



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 Swafford, 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
(Dog Daze)
Monday, August 19th at 7 pm
To Register Go To:
www.yaymaker.com
Use the Code "CRAFTLOCAL"
For a Discounted Price!**



**Timothy "P"
Sunday, August 4th
2 pm

\$10 At The Door
Members Are Free
Come Early For Seats**



**Double Shot Duo
Friday, August 30th
7:30 pm
Music You Want To Hear
Pop Up Chicken Shop Serving
Fish & Chicken Dinner
5:30 - 7:30 pm**

COMMANDERS COMMENTS

Greetings comrades,

I hope all is well with you. It is August, meaning that summer is winding down and kids and parents are gearing up for school. That means more traffic in town, and a lot of those driving around are new to the area and probably distracted and confused. Look out for them. Accidents happen and it doesn't matter who is at fault.

It is a big month for the post as well. We are hosting a pre-homecoming social on Friday, August 9th for anyone wishing to meet our new State VFW Commander (Brad Gould) and our new State Auxiliary President (Billie Guthals), as well as visiting VFW members from across the state arriving early for the next days events.

The Council of Administration meeting takes place on Saturday with the Homecoming Celebration taking place later that evening at the Doubletree here in Bloomington. It has been many years since this took place in our area. Contact the VFW State HQs at 217-529-6688 to purchase your tickets. Please come out to show your support and help us celebrate this event.

Since this is the beginning of our new year that means our 1st District meeting takes place on August 18 at the Chenoa VFW. We encourage you to attend these meetings, get involved with the operations of our organization and meet other VFW members.

Robert Sable
Post Commander

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

July was a busy month for the Auxiliary.

By the time you read this bulletin we will have completed our annual group sale. Thanks to Melanie for working so hard on this project. Hopefully you all found something you couldn't live without.

On August 1st we will make a special trip to Danville to help with the Fishing Derby for the veterans. If you are interested, we will leave the Post at 8:15

am. It should be a fun day.

Remember, August 9 & 10th is the celebration for Brad (VFW State Commander) and Billie (State Auxiliary President). Friday night is a taco bar at the Post and Saturday evening is the Banquet at the Doubletree with a social hour at 6:00 pm and the dinner at 7:00 pm. Tickets for the Banquet are \$35.

Don't forget August 18th is the District Meeting in Chenoa. Also, August 20th is our trip to Danville to have lunch with the veterans. They are so much fun!! We have our monthly luncheon trips planned through October, and I would like everyone to schedule at least one time to go with us. I promise you will have a great time with these men. We leave the Post at 9:15 am. Please contact me if you wish to go.

Looking forward, I hope everyone is planning to attend the Labor Day Parade on September 2nd to cheer on our marching members.

Our next meeting is August 7th and I hope to see you there.

Thanks to all our members for their hard work and dedication. You never cease to amaze me!

C.J. Wahmann
Auxiliary President

VFW 454 RIDERS GROUP

The Rider's Group will host another meeting on Sunday, August 4th at 12:30 pm. Meet at the Post.

Don't forget that we have our 2nd annual "Salute to Freedom Ride" on Saturday, August 24th. We will discuss and assign specific areas to our members so we can have a great turnout. Bring your ideas and let's make this event a huge success. We are always looking for new members, so recruit someone and bring them to the meeting with you.

GENERAL INFORMATION

National Convention

Post 454 was represented by our Commander (Bob Sable) and State

Auxiliary President (Billie Guthals). Come to the August meetings and see what interesting things they have to tell us about the important issues discussed at the convention.

Bloomington VA Clinic

The time frame for the clinic to open, as we have been told is looking more like November. One item that has been identified is the bus stop near the VA clinic. It is approximately 75 to 100 yards from the front door of the clinic.

On July 23rd representatives from our Post and AMVETS 270 met with State Rep Dan Brady, Senator Jason Barickman, representatives from Congressmen Rodney Davis and Darin LaHood's office, VA Reps from Danville, Reps from ISU Veterans, the local labor union and Connect Transit at our Post. We discussed and brainstormed this issue for an hour and a half.

Several items were identified as possible temporary fixes and other long term permanent recommendations were also made. Now, we have to see how everything proceeds toward a proper resolution to this issue. We will keep you posted as more information becomes available. Some of you are asking what about Bloomington City Reps? We did invite the Mayor and representatives, but no one was available to attend the meeting.

Mobility Connect

Have you heard about it? We hadn't either until the meeting on July 23rd.

A program called "ADA Paratransit Eligibility" is available to the general public. Anyone with a disability can apply for the program. This means that an accessible vehicle (bus that can hold up to 20 people) through Connect Transit can pick you up at your home and drop you off at whatever location needed. However, the pickup and drop off locations must be inside the city limits of Bloomington/Normal. Another item about this program is that they will bill your insurance to help pay for this service. It never hurts to apply to see if this is an option for you or someone you know with a disability.

We have the application at the Post if anyone is interested in applying. We will also make it available for printing on our website: www.vfwpost454.org

Minute Clinic

CVS Health applauds the enactment of the VA Mission Act ó new legislation which will provide eligible veterans with increased access to walk-in care from qualifying community providers. They are called óMinute Clinicsö.

We have one right here in Bloomington. It is located inside CVS at 1130 S Veterans Pkwy. On the corner of Veterans and Mercer and they can be reached at 1-866-389-2727.

