

VFW POST 604 NEWS

October 2011

V.F.W. Mission Statement

The purpose of this corporation (VFW) shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its institutions of American freedom, and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies, whomsoever.

Commander's Corner

We are now into our fourth month of the VFW's New Year, and I need to remind all who have not paid their dues to get them in as soon as possible. I would love to have 100% membership this year.

If anyone is interested in helping with our youth programs such as Voice of Democracy, or Patriot Pen please contact the Ladies Auxiliary President, Janet Richardson, she would appreciate the help.

I attended the State Gaming Seminar this month, and now understand what we need to do to start our weekly drawing.

I should have it up and running by the time you read this. We will be assigning numbers to each our paid members and need to get our sign-up books ready. (Remember you have to be a paid up member to participate this drawing)
So pay your dues as soon as possible.

Our lunches at the Post are going well, and word is getting out about the quality of our food, and we are seeing more people coming out to enjoy.

As many of you know, we lost a young soldier from Spencer this month while he was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Pfc. Brett Wood, 19, was returned home to his family on Sunday Sept. 18th 2011. He was killed Sept. 9th while on duty in the Kandahar Province in southern Afghanistan. Let us keep him and his family in our prayers during this sad time. ❖



Commander - Joe Hardin

Post 604 Ladies Auxiliary

Hello every one. This year's Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contests may be over, but it is not too early to start thinking about the year 2011-2012 program. The themes for 2011-2012 are:

Patriot's Pen - Are You Proud Of Your Country?

Voice of Democracy - Is there Pride in Serving in Our Military?

The Patriot's Pen contest is for grades six through eight. Voice of Democracy is for students in the 9th thru 12th grades. These Scholarships can really help with your child's education. The Post and Auxiliary have this information, or you can go to the VFW website, www.vfw.org and print the official entry blank for next year; or you can call and we will see that you get this information, numbers are:

- o Post - 812-339-2375
- o Joe Hardin - cell 812-327-4852
- o Janet Williams - 812-876-3676 or cell 322-2677

When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, you may want to send one to:

A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

Let's clean out our closets and give the Homeless Veteran Shelter things like coats, hats, gloves, and socks. You may make a Homeless Veteran very warm this winter; also families with children that need help.

We need more people to come and support Bingo on Thursday at 5.30pm and on Saturday at 2.30pm in the Eagles Lodge located at 3100 S. Walnut St in Bloomington.

See Ladies

continued Page 5

2011 Veterans Stand Down

I am shamelessly stealing Larry Catt's recent For Veterans column from the Bloomington Herald-Times. Larry, as some of you know, is the current Monroe County Veterans Service Officer. Kim Bloodgood, Veterans Officer for the Bloomington Campus, Ivy Tech Community College gave some of the information to Larry. Jim Arnold, of the American Legion Post 18 and also of the local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, also sent me some of the following information regarding the Thursday, 13 October 2011 Veterans Stand Down.

Whether you read the last column about the Stand Down for veterans experiencing homelessness, or if it is your first time to hear about the event, this column will update you. The Stand Down will take place 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Oct. 13 at American Legion Post 18, 1800 W. Third Street in Bloomington. In addition to providing the facility for this event, the American Legion will also be providing lunch. Shuttle service for veterans attending the Stand Down will be available from the Shalom Center to the American Legion. Return trips to the Shalom Center will also be provided.

I want to remind veterans attending the Stand Down to bring either their DD form 214 or VA issued ID card to gain admittance. James Brown at the Shalom Center can help you with this. The Veterans Affairs Office at 214 W. Seventh St., phone 349-2568, can also help.

Many individuals and organizations in our community have put forth considerable time and effort to provide veterans attending the Stand Down with personal items and services to help them move forward with their lives. The following is a partial list of items and services that will be available to veterans attending the Stand Down.

The Social Security Administration will have representatives on site to complete applications for new Social Security cards and provide print outs verifying social security numbers.

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles will have their RV mobile office on site to provide state ID cards. You will need proof of your mailing address for this service.

Pure Style Hair Salon from Ellettsville will be there to provide free haircuts from 10 a.m.-noon.

Family and Social Services Administration will have staff available to help with Food Stamps and Medicaid applications.

Work One staff will be there to provide employment counseling and help veterans apply for employment services.

VA representatives and the Homeless Team will be there to help apply for VA benefits and health care.

Stand Down

continued

IU school of Optometry will offer vision screening.

