

**Post & Auxiliary
Meetings
1st Thursday
every month
7:30 p.m.**

Benson VFW Post 2503

February 2012

www.VFWPost2503.org.
402 571-8397

**Honor Guard
2nd Thursday
every month
7:30 p.m.**



POST 2503 OFFICERS 11-12

Commander: Tim Ross
Sr. Vice Commander: Doug Whitaker
Jr. Vice Commander: Mike Rosso
Quartermaster: Ron Dupell
Chaplain: Jerry Hodakowski
Surgeon: Terry White
Judge Advocate: Dave Christiansen
Officer of the Day: Bob Podany
Adjutant: Fred Van Peer
Guard: Arnold Gerst
Service Officer: Dave Christiansen
Parliamentarian: Fred Van Peer



AUXILIARY OFFICERS 11-12

President: Connie Dohse-Ross
Sr. Vice President: Linda McMullen
Jr. Vice President: Connie Liebsack
Treasurer: Ruth Gerst
Secretary: Pat Dembowski
Chaplain: Blanche Ferree
Conductress: Linda McMullen
Guard: Ann Hoff
Patriotic Instructor:

Commanders Corner

Comrades:

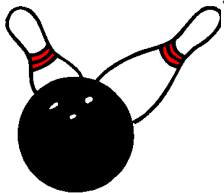
We are continuing to move forward with efforts to update capabilities within the Post. We just completed an update to fire suppression and electrical circuits in the kitchen. We have much more to do. We have a stove and griddle in the kitchen that are over 40 years old. They must be replaced. In order to meet our financial needs and obligations, we must reduce our operating costs and raise additional funds.

As part of the process to reduce costs, we must ASK you to either receive the newsletter electronically via e-mail or subscribe to receive it via US Mail for an annual fee of \$12.00.

We ask that you notify us of your decision by March 1, 2012. See the article in this newsletter which explains the procedures.

Tim Ross, Commander

Wii Bowling Tournament



**Saturday
February 11th
Registration at
12:30 pm,
competition begins at
1:00 pm**

Prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Bring a snack to share and a canned good item for the food pantry. Adults only.

Any questions, call Linda (402) 571-4178

Congratulations William Krolkowski, Marissa Domayer, and Nicole Weberg, our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners of the Post level Patriots Pen Essay contest.

Auxiliary News

Sisters:

Change is sometimes hard for any of us. Change can be a good thing. Changes have been made and will continue to be made within the Auxiliary as well as the Post. I ask for your support to assist the Post in reducing costs. May we have your decision by March 1st, 2012 concerning your choice of either receiving the newsletter by e-mail or contributing \$12.00 on an annual basis? Without your decision, we will be required to discontinue sending the newsletter to you.

We are in the process of updating our membership list. If you have changed your address or phone number, please call me at 402 391-2292 February 11th, which is a Saturday, the Auxiliary is having a steak dinner to celebrate Valentine's Day. Cost is \$10.00 per person and you can make your reservation by calling the Post at 402 571-8397. The deadline is February 7th.

Our Auxiliary Chaplain had to resign due to her husband's health issues. If you have a calling to step in and be the Chaplain from now through June, please call me at 402 391-2292. Thank you. Always remember that you are a vital part of the Auxiliary. We need you, your suggestions and if you can volunteer, we would love it. Call me at 402 391-2292.

Both the Post and the Auxiliary must raise funds in order to fulfill our National obligations, as well as maintain funds for operating expenses, and continuing our community service duty. So, when you see in the newsletter that either the Post or the Auxiliary is having a fundraiser, please see fit to participate. because we are raising funds in order to increase awareness within the community, as well as maintain our Post Home community. Together we can make a difference.

The Auxiliary needs to step up and help the Post save money. Effective March 1st, those of you who are currently receiving your newsletter by mail will no longer receive it via mail unless you pay a \$12.00 yearly fee. If you have a computer, your newsletter can be e-mailed to you.

