



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

John H. Kraus Post 454
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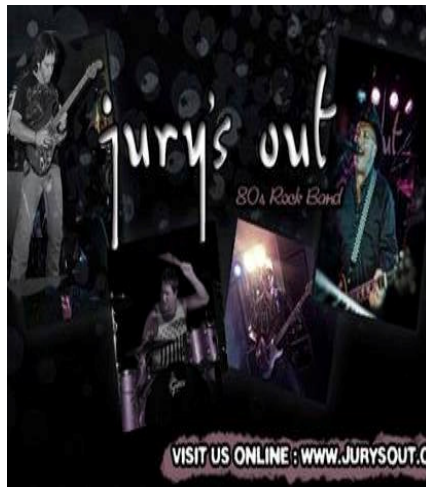
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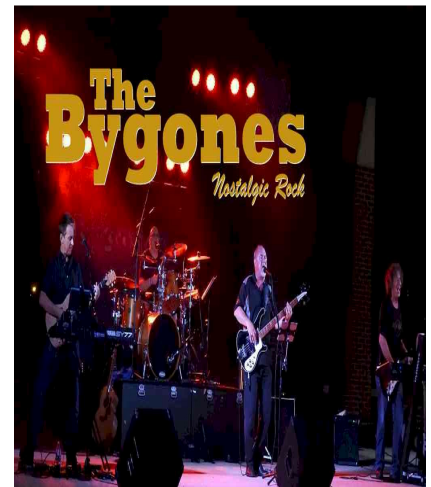
All the Newsletter information will be posted on the Post Web Page www.vfwpost454.org . Please go to the Post Web Page and Register to receive your Newsletter by e-mail. Some copies of the Newsletter will be available at the Post Lounge.



The Next Paint Nite
(Labs In Love)
Monday, February 18th at 7 pm
To Register Go To: paintnite.com
Use the Code "PaintBloNo"
Cost is DISCOUNTED to \$27.00!



Jury's Out Band
Saturday
February 2nd
8 PM



The Bygones Band
Friday
February 15th
7:30 PM

Pop Up Chicken Shop Serving Dinner These Band Nights
(Fish Or Chicken Dinner Don't Miss Out)

COMMANDERS COMMENTS

Hello Fellow Veterans,
I Hope this newsletter finds you in good health. I personally keep the sickness at bay with an increase in vitamin C during these months and recommend the same. I wish you all warmth and free of illness over these next few months.

It may be a bit premature but wanted to remind everyone that we are half way through our terms as officers for this year. Next year will be here before we know it. If you are interested in becoming more involved let us know so we can start to share the knowledge and get you information on the different positions that may interest you.

Also don't forget to recruit and help spread the word to the community about the Post. Just mentioning the post once a week in a casual conversation could help recruit people and support for our many programs and activities.

A reminder to everyone, that the next District meeting will be held on Sunday, February 17th in Pontiac at Post 886. We look forward to seeing as many members as possible at these meetings.

Dates to remember this month:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Feb 2 nd | Groundhog Day |
| | Jury's Out Band |
| Feb 3 rd | USO Birthday |
| Feb 9 th | Aux Bake Sale |
| Feb 14 th | Valentine's Day |
| Feb 15 th | Bygones Band |
| Feb 18 th | Presidents Day |
| | Coast Guard Birthday |
| Feb 21 st | Open Mike Night |

See you around the Post.

Adam Jacobs
Post Commander

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sincere greetings to all Auxiliary members. I hope your new year is going well and your Holiday season was enjoyable.

We have a couple of fund raising events taking place. On February 9th we are having a bake sale at the POST. Please

drop off your bake goods starting at 10 am, with the bake sale taking place 11 am until 2 pm. This is a few days before Valentine's Day. Perhaps you can find something for that sweetheart in your life. Remember, all proceeds go towards our Veteran's Assistance Program.

Also, we are planning a Spring Vendor & Craft Show to be held Saturday, April 13th. It takes a lot of volunteers to make the day successful. So, Auxiliary members come on out to see nice Craft and Vendor items. We will have a Bake Sale this day as well. Come join us for a cup of coffee and a donut.

The State Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen banquet is Feb. 9th in Springfield.

February 17th we will have the District 7 meeting in Pontiac. Also, this will be our annual Poppy Ball where Poppy displays are judged, as well as the parade of Poppy hats. The joint meeting is 11 am and lunch at noon. Auxiliary and VFW meetings are at 1 pm. Hope to see you there.

Mark your calendar as March 24th will be our Anniversary Event. Our members who have achieved a milestone anniversary (5 years and 5 year increments from there). Snacks will be served after the meeting.

Our next meeting is Feb. 6th at 6:30 pm. Please come and join us.

Murleen Swafford
Auxiliary President

VFW 454 RIDERS GROUP

Our meetings are held once a month, with our next one on Sunday, February, 3rd at 12:30 pm in the conference room of our Post.

Our 2nd annual Salute to Freedom Ride takes place August 24th. Our ride route is in the planning stages and tentatively being planned to cover many areas located within District 7. If you would like to help please come to the February 3rd meeting.

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

As we mentioned before, the food selection continues to grow along with their customer base. People are talking about the good food and service.

Whether you like country style or hot & spicy, come out and try it. Don't forget they can cater any event taking place at the VFW.

The Chicken Shop will serve a fish and chicken dinner on the following dates from 5:30 - 7:30 pm:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Feb 2 nd | Jury's Out Band Night |
| Feb 15 th | Bygones Band Night |

Come on out and try their dinner meal and hang around for the entertainment. Two good things in one night, you can't go wrong with this winning combination. So, come on out and enjoy the evening with us.

