

VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.NET

February 2013

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

Hello. As we start the new year, I would like to know what you think about how the Post is doing. I would also appreciate if you would let us know how you view our newsletter and if you have any ideas on how we can improve on the info that we are giving you. We are always looking for ways to improve what we have to offer. If you would like you may respond on our web page, drop us a card, or even better stop by the Post and tell us.

We had our Post's 92nd anniversary dinner on the 9th of January. All of you that did not attend missed a great dinner. I was very disappointed in the small number of members that came out and joined us for the celebration. We had four (4) students that participated in our Patriot Pen contest join us at the dinner with their families. Each received a certificate for being part of the VFW contest. We also had our nominee for Teacher of the Year present to receive his certificate. The students were Michael Baker Hamm, John LaMar and Amber Shockey White from Bachelor Middle School and Lindsey Wray from Ellettsville. Our Teacher of the Year was Luke W. Chanley from Jackson Creek School. Principal David Pillar from Jackson Creek School was also present. We want to thank them all for taking the time to be part of our programs.

Members that have not paid their dues yet please do so. We only need 30 more to reach 100% membership. We are counting on you. ❖

Commander - Joe Hardin

NASCAR Sunday is BACK !!!

Feb 24th OPEN TO ALL – 11:00 AM 'till VICTORY !

Post 604 Men's Auxiliary

I want to address three things in this note: membership, our upcoming NASCAR/Daytona Open Sunday, and our plans to take a bus cruise to one of the casinos this spring.

We exist as a Men's Auxiliary for the purpose of assisting the veterans for whom Post 604 was established. It only stands to reason, the more members we attract into the Men's Auxiliary, the better we'll be able to lend a hand around the Post. Most of those who helped charter the Men's Auxiliary here in Bloomington when the Post was still downtown have fallen by the wayside. In simple terms, we need to rebuild our numbers. More bodies will lead to more hands and legs to do chores and engage in activities, most of which are downright fun to be a part of. If you have family members who are eligible for membership, either as a VFW member or a member of either Auxiliary group, please encourage them to join. This is a case where bigger is definitely better. Dues for the Men's Auxiliary are just \$35.



Mark your calendar and plan to join us at the Post on Sunday, February 24 for the 2013 NASCAR opening race: Daytona! Doors will open at 11a. The race starts at 1pm. It will be an "open Sunday" which means the general public is eligible to come in and enjoy alongside Post 604 members. We'll be serving a terrific special meal: hand-

See Men's Aux - Continued on page 2

VFW Post 604 - 92nd Anniversary Banquet



Commander Joe Harden Presides Over Presentations

SLOW & COLD!!

At least that's the way February seems to be, plus it's the shortest month of the year — go figure. But Hey! We still have Piping HOT Pizza's and they must be GOOD because we have had some member buy two or three to take home for later on in the week or week-end. Plus, you can call your pick-up order in (Monday thru Saturday) ahead of time — 20 minutes later your Pizzas ready to go and BAM—you're out the door with dinner in-hand. Steve Wade is still cooking up some great Friday Night Dinners along with Brad Harris on the guitar, so come on out and see what it's all about!!

Another bright spot in February is we will be having our first **NASCAR SUNDAY**—about time huh?? The Men's Auxiliary will be putting this event on so make sure you read up on their article in this newsletter—They do a good job on these things!! Come out and support them!! It's an OPEN HOUSE as well—so bring your friends.

Let's not forget about a Great Big **"Thank-You"** for our Volunteers here at the Post. Yes, we know you read about these people all the time but let's face it — They do a Great job for you and our Post. ❖

House Committee

Men's Aux - Continued from page 1

dipped tenderloin sandwiches, fries and all of the fixin's. Shucks, even if you're not a NASCAR fan, the food is reason enough to show up! The bar will be open and we'll find plenty of ways to have fun.

In an effort to attract members and keep existing members busy, the Men's Auxiliary has resolved to sponsor at least one special activity every other month in 2013. If all goes well — and we think it will — this is just a warm-up for doing even more things in 2014 and beyond. If you're a member of the Men's Auxiliary and have been wanting to contribute your efforts, even if for just one event each year, now's the time to pitch in. The Daytona 500 Open Sunday is our first activity this year. The next one will be a bus trip to one of the Ohio River casino boats, probably in April. Look for more information about that in the March newsletter, or better yet, show up at our next meeting at 6pm on Tuesday, ❖

Michael Pipher, President VFW Men's Auxiliary

AD&D coverage

VFW members in good standing are eligible to enroll in affordable voluntary AD&D coverage, underwritten by Monumental Life Insurance Company. This voluntary coverage is a great way to supplement the \$1,000 of coverage provided with VFW membership, offering the added protection members and their families need in the event of a covered accident.

