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*Bronze Award National Newsletter
contest for large posts in 2020!*

NEWS & VIEWS • April 2021

Selected the best newsletter in the State of Minnesota for large VFW Posts—2020

Post #494 Officers / Trustees 2020-2021

Commander Jim Doten
Sr. Vice Commander Bill Blair
Jr. Vice Commander Tom Boies
Quartermaster Jim Richter
Gambling Manager/
Ass't. Quartermaster Gene Burdick
Adjutant Harland Anderson
Chaplain Steve Jones
Judge Advocate Don Fernstrom
Surgeon Dan Zere
Service Officer Don Fernstrom
Officer of the Day Fred Crimmins
Door Guard Bob Vorderbruggen
1 Yr Trustee Larry Bengtson
2 Yr Trustee Jay Leamons
3 Yr Trustee Fred Crimmins



**All American Post 1993,
1996 Banner Post**

Post #494 CMC Members 2020

1 Yr CMC Member Steve Hawk
1 Yr CMC Member Gene Burdick
1 Yr CMC Member Harland Anderson
2 Yr CMC Member Gary Archambault
2 Yr CMC Member Tom Boies
3 Yr CMC Member Steve Jones
3 Yr CMC Member Rick Godfrey

Auxiliary #494 Officers / Trustees 2020-2021

President Marge Rubenstein
Sr. Vice President Ginny Villagomez
Jr. Vice President Kerri Holm-Eberling
Secretary Debbie Larson
Treasurer Virginia Sroka
Chaplain Natalie Stuhr
Conductress Lisa Sundberg
Guard Craig Dahlin
Patriotic Instructor Virginia Sroka
3rd Yr. Trustee Mary Touve-Kackman
2nd Yr. Trustee Lisa Sundberg
1st Yr. Trustee Kerri Holm-Eberling

★ **Club Management Committee (CMC) meeting is the 2nd Monday, 1:30 p.m.**

Post & Auxiliary membership meeting is the 3rd Tuesday, Post: 7pm, Auxiliary: 6:30pm

from the COMMANDER



Greetings Comrades,

Another change of seasons is upon us. Spring brings a time of renewal. More vaccines going into arms and restrictions are slowly rolling back. The club is doing well, recovery is well underway. We have been able to support several veteran's organizations

with the opening of the business side.

Poppy time is coming up in May. Put your name in to volunteer for distribution. I had the chance to man Hackenmueller's Meat Market last year. Despite the virus, it is always a great time talking to folks. It is a major fundraiser for Post activities, as well as a time to reconnect with community.

As I mentioned, Spring is a time of renewal. Post Officer elections are coming up in April. Come out to vote or run for an office. It is your Post, so have a say in how we operate. Your participation is always welcome. Meetings are on the third Tuesday, 7 PM in the basement. I hope to see you there!

The Department Meeting is June 9-13, 2021 in Brooklyn Park. It is the 100th Anniversary of the Minnesota VFW. Right in our backyard this year. We are aiming for the opportunity to show off our Post. It is not too often it is so close to our location; we will be represented.

Now the monthly drumbeat on membership: If you are an annual member, don't forget to renew. Keep your eyes open for new candidates. We have had some new members joining us who have jumped right in to be active participants. The Post is only as healthy as its members. Stay active and help us find veterans to build our strength and increase our voice. Membership is everyone's responsibility.

Well, I hope the snow is behind us and I also hope you have the chance to get out and enjoy some sun. So far, the year is shaping up better. Stay safe, stay healthy. Come on down to see your Post.

See you at the V,

Jim Doten, Commander

from the QUARTERMASTER

If you prefer to receive the Post newsletter in PDF format, please contact me at the post or via Email at: **quartermaster494@comcast.net** and furnish me an E-mail address. You will receive the newsletter in color, get it more quickly, and save the cost to print and mail hard copy. And, you will have the calendar handy to check out our monthly events.

- ★ For up-to-date information on activities, go to:
Post webpage crystalvfw.com and
Facebook page: Charles Knaeble VFW 494 Crystal.

We are striving to bring you a newsletter you will enjoy and to provide relevant information for everyone. Please notify us ASAP of any change (temporary or permanent) in your mailing address because there is a charge to the Post for mail that is undeliverable.

Jim Richter, Post 494 Quartermaster



Westphal American Legion

On behalf of Westphal American legion Post 251, I would like to thank the members of VFW Post 494 for welcoming our members to your club building.

Our club has agreed to take over the monthly dinner on the 3rd Wednesday of the month supplying our support to the group.

I hope you have been as happy with our joint venture as we have been.

I trust we can count on members of Westphal to help work and support this and all other functions at our new home.

Tom Juergens, Commander

from the AUXILIARY PRESIDENT



Greetings Members,

We have finally made it to Spring. It's nice to see that things are finally starting to turn around after a year with COVID-19 keeping everyone isolated. I hope you and your families have persevered and I'm hoping this finds everyone safe and

sound.

District Convention – will be held Saturday, April 10 at Palmer Lake VFW Post #3915 in Brooklyn Park. The meeting will begin at 9 AM and include election of district officers.

