

POST SENTINEL

VOLUME 15, EDITION 1

JANUARY 2023

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear Comrades and Auxiliary Members:

Happy New Year, I hope everyone who was in the immediate area, fared well in our blizzard. My prayers and thoughts go out to those that were not so lucky.

I want to thank everyone who came out and assisted with the Children's Christmas party. A special thanks to Paula Bucci, Heather Strebel and Stacey Suto, for helping gift wrap the toys. To John Grotke for playing Santa and his elf, Abbie. Mike Jablonski and Chuck Fiorello for bringing the reindeer. Joyce Haskell for playing Mrs. Claus and Jessica Utley for setting up the hot chocolate station. Finally, our photographer, Robert Healy. A fun time was had by all.

On February 4th from 1 to 4 p.m., the Auxiliary will be having a Soup-A-Thon, that will include 50/50 and basket raffles. Please support our Auxiliary; this helps fund the activities they put on throughout the year.

If you know someone eligible to join our Post, please have them put in an application. This month's National Commander's Challenge is focusing on membership. National will be tracking all Post membership increases throughout the month. New members, renewing members, reinstated members; all increases will count towards a contest. At the end of January, the Post that leads each membership division will receive a \$1,000 deposit into their Post account. Let's go out and recruit new members, retain our existing members, and bring lapsed members back. As part of this year's membership incentives, Commander-in-Chief Tom Borland wants to drive home the message that EVERY VETERAN COUNTS. To support this message, every VFW member who recruits a new member will receive a special One New Member recruiting pin to show the world that they're doing their part to help our organization grow in strength and reach our membership goals. Applications can be found in the post lounge, DD214 (honorably discharged and served overseas in an area of foreign conflict), membership dues are required for membership.

The U.S. federal flag code has been amended by Congress and signed by the president to add Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to the list of days on which the flag should be displayed. His birthday is observed the third Monday in January; therefore, the flag should be flown on that day. Also, under previous Public Law 105-85 (November 16, 1997) it indicated there were only six days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices were required to display the POW/MIA flag. Now under new law, Public Law 116-67 (February 21, 2020), it is required that the POW/MIA flag be flown on all days on which the flag of the United States is displayed.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE #2)

CONTACT Us:

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*Commander (716)432-0829

*vfwpost1419@yahoo.com

*postsentinel1419@hotmail.com

*VFW1419.org (Website)

THE NEWSLETTER IS NOW ONLY SENT VIA EMAIL OR ON THE POST WEBSITE. IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO RECEIVE IT, THEY MUST SEND THEIR EMAIL ADDRESS TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE.



VFW AUXILIARY

In Auxiliary News, our Secretary, Debbie Harris has undergone rather urgent hand surgery and unfortunately, it is on her right hand. Debbie is right handed so I may need someone to step up and take the minutes for our January meeting. Please let me know if you can and will do it prior to our meeting on the 16th of January so that our meeting can begin on time.

As mentioned last month, and also in the Commander's article, our Soup-a-thon will in fact be held on Saturday, February 4th starting at 1:00 and ending at approximately 4:00.

Once again the cost of \$5.00; will include Soup, Bread & Butter, and Crackers. We will also be selling desserts and holding a Basket Raffle/Chinese Auction and ONE 50/50 drawing. So dig out your recipes for your favorite soup, dust off those items you've been holding on to hoping to donate to a raffle, and get ready to support your Auxiliary in this money raising endeavor. For those of you unfamiliar with a Soup-a-Thon, various individuals make a crock pot full of soup, bring it to the post and for a small fee, we sell you a bowl and a spoon so you can taste as many of the soups as you want. We accept soups from anyone that is willing to donate. Bring a Ladle and make sure your name is on the Crock, the Lid and the Ladle so we can make sure you get your items back.

We need people to sell the bowls; sell desserts; sell the Auction Tickets and the 50/50 raffle tickets. Not to mention someone to keep a eye on the soups to make sure the crocks are turned off when empty. It takes quite a few people to make sure that the event is a success. Sign up sheets will be posted in the Lounge for soups, desserts and Volunteers. **IT TAKES A VILLAGE!!!**

Also, although you shouldn't need to be told, please have your Crocks of soup, and desserts at the Post no later than noon the day of the event so that we will be ready to start by 1:00.

On a final note, 2023 so far has NOT been a good year. Let's pray that things start to improve. I wish you all Health, Happiness, Love and Peace,

Katy Blaszkiewicz
Auxiliary President

ON FRIDAY WE WEAR RED (REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED)

(Commander's Corner Continued from page #1)

I want to thank all the members who sold or purchased the raffle tickets for the District 6 Ways & Means fund raiser that was held throughout the months of November and December. The winning ticket was picked on January 1st in the Post lounge; the winner was Howard White from Jamestown. He was able to choose from a Glock 43X – 9mm pistol or \$500.00 in cash. Post 53 sold the winning ticket.

