



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, 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
(Moonlit Teal Heart)
Monday, February 17th at 7 pm
To Register Go To:
www.yaymaker.com
Use the Code "CRAFTLOCAL"
For a Discounted Price!**



**Lisa G and
the Good Reasons Band
Friday, February 14th
7:30 - 10:30 pm**



**Big on Blondes
Friday, February 28th
7:30 - 10:30 pm**

**Band Nights
Pop Up Chicken Shop
Serving Fish & Chicken Dinner
5:00 - 7:00 pm**

COMMANDERS COMMENTS

Greetings Comrades! We just finished with the Voice of Democracy (VOD) and Patriots Pen (PP) programs, and gave out cash prizes to the winners. We had some very good entries, but I wish we had better participation.

The year is winding down and it is time to start thinking about your next years leadership team. Remember, we nominate in March and elect in April. We need some of our newer members to seriously think about running for some of the junior officer positions to become more familiar with the VFW organization.

If you haven't got your flu shot yet, now is the time to get it done. Especially with all the of the bad colds and sickness that has taken place over the last couple of months.

Our next big events for the Posts are the Valentine's Day dinner and dance. Next, we move into March with several bands and the March 15th St. Patrick's Day 5k run. We usually need lots of help from the Post and the Auxiliary for this event. Especially road guards during the event and help cleaning up afterwards. Come help out if you are available.

Robert Sable
Post Commander

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here we go ðleapingö into February, 2020. We at the Auxiliary continue to work at meeting the needs of our veterans. There are so many plans for future events it is overwhelming!

Thank you so much to Kevin Lancaster for his devotion to the packing of boxes sent to our troops. If you would like to donate to this project please check with myself or Kevin for our present needs. Right now I know we are in need of black socks and flushable wipes for our next packing. We have both men and women. In January we sent boxes to four women and seven men.

Also a huge thank you to all those ladies who stepped up to help with packing the

boxes and our bake sale held on January 11th. Mary Ann Croke and Neva Gipson are so faithful at helping with the bake sale and we so appreciate their efforts. Also, a big thank you to our members, who are volunteering at the new VA Clinic in Bloomington, your services are greatly appreciated.

Keep in mind the District Meeting in Pontiac on February 16th will include the Poppy Display and Hat Parade. We will be planning transportation for this event at our meeting on February 5th. Hope to see all members there.

Elizabeth Browning said, ðLove doesn't make the world go round, love is what makes the ride worthwhile.ö Happy Valentine's Day!

C.J. Wahmann
Auxiliary President

GENERAL INFORMATION

Valentine's Day and Dinner

What better place to be than VFW Post 454. We are serving Fish and Chicken from the Pop Up Chicken Shop and Lisa G and the Good Reasons Band is providing the entertainment for the evening. There is no cover charge, so bring that special person in your life and enjoy a special evening with us. Look forward to seeing all of you at this event.

Paint Nites

Our January event was well received. We had 18 people sign up to paint Northern Night Lights.

As you can see we have more dates booked in 2020, so sign up and create your masterpiece. Bring your family members and friends and enjoy an evening out. It would be wonderful if we could fill our dining room on the following dates.

	<u>Painting Name</u>
Feb 17 th	Moonlit Teal Heart
Mar 16 th	Snow Dusted Cherry Blossoms
Apr 20 th	Blooming Spring Bridge
May 18 th	Swan Lake Love

Register at www.yaymaker.com
Use the Code ðCRAFTLOCALö for a discounted price.

Upcoming Musical Entertainment

We are continuing to book musical entertainment for your enjoyment. Please come out and join us for these events. Most of them start at 7:30 pm so that people can attend the event and have time to get home before its very late in the night. Occasionally, the band may start at 8:00 pm depending on the event. Hope to see you here for these fantastic shows.

Feb 14 th	Lisa G and the Good Reasons
Feb 28th	Big On Blondes
Mar 13th	Trio Grande Band
Mar 20th	Retrofit Band
Mar 27th	Hillbilly High-Rise Band
April (working on schedule)	
May 22nd	Double Shot Duo

Put these dates on your calendars and plan to party with us.

Don't forget, The Pop Up Chicken Shop will also be serving fish & chicken dinners on band nights from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

District Meetings

Our District meetings take place on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

February 16 th	Pontiac
May 17 th	Champaign

The May meeting will be the District Convention since the state convention takes place in June. It will also be our Memorial ceremony in memory of those we have lost this past year.

Our joint meetings always begin at 11:00 am. Lunch is served at noon. Individual meetings begin at 1:00.

If you can't make the joint meeting at 11, it would be great if more Post members could make the 1 pm business meeting. This meeting would allow you to meet other members in our District and see what they have going on at their Post. We hope to see many of you at these meetings.

Membership

Our membership is currently sitting at 96.76%. We have about 21 members that have not renewed their dues over the last 2 years. We are reaching out to a lot of members to determine why they have not chosen to renew their membership.

We are putting forth our efforts to keep our Post secure with younger veterans wishing to join and become part of a worthwhile organization that takes care of its members, veterans and the local community. Recruiting new members is also a necessity of maintaining our Post's existence. Without new members to bring into the fold our Post will slowly wither away. We have been in existence over 99 years and we don't want that legacy to fade away. So help us reach new and potential members and show them what the VFW is all about. Only you can keep our Post alive.

