



# POST 331 NEWS

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SOUTH OMAHA MELTING POT POST #331  
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Website: <https://southomahapost331.org>



## COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Happy New Year and Welcome 2026!

We had a very successful 2025 and I see a bright future for our Post in 2026. As much fun as we had in 2025 with our Legion Family Outing, the Christmas Lights Tour, Veterans' Day Ceremony, etc., we will be doing the same and more in 2026. To make these events possible and successful it takes a lot of hours of planning and help from volunteers. We all have a special talent that can be shared and ideas that should be put in motion. If you have thoughts and ideas of a fun event, or a volunteer opportunity for our members, please reach out to a member of the E-Board, contact the Legion phone 402-731-5185 or email [meltingpotpost331@gmail.com](mailto:meltingpotpost331@gmail.com). Any and all suggestions are welcome, we love trying new things!

And, speaking of volunteers, we could use a little help in the kitchen for Club Burger Nights. It is the second Monday of every month and we are looking for two volunteers to help us out. Show up time is 4:30 to 4:45. and we are usually done with clean up by 7:30-8:00. This is the one regular monthly event that the Club has for raising money and we have gotten quite good at it! If you can spare a couple of hours on the second Monday of the month, please let me know.

The Transition Committee continues the search for the new Forever Home for our Legion Family. To date, the Committee has toured, researched, or inquired on 43 different properties. These include options of leasing, buying, or building our own. They are relentless in their efforts to locate our new home and will continue to do so until the "as close to perfect as can be" location is found. The Committee meets every Wednesday at 11:00 at the DAV, 4515 F Street, if you would like to stop by and join in. Also, updates are given every month at the Legionnaire meeting, first Monday of the month at 6:00.

The Century Raffle is our fundraiser for the Scholarship Fund. Chances are \$10 and we draw every month at the Legionnaire meeting (no need to be present to win). The best part is, if your name is drawn, your name is put back in the barrel and could be drawn again! The goal is to sell 40 books, each containing 10 chances. We have less than three books left to meet this goal. If you would like to purchase one, four or ten chances, please contact me on the Legion phone 402-731-5185 and I will be sure to get you as many chances as you want.

## **Thank You Notes**

On Saturday, December 6th, the members of the Honor Guard were honored and presented with Quilts of Valor. Quilts of Valor are handmade quilts awarded to Service Members and Veterans as a symbol of gratitude for their bravery and sacrifice while serving the country. This initiative began in 2003 to provide comfort and healing to military personnel, making these quilts a tangible expression of appreciation for the service. The quilts were presented by Kathy Miller and the event was coordinated by Jackie Mach. Each quilt was sewn and hand stitched by the ladies of The Piece Makers. These ladies are from the small town of Ohiowa, NE and have stitched and presented over 1,200 quilts. What an honor

it was for the Honor Guard to be recognized and given these beautiful quilts. Thank you, Ladies of the Piece Makers!

For God and Country,  
Lynn Bergman  
Commander, Post 331

## MADAME PRESIDENT'S BY-LINE

Happy 2026! Wishing each of you a happy and healthy New Year.

The Feather Party was well attended and fun was had by all. Turkeys were flying out the door. Thank you, Jim Costello, for being our BINGO Caller and to Donna Mlady, Mark Lowe and Becky Saathoff for your help keeping the games flowing smoothly and for your tech-savviness of projecting the called Bingo numbers up on the screen. Special thank you to DAV Commander Pat for the donation of the Jimmy Buffet Bicycle and to the S.A.L. for the delicious lunch and to the Ladies Auxiliary for the door prizes.

Chicken BINGO for 2026 is still on the second Wednesday of each month.

Auxiliary Hamburger Night is still the third Monday of each month from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

District 8 Mid-Year Convention is scheduled for February 7, 2026 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. hosted by Springfield Post 143 in Springfield, NE. You can register at the door.

## **Dates to Remember:**

No meeting scheduled in January. The next Auxiliary Meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

If there is an event or program that you would like to see our Unit participate in, please join us at the meeting. We are always looking for new opportunities to service our Veterans.

Hamburger Nights: Mondays, January 19th and February 16th, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Yours in Service  
Betty Lowe

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION COMMENTS

Sons of the American Legion,

The last year has been great. We do have a few new things that are coming up. First and most importantly, we are going to be sending a letter out to all members. While a redraft of our bylaws is in order, we are amending a few for now. We are going to attempt to amend our bylaws to allow for a quorum of four to make it a bit more attainable. There are a few options we are considering. That had been the practice but our bylaws state otherwise so we need to go by the letter of the rules. We also either want our meeting time to be at 6:00 p.m. like it has been in practice rather than 6:30 p.m. or be flexible to be determined by the board. The final rule change we are looking at is one that removes the dollar amount from our dues and allows for increases as the Legion dues increase. While it is our pleasure to cover this year, at this point we are losing on every renewal or new member. This is not sustainable so this is probably the most critical change. Please keep an eye out for that notification letter.

The kitchen continues to run smoothly and we have a great crew. The crew has grown a bit and we have more specials coming in the months to come. It really is a joy to have people this creative and that work so well together to do this. As always, keep an eye out for our specials as well as the regular menu. The only month we have missed a special is the one where we were simply too short staffed to facilitate one. I hope we can keep this going. It is an opportunity to break up the menu. Also, it allows us to share some of our personal/family recipes with you.

