



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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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 . 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.



Celebrate Mother's Day
May 10th



Celebrate Memorial Day
May 25th

COMMANDERS COMMENTS

Greetings Comrades:

As of this writing, we are still under a lockdown. It is hard to predict what the new "normal" will look like, or even if / when it will start. Obviously we will all need to make adjustments. Hope you are all getting by and staying busy.

Jim, Ron and a couple of the bartenders have made great improvements to the overall cleanliness and functionality in the post. Thank you for your efforts. We are planning on having officer elections at the post on our next meeting night - whether we have a meeting is another matter. All plans depend on when the restrictions are lifted.

Help out around your areas if / when needed. Remember, if you know a veteran or veteran's family in distress relay the information to me, Jim or one of the other officers so we can help if possible. Stay safe.

Robert Sable
Post Commander

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I write my report with hope and prayers that we will all see a normal life in the very near future and that everyone is safe and healthy. Unfortunately we have had to cancel the Vendor Fair that was scheduled for April 18th. This is very disappointing since it is one of our largest money making events.

We will still plan to pack boxes for our veterans overseas. It will most likely be towards the end of the month. We are in need of almost everything. Any donations will be gratefully accepted.

We will be putting flags on the graves of veterans on May 21st. Please feel free to email me at cjwahmann@hotmail.com if you are able to help. The 100th Anniversary of the Post will be an exciting time. I hope each of you plan to take part in the celebration.

Please keep our military men and women in your hearts and prayers as we face challenging times.

C.J. Wahmann
Auxiliary President

GENERAL INFORMATION

Still On Lockdown

As you already know, Illinois is still on lockdown and only essential and other specific businesses are open. So we are closed for normal daily operations. We hope you all are staying safe and adjusting for another month. If any member or families are having difficulties please ensure you direct them to the Post. We will help out with whatever we can.

Post Meeting and Officer Elections

We need to have a meeting on Tuesday, May 5th. We need to meet for about 15 minutes to elect our new officers for the coming year. It should only take a few minutes since most of the positions are unopposed. Please try to make this meeting. We can spread everyone throughout the dining room or the bar area to quickly get this done.

100th Anniversary Celebration

This event is canceled and we are looking at a possible date in June to reschedule this event. We want to ensure this momentous occasion doesn't go unnoticed. So pay close attention to our Facebook page, newspaper and website for more details.

5K After St. Patrick's Day Run

The rescheduled date is set for Sunday, September 20th. We will keep you posted once all of the finalized details are made. We apologize for any inconvenience, but the Corona Virus lockdown threw a curve to everyone's events.

At this time, the T-shirts are being kept safe and will be ready for the rescheduled event. Don't forget that we will need our normal contingent of volunteers on this date to help with the setup, road guards and cleanup. So please put this date on your calendars and help out if you can.

Paint Nites

We will look at events like this possibly in June or July. We hope once businesses start opening back up that we can plan more events for our members and friends

of the VFW. Keep your fingers crossed that it happens sooner than later.

Upcoming Musical Entertainment

We hope that we can still have the Memorial Day weekend cook-out and band on Friday, May 22nd, but it is not looking good based on the continued lockdown and the Governor's restrictions. However, we don't want to cancel it just yet.

If the Governor relaxes the restrictions earlier, we may be able to have it. We will keep you posted.

May 22nd

Double Shot
Duo Band

District Meeting

Our Commander is currently exploring options for a District Meeting in June pending further information from our government on the lockdown. We will keep you informed as to the plan of action for the District Meeting.

National Convention

Most of you already know that VFW National has canceled the annual July convention due to the Corona Virus. We all understand that safety and the health of our members comes first. We will be looking forward to the Convention in 2021.

Dept of IL Convention

Our Dept Commander is following the same guidance as National. Our convention in June has been canceled due to the Corona Virus. These decisions were given a lot of thought and the safety of our members matters the most. Please stay safe and let everyone know that the VFW is here and ready to help its members and any veterans in distress.

Flags Out – Veterans Graves

We place flags on veteran's graves each year just before Memorial Day. Let's continue that tradition and show our respect the same way as the active duty service members do for the Tomb of the Unknown. They haven't stopped and neither should we.

If you are able to help set up the stations at the cemeteries please contact Jim

Waters by email at vfw454@comcast.net or by calling the Post (309-827-9733, Mon - Fri). Any help you can provide is greatly appreciated.

Thursday May 21st

Meet at the cemeteries:

8 am East Lawn Memorial Gardens

8 am Park Hill Cemetery

8 am St. Mary's, then moving onto St. Joseph's and then to East Twin Grove.

Friday May 22nd

(rain date – same times and locations)

Collection of the flags is 8 am Tuesday, May 26th at each of the five cemeteries. Look for information in the Pantagraph, our facebook page and our website if anything changes.

