



POST 331 NEWS

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Happy Holidays to All!

It is hard to believe that another year will be behind us. But looking ahead, we have many fun and exciting things coming up. The unfortunate news is that we are still on the hunt for a new home. As we have said, the Transition Committee is dedicated to finding the perfect home for our Legion family, and that is proving to be a challenge. But they are committed, and are continuously on the lookout. While we are at our temporary home, the DAV continues to be very generous in allowing us to do our activities, just as we had at our old home. So, watch the calendar and come on down for burger night, chicken bingo, and other events that we have planned.

Exciting news!!! Tim Eriksen is coming back to the kitchen! We are so blessed that he has agreed to do his dinners for us again, one in January and one in February. Check the calendar for dates and menu. Welcome back, Tim!

Fun things to look forward to in January and February.....We have had a lot of interest from our Legion family and the DAV to learn how to play cribbage. So, introducing Cribbage 101, which will be held on Saturday, January 25th. Cribbage fanatics Tom Rome, Bob Labs and Chuck Gilmore have volunteered and will be in attendance to help with the tutoring. In February, we will have our Cribbage Tournament on Saturday, February 8th, to see how well our students and teachers did.

Also, in February we will be hosting the Newlywed/Not So Newlywed game. We need at least four couples to step up and see how well they know each other. If you and your spouse are interested in participating, contact me at the Legion number (402) 731-5185. If you do not want to participate, come on down and let us have some fun! Check out the calendar for more fun events that are scheduled.

Boys/Girls State will be starting up in January. If you know of a Junior in High School that would be a good candidate, contact any of the Board members so we can get their application started. This is a great opportunity for our youth so let us set a record on the number of attendees we send this year.

Century Raffle Tickets: We only have six books left so if you want a chance to win \$100 at one of the monthly meetings, get in touch with me soon. And remember, if you win, your name gets put back in the barrel so you could win more than once in a year.

A Bit of Military Humor: My stepfather, a medic, was assigned a cubicle in the medical tent where the recruits came through. At one point, a nervous young man stopped in the entry of the cubicle. Pop pointed to a container a few feet away and told him, "Pee in that bottle." The young man asked, "From here?" Chirley Claypool, Clermont, Florida

For God and Country,
Lynn Bergman
Commander, Post 331

MADAME PRESIDENT'S BY-LINE

Greetings, Unit 331!

2024 has come to an end and was full of many changes and challenges. Commander Pat and the DAV have been very kind and welcoming to the entire Legion family and we appreciate the hospitality they have shown. We have had the opportunity to expand our events into an amazing space that can facilitate more people. If you have not done so, please take an opportunity to stop by the DAV for yourself. You might run into people you know and some you may not.

Many of our events are still the same, just in a new place:

- Chicken Bingo is still on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Dinner starts at 5:00 p.m. and Bingo starts at 6:00 p.m. You can buy your tickets at the DAV, just see the bartender.
- Auxiliary Burger Night is still the 3rd Monday of the month, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. We are looking for volunteers to help out in the kitchen.
- Auxiliary meetings are bi-monthly, on the 2nd Monday of the month, with the next being Monday, February 10th, at 6:30 p.m. Please join us to see what is going on with our Unit.

If there is an event or program, you would like to see our Unit participate in, please let us know, we are always looking for new opportunities to service our veterans.

We look forward to seeing you in 2025!!

Yours in Service,
Becky Saathoff
President
American Legion Auxiliary
South Omaha Unit 331
402-212-2292
becky.saathoff@gmail.com

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION COMMENTS

Dear Sons of the American Legion,

While the next few months are the slower part of our year, we are still trying to be as active as possible. Membership is lower than our goals which is to be expected. However, any efforts to retain current members and, more importantly recruit, are greatly appreciated.

Soon we are planning to start a raffle that should help us out quite a bit. While the social aspect of our organization is important, we must always remember that we are here to support veterans and their families. This ever important task is more sustainable if we are able to fund raise. We had a great time at Turkey Bingo and will have Ham It Up coming up towards the end of next quarter.

All Sons are encouraged to come to meetings with any questions and concerns. While we have a great board that is very active, it's always good to have members involved as well. All are appreciated.

We will be continuing with specials for our dinners going forward. I was unable to prepare the one we had planned for the last dinner. The plan is to make that recipe Bigos-a Polish hunter's stew for the next one. It usually has game meats but I will be using alternatives to a) make it more accessible and b) avoid our special relying on me hunting things. I have never been hunting so that is probably for the best. This is subject to change but that is the plan and I think it will be excellent for the colder months.

As mentioned, we don't have a lot going on these couple of months but I will do my best to communicate anything that may come up. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

Best,
Hunter C. Brooks
Squadron 331 Commander

ADJUTANT'S CORNER

Well, it's 2025, and who would have ever thought we would ever take this many trips around the Sun and experience so much life in two different centuries. Simply amazing to me.

I would like to start with our Legion Scholarship program. Cmdr. Bergman and 2nd Vice Klinger have been revising and streamlining our scholarship application. You can expect the final version by the end of January for your High school kids or grandkids to fill out if they plan to continue their education. Please follow all the instructions on the application to ensure a smooth transition.

Mid-Year Conference will be held in Norfolk, NE, January 18-19, 2025. Contact me if you want to attend, rooms are \$109 per night plus tax. Healthy debates are a guarantee and friendly fellowship follows the sessions.

Volunteer Hours. As I review our Consolidation report form, one item we can all participate in is volunteering. Whether helping in the kitchen, Honor Guard, Youth Programs, Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home, anything you do for the Post, for a sanctioned event, as long as a veteran benefits from it, you can get credit for it so "Volunteer On" and let me know so I can document it.