Also, if you know of a member that is experiencing financial hardship and unable to pay their dues please contact our Quartermaster (Jim Waters) so he can contact the member. We have a dues reserve fund just for those circumstances.

Officer Nominations and Elections

It is time now to think about our next group of officers. Our nominations take place at the March 3rd Post meeting.

If you are thinking about filling one of the officer positions and not sure if you can make the March meeting, please go ahead and submit a letter stating what position you will accept. This is just in case you cannot attend the meeting in March.

The nominations will open and close at the March meeting. We will create a ballot and have the elections at the April 7th meeting. All elected officers for the 2020 ó 2021 year will take their positions after our State VFW convention in June.

Centennial Celebration

The Post is celebrating its 100th Anniversary on Friday, May 15th. We plan to have several events taking place starting Friday, May 15th and continuing through the Memorial Day weekend.

The proposed plan will be presented at the Post meeting on Feb 4th for the Post member's approval. Once approved, the events will be published for planning purposes.

In preparation for our Centennial Anniversary celebration, we will also need help to make our Post shine. By that I mean, we will need help with getting our facility spruced up. We plan to invite a lot of special guest and dignitaries from around the local and state areas to attend kick off ceremonies and we definitely want our Post to look its best.

If you would be willing to help out with cleaning or special events once they are published please contact our Quartermaster (Jim Waters) and let him know if you can help out.

Please plan to be here for the events scheduled in May. It's not every day that a VFW Post reaches their 100th Anniversary.

Bloomington VA Claims Office

The local office is operated by the Illinois Dept of Veterans Affairs. It is located at 1616 S Main inside the National Guard Armory. The phone number is (309) 827-5811. Monday and Friday is currently set up for walk-in hours. We have been informed that Tuesday ó Thursday is now by appointment. If you need claims assistance please call the contact number above.

Your Health and Viruses

Here are some easy steps to help prevent illnesses from viruses:
Hand washing with soap & water for at least 20 seconds.
Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
Avoid close contact with sick people.
Stay home when you are sick.
Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

New Bartenders

We have a couple new bartenders (Amanda Gapinski and Carrie Jackson). They will be training during the next few weeks, so stop in and say hi to Amanda and Carrie and show them that we have a great place to work and associate with veterans and the local community.

Patrick Campbell Celebration of Life

Jury's Out Band and VFW Post 454 are proud to host the Celebration of Life event for Patrick Campbell, a long time member of the band, on Saturday, Feb 29th at 7 pm.

Patrick and the rest of Jury's Out have played at the VFW several times over the last few years. They have always been big supporters of veterans and the Home Sweet Home Mission here in Bloomington.

In honor of Patrick and the support to Home Sweet Home Mission, the band is asking for a \$5.00 donation from all attendees with 100% of the money going to the Home Sweet Home Mission.

So come out and celebrate Patrick's life and his support of the Mission. We hope to see you at this event.

Events and Programs

Just a reminder that events help the Post raise funds for our veterans programs. If you know of someone wanting or needing a venue to host their event please refer them to the Post.

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES AND SISTERS

Edward Lipscomb (Jan) (One of our remaining WWII Vets)



FEBRUARY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1 VFW Darts 8 pm
2	3 House Mtg 5:30 pm AMVETS Mtg 7:00 pm	4 Post Mtg 6 pm Pool 7 pm	5 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm	6	7 VFW Darts 8 pm	8 ABATE Pool 12 pm Cancer Benefit 5 pm NO DARTS
9	10 NALC Mtg 7 pm	11 MCL Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm	12 Pool 7 pm	13	14 Fish & Chicken 5:30 ó 7:30 pm Lisa G & Good Reasons Band 7:30 pm VFW Darts 8 pm	15 Blue & Gold Banquet 5:30 pm VFW Darts 8 pm
16	17 Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	18 Bags 6 pm Pool 7 pm	19 Pool 7 pm	20	21 VFW Darts 8 pm	22 Post - Holiday Gathering 5 pm VFW Darts 8 pm
23	24	25 Bags 6 pm Pool 7 pm	26 DAV #60 Mtg 5:30 pm Pool 7 pm	27	28 Fish & Chicken 5:30 ó 7:30 pm Big on Blondes Band 7:30 pm VFW Darts 8 pm	29 Celebration of Life 7 pm NO VFW Darts
1	2 House Mtg 5:30 pm AMVETS Mtg 7:00 pm	3 Post Mtg Nominations 6 pm Pool 7 pm	4 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm	5	6 VFW Darts 8	7 VFW Darts 8
8	9 NALC Mtg 7 pm	10 MCL Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm	11 Pool 7 pm	12 Open Mic Night 7 pm	13 Fish & Chicken 5:30 ó 7:30 pm Trio Grande Band 7:30 pm VFW Darts 8 pm	14 VFW Darts 8 pm
15 St Patrick's Day 5 K Run	16 Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	17 Bags 6 pm Pool 7 pm	18 Pool 7 pm	19	20 Fish & Chicken 5:30 ó 7:30 pm Retrofit Band 7:30 pm VFW Darts 8	21 VFW Darts 8 pm