Memorial Day Ceremonies

At this time, no information has been published that the event is definitely canceled. However, due to the current restrictions by the Governor, it appears that the event will be canceled.

This will also include the graveside ceremony honoring PFC John H. Kraus that is held at the Danvers Cemetery each Memorial Day.

Once we have updated and correct information we will pass it along as soon as possible. Please pay close attention to our Facebook page, webpage and the Pantagraph.

Membership

With this year being our 100th year of existence, there is no better time to look at membership than the present. We have survived longer than some VFWs and less than others. We need to be here another 100 years. To do that we need to increase our membership by reintroducing past members and gaining new younger ones. We can do this, but we need your help to reach those past and new prospects. Reach out to those and tell them about the VFW and the good that we do for our veterans and our community.

Auxiliary Membership

We're still trying to track down some members who we've been unable to locate. Mary McClure, Amy Georgi, Bertha Green, Clarissa Shulz, Barbara Amell

If you know of their current addresses or contact information, please contact Diane Hawk at (309) 828-3534 or (309) 275-0324. Thanks to those of you who helped to find the other members last month.

Post Cleaning

As we mentioned last month, we have been cleaning the Post from top to bottom and disinfecting all areas.

The floors in the gaming area, hallways, bar and dining room have all been stripped and waxed. They look really good.

We have removed the old smoke cleaners from the bar ceiling so it can be repaired and painted. The entry area on the east side of the building has been scraped down and repainted. While cleaning the inside bar area, we discovered the floor has two layers of vinyl tile and had to be removed and new tile put down. The new tile will help with cleaning the inside bar area.

We are also sealing the edges around the outside of the building where the concrete and asphalt are pulling away (ground settling) from the building. The contractor is using hot tar so that it seeps down into the crevices. It will help prevent water from getting under the concrete and asphalt and causing damage.

We want to Thank those employees responsible for doing a lot of the cleaning and updating to our Post. Ron Umbright, Rick Holt, Tiffany Hottel and Jim Waters have been the driving force since the March 17th shutdown. They have worked diligently to ensure we all have a nice clean Post to come and socialize in once the lockdown restrictions are lifted.

Curbside Service

The state and city liquor commissions have graciously allowed us to sell packaged beer which will allow us to reduce our bottled beer stock. Any member or other customers wishing to purchase bottled beer from us can do so.

Please call 309-827-9733, Monday – Saturday from 11:30 am – 6:00 pm. Our bartender on duty will take your order and the time you will pick up. Once you arrive in the parking lot, call the number and the bartender will bring out your order and accept the payment. We are taking cash or credit cards.

Thank you to the members and friends of the VFW who have already purchased from us. We greatly appreciate your support.

Your Health and Viruses

Although the Governor is relaxing the restrictions on which businesses can be open, there are other precautions that are being put in place.

One of those is the new requirement to wear a mask when you are out in "Public Areas and the 6 foot distancing" cannot be achieved. So this means just about everywhere you go around town. You do not have to wear a mask outside in your own yard. Walking down the sidewalks or parks, Yes you need to wear a mask. Think safety at all times.

Scammers and Thieves

You know they are out and about. Take heed with people calling asking for personal or private information. The same goes for emails and text messages. Also when you use the ATM's, gas machines or other card swipes. Please be cautious at all times.

Check on your family, friends, neighbors and fellow members to ensure they are doing okay during these trying times.

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES AND SISTERS

Jimmie Fairbanks (Apr)



MAY 2020 (Everything is Tentative Pending Opening)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1 No Darts	2 No Darts
3	4 No House Mtg No AMVETS Mtg	5 Post Mtg 6 pm	6	7	8 No Darts	9 No Darts
10 Happy Mother's Day	11 No NALC Mtg	12 No MCL Mtg	13	14	15 Happy 100 th Birthday VFW Post 454 No Darts	16 Canceled 100th Birthday Ceremonies
17	18 Canceled Paint Nite	19	20 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm	21 Flags Out to Cemeteries 8 am	22 Flags Out to Cemeteries 8 am (Rain Date)	23 No Darts
24	25 Memorial Day	26 Flags Pickup from Cemeteries 8 am	27 No DAV #60 Mtg	28	29 No Darts	30 No Darts
31	1 House Mtg 5:30 pm AMVETS Mtg 7 pm	2 Post Mtg 6 pm	3 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm	4	5 VFW Darts 8 pm	6 VFW Darts 8 pm
7	8 NALC Mtg 7 pm	9 MCL Mtg 7 pm	10	11	12 VFW Darts 8 pm	13 VFW Darts 8 pm
14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18	19 VFW Darts 8 pm	20 VFW Darts 8 pm
21 Happy Father's Day	22	23	24 DAV #60 Mtg 5:30 pm	25	26 VFW Darts 8 pm	27 VFW Darts 8 pm