



**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

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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.



**The Next Paint Nite  
(Beach Blossoms)  
Monday, April 15th at 7 pm  
To Register Go To: [paintnite.com](http://paintnite.com)  
Use the Code "PaintBloNo"  
Cost is DISCOUNTED to \$27.00!**

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY**

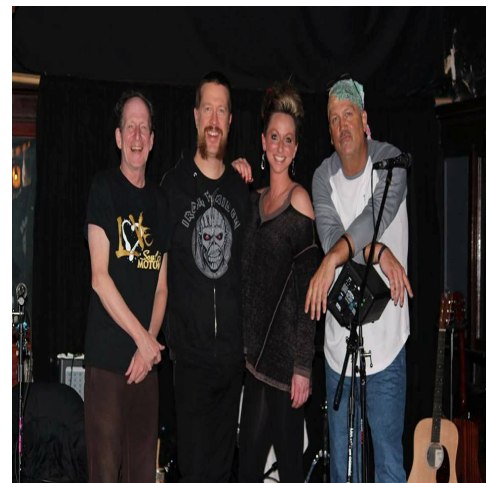


**VENDOR AND CRAFT FAIR**

**Proceeds to Veterans Assistance Programs**

**Saturday  
April 13th  
9 am - 2 pm**

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



**Champaign Freight Band  
Saturday  
April 6th  
7:30 PM**

## COMMANDERS COMMENTS

Hello Fellow Veterans,  
I and members of my unit finished our training prep at Ft. McCoy Wisconsin and safely returned here to Central Illinois. We have just a short time to get it altogether and be ready for our upcoming deployment.

I wanted to take this time to say that our band and fund raising events have been going well. So far we have raised funds for Homeless Veterans (Home Sweet Home Mission), Special Olympics (summer games at ISU) and the Hooah, Deer Hunt for Heros.

We don't have the financials back from the 5K run yet, but my understanding is that it was definitely another successful event with over 600 registered runners. So everyone that has helped with these events – Take A Bow for all your efforts to support these worthwhile events and programs. They would not be successful without your efforts.

Don't forget that officer elections take place at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, 6pm. The newly elected officers will assume their positions at the July meeting. Good luck to the nominees.

As we move into Spring and Summer, don't forget about all of our upcoming events such as the Auxiliaries Vendor Fair, The Family Freedom Festival and we all know how busy it gets in May with placing flags on veterans graves and the Memorial Day Ceremonies.

Here are some dates to remember this month:

Month of the Military Child

Apr 1 <sup>st</sup>	April Fool's Day
Apr 5 <sup>th</sup>	Gold Star Spouses Day
Apr 14 <sup>th</sup>	Air Force Reserve Birthday
Apr 19 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday
Apr 21 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Sunday
Apr 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Earth Day
Apr 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Army Reserve Birthday
Apr 25 <sup>th</sup>	ANZAC Day (Australia & New Zealand)
Apr 30 <sup>th</sup>	National Military Brats Day

While I am deployed I wish you all well and remember that this Post is yours and it will only be as good as you make it. I hope to see all of you when I return.

**Adam Jacobs**  
**Post Commander**

## AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all Auxiliary members. It's that time again, nominations and elections of our officers for the 2019 - 2020 year.

Any member in good standing is eligible to run for any of the Auxiliary officer positions. We encourage and welcome new members to join the line of officers.

Nominations and elections will take place at our April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Newly elected Officers will take their positions at the July meeting which is the first one after our Department Convention in June.

Join us at our meeting to provide your input to our leadership for the coming year. If you have any questions about the various positions, please contact me.

Set up for the Vendor Fair is Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. The Vendor Fair takes place on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 2 pm. We are also having a bake sale and cash raffle.

The proceeds from the Vendor Fair are used to fund our programs that support our Veterans, their families and promote patriotism in our community. We would appreciate your help with the setup as it takes many to make this event possible. Thanks to Barb Scott and Pat Hill for all the many hours worked to make this event possible. And to those who also invested many hours towards the raffle and general organization.

Mark your calendar for the " Family Freedom Fest" to be held Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to 2 pm. More information on this event at a later date.

March 24<sup>th</sup> was our Anniversary Event where our members celebrating milestone anniversaries were recognized.

Congratulations to all, and, thank you chairman Linda Beard for all your work and dedication to this event.

The next Auxiliary meeting is April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm. Hope to see you all there.

May you all have a very "HAPPY EASTER".

**Murleen Swafford**  
**Auxiliary President**

## VFW 454 RIDERS GROUP

The last meeting was Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Only two members showed up. The consensus was that the group should dissolve due to the lack of activity and participation. If you are truly interested in a Rider's Group, come to the meeting on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm.

If there is no interest in keeping the group going, then we will follow the close out process.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Annual Elections

Post:	Tuesday, April 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Auxiliary	Wednesday, April 3 <sup>rd</sup>

### Post Nominees

Commander	Bob Sable
	Art Wynn
Sr. Vice Cdr	Dennie Smith
Jr. Vice Cdr	Randy Wolcott
Quartermaster	Jim Waters
Chaplain	Dave Torinoni
Judge Advocate	Ralph Pouliot
Surgeon	Don Cropp
3 yr Trustee	Patsy Mayer
	Art Wynn
3yr House Committee	Ray Reed
	Ron Terven
2yr House Committee	Barry Conder

Come out and vote for the members that are stepping up to help our Post.

