



**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](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.



**Up The Creek Band**  
**Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:30 - 10:30 pm**



**Flatland Band**  
**Friday, April 24th**  
**7:30 - 10:30 pm**

**Pop Up Chicken Shop**  
**Serving Fish & Chicken Dinner**  
**5:00 - 7:30 pm**

## COMMANDERS COMMENTS

Greetings Comrades:

Hope you are all well and coping with the ongoing health situation. We are making good progress on our upcoming 100 year celebration. We could use help with the arrangements if you have spare time.

We plan to have the next Post meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup>. We will have representatives from CI Shooting sports to measure and fit Color Guard members for new uniforms. We need more participation from the membership. Everybody wants their own military rights but without help, there will be nobody to perform the rituals. I realize that some of you are still working and have other life issues that limit your time, but if we can only get 3 people out of a membership of over 500, we are not fulfilling our mission to help veterans. Shame on us.

Don't forget our elections will take place at this meeting. Until then, stay safe and enjoy the warming weather.

**Robert Sable**  
**Post Commander**

## AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is just around the corner and the Auxiliary is looking forward to more activities with the promise of good weather.

Our BIG event for April is the Vendor Fair. It takes place on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Setup**

Friday April 17<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 pm

### **Tear Down**

Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 pm

We would appreciate your help with this event. We need help with set up and tear down. This is a job for our members with some muscle power. Moving tables and chairs is a heavy job.

Looking ahead, May looks to be a very busy month. We are packing boxes for the military overseas on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are in need of almost everything. There is a box in the front entrance of the Post. Even if you can only donate one thing it is helpful.

Our regular meeting will be held on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Also, looking forward to May 9<sup>th</sup> when we will be helping with the fund raising and awareness event hosted at our Post for the Honor Flight for women. This will be a very big event for the Post and I would encourage everyone to mark your calendar to attend. This falls just ahead of the kick off of the Post 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event taking place on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.

Sending my warmest Easter greetings to you and to your family.

**C.J. Wahmann**  
**Auxiliary President**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **Annual St Patrick's Day 5K Run**

This event was canceled due to the Corona Virus quarantine.

A tentative date for the run appears to be Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. As stated "Tentative". We will keep you posted once all of the finalized details are made. At this time, the T-shirts are being kept safe and will be ready for the rescheduled event. We apologize for any inconvenience.

### **Paint Nites**

The March event, as you already know was canceled due to the Corona Virus and safety of all concerned. We are pretty sure that April is not looking any better so we will hold off on this event until May.

Sign up to paint and bring your family members and friends and enjoy an evening out. It would be wonderful if we could fill our dining room on the following dates.

May 18<sup>th</sup>

Painting Name  
Swan Lake Love

Register at [www.yaymaker.com](http://www.yaymaker.com)  
Use the Code "CRAFTLOCAL" for a discounted price.

### **Upcoming Musical Entertainment**

All events listed for April are "Tentative".

We cannot guarantee the date that we will be allowed to reopen so please be patient and understanding as events are planned or canceled. Check our Facebook Page for any cancellations of the April Bands.

We will do our best to rebook the bands that were canceled (Trio Grand, Retrofit and Hillbilly High Rise) at a later date.

Most of the bands will start at 7:30 pm so that people can attend the event and have time to get home before its very late in the night. Occasionally, the band may start at 8:00 pm depending on the event. Hope to see you here for these fantastic shows.

Apr 10th

Up the Creek Band

Apr 24th

Flatland Band

May 8th

Possibly

May 22nd

Double Shot Duo

Put these dates on your calendars and plan to party with us.

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

### **District Meetings**

Our District meetings take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.

May 17<sup>th</sup>

Champaign

This meeting will be nominations and elections for District Officer positions for the upcoming year. It will also be the District Convention since the state convention takes place in June.

During the joint meeting, we will conduct our Memorial ceremony in memory of those we have lost this past year. Our guest speaker is Kathy Rutledge, Commander of AMVETS Post 270 in Bloomington.

Our joint meetings always begin at 11:00 am. Lunch is served at noon. Individual meetings begin at 1:00.

If you can't make the joint meeting at 11, it would be great if more Post members could make the 1 pm business meeting.

This meeting would allow you to meet other members in our District and see what they have going on at their Post. We hope to see many of you at these meetings.

### **Membership**

Our current year is drawing to a close. We can reach 100% if our current annual members and a few from other years will pay their annual dues. Life Members, we need your help to reach this goal.

This would be a nice accomplishment to reach 100% membership in our 100<sup>th</sup> year. Help us reach that goal by getting members to renew or recruit new members.

Our organization does a lot for veterans programs and the local community. What better way to show your support than to be a member of an organization that will celebrate its 100th Anniversary in May 2020.

So, put forth your best effort and help bring in those younger veterans and help us show them the support we provide and what it's like to be a member of a worthwhile organization that takes care of its members, veterans and the local community. So get out there and help recruit.

