



POST 331 NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

SOUTH OMAHA MELTING POT POST #331

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Website: <https://southomahapost331.org>



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Welcome warmer weather! I hope everyone had a nice Easter and survived the windy beginning of Spring.

It's that time of year again, to elect the Officers and members of the Executive Board to head up our Post for 2025-2026. Nominations were held at the April 7th meeting and elections will be held on Monday, June 2nd, from 1000 to 1800 hours at the DAV, 4515 F Streets. If you would like to nominate someone for an office, or throw your name in, please contact any member of the current Executive Board and we will be sure and get them/you added to the Ballot. Also, we will be looking for at least two volunteers that are not on the ballot to man the election table. Contact me via phone, (402) 917-6213, or the Legion email, meltingpotpost331@gmail.com, if you can help with the election.

Our Legion is proud to say that we have sponsored students for Boy's State this year. The Auxiliary sponsored three girls and the S.A.L. sponsored one girl for Girl's State. This is the first time in a few years that our Post Legion Family has sponsored this many young adults for Boy's and Girl's State. Shout outs to Mark Dreier, Jill Druskis and Betty Lowe for their efforts in working with the schools to make this happen.

The Buddy Check Lunch that was scheduled for Wednesday, March 19th, needed to be moved to Wednesday, April 2nd, due to inclement weather. But this did not deter our dedicated volunteers for showing up and making the calls. With volunteers from the S.A.L. and the Legion, we are proud to say that we contacted over 100 Legionnaires and S.A.L. members. Thank you to everyone that volunteered, making this a great success.

Thursday, May 15th, we will be having a dinner fundraiser for the Buena Vista Legion Baseball Team. Menu and pricing TBA. The dinner will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the DAV, 4515 F Streets, and all proceeds will go to the Buena Vista Legion Baseball Team. Please come down and support our youth.

The Tuesday morning Legion/DAV Golf League will be starting May 6th, and plays at Tregaron Golf Course in Bellevue, starting at 8:30 a.m. This is a nine-hole league, but you can play the entire 18 at no additional cost. The league is open to any and all golfers. They are seeking interested golfers (men and women). If you can't get a team together, call anyway, they will place you on a team or form a new team. Anyone interested, contact Ed Remar, (402) 238-6813 or Tim Yambor, (402) 889-6929.

Chicken Bingo continues to be loads of fun and continually growing in participation. If you haven't made it down for this unique experience, it's a must. It is the second Wednesday of every month and is fun for everyone, both young and old. As always, watch your calendar for upcoming events.

Military Truisms:

- Need to find an officer ASAP? Take a nap!
- Army food: the spoils of war
- If you see a bomb disposal technician running, try to keep up with him!

For God and Country,
Lynn Bergman
Commander, Post 331

MADAME PRESIDENT'S BY-LINE

Greetings Unit 331 Auxiliary Members!

Spring has finally sprung and we've had some fun. Ham-It-Up Bingo was a great time--thank you to all who participated and helped with the event; it couldn't have happened without a great team effort.

If you're curious on how you can help your Unit be successful or have ideas of things we can do, please join us at our meetings. Our next meeting will be Monday, May 12th, at 6:30 p.m. at the DAV in the large hall. This will be a special meeting for nomination of officers for the 2025-2026 year. If you want to know what an office does or what any of the positions entail, just reach out to myself or any current officer.

We still need help in the kitchen on Auxiliary Hamburger Nights. Please let us know if you can give us a few hours of your time, once a month to help out our kitchen crew.

The 331 family has a lot of exciting things coming up, so please keep a look out in your newsletter or on Facebook for some exciting announcements.

Dates to Remember:

Monday, May 12th – Special Meeting for Nominations, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, May 19th – Auxiliary Hamburger Night, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Monday, May 26th – Memorial Day Ceremony – Graceland Cemetery – time TBD

Monday, June 9th – Auxiliary Bi-Monthly Meeting/Officer Elections, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, June 16th – Auxiliary Hamburger Night, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

As always, let me know if you have any questions or suggestions via email: becky.saathoff@gmail.com or phone 402-212-2292.

