



# POST 331 NEWS

## OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

### SOUTH OMAHA MELTING POT POST #331

### VOLUME 52, NO. 1, JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2024

Website: <https://southomahapost331.org>



#### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

**2024!** My how time flies. Have you made your New Year's resolution yet? You know the ones we never seem to keep, how about making an easy resolution which is one day a week just stop by the Melting Pot and get caught up on all your battle buddies latest and greatest since you've last seen them. You'll be pleasantly surprised how it will bring a smile to your face.

**Century Raffle Tickets.** The 2024 Century Raffle tickets sales have begun. This is the major funding source for our American Legion scholarships each year. Tickets are \$10 each or a book of 10 for \$100. Please support this very important program and, best of all, you could win \$100 a month throughout the whole year if you're lucky enough. Purchase your tickets at the Club.

**The Mid-Year Conference** in Kearney, NE is coming up in a couple of weeks and there's lots of scuttlebutt and what changes there may be from national and department, but we won't know for sure until the Mid-Year Conference so as they say in the military, stand by to stand by.

**Membership** is always a priority at 331. Please get your dues in as early as you can so we're not in a crunch come department convention in June, and while you're at it, bring in one unaffiliated veteran and we'll see if we can sign them up as a new member.

**Volunteers** are always needed! From judging the Oratorical contest, helping with Boys State, Junior Law, Children's events, Buddy Checks and a plethora of other programs the Legion is encouraged to support. Contact any Post Officer for suggestions of what you would like to participate in.

**Something New--Potluck Night.** The Melting Pot, in 2024, will have a Potluck Night on the last Thursday of each month. The Post will supply the main entree and the Legion family and friends are encouraged to bring a side to share with somebody, best of all, it's **FREE** to our Legion family and friends. Hopefully we will be successful in bringing in more of our Legion family to the Club.

**Post 331 needs YOU!** It's time to think about who you want at the helm of the Melting Pot. To paraphrase LBJ, ***I will not run, nor shall I accept, the nomination from membership for a 4th term as your Commander.*** Fresh blood and new ideas are needed to keep 331 moving forward. All positions are open so if you have the drive and fresh ideas, you're the right person.

**Trivia Time.** What is the only branch of the U.S. Military to share a name with the best-selling line of Nike Sneakers?

For God and Country,  
Mark Dreier  
Post 331 Commander

#### MADAME PRESIDENT'S BY-LINE

Greetings One and All,

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

The Auxiliary had its Christmas Party on December 11th. We all had a good time but we didn't have many members attending. We just ordered off the Monday night menu and the Auxiliary paid for the meals. This next Christmas we would like to see more members there.

Our membership is dwindling down as our older members are slowly passing away. We need to try and recruit new people to join. Ask your friends if they belong or know anyone who might be interested in joining if they are eligible.

The Legion is having a Cribbage Tournament on January 13, 2024, single elimination, best out of 3. Entry fee is \$10.00. Starts at noon; brats and chips will be available.

The Kids' Christmas Party was a huge success. Santa arrived and they received lots of goodies. They all had a good time. Thanks to Anita and everyone else who helped out.

The Club has Karaoke every Saturday night from 7:00-11:00 p.m. There is no food service. Come on down and sing or just enjoy listening and have a cocktail. Doesn't matter if you can sign or not, I'm sure you would have a good time.

Please try to attend our meetings every other month.

#### Dates to Remember:

Auxiliary Meeting: Special Meeting, January 8, 2024, 6:30 p.m.; No meeting in February

Hamburger Nights: Mondays, January 15th, and February 19th, 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 S.A.L. and Family Members,

2024 is here and I hope everyone is doing well and enjoyed the holidays! 2023 has gone by so fast. The weather so far has been good, but we know what the next couple of months will bring.

Buddy checks are encouraged not only this time of the year but throughout the entire year. Give someone a call or visit them to check on their well-being! I am sure they would appreciate the kind act!

Membership is moving along very well, but remember, if you or someone you know has not renewed yet you are now delinquent as of January 1, 2024. Please get the memberships in so we can continue to support our Veteran and Children/Youth programs.

Be safe, stay warm and be careful shoveling snow...that is if we get any here! Good health to all of you and your family members!

Support our Veterans at The American Legion and South Omaha Post 331!

### Dates to Remember:

S.A.L. Meetings: Thursdays, January 11th and February 8th at 6:00 p.m. Please attend and give your thoughts and ideas.

S.A.L. Hamburger Nights: January 1st TBD due to the holiday and February 5th.

