



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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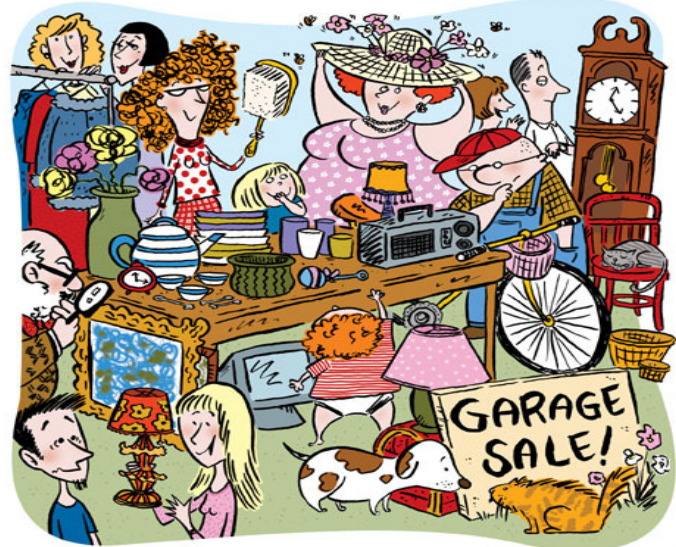
Non-Profit Organization
Heyworth, IL
US Postage Paid
PERMIT #19

Adam Jacobs, Post Commander
Murleen Swafford, Auxiliary President
Jim Waters, Editor - Quartermaster
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Post Web Page – 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 (Cosmic Sea) is
Monday, August 13th at 7 pm
To Register Go To: paintnite.com
Use the Code "PaintBloNo"
Cost is DISCOUNTED to \$27.00!**



Auxiliary Group Sale

Friday	August 10 th	8 am – 2 pm
Saturday	August 11 th	8 am – 2 pm
Sunday	August 12 th	11 am – 2 pm
Donations Accepted		August 9th

COMMANDERS COMMENTS

Greetings Comrades,

We had great turn outs for some of the events last month (July 3rd Celebration and the Cornbelter's Baseball game). All made possible by you and your family's continued support of this VFW.

A special thanks to the past commanders, members, family and friends who helped make July 3rd a great event. Check out the calendar for future events to come support, like the Potbelly's fund raising.

Since taking command, I have been astounded by the volume of things the Post Commander has to do and reminded how much we do at the post. I also see that we have a few people that do a tremendous amount and we do appreciate their hard work. We need your help as members to achieve everything.

We're still trying to figure out a good way to match our to do list with volunteers to help accomplish more and make the post great again, so let us know if you have any ideas or free time to help.

Here are some key dates for the month of August:

- 1st VFW Sports Clip Help a Hero Scholarship applications for spring open up
- 4th Coast Guard Birthday
- 7th Purple Heart Day
- 14th Victory over Japan for WWII

Please keep in mind that schools are starting in the next few weeks. We have scholarship programs such as the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen. So let's get the word out and hopefully get a lot of applicants for those scholarship competitions.

See you around the post!

Adam Jacobs
Post Commander

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all Auxiliary members! As we start our 2018 – 2019 year, I am looking forward to a busy year that benefits our veterans and military. Our Department convention was great

and our Auxiliary 454 was recognized and awarded many certificates.

In August, the Auxiliary will start out very busy with our group sale. Please read the sale dates and times further down the newsletter. We are also including a Bake Sale on Friday and Saturday of the sale.

We would appreciate help in all capacities, especially getting everything unpacked, set-up, and then taking it all down. All the proceeds from our fund raisers goes to our "Relief Fund". This fund is used for veterans and family assistance.

Our next District 7 meeting is August 19th in Rantoul. Everyone is welcome to attend. Our next auxiliary meeting is August 1st at 6:30 pm. We look forward to seeing our members at the meeting. Thanks for all your support.

Murleen Swafford
Auxiliary President

VFW 454 RIDERS GROUP

Our meetings are held once a month, with our next one on Sunday, July 1st at 12:30 pm in the conference room of our Post.