Post Membership

It's always on our minds and everyone harps and harps about it. However, as time goes by, we lose valued members who have contributed so much to this Post, the VFW and those veterans in need.

One way to honor their service is to help recruit new members. Bring them into the organization and help them learn what we do and why we do it. You know we are NOT just a bar with everyone telling war stories. We do so much for veterans and local community charities and organizations.

Just as our Commander mentioned, just talking about the VFW and our Post once a week will encourage prospective members to join and help continue our good work. So if you know someone that is eligible, encourage them to join our Post. If you know someone who is an annual member, then encourage them to

become Life Members. Remember, the Post will pay \$100 towards a life membership. Contact the Post at 309-827-9733 and ask for Jim (our Quartermaster).

We are only as strong as our members and we need your help to continue supporting veterans programs and the local community. So help us keep the Post alive by recruiting new members and showing them why we exist and do the things we do.

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.

Packing Service Member Boxes

The Auxiliary will be packing boxes Feb. 9th at 9 am. We could use single serve food items, beef jerky, twizzlers, razors, socks, hand warmers and hygiene products. We do appreciate your donations and any time you can give to support this endeavor. Thank you.

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.

February 18th Labs in Love
March 18th Painting TBD

We have scheduled a few bands over the coming months. We need our members and guest to support these events. We are making each entertainment event a "Fund Raising Event" and hopefully that will draw more attention to our programs and local community support. So here are a few of the bands that we have scheduled and the fund raiser tied to that event.

Feb 2nd Jury's Out Band

Feb 15th Bygones Band
"Special Olympics" games taking place at ISU this summer.

Mar 1st CPT Ron Band
Mar 22nd Sweetwater Band
"Hooah Hunt for Heroes" shows disabled veterans that they can enjoy hunting and fishing.

Apr 6th Champaign Freight
"Fund Raiser TBD"

Please attend these events and bring your family and friends and let's have fun together and at the same time raise funds for veterans programs and local charities & organizations.

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 17th Pontiac (Post 886)
May 19th 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.

26th Annual St Patrick's Day 5K Run
That's Right! You read it here. It is that time again. Guess What? The run actually takes place on St. Patrick's Day (Sunday, March 17th).

We all know the deal. Lots of runners, friends and families show up for this event. Check out our facebook page or webpage for entry forms or just stop by the Post. We are already receiving them.

It is also the time to sign up to be a road

guard at one of the many intersections along the 5k route. This takes about an hour of your time, so contact the Post today to sign up and be a road guard. Remember, all the proceeds are donated to several programs and community charities.

Cold Weather Safety & Security

We all know that winter is definitely upon us with the snows and this drastically cold weather with severe winds.

Ensure that your furnace, hot water heater and vehicle are in good working condition. We all know that repairs to these items can be costly and they usually have issues at the most inopportune moment.

If you are experiencing financial stress, don't forget about the Veterans Assistance Commission located downtown Bloomington at 200 W Front St # 400. They receive tax dollars from Mclean County that is used to help veterans and their families. They can provide financial assistance with utilities, food and many other items. If you need assistance contact Jerry Vogler at (309) 888-5140.

Room Bookings & Events

Remember that we rent our dining room out for all types of events. Large events 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. 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. If you are at the Post and the area needs attention please let the bartenders know. Thank you.

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES AND SISTERS

Jessie Hustemeyer (Dec)



FEBRUARY 2019

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | | VFW Darts 7 pm | VFW Darts 7 pm Jury's Out Band 8 pm |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| VFW Rider's 12:30 pm Cedar Ridge Cub Scouts 2 pm | House Mtg 5:30 pm AMVETS Mtg 6:30 pm | Post Mtg 6 pm Pool 7 pm | Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm | Pool 7 pm | VFW Darts 7 pm | Packing Boxes 9 am Bake Sale 11 Triathlon Club 6 pm VFW Darts 7 pm |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| | | Marine Corps League Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm | Pool 7 pm | Happy Valentine's Day Pool 7 pm | VFW Darts 7 pm Bygones Band 7:30 pm | Gibson Reception 4 pm VFW Darts 7 pm |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| District 7 Meeting (Pontiac) | Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm | Pool 7 pm | Pool 7 pm | Open Mic Night 7 pm Pool 7 pm | VFW Darts 7 pm | VFW Darts 7 pm |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 1 | 2 |
| | | Pool 7 pm | Pool 7 pm | Pool 7 pm | VFW Darts 7 pm Captain Ron Band 7:30 pm | VFW Darts 7 pm |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| VFW Rider's Meeting 12:30 pm | House Mtg 5:30 pm AMVETS Mtg 6:30 pm | Post Mtg 6 pm Pool 7 pm | Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm | Pool 7 pm | VFW Darts 7 pm | St Jude Benefit 6 pm VFW Darts 7 pm |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| | | Marine Corps League Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm | Pool 7 pm | Pool 7 pm | VFW Darts 7 pm | 5K Run Packet Pickup VFW Darts 7 pm |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| St Patrick's Day 5K Run | Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm | Pool 7 pm | Pool 7 pm | Open Mic Night 7 pm Pool 7 pm | VFW Darts 7 pm Sweetwater Band 7:30 pm | VFW Darts 7 pm |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| Auxiliary Anniversary Event 11 am | | Pool 7 pm | Pool 7 pm | Pool 7 pm | VFW Darts 7 pm | VFW Darts 7 pm |