To Honor, Respect, and Serve,  
Alan W. Kalskett  
S.A.L. Squadron 331 Commander

## ADJUTANT'S CORNER

As we enter the winter months, especially the month of December, our lives become filled with the festive family events and celebrations that make the holiday season so special. We look forward to getting together with our families, and to renewing our friendships, but during this joyous time we must remember those who are not as fortunate as we are and those who feel the loneliness of this holiday season. I personally encourage you to take the time to reach out and support these members of our great community. As I have said many times, strengthening our communities will strengthen our Post and The American Legion. It will allow community members to see our great involvement within the community. It will encourage them to join our great order.

There are many ways The American Legion can reach out to the members our community. The American Legion must help those in need. We can work with local food pantries, we can open our Posts for a holiday meal, or better yet we can begin by taking food baskets to needy families. In addition to this we can visit Nursing Homes and area hospitals and spread some Christmas Cheer. We can give gifts, and one of the best gifts is giving those who need it most, is your time.

I would like to thank all of you, for all you have done this year and continue to do. As we look forward to another year, it is my sincere belief 2024 will be another successful year for Post 331. I wish you all a joyous holiday season and a healthy and prosperous new year.

Rich Klinger  
Adjutant

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of 12/11/2023:

302 Paid Members putting us at 83% renewals

6 New Members

6 Transfer Ins

We are looking really good as far as membership renewals and need to continue to work towards 100%. Let's be the first in the District to hit that goal!

Lynn Bergman  
First Vice Commander

## HONOR GUARD

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

11-03-23	Robert Blecha	11-28-23	Johnny Smith
11-06-23	Kenneth Hamik	12-09-23	John Stella
11-09-23	Barbara Lemke	12-13-23	Paul Jansen
11-13-23	Gerald Schmidt	12-15-23	Clarence Krapp
11-18-23	Thomas Heywood		

## 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 Petrulis
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! It's the Holiday Season and Post 339 is trying to support veterans of New Vision. We are also trying to help homeless people living on the streets. The way you can help is donate monetarily or donate winter jackets, gloves and knit hats. New Vision is a temporary facility for Homeless Vets that are awaiting permanent housing.

We are supporting Vets throughout the Community as well. We are in need of donations for these vets and the homeless now, especially with the Holidays and cold weather quickly approaching! 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:**

Jan 9 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Auxiliary Meeting, American Legion Post 331, 4830 S. 21st St., Upstairs Meeting Room  
Jan 11, 12, 13 – Recruiting at Offutt AFB  
Jan 20 – 8:30-11:30 a.m., Village Inn, Fort Crook Road, Post Membership Drive. Post provides breakfast.  
Jan 24 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Post Meeting, American Legion Post 331, 4830 S. 21st St., Upstairs Meeting Room  
Feb 3 – 8:30-11:30 a.m., Village Inn, Fort Crook Road, Post Membership Drive. Post provides breakfast.  
Feb 13 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Auxiliary Meeting, American Legion Post 331, 4830 S. 21st St., Upstairs Meeting Room  
Feb 15 – 17 – Recruiting at Offutt AFB  
Feb 28 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Post Meeting, American Legion Post 331, 4830 S. 21st St., Upstairs Meeting Room  
Mar 3 – 8:30-11:30 a.m., Village Inn, Fort Crook Road, Post Membership Drive. Post provides breakfast.  
Mar 12 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Auxiliary Meeting, American Legion Post 331, 4830 S. 21st St., Upstairs Meeting Room  
Mar 15, 16, 17 – Recruiting at Offutt AFB Main BX  
Mar 27 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Post Meeting, American Legion Post 331, 4830 S. 21st St., Wing Feed, Spouses/Sig. Other Invited

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

**Membership:** Our Post has achieved 97.17% in membership. 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 1 July 2024, you are UNPAID)! 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. **The new Membership Year started July 1st. 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 71 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 give me their contact information and I will get with them about joining.

**Community Activities:** Xmas cards delivered to ENVH Residents.

**Farewells:** Life Members Joe Kankovsky, Arthur Mathewson, Robert Overkamp, Al Sullivan, Ronald Townsend, John Wenninghoff

**Members New to the Post:** Dean Agvon, Bruce Brown, Donald Jardine, Stan Smith, Richard Wert, Michael Yarbrough, Mike Papay, Jorge Evans, Chris Powers

**Auxiliary:** They have also performed another six 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 Gerlt  
VFW Post 2704

## 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 Kawecki
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	Vacant
Sergeant-at-Arms	Pat Zymola
Past Commander	Richard Klinger