Legal assistance will be provided by Jacob Atz Law Offices and Indiana Legal Services.

Back Street Mission will offer spiritual counseling.

Shalom Center will provide staff to request birth certificates. Bloomington AMVETS Post 2000 will cover the cost of this service.

Blood sugar tests, HIV tests, hepatitis tests and blood pressure screens will be available.

There will be Army surplus duffle bags filled with an array of items including sleeping bags, socks, underwear, hats, gloves, scarves, toiletries and snacks.

A flyer is at the Legion Post 18 if you need one. ❖

John Tilford - Post Service Officer

Rule Change Brings Extra Retiree Paycheck

After no COLA increases for the past two years, military retirees will receive 13 paychecks this calendar year thanks to a new rule change in how the monthly checks are disbursed. According to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the 2011 National Defense Authorization Act now requires military retiree pay to be processed on the first day of the month, not first business day. When the first day falls on a weekend or a national holiday, the pay date is moved to the previous business day, which now means the payment scheduled for Oct. 3 will be issued on Sept. 30, and the Jan. 3, 2012, payment will be issued Dec. 30 --- therefore, 13 payments in tax year 2011. For tax year 2012 and beyond, retirees will receive 12 payments.

For more see: <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html> ❖

VFW Invites You to Join Us on Twitter

Join the VFW's Quick Reaction Force (QRF) by signing up with us on Twitter. VFW recently launched a new advocacy tool using Twitter to help provide immediate and effective constituent engagement with Capitol Hill to protect veterans' priorities. The object is to get followers to communicate VFW's message to their elected officials and Senators on key issues upon receiving a voluntary text message from the VFW QRF twitter feed. Follow these very simple steps we shared with attendees at the 112th National Convention and you can begin making a difference for our veterans and their families. Learn more and join the effort by clicking here:

http://stage.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFW.org/VFW_in_DC/VFW%20QRF%20Instructional.pdf ❖

Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

October 2011

Closed	Open 1000 - 2200	Open 1000 - 2200	Open 1000 - 2200	Open 1000 - 2200	Open 1000 - 2200	Open 1000 - 2200
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 ALL DAY \$2.50 Margaritas \$1.25 Beer Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
2	3 * Vet to Vet – 1900	4	5	6 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	7	8 Yom Kippur Begins ALL DAY \$2.50 Margaritas \$1.25 Beer Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
9	10 Columbus Day * Vet to Vet – 1900	11	12	13 Veterans Stand Down (See page 2) Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	14	15 ALL DAY \$2.50 Margaritas \$1.25 Beer Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
16	17 * Vet to Vet – 1900	18 Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 Men's Aux – 1800 Ladies Aux - 1800	19	20 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	21	22 ALL DAY \$2.50 Margaritas \$1.25 Beer Bingo (Eagles) - 1430
23 Post Open Noon to 6:00 pm Free Wings & Duke's Beans 30	24 * Vet to Vet – 1900 Halloween * Vet to Vet – 1900 31	25	26	27 Bingo (Eagles) - 1730	28	29 ALL DAY \$2.50 Margaritas \$1.25 Beer Bingo (Eagles) - 1430

(* For Vet-to-Vet Held at IVY Tech, 200 Daniels Way room A118 – Check website <http://www.vetovetbloomington.com/> to confirm location)

Telephone Numbers

Post 604 – Canteen (812) 339-2375

PPT License # 124405

Raffle License # 124404

Bingo License # 125265

Post Officers

VFW Post 604			Men's Auxiliary to VFW Post 604			Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 604		
Commander	Joe Hardin	(812) 334-8479	President	Mike Pipher	(812) 334-0748	President	E. Janet Williams	(812) 876-3676
Senior Vice Commander	Bill Halliday	(812) 360-4862	Senior Vice President	Joe Crawford	(812) 330-1343	Senior Vice President	Millie Briles	(812) 336-8409
Junior Vice Commander	Ty Briles	(812) 360-6518	Junior Vice President	Mark Sink	(812) 336-4566	Junior Vice President	Mary Figg	(812) 876-4971
Quartermaster	Mark Dammer	(812) 824-3367	Treasurer	Mike Griffith	(812) 349-2563	Treasurer	Patty Pate	(812) 339-6045
Adjutant	Bob Lanning	(812) 327-7953	Secretary	Mike Griffith	(812) 349-2563	Secretary	Kathy Hardin	(812) 334-8479
Chaplain	Roy Smith	(812) 797-4654	Chaplin	Eric Sink	(812) 336-4566	Chaplin	Joyce Grubb	(812) 336-6447
Service Officer	John Tilford	(812) 336-5574				Patriotic Instructor	Wilma Hays	(812) 332-5329
1 Year House Committee	Cathi Johnson	(812) 876-5745						
2 Year House Committee	Leonard L Heldman	(812) 361-9129						
3 Year House Committee	John Martin	(812) 339-1113						