Lastly, I invite you to stop by our temporary "Melting Pot Post" to enjoy the hospitality of our comrades at the DAV. Chances are you'll know them from South O anyway. Hope to see you at the Melting Pot.

For God and Country,
Mark Dreier, PC
Post 331 Adjutant

HONOR GUARD

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

| | | | |
|----------|----------------|----------|--------------------|
| 10-17-24 | Gerald David | 11-17-24 | David Busse |
| 10-21-24 | Richard Bailey | 11-25-24 | Roy Bravo Sr. |
| 10-29-24 | Richard Garcia | 11-26-24 | Timothy Bailey Sr. |
| 11-06-24 | James Hervat | | |

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

The Honor Guard fulfilled the wish list of Christmas items for five veterans at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home.

The Honor Guard was proud to participate in the Veterans Day ceremony at St. Mary's Grade School in Bellevue.

The Honor Guard participated in the flag-folding ceremony at Walnut Creek Apartments in Bellevue.

Post 331 Honor Guard Members:

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

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

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

At the time of drafting this article on December 3rd, the Melting Pot Post had 233 members current for the 2025 year (65% of our membership goal), with more renewals coming in each day. We are incredibly pleased to welcome a new transfer to our Post, Fred Frankum, as well as two new members, Hector Leguillow and Todd Imhoff. We are excited and pleased you all have joined South Omaha Melting Pot Post 331!

To all those who have already paid your 2025 membership dues, thank you. For those who have not yet done so, it's not too late! The Melting Pot Post looks forward to receiving your \$55 membership renewal as soon as possible. We want to ensure you receive your 2025 membership card so that you may continue to retain all of the membership benefits, rights, and privileges you deserve, not to mention sharing pride of service and camaraderie with your fellow veterans of Post 331.

You may submit your dues by either:

- Responding to the renewal notice mailed to you by National Headquarters.
- Going online to www.legion.org and clicking on the "Renew" button at the upper right.
- Mailing your dues payment to:
American Legion Post 331
Attn: Membership
C/O 3513 Monroe St
Omaha, NE 68107

- Giving your dues payment directly to Commander Lynn Bergman or First Vice Commander Jill Druskis when you see them at the DAV.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the South Omaha Post 331 phone number at 402-731-5185.

Jill Druskis
First Vice Commander

Service Officer: There is a new Nebr. Dept. of VA resource center in the Main BX at Offutt manned by a qualified Veteran Service Officer--the first in the Nation! They are open Monday-Thursday.

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

VFW POST 2704 NEWS

Post Calendar:

Jan 11 – 8:30-11:30 a.m., Village Inn, Fort Crook Road, Post Membership Drive. Post provides breakfast.
Jan 14 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Auxiliary Meeting, DAV, 4515 F St
Jan 16-18 – Recruiting at Offutt AFB
Jan 23 – 6:15 p.m., ENVH Bingo, 12505 Harrison Tull Rd, Bellevue (about 40th & Capehart Rd)
Feb 8 – 8:30-11:30 a.m., Village Inn, Fort Crook Road, Post Membership Drive. Post provides breakfast.
Feb 11 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Auxiliary Meeting, DAV, 4515 F St
Feb 13-15 – Recruiting at Offutt AFB
Feb 26 – 7:00 p.m., Post Meeting, DAV, 4515 F St
Feb 27 – 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 and weather restrictions!

Membership: We only need 19 more members to pay their dues to qualify for All American! If you are an annual 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, 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 still has some \$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 (I'm in my 70s and the American Legion now want \$1025 for me!). 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 incentive will go fast!

Community Activities: We continue to lead bingo at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home in Bellevue each month and average 20-25 players each time. We also purchase 100 lbs. of potatoes each month for New Visions Homeless Veterans Shelter.

Farewell: Aloysius Pollack, Annual Member.

Members New to the Post: Installment Life: Allen Wusterbarth; Life Members: Chris Buckmaster, Keith Janouse, Paula Johnson, David Jones, Fred Josjor, Peter Kappel, Thomas Narofsky, Monroe Nickell, Kenneth Ring, Elena Roberts, Michael Roberts, David Rose, Nathan Stolp, Jeffrey Thompson, Gregory Vedders; Annual Members: Robert Thompson, Valerie Bishop, Brian Bowman, Jeff Mikesell, Cindy Petrich.

Auxiliary: They have also performed another 12 hours of community service participating in ENVH Bingo and delivering potatoes to New Visions. 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.

BUENA VISTA LEGION BASEBALL SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025

5-7 PM

SPAGHETTI WITH MEAT SAUCE, SALAD, ORSI BREAD
\$10.00 ADULT / \$7.00 12 YRS OF AGE & BELOW

VENMO WILL BE ACCEPTED

CARRYOUT AVAILABLE

POST 331 OFFICERS 2024-2025

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 |

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| <u>Executive Board</u> | | |
| Chuck Gilmore | Gary Roth | Tim Svoboda |
| Past Commander | | Mark Dreier |

Auxiliary Unit 331:

| | | |
|------------------|--|----------------|
| President | | Becky Saathoff |
| Vice President | | Vacant |
| Secretary | | Rhonda Ebert |
| Treasurer | | Pati Roth |
| Historian | | Vacant |
| Chaplain | | Mary Martinez |
| Sergeant-at-Arms | | Vacant |

| | | |
|------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| <u>Executive Board</u> | | |
| Shirley Livingston | Deb Dreier | Betty Lowe |
| Past President | | Beverly Hofsheier |

S.A.L. Squadron 331:

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