

# POST SENTINEL

VOLUME 15, EDITION 3

MARCH 2023

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear Comrades and Auxiliary Members:

On Thursday, February 2nd, we held a brief ceremony before the Post monthly meeting to award certificates and monetary prizes for our Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher Award winners. Congratulations again to Magnus Caselli (PP), Jamis (VOD), Robert Cain and Ted Perger (Teacher's Award). Magnus will go on to read his Patriot Pen's essay at the VFW State Conference in April and both Magnus and Jamis will read their essays at the 78th Annual District 6 Conference in May. Good luck to both!

On Saturday, February 4th, the Auxiliary held their Annual Soup-A-Thon and it was an amazing turn-out. Thank you for everyone who came out and supported our Auxiliary. The Auxiliary will be running a meat raffle at the Oakwood Manor on Saturday, April 15th, doors open at 6:00 p.m. Who doesn't like to win meat!

I would like to personally thank our Auxiliary member, Otto Johnson for creating a picture display of our present and all our past commanders of the Post and present and all our past presidents of the Auxiliary. The pictures are displayed in the Paul DeGal room. If you have a moment, please check out the display. Otto is a master with woodwork, he also made the tables that come off the Post bar for patrons to enjoy their fish fries or tacos on our special meal nights.

If you haven't been in the Post lately, not only do we serve Fish Fries on Friday and Tacos on Tuesdays, if you are ever hungry, we have pizza logs, taco logs, mozzarella cheese sticks, potato skins all cooked in our Air Fryer and Classic cheese or cheese and pepperoni pizzas that are baked in our pizza oven..

Poppy donations will be collected in May on Memorial Day weekend at the Walmart in Hamburg. Please keep an eye out for volunteer sign-up sheets to assist with our Poppy Drive. I know Memorial Day weekend is a busy time for all; but I hope to see many volunteers sign-up from both the Post and the Auxiliary to collect these donations. All money collected are deposited in to the Relief Fund of either the Post or Auxiliary. Relief funds are used to help Veterans and/or their families.

Congratulations to Judd Wright, past commander and life-time post member on his 50-year anniversary. The post wouldn't be where it is without Judd's dedication over the past 50 years. Please help celebrate Judd's special occasion by coming to the post on Saturday, March 25th . There will be two bands that evening; Billy Matthews plays from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. and playing from 10:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. will be the band Taken By Storm. There will be food, but a snack or a dish to pass, will be welcomed. The party takes place in the Post Lounge. Please stop down for a night to remember. Bring your friends and family.

Winter is almost over, stay safe and warm!  
In Comradeship,  
Amy Owczarczak, Commander  
AmyOVFW1419@hotmail.com  
(716) 432-0829

## CONTACT US:

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\*Commander (716)432-0829

\*vfwpost1419@yahoo.com

\*postsentinel1419@hotmail.com

\*VFW1419.org (Website)

*\* If you would like to receive the Post Sentinel via email, please send an email to the address above.*

\* PLEASE CONTACT THE POST IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS MAILING IN ERROR



## **VFW AUXILIARY**

I would be remiss if I didn't report that some of our Auxiliary members have suffered some rather serious Health issues in the past month or so. Debbie Harris (Secretary) had a rather invasive surgery and although recovering from that surgery now has additional issues she must face. Mary Dinan (Patriotic Instructor) and Mary Hancock (Historian) have both been hospitalized, and since discharged, with very serious illnesses, and unfortunately neither one of them is fully recovered. Our prayers to each of them that the roads they are traveling will lead them to complete recoveries.

I am proud to report that the Auxiliary raised \$175.00 to send to the Department of New York Service Officer Raffle that is being held at the upcoming Spring Conference. Thanks to everyone that purchased raffle tickets and Good Luck. We support our Veterans in any way that we can. The tickets were available from the Bar Tender but unfortunately, the sign advertising this raffle was removed, and although I had nothing to do with it's removal, I apologize to all that missed out.

