



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 – 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
(4th of July)
Monday, July 15th at 7 pm
To Register Go To:
www.yaymaker.com
Use the Code “CRAFTLOCAL”
For a Discounted Price!



The Blue Hares
Wednesday, July 3rd
6 – 9 pm
Music For Your Dining Pleasure

Pop Up Chicken Shop Cooking Out On The Grill
(Hang Out For The Fireworks)

COMMANDERS COMMENTS

Fellow Comrades,

Welcome to a new year. Congratulations to Billie Guthals, from our Auxiliary for being installed as the State Auxiliary President. Our Department Commander, Brad Gould (Post 630 Urbana) is also from our district, so there will be plenty of opportunities to help out around the post this coming year.

We are continuing our 3rd of July tradition with an annual cook-out at the Post. The Pop-Up Chicken Shop is grilling many of your Independence holiday favorites. So come out and enjoy some good food, great camaraderie, music and fireworks. Be sure to stay safe if you have your own goodies.

It is the start of a new program year, so we want to start on our post projects as soon as possible to meet our obligations.

By this time, our most recent past commander, Adam Jacobs should be serving in the sandbox, so keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Robert Sable
Post Commander

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sincere greetings to all members. I am both humbled and honored to have been voted in as President of the Auxiliary.

We continue to be busy showing our respect to the veterans. We will be going to Danville on July 16th for bingo and lunch with the veterans in the Liberty House. I would encourage you to consider making the trip with us. These men are so appreciative of our visits with them. We plan to leave the Post at 8:15 am.

A number of our members attended the Department Convention in Springfield June 13 – 15. It was so exciting as we witnessed the installation of one of ours, Billie Guthals, who was installed as the Department Auxiliary President!

Note the meeting change for July. Due to the July 4th holiday events we will be moving our meeting to July 10th. I look

forward to seeing many of our members that night.

Speaking of the July 4th holiday, plan to come out to the Post on July 3rd for the cookout, music, fellowship, fun and fireworks. We always have such a good time together. Bring your lawn chair and cheer on America.

We will have a bake sale on July 13th as well as packing boxes for our deployed service members. We are in need of items such as candy that won't melt in the heat, razors, canned meat, meat sticks, shampoo, deodorant and the list goes on and on. Come out for both of these events to show your support.

July 20 – 24 is the National Convention in Orlando, Florida. A couple of our members will be attending. Diane Hawk can give you all the information you need if you are interested in attending this event.

Our annual indoor group sale is scheduled for July 26 - 28. This is a major source of income for the Auxiliary, as well as a huge undertaking. We welcome any help with setting up on Thursday, July 25th and the tear down and pack up on July 28th. We will have lots of tables and chairs to move and appreciate any help you can provide.

I hope your summer is going well. It's that time of year when we are out and about enjoying the summer weather, so set a goal to thank a veteran every day.

C.J. Wahmann
Auxiliary President

VFW 454 RIDERS GROUP

The Rider's Group will host another meeting on Sunday, July 7th 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 turn out. 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

State and National Conventions

Post 454 was represented by our Commander and Quartermaster, who attended the business meetings and elections at the convention in Springfield in June. They participated in the Department elections and review of Bylaw changes for the Department of Illinois and networked with other VFW members throughout the state.

Our Commander will represent the Post at the National Convention which takes place later this month in Orlando, Florida.

Bloomington VA Clinic

The clinic is coming and to most of us, not soon enough, but it will be open later this year.

Many of you already know that a meeting took place at the Bloomington library earlier in June. The Post will work with the VA reps to attempt to have a meeting or two at the Post so members and other veterans in the area can attend and ask questions and find out more information. We will try to schedule this meeting as late in the day as possible so those of you who work full time jobs can attend. We may try for a Saturday or Sunday time frame if possible.

Happy 243rd Birthday America

Join us for a cookout, musical entertainment and light show on Wednesday, July 3rd and help us kick-off our nation's birthday.

Pop Up Chicken Shop is grilling burgers, hotdogs, brats and possibly a grilled chicken sandwich. So don't miss the fun, food and entertainment. Hope to see you here. Don't forget to bring a lawn chair to sit in while viewing the outdoor light show.

Pop Up Chicken Shop

July will be 10 months since the 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. Sometime in July, the Pantagraph should be publishing the results of the People's Choice award voting. The competition

has been on-going for several weeks now. We are rooting for the Chicken Shop to be the top choice. So keep your fingers crossed and hopefully they will win this award.

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

Post Membership

Hooray! We crossed into the 2019 - 2020 year with 98.5% in our membership numbers. It isn't 100% plus, but we now have another year to make that happen. So let's recruit new members anywhere and anytime. Also encourage our annual members to pay their dues on-time so our numbers do not drop. Better yet, let's talk to them about Life Membership.