Renewing Membership

Your continued membership is important to us. The V.F.W. and its Auxiliaries are the life-blood of our post. If you know of someone desiring to join our ranks please do not hesitate to contact one of our officers.

Annual membership renewal forms are mailed to each V.F.W. and Auxiliary member. Dues shall be forwarded per the directions contained in the notice received by the member with the renewal form. If you do not receive a renewal notice, please contact the Post 604 Quartermaster or one of your club officers for assistance. ❖

Ladies Auxiliary Membership

National is raising our dues starting January 1, 2012. Annual membership dues are being increased to \$20.00 annually.

No sense in paying an extra \$5.00 when you don't have to. Please, save yourself the additional cost and get your dues paid early - Remember it's \$15.00, but you only have until 12/31/ 2011. ❖

For Our Retired Veterans : TRICARE

As of October 1, 2011, co-payments for some medications provided through TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery have been reduced to zero, while others---depending on how you obtain your medications--- increased.

Co-payment for 90-day supply of Generic formulary drugs purchased through Home Delivery drops to zero. Other co-payment changes in effect starting Oct. 1:

- * Generic formulary drugs purchased at retail pharmacies will rise from \$3 to \$5.
- * Brand name formulary drugs from retail pharmacies will rise from \$9 to \$12.
- * Non-formulary medications will rise from \$22 to \$25 in both retail and Home Delivery.

The TRICARE Management Activity says brand name formulary drugs purchased through Home Delivery have the same \$9 co-payment, but for a 90-day supply compared to a 30-day supply when purchased at a retail pharmacy. For more details, see <http://www.tricare.mil/mediacenter/news.aspx?fid=736>

Oktoberfest = German Beer

Well we may not have German Beer, but we have our beer for \$1.25 every Saturday during the month of October, plus we are going to add Margaritas for \$2.50 every Saturday. Frozen, Rocks, Salted, Un-salted, it's your choice—Margaritas for \$2.50 every Saturday in October.

Hey!—Did you happen to miss the Teriyaki Chicken Wings we had when we were **OPEN** on **SUNDAY** last month? Man were those wings good!!—they must have been because there weren't any left by the time we closed. So we are thinking we should do that again. Therefore, October 23rd (**Sunday**) the Post will be open from Noon to 6:00 pm and there will be Teriyaki Chicken Wings and Bush's Beans (Dukes). Can't beat ole Duke's Beans. Now we don't even have a charge for this but we do set out a Donation Bucket if you feel so inclined. So make sure and mark that date down (Oct 23rd) and get here before the wings run out!! By the way, these wings aren't store bought or come in a bag, they're cooked over a gas Bar-B-Q grill that very morning - absolutely fresh.

You can even use your **COUPON** that Sunday. What coupon you say? Now c'mon, we know you read the whole Newsletter, so clip that coupon out and bring it with you. Or you can use the coupon any day in October that the Post is open. You thought we were going to tell you what the coupon is all about didn't you? Nope—we're not going to -- you'll just have to find the coupon yourself — so there!!

Now normally we would have a snippet in the Canteen article, where we ask for volunteers to help out at the Post but for this month we, as the House Committee, would to say **Thank-You** to the members, which include Women & Mens Aux. who have stood up and volunteered in one way or another. Your support is greatly and genuinely appreciated by:

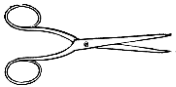
THE VFW - POST 604

House Committee

P.S. Lunch Menu Inside Info: Try the Phillie Steak & Cheese with Country Bob's Sauce on a soft warm bun—hmmmm good! ❖

Electronic Newsletter Delivery

If you would rather receive the VFW Post 604 Newsletter in email verses a paper copy, send an email to VFW-604@comcast.net with your name, email address, and a short message as to what the email is for. We will add you to the emailing list and send you this newsletter as your first emailing to confirm your request. Aside from saving a tree and reducing production costs to the Post, you will likely receive it days earlier as it will be emailed to you when it is sent to the printers. ❖



