



POST 331 NEWS

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Greetings, Legion Family, hope this newsletter finds you all healthy and happy, now let's get into what's happening at the Melting Pot. Membership has voted to sell our current building while we continue looking for a new Post Home. We currently have two realtors and our building search committee actively looking for a suitable location with accommodations that meets our needs. The closing date on the current property is June 30, 2024, and, until that date, we are still open for business as usual. As of the date of this newsletter, Legion Post 331 has accepted the offer from the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 2 to hold our monthly meetings at their Chapter House which is located at 4515 F Street. We are still in communication with the leadership at the DAV to see what other options may be available for the whole Legion Family and the other VSOs that meet at the Melting Pot location. We ask for your patience and civility during this transition.

Elections are fast approaching and will be held on June 3, 2024, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. We've had a couple of enthusiastic and sometimes emotional membership meetings over the past four months reinforcing how much they love 331 so I'm sure there will be plenty of nominees for all the Post positions. If you are a member in good standing, email me your information and I'll pass it on to the Election Committee chairperson so you can get placed on the ballot.

Memorial Day Ceremonies. Volunteers are needed on Saturday, May 25th, to place flags on the veterans' graves at Graceland Cemetery located at 42nd and L Street and Mary Magdalene Cemetery located at 48th and Q Street. Sal and Mark Zoucha have 1600 flags to put out so your help is needed. Flag pickup is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28th, starting at 8:00 a.m. at Graceland Cemetery. Legion Post 331, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. Memorial Day ceremony will be at Graceland Cemetery starting at 10:00 a.m. with a luncheon following the ceremony at the Melting Pot so please attend to honor our veterans. Nebraska Department Convention is scheduled for June 21st through the 23rd in Kearney NE. Me, your 1st Vice and one of our Executive Board members will be attending. We'll bring back all the latest and greatest from the convention including the possible dues hike. We'll see.

Make sure you keep a copy of the calendar handy for all the special events and meals being served at the Melting Pot. Have a great start to your summer and we'll see you at the Melting Pot.

For God and Country,
Mark Dreier
Post 331 Commander

MADAME PRESIDENT'S BY-LINE

Greetings Everyone,

Spring has finally sprung. A lot of people have been waiting for Ham-It-Up Bingo. Well a date has now been set. It will be held on May 19, 2024. The kitchen will open at noon for lunch and Bingo starts at 1:00 p.m. Prices will be the same for Bingo as last year--\$20.00 for one book of 15 games, two books are \$30.00 and extra books are available. These prices are per person.

The Auxiliary will be having a special meeting on Monday, May 13th, at 6:30 p.m. Nomination for officers will be held that night. If you are interested in supporting the Auxiliary and becoming an officer, please attend. We need members to take an interest in the Auxiliary and run for offices. The elections will be held on June 10, 2024.

I have been President for five years and will be stepping down as of June. It has been a privilege to be your President; I've enjoyed it.

Dates to Remember:

Auxiliary Meetings: Mondays, May 13th and June 10th, 6:30 p.m.
Hamburger Nights: Mondays, May 20th and June 17th, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Yours in Service,
Beverly Hofsheier
Auxiliary President Unit 331

HALL FOR RENT UPSTAIRS
Call 402-731-5185 for details and rates

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION COMMENTS

Greetings All,

I hope your spring is going well. Nomination of officers for 2024-2025 is underway and will be posted at the Legion. If interested, please write your name in. This will be voted on at our next meeting on May 9th.

Ham-It-Up Bingo will be held on May 19th. Lunch will be available.

All other upcoming events are to be determined!

Yours in service,
Alan W. Kalskett
S.A.L. Squadron 331 Commander

ADJUTANT'S CORNER

The American Legion began with a force and a focus which amazes me. With a few ideas, men built The American Legion both physically and in doctrine. They fought and defended in World Wars. They also fought for improving the benefits of those who serve and that have served our country.

They also created monumental achievements, many of which continue today. They created the G. I Bill and other pieces of legislation which we have today. They fought along the side of our community leaders improving life within the community. They built V.A. Hospitals. They fought for a strong national defense-- they had no idea of the jet plane, trips of man traveling to and from the moon, about the drones replacing men as observers and fighting machines. Likewise, today we cannot imagine our power as a Nation. They also created a keen sense of American Pride which we tend to forget.

As Legionnaires, we must continue to be mentors. We must educate our Youth. As teachers, we must teach patriotism. We must care and we must share in community involvement projects. We must honor our Flag on June 14, Flag Day. We also must honor the men who are serving and those that served. Come out and assist the Officers as we honor men and women who paid with their lives on Memorial Day.