Remember, our Post has a special program to assist our annual members in obtaining Life Membership. Now is the time to come see our Quartermaster (Jim Waters) or call 309-827-9733. Take the plunge and a proud Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Auxiliary Annual Dues

Now's the time to start paying your 2019 - 2020 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

As mentioned in the Auxiliary Presidents comments above, the next box packing takes place on Saturday, July 13th at 9 am.

If you have a name and address of someone overseas, please let us know. Drop it off at the Post or send it to the Auxiliary. We can use all the donations you can spare. We want to let those deployed service members know that we care and appreciate their sacrifices.

Don't forget that our Bake Sale is also on this day. It is from 11 am to 2 pm. So please bring in those delicious baked goods.

Entertainment Events

We have scheduled Paint Nite events on the 3rd Monday of each month. This is a fun way to share time with family and friends, as well as bring out that inner-artist that wants to come out and paint a masterpiece. So join us on the following dates:

	<u>Painting Name</u>
July 15 th	4 th of July
August 19 th	Dog Daze

As soon as we pick the next few paintings, we will publish those names in the next newsletter. So keep watching each month as we list those new painting titles.

Now that the summer months are here, we know people like to be outside. Therefore, we will not be having as many dinner and band nights as in past months.

Those will start back on Friday, August 30th. We will kick it off with the Double Shot Duo. They played here May 24th and people liked them a lot, so we are having them back to help kick-off the Labor Day weekend. So enjoy the outdoor summer events, but remember, we have the fish and chicken dinners with great entertainment.

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

If you haven't been to the Post in the last

few weeks it's time to stop by. The old wooden fence has been removed and replaced with a new black vinyl chain link fence. A new emergency exit gate was installed and it opens out toward the flag pole area. Remember, this gate is Emergency Exit Only.

The patio area looks really nice and open. We are still making some other minor improvements, so bear with us until everything is finished.

Summer Safety

As you are out and about with your summer events please keep safety in the back of your mind. Many of you will partake in water sports, motorcycle events, hiking, biking and a multitude of other enjoyable hobbies.

Water Safety:

Wear life preservers, obey all boating and water safety laws and rules, be responsible if consuming adult beverages, use sun screen and above all else have fun.

Motorcycle and Bike Safety:

Please wear helmets and bright colored clothing, obey all traffic laws, don't drink and ride, but do have fun.

Fire Safety:

It's that time of the season when we fire up the grills and smokers and cook that long awaited summer food. Please ensure that you use flammables safely. Many people are injured each year during BBQs and camp fires/burn pits. We know the food is good and camp fires are warm and soothing. Stay safe.

Last but definitely the most important. When consuming adult beverages, be responsible and don't overdo it. Above all else Don't Drink and Drive. This can lead to severe consequences for you and others who may be on the road.

Have a great and fun summer!

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES AND SISTERS

Larry Allisonark (May)



JULY 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 House Mtg 5:30 pm AMVETS Mtg 6:30 pm	2 Post Mtg 6 pm Pool 7 pm	3 Cook Out 5:30 pm Pool 7 pm	4 Happy Birthday America Pool 7 pm	5 Andrews Pool Tourn 6:30 pm VFW Darts 8 pm	6 VFW Darts 8 pm
7 VFW Rider's Mtg 12:30 pm Celebration of Life 1 pm	8 NALC Mtg 7 pm	9 Marine Corps League Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm	10 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm	11 Pool 7 pm	12 Andrews Pool Tourn 6:30 pm VFW Darts 8 pm	13 Boxes 9 am Bake Sale 11 am VFW Darts 8 pm
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 Andrews Pool Tourn 6:30 pm VFW Darts 8 pm	20 VFW Darts 8 pm
21	22	23 Pool 7 pm	24 DAV # 60 Mtg 5:30 pm Pool 7 pm	25 Set Up Garage Sale 8 am Pool 7 pm	26 Aux Garage Sale 8 am No Darts	27 Aux Garage Sale 8 am No Darts
28 Aux Garage Sale 8 am	29	30 Pool 7 pm	31 Pool 7 pm	1 Pool 7 pm	2 Andrews Pool Tourn 6:30 pm VFW Darts 8 pm	3 VFW Darts 8 pm
4 VFW Rider's Mtg 12:30 pm Timothy P Event 1 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)
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 Andrews Pool Tourn 6:30 pm VFW Darts 8 pm	17 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 Andrews Pool Tourn 6:30 pm VFW Darts 8 pm	24 Salute Ride 9:30 am VFW Darts 8 pm
25	26	27 Pool 7 pm	28 DAV # 60 Mtg 5:30 pm Pool 7 pm	29 Pool 7 pm	30 Andrews Pool Tourn 6:30 pm Double Shot Duo Band 7:30 pm VFW Darts 8 pm	31 VFW Darts 8 pm