



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

John H. Kraus Post 454
1006 E. Lincoln St.
Bloomington, IL 61701
(309)-827-9733

Non-Profit Organization
Heyworth, IL
US Postage Paid
PERMIT #19

Robert Sable, Post Commander
C. J. Wahmann, Auxiliary President
Jim Waters, Editor - Quartermaster
E-Mail Address for Post - vfw454@comcast.net
Post Web Page ó www.vfwpost454.org

All the Newsletter information will be posted on the Post Web Page 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
(Northern Nite Lights)
Monday, January 27th at 7 pm
To Register Go To:**

www.yaymaker.com

**Use the Code "CRAFTLOCAL"
For a Discounted Price!**



**Audio Faction Band
Friday, January 17th
7:30 - 10:30 pm**



**Back@Cha Band
Friday, January 31st
7:30 - 10:30 pm**

**Band Nights
Pop Up Chicken Shop
Serving Fish & Chicken Dinner
5:00 - 7:00 pm**

COMMANDERS COMMENTS

First off, a big thank you to Linda Beard and her crew for doing an outstanding job on our Feather Parties this year. That also applies to the members who helped with the set-up and clean-up.

Now that we have the holidays behind us our next big event is the Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen banquet. I helped judge the post entries, and there were some good ones. The district banquet is January 19th in Champaign.

We are doing good in our membership retention, but would like to see some more younger veterans get involved. It's also time to think about your post officers for the coming year. We are 1/2 way through the year, and nominations start in March.

You all play a part in the future of this post and the organization as a whole.

Robert Sable
Post Commander

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Santa is finally napping and the elves are on a well-deserved vacation at the beach. A new year is here and we have lots of work to do. According to the Chinese Zodiac, 2020 is the year of the Rat. In their culture the Rat is a sign of wealth and surplus. They are clever, quick thinkers and successful. They believe Rats have the ability to turn unlucky events into fortune. So, here is wishing you all wealth, surplus and fortune in the coming year.

We at the Auxiliary are always busy helping our veterans. We are focusing on assisting the homeless veterans in our area throughout the winter months. We have packed duffle bags full of warm supplies to be distributed. This year we have set a goal to "light the way" for our homeless veterans. I encourage everyone to listen to their stories and assist in any way possible.

A number of our members are volunteering at the new VA facility in Bloomington. This is an exciting addition to our community. We also have

put lots of work into the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen activities for our youth.

Don't forget to stop by our bake sale on January 11th. There are always delicious choices. Thanks to Mary Walker for being so faithful and chairing this project.

Wishing you a Happy New Year with the hope that you will have many blessings in the year to come.

C.J. Wahmann
Auxiliary President

GENERAL INFORMATION

Volunteering at the Bloomington VA Clinic

Some of our Auxiliary members will be volunteering at the clinic. In order to volunteer at the VA clinic, there is an investigation process that must take place.

To start this process, you must travel to the Danville VA to be finger printed. Once you do this the process is started and should only take a few days. We know this seems like a chore, but the VA folks have to ensure that all the volunteers meet certain guidelines in order to assist our veterans at the clinics. So, we hope many more will volunteer to help our local veterans at the Bloomington VA Clinic.

Feather Party

The December Feather Party was another fun and wonderful fund raising event. We owe Linda Beard and her family a load of thanks for putting on the event. We want to thank all the members that came out to help with setup, handing out prizes and putting everything back together. Most of all we thank the folks that came out to be part of the event. It was a wonderful time and probably the fastest one yet.

We conducted 14 rounds by 10:30 pm that evening. All the prizes were handed out and our customers were happy going home with lots of prizes.

We also recognized a couple of young veterans during the event. One had just

returned from a deployment and the other was home on leave visiting with family for a few days. We thanked them for their service and hope they had an enjoyable time.

CAMtek, Inc

VFW Post 454 and its members would like to thank CAMtek, Inc for making Christmas very special for the family members of one of our very own. The owners (Christine Davis and her husband Gayle, as well as all the employees) took it upon themselves to help honor and make a difference for a local veteran's family.

Many of you know Adam Jacobs. He is currently deployed and not due back home until sometime later this year. Adam has done a lot for this Post over the years. During this deployment his wife Dianna and their four children remain here in the Bloomington-Normal area. When Adam deployed he made the comment that Dianna is going to have the toughest job. He is right. As many of you know, the wife or husband or a deployed service member indeed has the hardest job of holding the family together during that deployment.

Camtek, Inc wanted to help make their Christmas special. Bradley Knapp (CAMtek) and Jim Waters (VFW) set up a surprise for Dianna and the children. We arranged for a tour of the factory, and once the tour was complete, we brought Dianna and Adam's parents to the break room and presented Dianna with gifts for the family, as well as gift cards from many local grocery, retail stores and restaurants. It was a total surprise for the Jacobs family. We thank CAMtek, Inc for their generosity and helping to make Christmas special for our deployed veteran's family.

For those of you that do not know about CAMtek, Inc, they make circuit boards for electronic equipment. Some of their products are used in military equipment. It's nice to know that CAMtek, Inc is supporting our military through their products, as well as here at home. Thank You CAMtek, Inc.

Paint Nites

We have more dates booked in 2020, so sign up and create your masterpiece. Bring your family members and friends and enjoy an evening out.

	<u>Painting Name</u>
Jan 27 th	Northern Nite Lights
Feb 17 th	Moonlit Teal Heart
Mar 16 th	Snow Dusted Cherry Blossoms
Apr 20 th	Blooming Spring Bridge
May 18 th	Swan Lake Love

Register at www.yaymaker.com

Use the Code `öCRAFTLOCALö` for a discounted price.