*Connie Dohse-Ross, President
Linda McMullen, Sr Vice*

CALLING ALL PATRIOTS TO THE CLUB

For Your Listening Pleasure

Wednesday, February 1, 2012 Easy listening in the Lounge 6 pm to 9 pm Chris-Warren Duo

Wednesday, February 8, 2012 Karaoke, sing-a-longs and Requests 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm by Broadway Performer Steve Fowler

Wednesday, February 15, 2012 County Music with The Humdingers \$5 Cover

Saturday February 18, 2012 Rock with the Unknown Knowns 7 pm to 11 pm, Wings, Chili and Hot Dogs 5:30pm to 8pm.

Wednesday, February 22, 2012 Easy Listening in the Lounge 6 pm to 9 pm Janet Staley with Ev Yates

Wednesday, February 29, 2012 Easy listening in the Lounge 6 pm to 9 pm Chris-Warren Duo

We'll be booking Karaoke on selected Friday and Saturday nights in February. Watch the web-site for updates.

**DON'T FORGET PIZZA ON SUNDAYS....
MIGHT BE A MOVIE TOO!
Usually around 3:00 pm.**

**CELEBRATE
VALENTINE'S DAY
STEAK
DINNER
SATURDAY, FEB. 11TH
5:30 to 7:30 pm**

**Steak, Baked Potato, Pasta, Salad,
Garlic Bread & Dessert
\$10.00 per person
Make your reservation by
February 7th with the bartenders**



NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION UPDATE

Hello Everyone,

For the past 18 months, we have been asking that Post members receive their newsletter via e-mail. Several months ago, we asked that members go to e-mail or pay \$12.00 per year to receive the newsletter via US Mail.

Rising costs now make us ask you to communicate with us by March 1, 2012 your choice of continuing to receive the newsletter via US Mail for a \$12.00 annual fee or to convert to electronic e-mail free of charge.

We regret that if you have not communicated with us by March 1, 2012, we will no longer be able to send the newsletter to you.

Please forward your decision to us by one of the following methods:

1. E-mail to webmaster@vfwpost2503.org (include your full name, street address and the e-mail address you wish us to send the newsletter to, and identify your status: Post member, Auxiliary member, AMVet etc).

2. US Mail to Quartermaster, VFW Post 2503, 8904 Military Ave. Omaha, NE 68134, and a check for \$12.00. Please insure you provide your mailing address, and identify your status as a Post member, Auxiliary member, AMVet etc.

Ron Dupell, Quartermaster

FOUR PEOPLE

Once upon a time, there were four people: their names were Everybody, Somebody, Nobody and Anybody. Whenever there was an important job to be done, Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it.

When Nobody did it, Everybody got angry because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Somebody would do it, but Nobody realized that Nobody would do it.

So consequently Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done in the first place.

We've got plenty of Somebodies that do alot around the Post. If you have not joined in, please do. We could use a few back-ups and assistants for all our hard working Somebodies. Ask around and see where your talents can be utilized. One of our hardworking Somebodies would be happy to show you what they do.

COOTIE CORNER Up Coming Events:

3rd Thursday, 7:30 pm, Cootie Meeting

3rd Monday, 6:30 pm, Bingo at ENVH

Seam Squirrel Gary Steckelberg,

Cootie Pres. Toni Geis

From the SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Private Donors Helping the Post Update

You may have noticed over the last few months your VFW has been updating certain items in the Post. These items include the two new televisions and sound bar in the canteen, the computers and monitors in the office and canteen area, and the addition of movie nights made possible by the purchase of a movie license from the Motion Picture Industry Association.

All of these items have been purchased through generous donations provided by members of our Post. These members have come forward and have donated money specifically for these projects. Some members have asked why other major expenditures, such as upgrading the fire suppression system in the kitchen, purchasing a new stove and upgrading the electrical panel, were not addressed first and that is understandable.

However, the Post is very appreciative of any gift no matter its size or intended purpose. If a member or donor specifically asks that their money be used for a certain purpose, the Post is going to honor that request because, just as in the service, every contribution, no matter how small or large, leads to the successful completion of the mission.

The Post leadership wants to thank everyone for their contributions to the Post whether monetary or the long and hard hours that are freely given to make our Post the best it can be.

Doug Whitaker, Sr Vice Commander

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

This weather we have been having cannot last forever, as much as we'd like it to. Think about volunteering with a group of your friends to serve up a warm meal, or some snacks on one of our entertainment nights. It all goes to supporting our Post, and you will have a great time doing it. Talk to the House Committee on January 31st or February 28th to lock in a date.