To request free information, call 1-800-749-6983 or visit the Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment page at <http://www.vfwinsurance.com>.

All programs are subject to State Availability and Restrictions.

Commanders from 1921 – 1938 (See back Page)

Rear row

Taylor, Forest	(1927 - 1928)
Ranard, Russell L.	(1928 - 1929)
Ping, Dwight W.	(1933 - 1934)
Smallwood, Noble J.	(1926 - 1927)
Reitenour, Clarence D.	(1932 - 1933)

Center row

Hurst, Joe	
Stewart, U. G.	(1936 - 1937)
Murphy, Earl	(1931 - 1932)
Krebs, Arnold O.	

Front row

Stultz, Glen	
Lemon, Gilbert	(1937 - 1938)
Harmon, John A.	(1930 - 1931)
Young, Jason E.	(1934 - 1935)
Uland, Herman A.	(1935 - 1936)

Laurens B. Strain - VFW Post 604

February 2013

Closed Sunday	Open 1600 - 2200 Monday	Open 1600 - 2200 Tuesday	Open 1600 - 2200 Wednesday	Open 1600 - 2200 Thursday	Open 1600 - 2200 Friday	Open 1000 - 2200 Saturday
					<p>1</p> <p>Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100</p>  <p>Commander's Drawing 1900 Brad Harris Entertains 1900</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Bingo- 1430</p>
3	<p>4</p> <p>* Vet to Vet - 1900</p>	5	6	<p>7</p> <p>Bingo- 1730</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100</p>  <p>Commander's Drawing 1900 Brad Harris Entertains 1900</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Bingo- 1430</p>
10	<p>11</p> <p>* Vet to Vet - 1900</p>	12	13	<p>14</p> <p>Bingo- 1730</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100</p>  <p>Commander's Drawing 1900 Brad Harris Entertains 1900</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Bingo- 1430</p>
17	<p>18</p> <p>* Vet to Vet - 1900</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Meetings</p> <p>V.F.W. - 1800 Men's Aux - 1800 Ladies Aux - 1800</p>	20	<p>21</p> <p>Bingo- 1730</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Serving Dinner 1800 - 2100</p>  <p>Commander's Drawing 1900 Brad Harris Entertains 1900</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Bingo- 1430</p>
<p>24</p> <p>NASCAR Sunday Open 11:00 - Finish</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>* Vet to Vet - 1900</p>	26	27	<p>28</p> <p>Bingo - 1730</p>		

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

Telephone Number (812) 339-2375Bingo License # 128637

Raffle License # 127960

More - Post 604 - Anniversary Banquet



(l-r) Sr. Vice Cdr Bob Lanning, Ladies Aux. Pres. Janet Williams, Amber Shockey White, John LaMar, Michael Baker Hamm, Lindsey Wray, Commander Joe Hardin



Commander Joe Harden Ladies Aux. President Janet Williams present School Participation Award to Lindsey Wray



Cdr Joe Hardin presents certificate to Teacher of the Year nominee Luke W. Chanley

VFW Ladies Auxiliary

At the 98th National Convention, a resolution to the Ritual was passed with the following wording: "At the wish of the Auxiliary, meetings may be conducted according to Demeter's Manual of Parliamentary Law and Procedure: thus a round table meeting is held. The opening prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, checking dues cards, minutes, Treasure's report, closing prayer, etc, are still required, but are completed without the Ritualistic ceremony presently prescribed." This means that a Ladies Auxiliary may, by motion made and passed, create a standing rule that allows the Ladies Auxiliary to hold a meeting without the floor work to set-up and without the scripted Ritualistic opening, meeting order and closing. The intention of the resolution was to delete non-essential elements from a Ladies Auxiliary meeting in order to keep meetings as short as possible.

We are planning a (SPECIAL) (BINGO) for Valentine's Day. Be sure to bring a friend as this will get you a (SPECIAL) gift - also (SPECIAL) gift's will be given out tell your friends to bring someone too, as they will get something as well. The flu has kept a lot of players home - - hope you're feeling better.