Ensure that you check with the VA at 1-217-554-4560 to ensure that any treatment you receive is covered under VA rules.

Commissioning Ceremony

The Illinois National Guard and VFW Post 454 said goodbye to MSG Michael Rivera Jr. on Friday, July 19th at the Heartland Community Church. However, in the same breath, we said Hello and Congratulations to ILT Michael Rivera Jr., Chaplain, Illinois National Guard. Michael joined VFW Post 454 about a year ago and is working his way toward Life Membership with us. Our Commander attended the commissioning ceremony on behalf of the Post. If you see Michael congratulate him and wish him well as he continues his service.

Pop Up Chicken Shop

July will be 10 months since the Pop Up Chicken Shop opened. If you haven't tried their lunch time meals, now is the time. Their customer base continues to grow which means more exposure for us.

The Pantagraph's Readers Choice awards were just announced and the Chicken Shop was voted óBest Fried Chickenö in this area. If you have not tried the chicken you need to stop by the Post and

have lunch. It truly is some good fried chicken. Don't forget to try their fried fish on band nights.

Don't forget they are open Monday - Saturday, 11 am - 4 pm, and each member (Post & Auxiliary) receives a \$1 discount on their meals. Just show your membership card when ordering.

Post Membership

We are well under way for the 2019 ó 2020 year. We need to do our best to be 100% before the end of this fiscal year. Our Post has a special program to assist members in obtaining Life Membership. Now is the time to come see our Quartermaster or call 309-827-9733.

Auxiliary Annual Dues

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 Boxes & Bake Sale

The Auxiliary packs boxes every other month to send to deployed service members in a combat area. Our own Adam Jacobs messaged us on July 22nd and said Thanks for the boxes he received. So let's keep up the good work and help the Auxiliary with donations and box packing.

Entertainment Events

If you're looking to get in out of the heat during August, stop in and check out our events. Paint Nites are scheduled on the 3rd Monday of each month. Join us and let that inner-artist out and paint a masterpiece.

	<u>Painting Name</u>
August 19 th	Dog Daze

Timothy "P" is back for a one day show at VFW Post 454. It all takes place Sunday, August 4th at 2 pm. The ticket price is \$10.00 and goes toward his

expenses. Post 454 and Auxiliary members receive Free Admission.

So show up early and get good seats. Tell your families and friends, who use to follow Timothy P and his band around Central Illinois.

Double Shot Duo is back for a command performance on Friday, August 30th at 7:30 pm. They are helping to kick off the Labor Day weekend. They did a great job with entertaining us the last time they played here. Don't forget, The Pop Up Chicken Shop will also be serving fish & chicken that night from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. So don't miss out on these two favorites and having a good time with us.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, but remember on those hot bored days, come inside and enjoy our events or just stop by to have a cold one and say hello. Don't forget that we have the nicest video gaming area in town.

District Meetings

The next District meeting will take place on Sunday, August 18th at Post 8350 in Chenoa. The joint Post and Auxiliary meeting begins at 11:00 am. Lunch is served at noon. Individual meetings begin at 1:00.

This is the first meeting of the 2019 - 2020 year. Please plan to attend the meeting on this date and find out what is happening in the District.

Outdoor Patio

We continue to improve the patio. We now have working umbrellas at 3 of the tables with heavy umbrella stands. As mentioned before, the gate is Emergency Exit Only. The alarm has been reconnected to this gate and it will sound inside if you open it. Please do not open this gate. New signs will be in place by the time you receive this newsletter.

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES AND SISTERS

Mary Adams (June)

Loren Last (July)



AUGUST 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1 Pool 7 pm	2 VFW Darts 8 pm	3 VFW Darts 8 pm
4 VFW Riders Mtg 12:30 pm Timothy P Event 2 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 Pool 7 pm	9 Homecoming Social 5:30 pm No Pool or Darts	10 Homecoming Celebration (Double Tree) VFW Darts 8 pm
11	12 NALC Mtg 7 pm	13 MCL Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm	14 Pool 7 pm	15 Open Mic Night 7 pm Pool 7 pm	16 VFW Darts 8 pm	17 Talent Showcase 5 pm VFW Darts 8 pm
18	19 Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	20 Pool 7 pm	21 Pool 7 pm	22 Pool 7 pm	23 VFW Darts 8 pm	24 Salute Ride 9:30 am VFW Darts 8 pm
25 Fantasy Football 2 pm	26	27 Pool 7 pm	28 DAV # 60 Mtg 5:30 pm Pool 7 pm	29 Pool 7 pm	30 Fish & Chicken Dinner 5:30 pm Double Shot Duo Band 7:30 pm VFW Darts 8 pm	31 VFW Darts 8 pm
1 VFW Riders Mtg 12:30 pm	2 House Mtg 5:30 pm AMVETS Mtg 6:30 pm	3 Post Mtg 6 pm Pool 7 pm	4 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm	5 Pool 7 pm	6 VFW Darts 8 pm	7 Golf Tourn 12 pm at Post VFW Darts 8 pm
8	9 NALC Mtg 7 pm	10 Marine Corps League Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm	11	12 Pool 7 pm	13 VFW Darts 8 pm	14 Pack Boxes 9 am Bake Sale 11 am VFW Darts 8 pm
15	16 Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	17 Pool 7 pm	18 Pool 7 pm	19 Open Mic Night 7 pm Pool 7 pm	20 VFW Darts 8 pm	21 Midstate Luncheon 10 am VFW Darts 8 pm