### **Officer Nominations and Elections**

Our elections take place at the April 7<sup>th</sup> Post meeting.

Come out and cast your vote for the officers of 2020 ó 2021. This is your Post, so elect the people you want to help run it for the next year.

We have a large dining room where everyone can spread out if you have any fear of the Corona virus and we can conduct business fairly quick.

### **Auxiliary Membership**

Our year end is fast approaching so

please ensure your dues are paid. If you know of someone wanting to join the Auxiliary contact Diane Hawk at 309-828-3534 (H), 309-275-0324 (C) or by email at [diane.hawk@comcast.net](mailto:diane.hawk@comcast.net) or [ladiesaux454@comcast.net](mailto:ladiesaux454@comcast.net).

Remember, it is important for us to maintain your correct mailing information so please let us know if you move or have changes.

### **VFW State Convention**

If there is anyone wishing to attend the Dept of IL State Convention please let our Quartermaster (Jim Waters) know right away so we can get you registered for the event.

### **Centennial Celebration**

The ceremonial celebration takes place on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. This will allow any and all members who work on Friday to attend the event. All members, auxiliary members and family are invited to this event.

We do have dignitaries that will be attending the event. Once we have finalized the guest list, we can create the program of events and publish it for the members.

Please plan to attend this event. This is our Post and many of you have been part of it for many years. Remember, there are only 112 VFW Posts still chartered from numbers 1 through 453. Help celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and make it a memorable one.

We plan to have raffles, Pull Tab Specials and other fun things throughout the following week. This would also include daily drink specials. We do need help obtaining items for the raffles. If you can help please let Jim know.

Due to the shut down and the Corona Virus issues, we will not be having the events the following weekend. There is

just not enough time to schedule them and make all the arrangements.

We are having 100th anniversary coins, hat pins and ink pens minted in honor of this auspicious occasion.

### **Post Cleaning**

Just a little update on the Post facilities and maintenance during this mandatory shutdown. We have been very busy cleaning and scouring the Post from top to bottom with lots of disinfectant cleaners. We hope that any trace of the Corona virus or other germs will be gone and we can provide a safe place for our members to enjoy.

One thing that everyone needs to adhere to is that tables and chairs are not to be dragged across the floors. This gouges and digs into the wax that we are laying to help keep the floors in good condition. So pick them up when you are moving them. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

### **Bloomington & Danville VA**

Please ensure that you contact them for any medical needs. They have probably scaled back operations and hours similar to other government offices.

### **Your Health and Viruses**

Be cautious when you're out and about. Our elected officials and health organizations are asking that you only go out in public areas if you have to for essential things. They are asking for people to wear masks and gloves to help prevent the spread of the virus.

You are encouraged to wash your hands frequently and to disinfect your homes and vehicles. Don't forget the items you use most (cell phones and cases, TV remotes, laptops or computers, etc). Avoid close contact with sick people, because we want to see our members around the Post and healthy.

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

Samuel Jumper (Feb)  
Polly Wherley (Mar)

Lloyd Thacker (Mar)



## APRIL 2020 (Everything is Tentative Pending Opening)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 No Auxiliary Mtg	2	3 No VFW Darts	4 No VFW Darts
5	6 No House Mtg	7 Post Mtg Elections 6 pm	8	9	10 Fish & Chicken 5:30 ó 7:30 pm Up The Creek Band 7:30 pm VFW Darts 8 pm	11 VFW Darts 8 pm
12	13 NALC Mtg 7 pm	14 MCL Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm	15 Pool 7 pm	16 Credit Union Trivia 5:30 pm	17 Aux Vendor Fair Setup 5:30 pm No Darts	18 Aux Vendor Fair 8 am Bake Sale 11 am VFW Darts 8 pm
19	20 No Paint Nite	21 Pool 7 pm	22 DAV #60 Mtg 5:30 pm Pool 7 pm	23	24 Fish & Chicken 5:30 ó 7:30 pm Flatland Band 7:30 pm VFW Darts 8 pm	25 VFW Darts 8 pm
26 Civil Air Patrol 12 pm	27	28 Pool 7 pm	29 Pool 7 pm	30	1 VFW Darts 8 pm	2 Packing Boxes 9 am VFW Darts 8 pm
3	4 House Mtg 5:30 pm AMVETS Mtg 7:00 pm	5 Post Mtg 6 pm Pool 7 pm	6 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm	7	8 VFW Darts 8 pm	9 Her Story Event 5 pm No VFW Darts 8
10	11 NALC Mtg 7 pm	12 MCL Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm	13 Pool 7 pm	14	15 Happy 100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday VFW Post 454 No VFW Darts	16 Birthday Ceremonies 9:30 am Gibson Wedding 4 pm
17	18 Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	19 Pool 7 pm	20 Pool 7 pm	21 Flags Out to Cemeteries 8 am	22 Flags Out 8 am Cook Out 5 pm Double Shot Duo 7:30 pm No VFW Darts	23 VFW Darts 8 pm