BASKET NIGHTS RETURN

Friday, February 24th

marks the first

★ **Shrimp**

★ **Chicken**

★ **Fish**

BASKETS

of Lent.

Come out and join us.



VFW Post 2503 Internet Web Site www.vfwpost2503.org

Our site has seen well over 45,000 visitors since becoming operational in January 2010. We have over 300 people receiving the newsletter by e-mail. Your assistance in reducing Post operating costs is of much importance to the Post. We are also able to provide much more information to you via e-mail. Please be an advocate and encourage other Post and Auxiliary members to sign up for the newsletter by e-mail.

Ron Dupell <Webmaster@FW Post 2503.org>

FROM THE KITCHEN

Winners for the free meal were Ron Schaefer, Dave Thompson, Roy Stroud, Kim Gerst and Bill Heller. Congratulations and thanks for supporting the Post.

****The special on February 29th will be SWISS STEAK. I ask that you make reservations at the bar by Friday, February 24th so I know how much to prepare (402 571-8397)**

The New Year's Eve Dinner and dance were a success. I would like to thank Rob and Suzanne McDonald for volunteering their time, helping serve the dinner and with clean up.

I cannot say enough about our volunteers and how dedicated they are. The Post could not provide the services on food nights without them. They all deserve a huge pat on the back. You are great people, you make it happen and your efforts do not go unnoticed. If there is a food item you would like to see on the menu let me know.

I am open to suggestions. The Post is looking for volunteers to help out on the nights food is served. There are plenty different things you can do from writing tickets to serving food. Everyone is welcome. We have fun. You may call me at 402-572-0651 or the Post at 402-571-8397 or leave a note at the bar.

Keep in mind on HAMBURGER NIGHT that hamburgers, chicken sandwiches and fish will always be served. The menu on the calendar is the SPECIAL for that day.

Please remember to fill out a ticket for a chance to win a free meal.

HI BUD!

Thank you for all your support. Together we can make a difference. Please thank our Veterans and keep our members, families and Troops in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Kathy "Tiger" Thielen & the Crews

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February 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Post Open 12 noon -6 pm PIZZA Buckets of Beer SPECIAL 5 domestics \$12.50	Post Closed	House Committee meeting 7:00 pm Vietnam Vets 7:00 pm	HAMBURGER NIGHT 5:30-7:30 pm Beef Tacos/Taco Salads or Pulled Pork Sandwich/ French Fries Soup -Broccoli & Cheese Crew - P Peterson Chris&Warren- Lounge	Ladies Sewing 1:00-3:00 Post & Auxiliary Meetings 7:30 pm	Post Open 3 -10 pm SPECIAL Bloody Marys \$2.00 5-7 PM Buckets of Beer SPECIAL 5 domestics \$12.50 PLAY KENO & Pickles	Post Open 12 noon -6 pm SPECIAL Bloody Marys \$2.00 5-7 PM Buckets of Beer SPECIAL 5 domestics \$12.50
Post Open 12 noon -6 pm SUPERBOWL PARTY Hot Dogs 1/2 Price Bloody Marys 75¢ Draws \$10.00 Buckets Potluck	Post Closed	Cherry Hill 6:30	HAMBURGER NIGHT 5:30 - 7:30 pm Chicken Fried Steak/Mashed Pota- toes/Gravy/Corn or Chili Dogs Soup - Vegetable Beef Crew - B Thielen Karaoke in Lounge	Honor Guard Meeting 7:30pm American Legion 7:00pm 172nd Trans Co	Post Open 3 -10 pm SPECIAL Bloody Marys \$2.00 5-7 PM Buckets of Beer SPECIAL 5 domestics \$12.50 PLAY KENO & Pickles	Post Open 12 noon -6 pm SPECIAL Bloody Marys \$2.00 5-7 PM Buckets of Beer SPECIAL 5 domestics \$12.50