Be safe and well.

In Comradeship,
Amy Owczarczak, Commander
VFW Post 1419 AmyOVFW1419@hotmail.com
(716) 432-0829

HONOR GUARD

Happy New Year!!! A new beginning to a new year. Hope it's a prosperous one for us all.

A couple things to cover this month. First the drawing for the camping chair and gift certificates was won by Matt Meyer of the Honor Guard. Thank you all who took a chance and supported us.

Secondly your Honor Guard posted the colors at the Bills Dolphins game on December 17th. What an honor and exciting mission for us. Hopefully we'll get to do it again.

Well that's all I have for now so I'll be signing off. As always God bless America our Troops who are serving and those who have served.

Yours in Comradeship,
Don Hancock-Captain

SERVICE OFFICER

The VFW launched of a new website to inform veterans about the benefits for which they may qualify under the PACT Act. The new site, www.PACTActInfo.org, allows veterans to enter certain military service details and medical information to determine eligibility for compensation benefits on a presumptive basis as a result of exposure to toxins. The site will then provide referrals to VFW Service Officers in their state of residence to assist with their claims. The site also warns veterans about claim sharks and non-accredited entities that may try to exploit them for financial gain. Find out if you're eligible <https://pactactinfo.org/>

As part of the PACT Act, VA has expanded health care eligibility for certain veterans who were discharged after Sept. 11, 2001, and before Oct. 1, 2013. A one-year open enrollment period began on Oct. 1, 2022, for this group of veterans depending on their dates and locations of service, regardless of disability claim status. Once the open enrollment period has closed, veterans from this group will be eligible for VA health care as part of a phase-in process depending on discharge date. Learn more about your eligibility <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>

End of "Widow's Tax" Survivor Benefit Offset: Beginning on Feb. 1, 2023, surviving spouses enrolled in the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) program will receive their full payment from DOD and their full Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payment from VA. This will be the first SBP annuity payday after the SBP-DIC Offset is fully eliminated, which takes effect on Jan. 1, 2023. This offset was eliminated as part of VFW-supported legislation that was incorporated into the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2020. In addition, the 2020 NDAA eliminated the SBP Optional Annuity for Dependent Children as of Jan. 1, 2023, with final payments being sent to the child on Jan. 3, 2023. After this date, SBP payments will revert to the surviving spouse, unless the surviving spouse is not eligible to receive payments.

Dominic Caselli-Service Officer

Post Life Member, Dominic Ervolina, passed away in Florida after a battle with Cancer. Our deepest Condolences to his wife Patty and to the rest of his family and friends.

Life Member of the Auxiliary, Dave Young passed away in December. We will miss 1, 2, 5. (What he used to say whenever he visited the Post-One beer, two books, five tickets.)

Auxiliary Secretary, Debbie Harris, had a rather urgent hand surgery this week and our Recovery wishes are being sent to her.

POST SENTINEL INFORMATION

The Deadline for article submission is the FRIDAY AFTER THE POST MEETING. It is very important that all articles are submitted by the due date.

**The Deadline for next month is
February 3rd**

**All submissions should be sent via email
to**

postsentinel1419@hotmail.com

Katy Blaszkievicz-Editor

(716) 253-4681 Cell

**Fish Fries have returned to the Post on Fridays.
4:30 until 8:00**

Fish Fries \$16.00/ Broiled \$17.00

Also Available Shrimp Dinners \$16.00

Scallops \$20.00

Chicken Fingers or Shrimp Basket \$7.00

Potato Pancakes \$2.50/3 for \$7.00



Auxiliary Soup-a-thon

February 4th

1:00 to 4:00

\$5.00 donation for soup, bread, crackers

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**Classes are still being held for
Pistol Permits**

Call James Emmick for more information.

(716)903-2558

**Date and Times are determined by
interest expressed.**

SICK CALL

If you know of any member of the Post or the Auxiliary, who is sick, in the hospital, or has died, please let someone know.

Post Chaplain Brent Doyle	716-649-3019
Auxiliary Chaplain Terry Walker	716-912-6849
Past Commander Jerry Welsted	716-316-8917
Commander Amy Owczarczak	716-432-0829
Aux. President Katy Blaszkievicz	716-253-4681
Honor Guard Don Hancock	716-830-4237

You can also call the Post and tell whoever answers the phone.

If we aren't told we don't know.

