
VFW POST 604 NEWS

WWW.VFW-604.ORG

February 2018

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

Comrades,

As I write this column to you I am conflicted as to how to ask for more help around the Post without denigrating the wonderful volunteers that do so much already.

In recent months we've lost members from both Post Officer offices and volunteers for the canteen. The reasons include members feeling the effects of advancing years (to include health issues), a change in family obligations, and other lifestyle changes. We should not blame the departing volunteers, but thank them for the services they rendered.

The solution is in the members that have previously sat on the sidelines to get involved. If you've never held a Post Officer's office, please run for one this spring. If you are someone that enjoys the canteen, please consider getting your bartender license to be a volunteer bartender or you could help cook the meals.

Please don't feel that you will be overwhelmed by a new job. The previous office holder will guide you through the early stages. If you decide to help with the canteen, Comrade Leonard will ease you into the process. The Post can also consider covering your expenses if you decide to go to the School of Instruction.

Again, please consider volunteering. ❖

Yours in true Comradeship,

Commander – Roy Smith

WE 
VOLUNTEERS

VFW Auxiliary

January has come and gone and hopefully taken the really cold weather with it.

On January 13th we had our 97th birthday dinner and the winners of our Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen awards were given out. We are very proud of all the kids who participated in these programs.

If you haven't paid your 2018 dues by now, you are no longer eligible to sign the weekly Commander's drawing. Please contact our Membership Chairman Karen Cain at 812-327-1944 -or- drop off your dues at the post -or- you can mail them in to the post.

We are still looking for volunteers for bartenders and Thursday night (4 PM to 9 PM) cooks and runners also for one Sunday for February's NASCAR tenderloins.

On February 23rd our meal will consist of Smoked Sausage, Fried Potatoes, and Tossed Salad for \$7.00.

God bless America. God bless our troops near and far. To those who have lost a loved one, our prayers are with you. May those who are ill, recover quickly. ❖

Dorothy J White
President - VFW Auxiliary
812-345-9025

TAPS

Woodie R. Thayer, VFW Post 604 Life Member, Former Post 604 and 7th District Commander

"With each passing day, things will become easier. This is to let you know that there is tremendous support behind you today."

Woodie will be missed by all the Men and Women of VFW Post 604 and the 7th District. ❖

James C. Arnold, Chaplin
VFW Post 604

By the Membership

For the Membership

For anyone who has not visited the post since our Industrial Park Drive grand reopening in July 2011, every function and officer at Post 604 are all now 100% on a volunteer basis. No one is paid or otherwise compensated for the services and time they spend seeing to the post's business. This is a departure from times past when we were located on South College Avenue, where we could afford to have persons on payroll. The single exception to this today is our bartenders, who are allowed to keep tips left by canteen patrons during hours they tend bar.

Our patrons should be respectful of our volunteers in the performance of their duties. Abuse of volunteers or patrons serves no constructive purpose. By the Membership - For the Membership is a two way street.

We are sometimes criticized for not providing services and amenities greater than what we do. We understand these criticisms, but we are limited by the number of volunteers willing to support these efforts, and also by monetary constraints based on our net income. While working to keep our prices low, we must ensure we are fiscally self-sufficient totally. Through our gaming efforts, we do generate additional capital that is used to tend to our maintenance needs and to improve our facility. The repaving of our parking lot, building of the deck and attached staircase are usage examples. It is through excess gaming revenues we are also able to support the VFW Home for Children, Riley Children's Foundation, and numerous local community non-profits like the Special Olympics, Hoosier Hills Food Bank, and others.

It is important to keep in mind that in times past, when our numbers exceeded three times our current membership, the number of people available to support additional functions and the corresponding revenue generated was far greater than it is today. As those in the greatest generation steadily slip away from us, the number of service veterans eligible for VFW membership is also steadily declining.