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February 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Post Open 12 noon -6 pm PIZZA Buckets of Beer SPECIAL 5 domestics \$12.50 PLAY KENO & Pickles	Post Closed	<i>Get your friends together and plan an activity at the Post. Help the Post and sharpen those hosting skills!</i>	HAMBURGER NIGHT 5:30-7:30PM Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce/Salad/Bread or Shrimp Basket/French Fries Soup - Chili Crew - M Rosso Humdingers	Ladies Sewing 1-3:00pm Cooties 7:30 pm VFW Riders 7:00 pm	Post Open 3 -10 pm SPECIAL Bloody Marys \$2.00 5-7 PM Buckets of Beer SPECIAL 5 domestics \$12.50	Post Open 12 noon -6 pm SPECIAL Bloody Marys \$2.00 5-7 PM Buckets of Beer SPECIAL 5 domestics \$12.50 Unknown Knowns 7-11 pm Wings, Hotdogs & Chili 5:30 to 8pm (No Cover) NR
Post Open 12 noon -6 pm Breakfast 8:30 - Noon \$5.00 PIZZA Buckets of Beer SPECIAL 5 domestics \$12.50	Post Closed	Coast Guard 7:30pm AMVETS Meeting 7:30 pm	HAMBURGER NIGHT 5:30 - 7:30 pm Tuna & Noodles/ Mashed Potatoes/ Corn or Fish Basket/ French Fries Soup - Cream of Potato Crew - K Thielen Janet & Ev -Lounge	<i>There are still dates free to show off your cooking skills. Contact the House Committee to pitch your idea.</i>	Post Open 3 -10 pm SPECIAL Bloody Marys \$2.00 5-7 PM Buckets of Beer SPECIAL 5 domestics \$12.50 CHICKEN/FISH / Shrimp Basket Night 5:30 - 7:00 pm \$6.00 Easy Listening - NR	Post Open 12 noon -6 pm SPECIAL Bloody Marys \$2.00 5-7 PM Buckets of Beer SPECIAL 5 domestics \$12.50 SR
Post Open 12 noon -6 pm PIZZA Buckets of Beer SPECIAL 5 domestics \$12.50 PLAY KENO & Pickles	Post Closed	House Committee meet- ing 7:00 pm	HAMBURGER NIGHT 5:30-7:30PM Swiss Steak/Mashed Potatoes/Gravy/Green Beans or Pork Tender- loin Sandwich Soup - Ham & Bean Crew - C Thornton Reservations Please Chris&Warren-Lounge	<i>Consider having your celebrations at the Post. Call 402 571-8397. Special rates for Members and Immediate Family when you rent the Post Home.</i>	PLAY KENO & Pickles	<i>Get your friends together and play Wii at the Post. Get some exercise and have fun!</i>

WELCOME

Meet Post 2503's New

Director of Marketing and Operations

On January 3rd, VFW Post 2503 welcomed aboard Ms. Martha Shearman. As reported in last month's newsletter, the House Committee recently conducted a reorganization of the staff aimed at increasing revenues to the Post. That led to the advancement of a business development/operations manager position. Which saw more than 40 applicants for the job. After offering interview to six well qualified applicants, the House Committee selected Martha for the position. Martha is a 2005 graduate from Creighton University where she received a Bachelor's degree in Marketing. While attending Creighton, she worked for Mercedes Benz of Omaha and upon graduation became their first Business Development Consultant and Internet Sales Liaison. After gaining valuable experience there. Martha went to work for CLS Investments, LLC, where she helped her sales team reach \$60,000,000.00 in sales within six months. After a couple of years of success in the investment world, Martha decided to take some time off and hang out with her daughter. Upon reentering the job market, Martha went to work for Cox Communications where she was a sales representative and then later an account retention specialist responsible for retaining customers. However due to the economy, Cox decided to move her position along with another 199 to Wichita, Kansas. Martha decided to stay in Omaha. Military service is something Martha honors very much. Her grandfather was a POW in World War II and her fiancé, who she is engaged to be married to this summer is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Please welcome Martha to our Post.

AFTER JANUARY 1st

Membership Cards will be checked. Be sure you have your new 2012 Membership Card if you are not a Life Member. Go to www.vfw.org, click on login and create an account. You can pay your dues with your credit card and be sure to have your card on January 1st.

While you are at it, go ahead and buy yourself a Life Membership, so that you'll be prepared to show your card proudly every year.