### Pop Up Chicken Shop

Continues to serve up good food. Their customer base is still strong. Thursday - Saturday appears to be the largest days, so if you are wanting a good lunch meal stop on by and enjoy the food.

The meals served up on our band nights have been delicious as well. They have also been serving fried fish every day and will continue to Easter. So come on out and give it a try. Remember, VFW and Auxiliary members receive a discount. Just show your membership card.

The next evening fried chicken or fish meal is April 6th from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Champaign Freight Band takes the stage at 7:30 pm. Get here early.

### **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 recruit 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**

At this time we do not have a date set for packing boxes. We could use names and addresses of those serving overseas.

These can be sent to the Post or Auxiliary. Thank you for all your help and donations. We don't know how long our troops will be deployed, but, we need to ensure they know that we remember they are there and not forgotten. Thank you for supporting this program.

### **Entertainment Events**

We are continuing our Paint Nite Events in 2019. We had to cancel our March event due to lack of attendees. We only had 4 people sign up. In order to have these events we need your help to make them successful.

Here is the next one coming up. Hurry and get your tickets early.  
April 15th Beach Blossoms

Our dinner and band nights are working well. So please come out and support them. We are treating each of these events as a fund raiser and hoping to draw more attention to our programs.

Here is our next band event.  
Apr 6<sup>th</sup> Champaign Freight

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.

### **District Meetings**

The next District meeting will take place on May 19<sup>th</sup> at Post 5520 in Champaign. The joint Post and Auxiliary meeting begins at 11:00 am. Lunch is served at noon. Individual meetings begin at 1:00.

This meeting is also for election of District 7 Officers. The District needs your help in filling the available positions. If you want to become more involved in the VFW, running for a District office is definitely a good start. We need new members to step up and help keep everything on track.

The Banquet for the incoming State Commander and Auxiliary President will be held in Bloomington. District 7 members will take the lead for the Department of IL VFW. Brad Gould (Urbana Post) will assume the position of State Commander and our own Billie Guthals will assume the position of State Auxiliary President. They will step into these positions on July 1<sup>st</sup>, so wish them well the next time you see them. Congratulations Billie!

The Banquet and Open House is scheduled on these dates. The Open House at the Post on Friday, Aug 9<sup>th</sup> with food and drinks. The main event will take place on Saturday, Aug 10<sup>th</sup> at the Doubletree Hotel. This will be a huge event for Post 454, so we want to shine and show our VFW support.

### **26<sup>th</sup> Annual St Patrick's Day 5K Run**

This was another fantastic event. There were over 600 registered runners and the weather stayed somewhat nice for the event. Everyone seemed in good spirits and had a great time. We thank everyone that helped organize, participate, played road guards, etc. Without your support the event could not have been a success.

### **Upcoming Memorial Day Events**

It's getting closer. Flags go out on Thursday, May 23rd (24th is rain date). Parade and John Kraus honors on Monday, May 27th. Flags come back in on Tuesday, May 28th. We can use all the help we can get. So plan to help out and ask your friends and neighbors if they would like to help as well.

**IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES AND SISTERS**  
Bill Cunningham (March) Addie McGuire (March)



## APRIL 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 House Mtg 5:30 pm AMVETS Mtg 6:30 pm	2 Post Mtg Elections 6 pm Pool 7 pm	3 Auxiliary Mtg Nominations & Elections 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm	4 Pool 7 pm	5 VFW Darts 7 pm	6 Champaign Freight Band 7:30 pm VFW Darts 7 pm
7 VFW Rider's 12:30 pm	8 NALC Mtg 7 pm	9 Marine Corps League Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm	10 Pool 7 pm	11 Credit Union Trivia 6 pm Pool 7 pm	12 Vendor Fair Setup 5:30 pm VFW Darts 7 pm	13 Auxiliary Vendor Fair & Bake Sale 9 - 2 pm VFW Darts 7
14	15 Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	16 Pool 7 pm	17 Pool 7 pm	18 Open Mic Night 7 pm Pool 7 pm	19 VFW Darts 7 pm	20 VFW Darts 7 pm
21	22	23 Pool 7 pm	24 Pool 7 pm	25 Pool 7 pm	26 VFW Darts 7 pm	27 Auxiliary Chairman Conf 8am VFW Darts 7
28 Central IL Housing Network Fund Raiser 11 am - 2 pm	29	30 Pool 7 pm	1 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm	2 Pool 7 pm	3 VFW Darts 7 pm	4 Family Freedom Festival VFW Darts 7 pm
5 VFW Rider's Meeting 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 Pool 7 pm	10 VFW Darts 7 pm	11 VFW Darts 7 pm
12	13 NALC Mtg 7 pm	14 Marine Corps League Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm	15 Pool 7 pm	16 Open Mic Night 7 pm Pool 7 pm	17 VFW Darts 7 pm	18 Maddox Dedication Recept 6 pm No Darts
19	20 Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	21 Pool 7 pm	22 Pool 7 pm	23 Flags Out 8 am Pool 7 pm	24 Flags Out 8 am Cook Out VFW Darts 7	25 VFW Darts 7 pm
26 Dog Club Event 4 pm	27 Memorial Day Parade and Lunch	28 Flags In 8 am Pool 7 pm	29 Pool 7 pm	30 Pool 7 pm	31 VFW Darts 7 pm	1 VFW Darts 7 pm