that Pot Belly's has graciously provided its support to us and the veterans programs we support.

So please stop by Pot Belly's at 609 South Main Street in Normal and have dinner on one of the dates shown below. Your support is greatly appreciated and needed. Here are the dates for the rest of this year:

October 10                      November 14  
December 12

### **Entertainment Events**

October 15<sup>th</sup> is our next Paint Nite. It is titled "Harvest Wreath". We have 2 more Paint Nite's scheduled. Here are those dates. We hope you can make one of them and share your talents with us.  
November 19<sup>th</sup>                      December 10<sup>th</sup>

There are several musical events happening over the next few months.

**October 27<sup>th</sup>** is a Halloween Party with Jury's Out Band. So come in costume and have a fun evening with us.  
**November 10<sup>th</sup>** right after the Marine Corps birthday event the band Old Smoke will set up and play that evening.  
**Dec 31<sup>st</sup>** is New Year's Eve with the Flatland Band. So plan to ring in the 2019 year with us at VFW Post 454.

### **Auxiliary's Danville VA Trips**

On our latest trip to Danville VA, we met Jock, a 97 year old WWII Army veteran, who is in reasonable health. He told us he was married 1 week and 1 day when Pearl Harbor was bombed. He was immediately sent to the South Pacific where he spent the duration. It is very nice to treat these wonderful warriors to a little time away from the hospital atmosphere. Why not ride along with us on the next trip. On October 23<sup>rd</sup> we will be meeting with a group for an adventure at Curtis Orchard just outside of Champaign.

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, a group is going to Heritage Health Center on East Walnut Street in Bloomington. We will have coffee and donuts with the veterans who reside there at 10am. Hope to see many of you there. Please bring along any mementos of your service member.

### **District Meetings**

Our District 7 meetings are:  
Nov 18<sup>th</sup>                      Bloomington (Post 454)  
Feb 17<sup>th</sup>                      Pontiac (Post 886)  
May 19<sup>th</sup>                      Champaign (Post 5520)

### **Feather Parties**

These are just around the corner. The dates are November 16<sup>th</sup> and December 14<sup>th</sup>. Remember, we need people to help setup, deliver prizes, cleanup and ticket sellers. So plan to attend one or both and help out if you can. These are fun events and they help raise money for our programs, veteran and community support.

## **IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES AND SISTERS**

Sherell Campbell (Aug 2018)



## OCTOBER 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 House Mtg 5:30 pm AMVETS Mtg 6:30 pm	2 Post Mtg 6 pm Pool 7 pm	3 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm	4	5 VFW Darts 7 pm	6 VFW Darts 7 pm
7 VFW Riders 12:30 pm	8	9 Marine Corps League Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm	10 Pool 7 pm	11	12 Rehearsal Dinner 6:30 pm VFW Darts 7 pm	13 USBC Setup 4 pm/Starts 6 VFW Darts 7 pm
14	15 Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	16 Open Mic Night 7 pm Pool 7 pm	17 Pool 7 pm	18	19 VFW Darts 7 pm	20 VFW Darts 7 pm
21	22	23 Pool 7 pm	24 Pool 7 pm	25	26 VFW Darts 7 pm	27 Halloween Party - Jury Out Band 8 VFW Darts 7 pm
28 American Kids Halloween Party 2 pm	29	30 Pool 7 pm	31 Happy Halloween Pool 7 pm	1	2 Retirement Party 5 pm VFW Darts 7 pm	3 VOD Judging 9 am Baby Shower 2 pm VFW Darts 7 pm
4 Birthday Party 12 pm VFW Riders Meeting 12:30 pm	5 House Mtg 5:30 pm AMVETS Mtg 6:30 pm	6 Post Mtg 6 pm Pool 7 pm	7 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm	8	9 VFW Darts 7 pm	10 USMC Birthday 5 pm Old Smoke Band 8 pm NO Darts
11 <b>Veterans Day</b> Ceremony Downtown 10:45 am	12	13 Marine Corps League Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm	14 Pool 7 pm	15	16 <b>Feather Party</b> 7 pm NO VFW Darts	17 VFW Darts 7 pm
18 <b>District 7 Mtg 11 am Post Closed Until 3 pm</b>	19 Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	20 Open Mic Night 7 pm Pool 7 pm	21 Pool 7 pm	22 <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b>  <b>Post Closed</b>	23 VFW Darts 7 pm	24 VFW Darts 7 pm

**Band Information:**

Oct 27th                    8 pm  
 Nov 10th                  7:30 or 8 pm  
 Dec 31st                  Flatland Band

Jury's Out Band (Halloween Party) Come in Costume  
 Old Smoke (right after USMC Birthday Event)