VFW Post 604 Canteen



Coupon

Bring this coupon to the club for
One Free Beer or Well Drink

Duplicate copies not accepted.
Valid October 1 - 31 2011



Excuses for coming to the Canteen

1. Free WiFi, we even have 3 Microsoft Office / Internet equipped PC's you can use (free also).
2. Cable TV with the Big 10 Network and other sports channels.
3. Big Screen TV with Wii game attached. (except when Big 10 is on ☺)
4. Soft Drinks, Cold Beer or a heavy hitter.
5. Lunch (Mon - Fri 10:00am - 2:00pm)
6. Fellowship with other members.
7. Hide from your honey.
8. The dog ate your neighbor's homework.

Call any of our officers, they can help you come up with a whopper !!!

Seriously folks, you don't need an excuse, just come on out !!!

Ladies

continued from page 1

If you need information about Bingo call Joyce or Janet at 876-3676-cell, 322-2677, or 336-6447.

Our meeting is at 6.00pm on October 18 at the post, come and see what's happening.

Help sign up some new members let's get it going and see who can sign up the most members.

Please let us know if someone is in the Hospital or Nursing home making sure to mention the name of the hospital or nursing home.

We are trying to get a jump on the holidays with all our projects as this is our busy time of the year.

Keep all our Service Men in our prayers ❖

Janet Williams, President VFW Ladies Auxiliary

VA Expands List of Agent Orange-Exposed Ships

The VA has expanded its list of Navy and Coast Guard ships whose crews may be eligible for disability compensation as a result of exposure to the chemical defoliant Agent Orange. Many of the additions are landing vessels or destroyers that operated near the shore and inland waterways, or may have docked in Vietnam. VA officials say the ship list is not static; more vessels could be added based on additional documentation such as deck logs and cruise books, as well as records kept in the National Archives. The VA has already paid out \$2.2 billion in benefits to 89,000 Vietnam veterans or survivors who qualified for compensation under a ruling last fall that added three new presumptive illnesses to the list of health conditions presumed to be related to Agent Orange exposure.

For more on the new ships and presumptive conditions:
<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/index.asp> ❖

Stop-Loss Back Pay Deadline

After a half dozen extensions, October 21, 2011 may be the last chance to apply for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay.

The reimbursement is \$500 for each month or partial month served in a Stop Loss status between September 11, 2001, and September 30, 2009. The average benefit has been more than \$3,500, but won't get paid unless you apply.

More information can be found on the internet at:

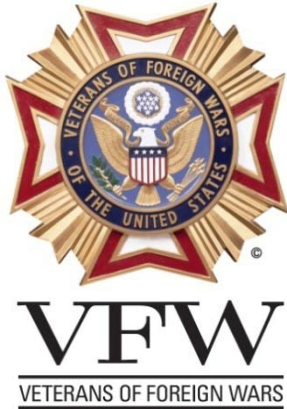
http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2010/0710_stoploss/ ❖

Laurens B. Strain V.F.W. Post 604
2404 W Industrial Park Drive
Bloomington, IN 47404-2690

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
BLOOMINGTON IN 47401
PERMIT No. 205

"Oldest Post in the State"

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Phone: (812)-339-2375



Member Volunteer Bartenders Needed
NO EXPERIENCE required
Contact one of your club officers
if you would like to help us out.

604 Canteen - Lunch Menu

Serving Monday through Friday 1100 - 1400

Appetizers & Sides

Cottage Cheese	\$1.50
French Fries	\$1.75
Seasoned Waffle Fries.....	\$2.00
Potato Salad	\$1.75
Cole Slaw	\$1.75
Chicken Strips/Fries.....	\$4.50

Sandwiches

Hamburger	\$3.25
Cheeseburger.....	\$3.50
Philly Cheese Steak.....	\$4.75
Grilled Cheese	\$2.75
Fish Sandwich.....	\$3.75
Breaded Pork Tenderloin.....	\$4.75
Grilled Pork Tenderloin	\$4.25
Breaded Chicken Sandwich	\$4.25
Patty Melt.....	\$4.00
Chili Dog	\$2.25
Steak Sandwich	\$4.50

All Sandwiches served with Pickle and Chips
Add Cheese/Deluxe for \$.25 each

Call ahead for carry-out
(812) 339-2375