Here are some possible remedies to this;

1. Encourage our children and grandchildren who are eligible for VFW membership to join our ranks. The whole reason the VFW was chartered in 1921 was to provide an organization of Veterans to assist other Veterans. This principle exists today and is in our Mission Statement.
2. Encourage our children and grandchildren, who are not eligible for VFW membership, that have Parents, Grand Parents, Brothers, Sisters, or children of their own who are eligible to join the VFW - to join our Post's VFW Auxiliary.
3. For those of us who are members, participate in



monthly meetings and assist our operations by volunteering time to staff the ideas presented at these meetings.

4. Increase patronage at the post – said differently – Come out to the post to enjoy the facility and the fellowship as often as you can. As a member, remember this is your post, please feel entitled to visit frequently.

I have been a member of Post 604 for over twenty years. For a time I was unable to volunteer, due to family and work constraints. We are sensitive to the amount of time each individual has available to contribute for volunteering depending on personal circumstance.

Types of things where volunteers can contribute:

Intermittent Hours

Lawn & landscaping – as needed. Can be shared over several volunteers coordinated by the Trustees

Thursday Night and Friday kitchen runners (6 – 8 PM) as needed - . Can be shared over several volunteers coordinated by the House Committee

Bartenders – Shared over several volunteers. Scheduling maintained by Club Manager & House Committee. No experience needed – Volunteer must be willing to learn on-the-job.

Housekeeping – 1 to 2 times per week. Schedule maintained by House Committee.

Occasional Hours

Sunday and special meal helpers – 2 to 3 hours about 1 time per month – Contact the House Committee to see if assistance is needed for scheduled events.

Newsletter Preparation - 2 to 3 hours about 1 time per month – prepared following monthly meetings.

Special Programs: (As Needed)

Membership Committee

Patriot's Pen and Voice Of Democracy

Time Intensive:

Officers – Voted or Appointed - requires 2 – 10 hours per week on average depending on the office.

Even 2 hours every month or so is a help. Contact any VFW Officer, Auxiliary Officer, or the bartender for additional information on areas where you may be willing to help out.

Thank you for your attention – hope to see you around the post. ❖

Mark Dammer – Post 604 Quartermaster

Laurens B. Strain – VFW Post 604

FEBRUARY 2018

Closed	Open 1200 - 2200	Open 1600 - 2200	Open 1600 - 2200	Open 1600 - 2200	Open 1600 - 2200	Open 1000 - 2200
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				 <p>Starts at 7pm</p> <p>* Vet to Vet – 1800</p>	 <p>6:00 PM - All You Can Eat Home-Made CHILI & A GRILLED CHEESE</p> <p>Commander's Drawing 1900</p>	
4	5 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	6	7	8  <p>Starts at 7pm</p> <p>* Vet to Vet – 1800</p>	9  <p>Fish Fry 1800 - 2000</p> <p>Commander's Drawing 1900</p>	10
11  <p>TENDERLOINS</p> <p>OPEN NOON</p> <p>NASCAR!</p>	12 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	13	14	15  <p>Starts at 7pm</p> <p>* Vet to Vet – 1800</p>	16  <p>Rib Eye Dinner 1800 - 2000</p> <p>Commander's Drawing 1900</p>	17
18	19 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	20 Meetings V.F.W. – 1800 V.F.W. Aux – 1800	21	22  <p>Starts at 7pm</p> <p>* Vet to Vet – 1800</p>	23  <p>6:00 PM - Smoked Sausage, Fried Potatoes, & Tossed Salad</p> <p>Commander's Drawing 1900</p>	24
25	26 HOT DOG MONDAY Open @ Noon	27	28	 		