Plan ahead to attend our "Salute to Freedom Ride" on September 22nd. There will be door prizes and a silent auction. Please bring a new toy (to be donated to Toys for Tots of Mclean County) in exchange for a door prize ticket.

Also, if you know of a business that would like to donate small items for raffles and door prizes please let us know. We would love to involve the community in our events.

The Ride Starts & Ends at VFW Post 454

9:30 – 10:25 am	Registration
10:25 am	Briefing
10:30 am	Kickstands Up
4:30 pm	Arrive Post 454
5:00 pm	Dinner

** Meal Ticket included w/Registration
**Meal Tickets for purchase are available for those not participating in the ride
Entertainment (Live Music):

"Champaign Freight"

Registration fee:

\$10 per bike or vehicle (\$5 ea additional passenger).

The ride is 150 miles with a few stops to Salute Freedom. So come on out and enjoy the Ride and help us "Salute Freedom"!

GENERAL INFORMATION

2018 - 2019 Scholarship Programs

Voice of Democracy (VOD) Theme

"Why My Vote Matters"

Patriot's Pen Theme

"Why I Honor The American Flag"

These programs are open to high school and middle school children. Please help get the word out to the communities. We will have printable copies available on our website.

Auxiliary Group Sale

Set-Up & Donations

Thursday 9th 9 am - till done

Sale Hours

Friday	10 th	8 am -2 pm
Saturday	11 th	8 am – 2 pm
Sunday	12 th	11 am – 2 pm

(Sunday is Half-Price Day)

Clean up / Tear Down	2 pm
Monday	9 am
Mission Pickup and Room Cleanup	

Don't forget the **Bake Sale** on Friday and Saturday. Any and all baked goods are greatly welcomed. We need members to help in all capacity. We have jobs where members can sit if needed. Any time slots you are able to fill are much appreciated.

Group Sale signs and flyers are ready for pick up. I will have them at the next meeting, or contact me sooner at 309-275-3876. We always have a wonderful selection at our sale. Help get the word out through networking! Thanks, Melanie Alwes.

Kitchen! Kitchen! Kitchen!

Not Wanting to jinx anything, but the Post is currently working with a couple of guys on opening the kitchen to serve up some good food. Their business name is "Pop Up Chicken Shop"!

We are ironing out a couple of details on the lease agreement and working with the Health Dept on their food service processes. We don't have an exact date as of this newsletter, but pay attention to our website, facebook page, and other media to hear the possible opening date, which we hope to be sometime in August.

July 3rd Cook Out Success

A BIG Thank You to all the members who helped make our event a huge success. A special thank you to Murleen's visiting relatives, who sold the meal tickets and assisted Jim in keeping the numbers straight. Let's not forget the Pork Bellies Band. Many people have commented on the wonderful job they did with the music and volume.

We also owe thanks to Lakeside Country Club for their fireworks show and the many members and community supporters that came out to enjoy the evening with us. We hope you all had a great time.

Corn Crib Baseball - Cornbelters

"Salute to the Military Night"

Our Post had 41 attendees at the game. We had great weather and couldn't beat the camaraderie. Thanks to those able to attend. It was a good time. We are working on a few other events in the coming months. Hopefully, a hockey game around Veterans Day time frame, so pay attention to the newsletter.

Post Membership

Annual members please consider accepting the Post's offer to help you become a "Life Member" and avoid those annual premiums. 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.

Post Meeting

The next meeting is August 7th at 6:00 pm. Operation Santa will be on hand to answer your questions about the program.

Auxiliary Annual Dues

Your 2019 annual dues of \$25.00 can now be paid. Just send a check to Diane Hawk, Treasurer, to 1006 E Lincoln St., Bloomington, IL 61701. Remember your dues helps to pay for bringing happiness to many veterans, in the VA and locally.

Packing Boxes

We are still in need of names and addresses of military members serving in combat areas. Please send or bring their information to the Post or Auxiliary office. We would like to continue this wonderful program and support of our service members. Thank you for your continued support of this program.