It is time for all of us to pay tribute to the Past Officers and to honor those newly elected Officers. The new Officers will be entering a gray area of uncertainty and new responsibility. They will be bringing innovative ideas on what we must do as we transfer from old to new. It will be a time of recharging ourselves as well as a test of strength. We must continue to honor the ideas of The American Legion. We must find ways to find new members and to foster ideas on how to retain old members in renewing. We also must continue our community involvement.

Respectfully Yours,
Rich Klinger
Adjutant

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of July 1, 2023, the beginning of the 2024 renewal year, Post 331 had 362 Active members. We currently have 351 paid (active) members which includes 12 New Legionnaires and 7 transfers from other Posts. This puts us at a 97% renewal rate which is AWESOME! If you have not renewed your 2024 membership yet, it is not too late. You can do it on line or via mail, give me a call if you have questions or need assistance. Talk to your neighbors, work associates, etc. and get them signed up. Wouldn't it be great if we could hit the 100% goal????

Lynn Bergman
First Vice Commander

HONOR GUARD

Military Honors were performed at the funerals of veterans listed below:

02-19-24	James Richie	03-14-24	Leonard Skala
02-21-24	Ralph Stankovich	03-16-24	Bruce Smith
02-22-24	Donald Hansen	03-18-24	James Burton
03-01-24	Bret Spence	03-19-24	Joseph Zadina
03-08-24	Johnny Brezina	03-20-24	Wilbur Helac
03-09-24	Jerry Norohaus	04-12-24	Allen Penny
03-12-24	Marvin Aase	04-15-24	Philip Ray
03-12-24	Anthony Lopez		

The Honor Guard will be performing Memorial Day Honors at St. John's Cemetery.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Post 331 Honor Guard Members:

Tim Svoboda, Captain	Dick Olson, Lieutenant
Lynn Bergman	David Miller
Mark Dreier	Greg Miller
Jill Druskis	Marvin Mollner
John Gulizia	Richard Murcek
George Hallman	Jim Murphy
Terry Jones	Stan Petrus
Mark Lowe	

Respectfully Yours,
Timothy J. Svoboda, Captain
Post 331 Honor Guard

BELLEVUE POST 339 NEWS

Post 339 would like to thank Post 331 American Legion Family for their past support and donations to Post 339.

Post 339 needs your help! We are supporting the veterans at New Vision and homeless vets and people living on the streets. The way you can help--donate monetarily or donate peanut butter, jelly, cans of chili with pop-top lids, cereal, or Gatorade. New Vision is a temporary facility for Homeless Vets that are awaiting permanent housing. Post 339 is in dire need of donations! You can make donations by contacting Don Kiviniemi, 402-689-3058, or Jim Costello, 402-630-1841.

Don Kiviniemi
Post 339

VFW POST 2704 NEWS

Post Calendar:

May 4 – 8:30-11:30 a.m., Village Inn, Fort Crook Road, Post Membership Drive. Post provides breakfast.
May 11 – 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Poppy Drive, Hy-Vee, 5150 Center St, Omaha
May 14 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Auxiliary Meeting, American Legion Post 331, 4830 S. 21st St., Upstairs Meeting Room
May 16–18 – Recruiting at Offutt AFB
May 22 – 7:00 p.m., Post Officer Installations & Pot Luck Dinner, American Legion Post 331, 4830 S. 21st St., Upstairs Meeting Room
May 23 – 6:15 p.m., ENVH Bingo, 12505 Harrison Tull Rd, Bellevue (about 40th & Capehart Rd)
Jun 1 – 8:30-11:30 a.m., Village Inn, Fort Crook Road, Post Membership Drive. Post provides breakfast.
Jun 8-10 – VFW State Convention, Columbus, NE
Jun 11 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Auxiliary Meeting, American Legion Post 331, 4830 S. 21st St., Upstairs Meeting Room (may be moved)
Jun 13, 14, 15 – Recruiting at Offutt AFB Main BX
Jun 26 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Post Meeting, American Legion Post 331, 4830 S. 21st St. Wing Feed, Spouses/Sig. Other Invited

Jun 27 – 6:15 p.m., ENVH Bingo, 12505 Harrison Tull Rd, Bellevue (about 40th & Capehart Rd)

Jul 6 – 8:30-11:30 a.m., Village Inn, Fort Crook Road, Post Membership Drive. Post provides breakfast.

