



POST 331 NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

SOUTH OMAHA MELTING POT POST #331

VOLUME 52, NO. 2, MARCH / APRIL 2024

Website: <https://southomahapost331.org>



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Spring has sprung, Legion Family. Just looking at the calendar and March is a very busy month at the Melting Pot--the dreaded time change, Saint Patty's Day, Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter. That's enough to make you wish for a quiet April.

Back by popular demand. Team Druskis will again be serving their SOB-approved Smoked Pork Chop, Stuffing, Gravy, Green Beans, Apple Sauce, and Dinner Roll Dinner on April 11th. However, due to its popularity, please sign up at the bar so we don't sell out. What a treat!

Mid-Year Conference. Both National and Department of Nebraska plan to increase their dues by \$5 each (\$10). Your E-Board is struggling to find a solution to this financial burden which is now passed onto the membership. If you have any suggestions on how to offset these costs, let one of your E-Board members know ASAP.

Membership. I want to thank one of our new members, Jacob Currier, for helping put together the Super Bowl Party, which was a HOOT, and for bringing in four new members. So if you start to see new, young faces at the Melting Pot, please welcome them. BRAVO ZULU, Jacob! Let's all try to bring in one new member this year so we can keep the Post vibrant and active.

Volunteers. We are currently looking for a three-person crew to take over the Athletic Club Hamburger Night on the second Monday of each month. The original members of the Athletic Club are no longer able to help out. Contact me if you can get a crew to stand up.

Post 331 Officer nominations are right around the corner, next month actually. We will be standing up a Nomination Committee of three members to solicit participation to become Post Officers. If you wish to be on this committee, please contact me or Past Commander Gilmore to get you on our list.

Trivia Time. Last newsletter I asked which branch of the U.S. Military shares a name with the best-selling line of Nike Sneakers? It's the "Air Force" Silly.
Next trivia question: How did the Marine Corps get the nickname "LEATHER NECK?"

For God and Country,
Mark Dreier
Post 331 Commander

MADAME PRESIDENT'S BY-LINE

Hello again,

Hopefully our winter is about over. Now it's time to start thinking of spring.

I have been laid up for a few weeks with a total knee replacement and still have a few weeks to go. I'm kind of out of the loop as to what all is going on at the Legion so this may be a little shorter by-line.

Scholarship Applications. If you have a daughter, granddaughter, etc. who is a senior in high school and is eligible, applications are behind the bar--just ask the bartender.

The Auxiliary and S.A.L. will not get to have the "Ham It Up" Bingo before Easter this year. We are still planning on having it later on. It will be in the newsletter when we get it planned and a date set.

Dates to Remember:

Auxiliary Meeting: Monday, April 8th, 6:30 p.m.

Hamburger Nights: Mondays, March 18th and April 15th, 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 moving right along and we are heading into March already, wow! Combined Scholarship forms for S.A.L.-Auxiliary will be available behind the bar for qualifying high school seniors. Instructions are on the form and must be followed. The S.A.L. will award two \$500 scholarships. The American Legion was established on March 15, 1919, and is celebrated every year on the 15th. Keep all Veterans past and present in your thoughts and prayers.

FYI this will be my last year as Commander of Squadron 331. It has been a great run for the last 20 plus years, but it is time to pass the torch. We may have a couple of officer positions available. If anyone is interested, please contact any of our officers for additional information. Good health to all and enjoy the upcoming spring months. Support our Veterans of the American Legion and the South Omaha Post 331!

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

S.A.L. Meetings: March 14th and April 11th @ 6:00 p.m.

Please make plans to join us.

S.A.L. Hamburger Nights: Mondays, March 4th and April 1st, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

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

ADJUTANT'S CORNER

I often hear The American Legion is dying. I disagree. I believe our Posts do many things within the community, within the state and nationally. We teach children to respect the rights of others. We teach them to respect the U.S. flag. We provide color guard and honor guard for community events and funerals of departed service members. We sponsor Boys State, baseball teams and Boy Scout troops. We assist veterans and their families with Temporary Financial Assistance or help with a National Emergency Fund grant after a natural disaster.

Personally speaking, I do not see America without an American Legion. Our members and or presence are everywhere. When we were established in 1919, our fathers and grandfathers recruited over 840,000 members, and they did it without the Internet, TV, Radio, or phones. Transportation was limited. There was no Interstate Highway System. But the message spread. They did not care about gender, belief, or the cost of membership. All they cared about was the price one paid to belong to the largest service organization in the world.