Best,  
Hunter C. Brooks

on Legion and Post issues, holding a Legion office, entering Legion lounges and canteens, losing continuous membership years status, and discontinuation of receiving the Legion Magazine.

If you have not yet renewed your Legion membership for 2026, we strongly urge you to do so. As is often noted, American Legion membership is more than just having a card – it's about joining the collective voice of veterans advocating to Capitol Hill. It's about camaraderie where veterans connect with others who have shared military experiences and fostering lifelong friendships. It's about serving as role models to youth and developing them as future leaders of our nation. It's about supporting our active duty military and their families. It's about the values we stand for as veterans and as Americans.

Dues for Post 331 are \$55. Dues may be mailed to 3513 Monroe St, Omaha, NE, 68107; or you may pay by going online to [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) and clicking on the "Renew" button at the upper right, or feel free to drop your \$55 dues payment into the Post 331 drop box located in the lounge of the DAV located on F Street. Should you have any questions regarding membership, please do not hesitate to call the South Omaha Post 331 phone number at 402-731-5185.

To those Legionnaires who have already renewed for 2026, we extend sincere appreciation for your continued service to community, state, and nation through your membership with American Legion South Omaha Melting Pot Post 331. And we extend a profound thank you to all veterans who have worn the cloth of our United States Armed Forces in proud and honorable service to our nation.

Jill Druskis  
First Vice Commander

## ADJUTANT'S CORNER

NO ARTICLE SUBMITTED

## HONOR GUARD

NO SERVICES PERFORMED IN NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

At the time of drafting this article on December 12th, our Melting Pot Post has 249 paid members for the 2026 membership year. This reflects 81% of our established 2026 membership goal of 307. We extend a very warm welcome to Carol Daley and Daniel Iiams as new members of American Legion South Omaha Melting Pot Post 331. So happy to have you both as Legionnaires of the 331 Family and we look forward to seeing you both!

For those who have not yet renewed American Legion membership for 2026, please note that 2025 membership cards are now expired. If a Legion member's dues are not paid by January 1st, their membership goes into a delinquent status. There is, however, a 30-day grace period until February 1st for a delinquent member to pay dues and become current. Legion members who are not paid by February 1st are considered suspended and risk losing privileges of membership, like voting

## VFW POST 2704 NEWS

### **Post Calendar:**

Jan 10 – 8:30-11:30 a.m., Village Inn, Fort Crook Road, Post Membership Drive. Post provides breakfast.  
Jan 13 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Auxiliary Meeting, DAV, 4515 F St  
Jan 15-16 – Recruiting at Offutt AFB  
Jan 28 – 7:00 p.m., Post Meeting, DAV, 4515 F St  
Jan 29 – 6:15 p.m., ENVH Bingo, 12505 Harrison Tull Rd, Bellevue (about 40th & Capehart Rd)  
Feb 7 – 8:30-11:30 a.m., Village Inn, Fort Crook Road, Post Membership Drive. Post provides breakfast.  
Feb 12-13 – Recruiting at Offutt AFB  
Feb 10 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Auxiliary Meeting, DAV, 4515 F St  
Feb 25 – 6:15 p.m., ENVH Bingo, 12505 Harrison Tull Rd, Bellevue (about 40th & Capehart Rd)

**Membership:** If your card expires after July 1, 2025 but before July 1, 2026 you are an UNPAID member, please help us by paying your dues now! You will still get 12 months of additional paid membership, but it helps us immensely by knowing how many more we need to recruit yet this year. You can pay your dues online at [www.vfw.org](http://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. **VFW Nebraska and our Post are both offering \$50 life incentives! 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 money for life incentives will go fast!

**Community Activities:** We continue to lead bingo at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home in Bellevue each month. Last month we had a record 36 players! Every year our Post & Auxiliary participate in the VA Standdown at UNO. This year we gave out toiletries, socks, sweat suits, winter hats and hand warmers.

**Farewells:** None!

**Members New to the Post:** Terrence Herrera, Cody Kittleson, James Nelson, Wayne Newland, Paul Reeves, Meshelle Shirk, James Thomas

**Auxiliary:** Our Auxiliary can always use more members too. Spouses, children and step children (16 or older), siblings, parents and grandparents of our members or other veterans who qualify for the VFW 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@gmail.com

**POST 331 OFFICERS**  
**2025-2026**

**Legion Post 331:**

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

**Executive Board**

Gary Roth	Chuck Gilmore	Tim Svoboda
Past Commander		Mark Dreier

**Auxiliary Unit 331:**

President	Vacant
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Rhonda Ebert
Treasurer	Pati Roth
Historian	Vacant
Chaplain	Carol Lewis
Sergeant-at-Arms	Vacant

**Executive Board**

Debbie Dreier	Betty Lowe	Beverly Hofsheier
Past President		Becky Saathoff

**S.A.L. Squadron 331:**

Commander	Hunter Brooks
1st Vice Commander	Larry Druskis
2nd Vice Commander	Rich Kellison
3rd Vice Commander	Vacant
Adjutant	Alan Kalskett
Finance Officer	John Bowhay
Historian	Ron Osborn
Chaplain	Vacant
Sergeant-At-Arms	Pat Zymola
Past Commander	Alan Kalskett