Jul 9 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Auxiliary Meeting, to be determined

Jul 14 – 2:00-3:00 p.m., District 10 Meeting at Post 2503, 8904 Military Rd

Jul 18, 19, 20 – Recruiting at Offutt AFB

Jul 24 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Post Meeting, to be determined

Jul 25 – 6:15 p.m., ENVH Bingo, 12505 Harrison Tull Rd, Bellevue (about 40th & Capehart Rd)

All activities subject to change/cancellation depending on COVID-19 restrictions!

Membership: Our Post has achieved 103.5% in membership and qualify for All American. We just need about 12 more members to renew for our Post to be recognized at the National Convention and our Post Commander to personally receive his All American Cover from our National Commander-in-Chief! If you are an annual member and have not yet paid your dues for the 2023-2024 membership year, please pay them NOW (if your membership card expires **before July 1, 2024, you are UNPAID!**) You can pay your dues online at www.vfw.org, call me to meet with you to pick them up, or mail your dues (\$40) to me (8510 Monroe St, Ralston, NE 68127). **Checks should be made payable to VFW Post 2704.** You can also call me (402.618.2731) with your credit/debit card information or to have me stop by your home. **The new Membership Year started 1 July. VFW Nebraska has set aside more money for \$50 life incentives! Our Post set aside \$2.5K for 50 ea. \$50 incentives again this membership year – that's \$100 off the price of a life membership! This is a really big deal – as an example, if you are Under 30, the outright cost of a life membership is \$410. You could have a life membership for only \$310 instead of \$410. But if you are or will turn 81 this year, your cost is \$170-100 for only \$70!** If interested, please contact me as the \$ for life incentive will go fast! Help keep our Post, Department and National strong. If you have a family member, friend, or coworker who may qualify for the VFW, please ask them if they would like to learn more and to contact me or if you may give me their contact information so I can get with them.

Community Activities: We led bingo at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home in Bellevue. About 25 residents played and Jim, Randy and his father, Bonnie & I assisted them and paid winners their prize money. We also accumulated 16 hours of service helping unpack a new member of our Post who just moved to Omaha!

Farewells: Tom Matthews, James Richie

Members New to the Post: Patricia Hamler, Antony Bevilacqua, Andrew Butler, Shea Downs-Butler, John Leahy, Arturo Villarreal, Thomas Rubenstein II, Kyle Fensom, Chris Tiedeman, Ashley Gloria, Emerson Legg, Allen Perry.

Auxiliary: They have also performed another 12 hours of community service helping a disabled veteran. Our Auxiliary can always use more members too. Spouses, children and step children (16 or older), siblings, parents and grandparents of our members are eligible and encouraged to join. Help us help our community by contacting me for more information.

Larry M. Gerlt 8510 Monroe St (402) 618-2731
QM, Post 2704 Ralston, NE 68127 larry.gerlt@cox.net

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

We want you to know that you are not alone. If anyone needs groceries, medications, transportation to doctor appointments, or any other type of assistance, please do not hesitate to call Post 331, 402-731-5185. We are here for YOU!!!

NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL

If you have access to a computer, we encourage you to receive our bi-monthly newsletters by e-mail.

If you haven't already done so, please contact Mark Overgaard at markover@earthlink.net to be added to the e-mail listing.

ARE YOU ON FACEBOOK?

If so, we'd love to have you join our Facebook page and stay in touch with what's going on around the Post and Club. Just search for American Legion Post 331, Omaha NE, request to join and one of the admins will add you!

POST 331 OFFICERS 2023-2024

Legion Post 331:

Commander	Mark Dreier
1st Vice Cmdr (Membership)	Lynn Bergman
2nd Vice Cmdr (Children and Youth)	Vacant
3rd Vice Cmdr (Building)	Vacant
Adjutant	Richard Klinger
Finance Officer	Terry Jones
Chaplain	Frank Durham
Sergeant-at-Arms	Bill McCollum

Executive Board

Terri Durham	Chuck Gilmore	Gary Roth
Past Commander		Chuck Gilmore

Auxiliary Unit 331:

President	Beverly Hofsheier
Vice President	Betty Barrett
Secretary	Rhonda Ebert
Treasurer	Pati Roth
Historian	Vacant
Chaplain	Mary Martinez
Sergeant-at-Arms	Vacant

Executive Board

Dorothy Jury	Marie Kaweck
Shirley Livingston	Dawnette Schmidt
Past President	Becky Saathoff

S.A.L. Squadron 331:

Commander	Alan Kalskett
1st Vice Commander	Ray Chlupacek
2nd Vice Commander	Rich Kellison
3rd Vice Commander	Brad Sutton
Adjutant	Hunter Brooks
Finance Officer	John Bowhay
Historian	Ron Osborn
Chaplain	John Klemiato
Sergeant-at-Arms	Pat Zymola
Past Commander	Richard Klinger