Pot Belly's Veterans Fund Raising

They are helping us raise funds. So please stop by Pot Belly's at 609 South Main Street in Normal and have dinner on one of the dates shown below. Here are the dates for this year:

August 15	September 12
October 10	November 14
December 12	

Entertainment Events

August 13th is our next Paint Nite. It is titled "Cosmic Sea". We have a Paint Nite each month through the end of the year. Here are our scheduled dates:

September 17 th	October 15 th
November 19 th	December 10 th

We are also looking into musical entertainment events starting this fall. It is difficult to afford bands unless we have participation from our members. So, please consider coming to the music events and showing your support for the Post.

Another type of event that could do well is a comedy night. If any of our members know of some local comedians please send us their information. Or, if you know of some local talent that would like to help organize a Stand-Up Comedy

Night, please send them our way. Who knows, we may soon be able to make some events dinner and entertainment events.

Auxiliary's Danville VA Trips

Meet Jack. Jack is a marine who served in Vietnam. He sits and stares into space but will answer when spoken to, then stares again. Jack has been at the Danville VA for 10 years and lives in one of the "greenhouses named Freedom". He is originally from Colfax.

Jack appreciates going to lunch with us and generally orders breakfast. When we said goodbye to Jack, he thanked us, then stared into the unknown once again. Jack is only one of the reasons we go to the Danville VA.

Next trip is July 31st, we leave the Post at 9:45. Feel free to come along. Jack and many other veterans will be grateful for your visit with them.

District Meetings

Our District 7 meetings are:

Aug 19 th	Rantoul (Post 6750)
Nov 18 th	Bloomington (Post 454)
Feb 17 th	Pontiac (Post 886)
May 19 th	Champaign (Post 5520)

Canteen Hours

Effective Sunday, August 5th we are going to close the canteen at 12:00 am on Sunday & Monday nights, **IF** there are no customers. The canteen **WILL** be open if customers are present. Staying open until 1:00 am on those nights with no customers is not cost effective. Once the late fall and winter season picks back up, we may opt to change back to the 1:00 am closing time.

Centennial Celebration – Post 454

Happens in 2020. If you want to help plan the event contact our Quartermaster (Jim). He is putting together a plan.

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES AND SISTERS

William Lane (June 2018)

Richard Mounce (July 2018)

Nancy Eschenbremmer (July 2018)



AUGUST 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm	2	3 VFW Darts 7 pm	4 VFW Darts 7 pm
5 Bridal Shower 11 am VFW Rider's 12:30 pm	6 House Mtg 5:30 pm AMVETS Mtg 6:30 pm	7 Post Mtg 6 pm Pool 7 pm	8 Pool 7 pm	9 Auxiliary Sale Setup 9 am	10 Auxiliary Sale 9 - 2 VFW Darts 7 pm	11 Auxiliary Sale 9 - 2 VFW Darts 7 pm
12 Auxiliary Sale 11 - 2 Tear Down 2 pm	13 Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	14 Marine Corps League Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm	15 Pool 7 pm	16	17 VFW Darts 7 pm	18 VFW Darts 7 pm
19 Cancer Benefit / Fund Raiser 1 pm	20	21 Pool 7 pm Open Mic Night 7 pm	22 Pool 7 pm	23 American Kids 6 pm	24 VFW Darts 7 pm	25 Golf Tourn Luncheon 12 - 3 VFW Darts 7 pm
26	27 House Mtg 5:30 pm	28 Pool 7 pm	29 Pool 7 pm	30	31 VFW Darts 7 pm	1 VFW Darts 7 pm
2 VFW Rider's Meeting 12:30 pm	3 Labor Day	4 Post Mtg 6 pm Pool 7 pm	5 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm	6	7 VFW Darts 7 pm	8 Brad's Ride 10 am Set-up VFW Darts 7 pm
9	10 AMVETS Mtg 6:30 pm	11 Marine Corps League Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm	12 Pool 7 pm	13	14 VFW Darts 7 pm	15 Golf Lunch (rain date) 12 pm NALC Dinner 5 pm VFW Darts 7 pm
16	17 Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	18 Open Mic Night 7 pm Pool 7 pm	19 Pool 7 pm	20 American Kids 6 pm	21 VFW Darts 7 pm	22 Salute to Freedom Ride & Champaign Freight Band VFW Darts 7 pm