Our Meat Raffle plans are gaining momentum but we are still looking for individuals or groups to Sponsor one of the rounds. The Auxiliary has sponsored a round and five of our Members have agreed to each sponsor a round so at last count, six rounds of the twelve are already being paid for. If you or your "group" are willing to donate \$100.00 please contact Kara Siulc or Heather Strebel so that the plans can move forward. See Kara's article on the next page for more information.

Auxiliary Officer elections will be held at the April Meeting so if you are interested in holding an office and are a member considered in "good Standing" please let someone know that you would like to be considered for an office.

I guess that's all I have for now. Please keep our members in your prayers.

President-Katy Blaszkiewicz

**ON FRIDAYS WE STILL WEAR RED!!!**  
**REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED**

## **HONOR GUARD**

Well here it is, another month has passed and nothing was submitted to the Newsletter from the Honor Guard point of view, so instead of waiting I'll do what I can.

Hi everyone!! Hope all is well when receiving the newsletter.

The Bar being raffled off is closer to "done" than not and tickets may be available very soon. Another great job by John Arcadipane and Joe Suto.

Some of the members of the Honor Guard were able to attend a Sabres Game this past week-end and with the Sabres having a very convincing win, a great time was had by all. It's nice to be able to just get together as a group, other than at Funeral or Wake, and just share some "binding time".

That's all I have for now so I will be signing off. As always God Bless Our Troops who are serving and those who have served and God Bless America.

Katy Blaszkiewicz for  
Don Hancock  
Honor Guard Capt.

## SERVICE OFFICER

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.

Reps. have introduced the VFW-supported Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding VA Benefits Act, known as the GUARD VA Benefits Act. Reintroduced in the new Congress with sixty-nine cosponsors, this bipartisan legislation would reinstate criminal penalties for unaccredited claim representatives who charge unauthorized fees for helping veterans file claims for VA disability compensation benefits. These companies are incentivized to operate outside of the law due to the lack of penalties. Cracking down on Claim Sharks is one of the VFW's top legislative priorities for the 118th Congress

The VFW and PsychArmor, in collaboration with the For Country Caucus, held its third training for congressional staffers on how to connect with organizations like the VFW, as well as national, state, and local resources. The overarching goal of the training sessions is to help military and veteran legislative staff better meet the needs of service members, veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors. Topics included current policy issues, the importance of hosting veterans town halls, and reaching out to accredited service officers.

Dominic Caselli  
Service Officer



On Saturday, April 15, 2023, our Auxiliary is hosting a Meat Raffle to raise money for our organization. To maximize our fundraising potential, we are looking for individuals or businesses to sponsor one of the 12 rounds.

The cost of sponsorship is \$100 per round. Your name, your business name, or the name of the veteran you want to honor will be listed on the schedule of events that will be given to all entrants that evening.

If you are interested in sponsoring a round, please contact Kara Siulc (716)316-4938 or Heather Strebel (716)863-2811 or email us at [hkevents716@gmail.com](mailto:hkevents716@gmail.com). Sponsorship money will be due April 1, 2023. Checks can be made payable to "VFW 1419 Auxiliary".

In addition to sponsoring rounds, we are also looking for donations of Large Raffle items (chest freezer, gift cards, coolers, etc.) for the event. If you are willing and able to assist us with this, please contact one of us using the above contact information.

Watch for more information in the coming months. Flyers, tickets, and volunteer opportunities will be available soon!

Thank you in advance for helping make this event a success!  
Kara Siulc and Heather Strebel

**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  
APRIL 7th**

All submissions should be sent via email  
to

[postsentinel1419@hotmail.com](mailto:postsentinel1419@hotmail.com)

Katy Blaszkievicz-Editor

(716) 253-4681 Cell

**TACOS HAVE RETURNED  
TO THE POST LOUNGE  
ON TUESDAYS FROM 5-7**



**DON'T FORGET  
OUR FISH FRIES  
ARE ALSO BEING  
HELD EVERY  
FRIDAY IN THE  
POST LOUNGE.  
4:30 -8:00**



***What can't be  
cured must  
be endured***

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716.903.2558

**Classes are held in one of our Meeting  
Rooms as the need arises.**

**Call James Emmick for more  
information.**

**(716)903-2558**

**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	716-310-4549

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

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