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

Telephone Number (812) 339-2375

Charity Game Night License # 144211

Raffle License # 1414210

History of America- Our Hope for the Future

It is very rare to see the future with one's own eyes, but I have. As I led the American flag to its rightful place on stage, I walked past rows upon rows of young, intelligent eyes looking upon the flag with a sense of pride in the redefined meaning it held. During my week at the American Legion Auxiliary Hoosier Girls State, I witnessed these young women venerating the flag that I guarded. They are the future of the United States, and together we gained a new perception of what it means to be an American. Before Girls State, being an American was simply an identifying label. After, I let the true spirit of being an American inspire me to learn more about our unique government and to preserve our freedom. Countless speeches were made by the delegates of Hoosier Girls State, each founded on the belief that we cannot make change if we are not united. As Americans, we cannot have our voices heard unless we are the ones to speak for ourselves. It became clear that I am a member of a young generation that wants to be involved in discussion and progress. We understand that America's pursuit of liberty is futile in the absence of cooperation. The Constitution, the foundation of our shared American history, is proof that the collaboration of great minds leads to prosperity and solidarity. Although the formation of the United States that we know today was spurred by war, what truly revolutionized our world was the uphill, intellectual battle over the Constitution.

With no clear model, the Constitution had to be constructed through the combination of various personal interpretations of democracy. To fuse the ideas from each of the original thirteen states was a huge feat, but how was it possible? The founding fathers stood on the common ground of wanting the best for our country, both present and future. These leaders were able to come together through the idea of civic virtue: putting country before self and serving the common good. They enabled Americans to improve the general welfare through inalienable rights. We can speak our minds without fear, and vote with our hearts and conscience for representatives who truly embody civic virtue. We should never feel powerless when it comes to making changes in our local, state or national governments because we were given the tools, free of charge, to express our ideas and opinions.

"To live under the American Constitution is the greatest political privilege that was ever accorded to the human race." This claim was made by the 30th president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge. We must stay mindful of this privilege which is woven throughout our past, present, and future. The Constitution was once only a hope to benefit all citizens. Today, although that goal was realized, far too often, people only care about personal advancement or their politics, even when it is at the expense of other. When talking about our future, we must understand that it is not just the future of a few, but the future of the United States as a whole.

My hope for this country is to restore and unite under the belief that the Constitution is the ultimate guardian of

our freedoms and liberty. Our Constitution is a symbol of our future, but also actively protects the citizens of the United States. It provides access to the pursuit of happiness and does not to bar us from our ambitions.

Before going the Girls State, trying to understand our government felt too distant and too complex for a silly teenager, and patriotism did not hold any meaning other than being a gimmick. But these assumptions were misconstrued. Prior to serving as a Girls State delegate, I was simply never shown the reasons to celebrate our country, or why it is that our Constitution and form of government should be so highly revered. Although it took me seventeen years, my hope for the future is for people to recognize sooner that our country, though it is not perfect, is ultimately the greatest protector of liberty and opportunity the modern world has ever seen. That is something to be truly proud of.

By Kate Powers – 2017 VOD 1st Place Winner

Voice Of Democracy Post 604 Awards Presentation



Voice of Democracy Winners (L-R)

1st Place - Kate Powers – BHSS

3rd Place – Josephine Sparks - BHSS

2nd Place – Eli James – Eastern Greene (Not Pictured)



Cindy Baker - Lakeview Elementary Language Arts Teacher
Recognized for Patriot's Pen Program Educator Support

Patriot's Pen Post 604 Awards Presentation



Patriot's Pen Winners (L – R)

- 1st Place – Emma Hoff – Lakeview Elementary
- 3rd Place – Kylan Pittman – Batchelor Middle School
- 4th Place – Elisabeth Axsom – Lakeview Elementary
- 2nd Place – Chase Arnold – Lakeview Elementary

America's Gift to My Generation

America's gift to my generation is the American heroes that help the citizens of our country. The ordinary people who help fellow Americans when they need it most. The type of Americans this essay talks about are not the heroes like George Washington or Abraham Lincoln. Instead people who are equally heroic but in a different way. They are the normal American citizens who go out of their way to help a complete stranger.

An example of these heroes is wonderful Carlos Arredondo who lifted Jeff Bauman, a victim of the Boston Massacre into a wheelchair. He then held Jeff Bauman's vein closed so he would not bleed to death. He did not know him but that did not stop him from saving his life. This is a truly amazing deed, and I am so glad there are so many Americans waiting and ready to do the same. Another amazing example of an American hero is, Heather Gooze who held a dying man, Jordan McIldoon's hand to comfort him after he got shot at the horrible Las Vegas shooting. She comforted him during his last breath, then alerted his family about his death. She did this incredible thing even though he was a complete stranger to her.