Today, we must make it our mission to carry their Legacy forward. We must make our mission to sign up every eligible veteran because they have earned the privilege to belong to our family--not for reward or recognition. Without a strong membership, we cannot continue to have the opportunities to mentor our youth in citizenship and patriotism. If we do not grow, it will mean a smaller amount in Veteran benefits and a smaller voice in Washington D.C. It is up to us to leave our Legion bigger and better than we found it. Please recruit a new member today.

Respectfully Yours,
Rich Klinger
Adjutant

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of 2/14/2024:

339 Total Paid Legion Members

10 New Members and 7 Members transferred into our Post

Please note: Dues for the 2025 membership year will be increasing by \$10.00 to \$55.00. This is due to National and Department, both, raising dues by \$5.00 each; the Post will see no benefit from this increase. National is giving members the opportunity to go online and pay for the next three years at this year's renewal rate of \$45.00. If you have already paid for 2024, you can pay for 2025, 2026 and 2027 to alleviate the increase. If you have not yet paid for 2024, you could pay for 2024, 2025 and 2026. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter: Lynn Bergman, 1st Vice Commander, (402) 917-6213; iggysemperfi@gmail.com. I will do my best to answer any questions or find the answer for you.

Lynn Bergman
First Vice Commander

HONOR GUARD

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

12-28-23	William Life	01-26-24	Terry Greenwell
01-15-24	Samuel Gonzalez	02-02-24	Bernard Wrye
01-17-24	June Sponaule	02-03-24	Corrine Brickman
01-18-24	Frank Semin	02-13-24	Kenneth Session
01-22-24	Louis Whisonant		

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! We are supporting the veterans at New Vision and homeless vets and people living on the streets. The way you can help is by donating 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:

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
Mar 28 – 6:15 p.m., ENVH Bingo, 12505 Harrison Tull Rd, Bellevue (about 40th & Capehart Rd)
Apr 2 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Auxiliary Meeting, American Legion Post 331, 4830 S. 21st St., Upstairs Meeting Room
Apr 13 – 8:30-11:30 a.m., Village Inn, Fort Crook Road, Post Membership Drive. Post provides breakfast.
Apr 18, 19, 20 – Recruiting at Offutt AFB
Apr 24 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Post Meeting, American Legion Post 331, 4830 S. 21st St., Upstairs Meeting Room
Apr 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!

Service Officer – Pact Act: If you filed an intent to file a claim for the Pact Act, you have until August to file that claim and still receive payment for approved claim back to August of 2022!

Membership: Our Post has achieved 98.91% 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, 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 and \$3 put in their personal account. Conducted Bingo Jan 25th and had a great time chatting with them.

Farewells: None!

Members New to the Post: Maria Methe.

Auxiliary: They have also performed another eight 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

FRA OMAHA BRANCH 276 NEWS

Our branch meets the first Thursday of every month at American Legion Post 331 building 2nd floor, 6:00–8:00 p.m. Our branch Auxiliary also meets at the American Legion Post 331 building 2nd floor, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Auxiliary has been supporting the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home (ENVH) with projects and community functions as they occur with money and much needed items.

We are in need of new members, as do other groups, if you served in the Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard, all being in good standing. We would be happy to welcome you to our Branch 276 of the Fleet Reserve Association.

OUR MOTTO IS LOYALTY-PROTECTION-SERVICE

Yours in Loyalty, Protection & Service
Peter D. Vuchetich, Secretary

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.

POST 331 OFFICERS 2023-2024

Legion Post 331:

Commander
1st Vice Cmdr (Membership)
2nd Vice Cmdr (Children and Youth)
3rd Vice Cmdr (Building)
Adjutant
Finance Officer
Chaplain
Sergeant-at-Arms
Executive Board
Terri Durham Chuck Gilmore
Past Commander

Mark Dreier
Lynn Bergman
Vacant
Vacant
Richard Klinger
Terry Jones
Frank Durham
Bill McCollum

Gary Roth
Chuck Gilmore

Auxiliary Unit 331:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Historian
Chaplain
Sergeant-at-Arms
Executive Board

Beverly Hofsheier
Betty Barrett
Rhonda Ebert
Pati Roth
Vacant
Mary Martinez
Vacant

Dorothy Jury
Shirley Livingston
Past President

Marie Kaweck
Dawnette Schmidt
Becky Saathoff

S.A.L. Squadron 331:

Commander
1st Vice Commander
2nd Vice Commander
3rd Vice Commander
Adjutant
Finance Officer
Historian
Chaplain
Sergeant-at-Arms
Past Commander

Alan Kalskett
Ray Chlupacek
Rich Kellison
Brad Sutton
Hunter Brooks
John Bowhay
Ron Osborn
John Klemiato
Pat Zymola
Richard Klinger