Yours in Service,
Becky Saathoff
Unit 331 President

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION COMMENTS

Dear Sons Squadron,

As another year comes to a successful close, I would like to update everyone with upcoming events. We are still in the process of coming into compliance with our post supervisory committee. We are working with them and following the spirit of the rules while we tie up the final, official task of adding them to our accounts to be in full compliance. This has been a goal over the last few months and I am happy to report we are finally getting it accomplished. Our dinners are still going well and our kitchen crew is always trying to come up with additional specials to help keep things interesting. Please be sure to look for our sign or ask us about our special for the dinners.

Recently, I went to a District 8 meeting hosted by American Legion Post 112 as well as a District 8 whirlwind. We were able to have a quorum and voted on a couple of resolutions at the district level. One was to approve funding for a renewal reward program (Resolution 1-25). This program is intended to reward squadrons for 100% renewal with drawings of eligible squadrons on October 1st and December 31st. I will spare the specifics as I do not want to misquote them here. Additionally, there was a resolution that also passed unanimously to approve funding to pay the dues to national for all members with 50+ continuous years in recognition of them. This does affect the squadron a bit but, considering how few of those members there are, is considered fairly negligible (Resolution 1-25).

We had another successful Ham-It-Up Bingo on Sunday, April 13th. I would like to thank the Auxiliary, Kitchen Crew, Brad Sutton, and everyone else for making everything happen. Also special thanks to Alan Kalskett for doing all of the prep work for the seasonings and vegetables. I was planning for quite a bit of chopping on the 12th and he already had it done for us. We look forward to Turkey Bingo but we still have a while before that one.

We do have elections upcoming. We were successfully able to make nominations for the new board with only a couple of vacancies. If any would like to fulfill those vacancies, we will have our election on the next meeting on May 8th. If anyone would like to fill a vacancy or run for any other office, we will be doing our last call for nominations at this meeting just before the vote. Swearing in will take place in June, as per usual, with post supervisory committee approval (part of the new compliance element). Any and all are encouraged to run for office or simply come to meetings to keep up with what is going on. I look forward to another year working with the Sons of the American Legion regardless of role and hope we have an even better year than this year!

Best,
Hunter C. Brooks
Squadron 331 Commander

ADJUTANT'S CORNER

Greetings Everyone,

I would like to start with a housekeeping item. We have a very cordial relationship with our brothers and sisters at the D.A.V. and it seems that every S.O.B. knows or is related to each other. So please remember we are guests at the D.A.V. so be respectful, kind, and know when to say, "No More for Me."

May is Memorial Day month, and your help is needed to prepare for this ceremony. Sal and Mark Zoucha will ramrod these "Flags for Veterans" on Saturday, May 24th, 2025. We will be placing flags on the graves of veterans at Graceland Cemetery located at 42nd and L Street starting at 0800, then onto Mary Magdalene Cemetery located at 48th and Q Street to do the same. We have 1600 flags to put out, so your help is greatly needed and appreciated. The flag

pick-up will be on May 27th, starting with Graceland at 0800. Sal and Mark Zoucha are counting on you. Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at Graceland Cemetery starting at 1100 with a light lunch provided for all attendees at the D.A.V. Hall following the ceremony.

Post 331 had one scholarship application received this year and that application is under review from the Scholarship Committee. I'll let you know to whom that scholarship next month.

Good things happening at 331. Governor Pillen was at the Melting Pot to present the Nebraska Veteran's Metal to all of 331's six WWII Veterans last month. Governor Pillen had his media guy taking pictures and, I believe, if you go to the Governor's web page, all the pictures may be there.

Also, we had so much fun last year at Werner Park for our Legion Picnic we've decided to build on that success and do it again. Leadership is still working on details and once finalized, we'll push that information out to you.