American hero, Jim McIngvale, or Mattress Mack, held his mattress stores open to let victims of hurricane Harvey come and rest. He gave shelter to tons of people in trouble and helped them when they needed it most. The mattress stores had furniture, bathrooms, and restaurants all open to the hurricane victims. The last example is the soldiers who risk or give up their lives so bravely to protect the people of our country. They are so wonderful and amazing.

In conclusion, America's gift to my generation is the incredible citizens of America who help the needy in times of crisis. In a country far from perfect it is such a wonderful gift to have so many fellow Americans waiting to step up and help in in the worst of times. The people who are willing to step up and selflessly be an American hero. This is so amazing and truly a wonderful gift. I am so happy to live in a country that has so many of these people, and I feel very thankful for these people.

By Emma Groff – 2017 Patriot's Pen 1st Place Winner

NASCAR SUNDAY IS BACK!!!

But before we get to that you need to know about our 1st Friday of the Month Dinner Special which happens on February 2nd and we are bringing back an old favorite— All You Can Eat Home-Made CHILI & A GRILLED CHEESE—you know the chili is good and the grilled cheese sammich will be a perfect match. And the price is right at only \$7.00. Serving starts at 6:00 p.m. And we are sure Desserts will be in the offering!!

Ok let's start our engines with our NASCAR SUNDAY which is brought to you by the VFW Auxiliary and their Great Big Ole Tenderloin Sandwiches. — February 18th is the date----Daytona is the venue---\$6.00 is the cost. We need to start these Sundays out with a huge crowd so come out bring friends - neighbors - whoever and support them and get a super great meal to boot!! Post opens at Noon and closes somewhere around 6:00 p.m. Also the VFW Auxiliary Fish Dinner on the 2nd Friday of the month (February 9th)-all you can eat!!

Angus Steak Night is extremely popular and well worth the money, the 3rd Friday of the Month--STEAK NIGHT (16th)!! 10 oz. Ribeye with Baked Potato and Salad and Dessert all for just \$11. Yep! That's right—just \$11. Then the 4th Friday of the Month (23rd) presents The Auxiliary so check out their news article for that menu. Texas Hold-'em Tournament every Thursday starting at 7:00 p.m.

Spring should be on the way, but our warm & tasty and affordable Friday Night Dinners are already here—so come out and enjoy!!

Thursday Night Cooks and Runners

The House Committee is looking for volunteers to help cook and run orders on Thursday night for the weekly 5 Card Hold 'em Poker. Anyone interested in giving us a hand, contact George Kristoff, Barney White, Debbie Deckard, or let the bartender know. Looking forward to working with you.

Choice Angus Steak Night

We are pleased to announce we will resume our monthly steak night on Friday February 16th. We will be serving our 10 oz Choice Angus steaks cooked to order, baked potato, salad and dessert. Not to mention the sautéed mushrooms and onions. All for \$11.00. This will be our 3rd Choice Angus Steak Night and the response from our members has been very positive. Choice Angus is one of the highest qualities of beef you can buy. Come to the post and try one. We think you will be very happy you did. ❖

House Committee

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

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Phone: (812)-339-2375

VFW Post 604

February Happenings

- February 2nd – 6PM – CHILI (All you can eat) & GRILLED CHEESE
 - February 9th – 6PM – Fish Fry (All you can eat)
 - February 11th – Noon – NASCAR Tenderloin Sunday
 - February 16th – 6PM – Angus Ribeye Steak & Fixin's Dinner
 - February 20th – 6PM – Post & Auxiliary Meetings
 - February 23rd – 6PM – Smoked Sausage, Fried Potatoes, & Salad
- Hot Dog Monday – Every Monday Starting @ Noon

Texas Hold-'em - Every Thursday Starting at 7PM