Thanks to all who helped at the men's Anniversary dinner, the food was wonderful. Be sure to check your membership cards for 2013 and also sign the book to be a winner of the Commander's Drawing. God Bless All. ❖

Janet Williams, President VFW Ladies Auxiliary

Daytona!
Sunday, Feb 24
Post 604 will be open to the Public

Doors open at 11am
Lots of Fun and Food
Menu:
Hand-dipped Tenderloins/Fries/Fixin's

"Fully Developed Claims" versus "Slow Boat to China Claims"

I was educated during the two weeks I was sitting in for the Monroe County Veterans Service Officer, Larry Catt. I'd read about, and passed along to you in this column a few months ago, one of the VA's means of speeding up the processing of the more routine disability and pension claims. You may recall the VA used the word "triage" for the decision upon receipt of claims as to which path they would be assigned, the simple/fast or complex/slow.

Here's what I discovered after discussions with Vicky St. Claire (Larry's main veterans assistant), Larry, two VA regional office employees, and Tom Applegate, Director of the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs: First the term "triage" is misleading. You and I know medics apply the real triage process to treating combat wounded. In that situation the "tri-" prefix makes sense. There are three categories: 1) must be treated as soon as possible to save their lives, 2) will live with minimal treatment and can wait while category 1) patients are treated, and 3) are going to die no matter what the medic does, so just make them as comfortable as possible. VA use of the triage term makes me think whomever came up with it was never in combat. The VA disability claims categorization process only has two choices, "Fully Developed Claims" versus "Slow Boat to China Claims". (Well, maybe they don't actually call the second-class claims "Slow Boat To China Claims" but they might as well.)

To pass the stringent criteria for selection into the Fully Developed Claim (FDC) expedited adjudication process, the FDC Package must have a special FDC orange colored cover sheet signed by the claimant. The last page must be a special FDC check list form signed by the claimant certifying all the required documents are included. There are special FDC claim forms which must be used, such as the VA 21-526EZ for service connected disability claims. Absolutely no VA 21-4142 release forms can be used. (- Even though the VA remains bound by "duty to assist" requirements to accept and use this form to help claimants obtain medical information from third parties such as local hospitals or doctors. Evidently, it takes too long for the VA to help the vets to allow time for such assistance in the speed ball process.) There are several other picky absolute requirements, but you get the idea.

If the VA receives an attempt at an FDC package but one of their mandatory T's are not crossed or I's are not dotted, the package is disqualified and put in the second category. Vicky has gotten FDC claims through in weeks. Non-FDC claims are taking between 18 and 24 months.

The VA is obviously trying to play catch up with their 900,000+ backlog of pending claims. If they can get the claimants and those helping the claimants to do most of

the work for them, fine. Crank those simple claims through quickly. But VA disqualifying packages for the FDC expedited process just because of an arbitrary technicality, such as missing the orange cover sheet, is inappropriate. The VA announced the expedited process concept more than a year ago as simple, straight forward claims being assigned to new, trainee employees under close supervision. The slower, traditional claims adjudication process was to be for more complex claims requiring further development and assigned to senior, experienced employees. However, the VA screeners are not, in fact, categorizing the incoming claims according to simple or complex. That would require actually reading the claims and thinking. They are using a clerical FDC check list: "Aha! He's missing such-and-such form! Into the slow stack!"

I verified (can't say with who) that a veteran who filed his or her own VA claim would probably never be able to put together an FDC package which would be accepted into the fully developed claim fast track. The actual answer I received was, "I can't imagine that a veteran, acting on his own, would be able to assemble an FDC package that the VA would accept." Most of the FDC administrative requirements are not published.

You may also recall how critical it has always been for the VA to receive partial or informal claims – especially near the end of the month – to get a claimant-signed piece of paper date stamped in order to protect the earliest possible effective date. Awards are usually retroactive to the first day of the month following the month of receipt of the claim. Depending on what is quickly available, the time required even by Vicky to help a veteran assemble a fully developed claim can easily be weeks if not months. There is a VA specified way to file an informal claim early to protect the ultimate effective date while not kicking the claim into the Slow Boat process, but the magic "FDC informal claim" paragraph (which must be used verbatim) is not available to regular, unassisted claimants. Here it is: *"I intend to apply for compensation/pension [select which] benefits under the FDC Program. This statement is to preserve my effective date for entitlement to benefits. I am in the process of assembling my claim package for submission."* The FDC package must be submitted within one year of the VA receipt of the FDC informal claim. The informal claim must be signed and include enough information to identify the claimant, such as claim number, Social Security number, military service number, date of birth, telephone number, and address.

By the way, once a fully developed claim has been accepted by the VA into the expedited FDC process, any subsequent information or evidence submitted to the VA about that claim will probably cause the claim to be dropped from the FDC Program and categorized into the traditional (estimated 18 to 24 months) Slow Boat to China processing.

John Tilford – Service Officer

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Previous VFW Post 604 Commanders Circa 1938