For God and Country,
Mark Dreier
Post Adjutant

HONOR GUARD

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

02-19-25	Joseph Albin	03-28-25	Donald Guier
03-07-25	James Bovier	03-29-25	Robert Curtis
03-15-25	David Kaiser	04-03-25	Fred Fritt
03-18-25	Leonard Carlson	04-14-25	Harry Swenson

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

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 April 12th, Melting Pot Post 331 had 301 members current for the 2025 membership year. This is 86% of our 2025 membership goal of 350. We are starting to slow down on our renewals and recruiting, so PLEASE help focus your efforts on talking to neighbors, friends, church members, etc., and ask them to join our 331 Legion Family. Special shout-out to Commander Lynn Bergman for recruiting a brand new Legion member since our last newsletter. We are extremely pleased to welcome Jerome "Jerry" Krebs (US Air Force) into our South Omaha Melting Pot Post 331 as a brand new member. Thank you for your honorable service to our Nation making you eligible for membership in The American Legion, Jerry, and we are excited that you have joined South Omaha Post 331.

Just a reminder that your dues may be paid by any one of the following methods:

- Responding to the renewal notice mailed to you by National Headquarters late last year.
- 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
- Dropping your dues in the Legion drop-box that is in the lounge of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 2 located at 4515 F St., Omaha, NE.

The Post 331 Legion Family is currently home-based at DAV Chapter 2 in the interim of finding a new building. The DAV is graciously allowing 331 Legion, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. to each conduct official meetings at their Post and have warmly welcomed us to gather socially in the DAV lounge to enjoy much camaraderie and fun among both Legion and DAV affiliates. Check out the Post 331 calendar and join us at DAV Chapter 2 for burger nights, bingo, special meals, holiday celebrations, and much more.

Thank you to all Legionnaires for your proud service to our Nation and for your continued service to community, state, and nation through your membership with American Legion South Omaha Melting Pot Post 331. Should you have any questions regarding membership, please do not hesitate to call the South Omaha Post 331 phone number at 402-731-5185.

Jill Druskis
First Vice Commander

VFW POST 2704 NEWS

Post Calendar:

May 3 – 8:45-11:30 a.m., Day of Service, Omaha National Cemetery
May 10 – 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (2 hour shifts), Poppy Drive, Hy-Vee, Center St & Saddle Creek
May 13 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Auxiliary Meeting, DAV, 4515 F St
May 15-17 – Recruiting at Offutt AFB
May 24 – 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, Patriotic Parade, Meet at 10th & Jackson NLT 0945
May 28 – 7:00 p.m., Post Meeting, DAV, 4515 F St
May 29 – 6:15 p.m., ENVH Bingo, 12505 Harrison Tull Rd, Bellevue (about 40th & Capehart Rd)
Jun 6-8 – State Convention, La Vista Convention Center, Courtyard Marriott Hotel
Jun 10 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Auxiliary Meeting, DAV, 4515 F St
Jun 12-13 – Recruiting at Offutt AFB Main BX
Jun 14 – 8:30-11:30 a.m., Village Inn, Fort Crook Road, Post Membership Drive. Post provides breakfast.
Jun 25 – 7:00 p.m., Post Meeting, DAV, 4515 F St
Jun 26 – 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 have achieved 102%! All we need now is our Day of Service project on May 3rd 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 now pay \$1 per game for 24 games and \$4 each for 2 blackout games. We also purchase 100 lbs. of potatoes each month for New Visions Homeless Veterans Shelter.

Farewells: Frank Secora, Nick Frazier, William Campbell

Members New to the Post: Donald Odom, Noah McMaster, Sheri Belmudez, Adam Amaral, Emerson Legg, David Johnson, Thomas Vertner. **New to our Auxiliary:** Jaime Martin

Auxiliary: They have also performed another 16 hours of community service participating in ENVH Bingo and delivering potatoes to New Visions and helping a disabled vet. 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

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

Executive Board

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

Executive Board

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