If you receive a dues reminder in the mail, PAY YOUR DUES DIRECTLY TO NATIONAL IN KANSAS CITY. If you pay at the Post, there will be a delay in receipt of your membership card.

BUDDY POPPIES

Thanks to members for their contributions to the Relief Fund. It is not too late purchase Poppy Cards in memory of a loved one or in your name. Just stop by the Post or send in your contributions.

Doug Whitaker, Poppy Chairman

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Sunday, February 5 - 5 PM

**FREE
Hot Dogs**



1/2 Price Bloody Mary Drinks



75¢ Draws



\$10.00 Buckets

Pot Luck - Bring Desserts

OMELET BREAKFAST



"Sunday"

FEBRUARY

19TH

8:30 am - Noon

Only \$5.00

Our Bingo is going well. Please mention it to your friends. Wednesday at 7 pm, Saturday at 1 pm. Blondo Bingo hall. Our two new pickle machines seem to be a hit. Especially the 25 cent ones. Thanks once more to the anonymous donor friend of Bob Ekdahl.



We have two new televisions in the Post thanks to donations. One is a 60 inch large screen. We are still looking for a donation to cover the cost of an external amplifier and speakers for the large screen TV. Contact Doug Whitaker, Senior Vice@vfwpost2503.org.



NETFLIX MOVIES AND MOVIE NIGHTS

The Post can secure a license to show unlimited movies downloaded from Netflix for \$275.00 per year... We would like to have a Chili cook-off to raise the funds to pay for that license. We are looking for assistance in organizing a chili-cook-off to be held in late January or early February... contact Rob McDonald, House Committee Chairman. house@vfwpost2503.org or call the Post and leave a message...402-571-8397

THIS IS THE YEAR TO:

Up Your Gratitude by John Kralik

"Knowing you had to work on Thanksgiving of all days, I thought I'd express my gratitude that you have taken the time and made the effort to learn my name and greet me each day in a way that makes me feel like a person instead of a number. It's a small thing, but on any given day, it can make all the difference. Thank you.

About three years ago, I gave a card with these words to a Starbucks barista named Kimber. When I went in the next day, she told me, nearly breaking down, that my note made her realize what she did really counts. It was my 260th thank you of 2008, the year I vowed to send one to a different person every day, I succeeded -- though it took more than 365 days.

I embarked on the endeavor at a time when I felt anything but thankful: On New Year's Day 2008, I went for a hike, feeling at an all-time low. I was overweight, I owned a law practice, but it was losing money. Entangled in a divorce, I lived in a depressing apartment. The woman I'd been dating had recently ended our relationship.

On my hike, I heard a voice. It said I shouldn't focus on what I wanted or had lost, but should be grateful for what I had. The idea of a year of thank-you popped into my head.

This project transformed my life. I saw how much I had been blessed by so many people in different ways and acknowledging their blessings seemed to make them multiply. After I thanked colleagues for directing cases to me, they referred more. When I expressed gratitude to clients for paying promptly, they began doing so even more quickly.

Something more subtle occurred, too. With my thank-you notes, I was trying to tell people how much their kindness meant to me. As they responded, that same message was reflected back.

In 2010, I put out a book about my year of thank-you, *A Simple Act of Gratitude* (now in paperback). A few days after its release, I got my first thank-you from a reader. The next week, I received a few more, and then my publisher sent a whole box. My readers showed me how the effects of gratitude continue to ripple out. A nursing home patient who was paralyzed on her right side said she was grateful to be born left-handed and had written notes to the staff. One woman went in person to deliver her message to a former teacher, who read it and wept -- she'd been working for 23 years and no one had ever thanked her.

My circumstances have improved immeasurably since that hike. I'm now in great shape -- I ran a marathon to benefit leukemia research in part to thank an employee, and then completed two more. I found a small but lovely house, and I was appointed to my dream job, Superior Court judge.

Having written my 860th note, I can say I keep learning that gratitude is a path to the peace we all seek. Recently, a friend whose support led me to write my book passed away. On my desk is a thank-you from him, and I pray that the heart-felt note I'd sent to him did not go unread. At sad times like these, I return to the practice that turned my life around. I sit and think about the people to whom I owe so much. Then I take out my pen and write. Thank You.