Upcoming Musical Entertainment

We are continuing to book musical entertainment for your enjoyment. Please come out and join us for these events. Hope to see you here.

Jan 17th	Audio Faction
Jan 31st	Back@cha Band
Feb 28th	Big On Blondes
Mar 27th	Hillbilly High-Rise Band

Don't forget, The Pop Up Chicken Shop will also be serving fish & chicken dinners on band nights from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

Tom & Jerry's Event

Our annual event this year was yet another success. We had approximately 50 ó 60 members and friends join us for Christmas cheer. We had good food, snacks, dessert and above all the Tom & Jerrys. We raffled off turkeys, bottles of wine, bottle of bourbon, and a bucket of beer. We raised \$176 from the raffled items which goes towards our veterans programs. A great time was had by all. Remember, this has been a tradition for many years and we plan for it to continue for many more.

New Years Eve at the VFW

Our New Years Eve event with the

Bygones was a good time. We had many people attend and a good time was had by all who attended. Thank you Bygones for for another fine event.

District Meetings

Don't forget that our next District meeting will take place on Sunday, February 16th in Champaign. The joint meeting begins at 11:00 am. Lunch is served at noon. Individual meetings begin at 1:00. It would be great to have more Post members attend and meet some of the other members in our district.

District VOD Banquet

There is still time for you to get tickets for the district banquet. It is held on January 19th at the Champaign VFW. We have high hopes for our Post submissions to go all the way. It would be a wonderful thing to have our Post submission win the District competition and then move onto the State level.

The meal tickets are \$15.00 a person.

Let's show these young Americans what we are all about and support them on their night.

Membership

Our membership is currently sitting at 94.68%. We have about 27 members that have not renewed their dues over the last 2 years. We will be reaching out to those members to determine why they have not chosen to renew their membership.

If you know of a member that is experiencing financial hardship and unable to pay their dues please contact our Quartermaster (Jim Waters) so he can contact the member. We have a dues reserve fund just for those circumstances.

Recruiting new members is also a necessity of maintaining our Post's existence. Without new members to bring into the fold our Post will slowly wither away. We have been in existence over 99 years and we don't want that legacy to fade away. So help us reach

new and potential members and show them what the VFW is all about. Only you can keep our Post alive.

Looking Forward Next Few Months

As our Commander mentioned, we are halfway through the fiscal year. It is time now to think about our next group of officers. Our nominations take place at the March 3rd Post meeting.

If you are thinking about filling one of the officer positions and not sure if you can make the March meeting, please go ahead and submit a letter stating what position you will accept. This is just in case you cannot attend the meeting in March.

The nominations will open and close at the March meeting. We will then create a ballot containing the nominees. We will then have our elections at the April 7th meeting.

Centennial Celebration

As most of you know, our Post will celebrate its 100th Birthday in May of this year. We are looking at having the celebration over the Memorial Day weekend. What better time to celebrate the founding of our Post. Plans are underway to hopefully make this an entire weekend celebration. If you have a recommendation for our celebration, now is the time to submit it. You can drop it off at the Post or email it to vfw454@comcast.net.

We will share more details of the event as they become available. Please plan to be here for the events scheduled that weekend. It's not every day that a VFW Post reaches a 100 years.

Events and Programs

Just a reminder that events help the Post raise funds for our veterans programs. If you know of someone wanting or needing a venue to host their event please refer them to the Post.

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES AND SISTERS

We Have No Names To Report This Month



JANUARY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 New Years Day Post Open	2	3 VFW Darts 8 pm	4 VFW Darts 8 pm
5	6 House Mtg 5:30 pm AMVETS Mtg 7:00 pm	7 Post Mtg 6 pm Pool 7 pm	8 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm	9	10 VFW Darts 8	11 Packing Boxes 9 am Bake Sale 11 Birthday Party 6 pm VFW Darts 8
12	13 NALC Mtg 7 pm	14 MCL Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm	15 Pool 7 pm	16 Open Mic Night 7 pm	17 Fish & Chicken 5:30 ó 7:30 pm Audio Faction Band 7:30 pm VFW Darts 8 pm	18 Triathlon Club Event 5 pm VFW Darts 8 pm
19	20	21 Bags 6 pm Pool 7 pm	22 DAV # 60 Meeting 5:30 pm Pool 7 pm	23	24 VFW Darts 8 pm	25 VFW Darts 8 pm
26 Schooners Bags Tournament 11:30 am	27 Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	28 Bags 6 pm Pool 7 pm	29 Pool 7 pm	30	31 Fish & Chicken 5:30 ó 7:30 pm Back@cha Band 7:30 pm VFW Darts 8 pm	1 VFW Darts 8 pm
2	3 House Mtg 5:30 pm AMVETS Mtg 7:00 pm	4 Post Mtg 6 pm Pool 7 pm	5 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm	6	7 VFW Darts 8 pm	8 VFW Darts 8 pm
9	10 NALC Mtg 7 pm	11 MCL Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm	12 Pool 7 pm	13	14 VFW Darts 8 pm	15 Blue & Gold Banquet 5:30 pm VFW Darts 8 pm
16	17 Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	18 Bags 6 pm Pool 7 pm	19 Pool 7 pm	20 Open Mic Night 7 pm	21 VFW Darts 8 pm	22 Post - Holiday Gathering 5 pm VFW Darts 8 pm