As we end our Auxiliary year It's time for Election of Auxiliary officers. Elections will be held at the April meeting. If you are interested in an office, please make sure to attend our April meeting on Tuesday, April 20, beginning at 6:30 PM. Any member who has their membership dues paid and is a member in good standing can be elected as an officer. If you can't attend the April meeting and wish to hold an office, please submit your willingness to hold an office in writing to me. We are all here to mentor and help you, so you will not be alone.

I would like to personally thank Virginia Sroka for holding the office of Treasurer, among other positions for the last 15+ years. It's now time for Virginia to retire her office (her decision) although she will still provide guidance to the newly elected officer whomever it may be. Thank You Virginia!

Recently our Auxiliary was able to help a Veteran Family in need. Our Auxiliary trustee Mary Touve-Kackman brought this to our attention and provided us with details of the need. This is just one example of how your auxiliary works to lend a hand to veterans. (see photos on page 4) In addition, we also participated in the *Patriotism through Literacy* program by donating books to a homeschooled family in honor of our National Auxiliary President Sandi Onstwedder, and have plans to donate to one of the area schools as well.



The month of April is designated as the month of the Military Child – a time to honor the sacrifices made by military families worldwide. It is also a time to recognize military children for their courage, sacrifices and continued resilience.

Thank you, members, for your continued support in all you do. Best wishes to all who have been ill and sympathies to those who have lost loved ones.

Yours in Patriotism,

Marge Rubenstein,

Auxiliary President

Upcoming Events

- ★ Opening Baseball & April Fool's Day April 1
- ★ Good Friday April 2
- ★ Easter Sunday April 4
- ★ Gold Star Spouses Day April 5
- ★ District Meeting- Palmer Lake VFW April 10
- ★ Auxiliary Elections- April meeting April 20
- ★ Loyalty Day May 1



POST AND AUXILIARY NOMINATION & ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Post / Auxiliary Meetings

Please be here to nominate and elect new officers.

Start time is 7 PM for the POST and 6:30 PM for the Auxiliary.

VFW Post 494 Veteran Support



Quartermaster Jim Richter presents a check for \$6,000 to a representative of the Fleet Reserve Association who sponsors Veterans on the Lake Resort. The funds will help with updating cabins in this resort.

Veterans on the Lake Resort is a non-profit organization that provides a barrier-free setting for a memorable outdoor recreation experience for disabled veterans, veterans, their families, friends and supporters; designed "With Veterans in Mind" while recognizing what they have contributed to and sacrificed for our nation.



Auxiliary trustee Mary Touve-Kackman (LEFT) pictured with a veteran family in need who was helped by the Auxiliary. Tom Kackman, auxiliary member (LEFT photo 2) with veteran family.



Taps & Sick Call

TAPS

SICK

Gregg Hassler

Past Commander; John Rooney,

Auxiliary Chaplain; Natalie Stuhr



GOOD OF THE ORDER

If you took photos of Don Halverson at his 98th birthday party at the post or know someone who did, please contact Emily Wilkinson or Don Fernstrom. Don Halverson would like copies of the pictures for his collection. He is particularly interested in photos of him in the front of the restaurant section with the ritual squad. Thank you for helping with this.

We have room for additional photos or other memorabilia in our display cabinet from our Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, or Global War on Terror for veterans.

We are planning on a golf league starting in April for all members of the post, auxiliary and friends of the post who wish to play. The league is tentatively scheduled for Mondays, during the day, at Eagle Lake Executive 9-hole course on Bass Lake Rd. If you are interested in playing please contact Jim Richter, Gene Burdick or Don Fernstrom. All are welcome!

Most of you know that "no one does more for veterans" than the VFW. Now is the time to do your part. **The Veterans Restorative Justice Act** is up for consideration by the Minnesota legislature. This legislation provides for alternative adjudication for veterans who have run into problems with the law, many as a result traumatic experiences they had while serving their country and after trying to assimilate back into civilian life. It diverts these veterans from the criminal justice system by providing the help they need to address mental health and chemical dependency issues. Many of them are suffering from mental health or chemical dependency issues they developed while serving their country with distinction.

(continued)

Chaplain's Corner



Natalie Stuhr

Easter Blessings: A quote from Phyllis Wade

Prepare one day at a time as follows: Into each day put TWELVE parts of faith, ELEVEN parts of patience, TEN parts of courage, NINE parts of work, EIGHT parts of hope, SEVEN parts of fidelity, SIX parts of liberality (open-mindedness to ideas that challenge tradition) FIVE parts of kindness, FOUR parts of rest. To sum up . . . A teaspoon of good spirits, a dash of fun, a sprinkle of play, a heaping cupful of good humor.

Garnish with a few smiles.

HAPPY EASTER! SPRING IS FINALLY HERE!!

Natalie Stuhr, Auxiliary Post Chaplain

(Continued) GOOD OF THE ORDER

Veterans Courts in other states have been successful in saving taxpayer dollars, by providing treatment programs rather than paying for long term incarceration only to have the veteran be released and reoffend. By getting them the help, many can overcome the obstacles they face and become productive members of society. This Act has been up for vote several times, only to have the legislature kick the can down the road. Let your voice be heard by contacting your state representative or senator and letting them know of your support. Your voice will have an important impact on getting this

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Friday Night Live Music 7:30-11pm

April 2	Wayne & the Boys
April 9	Chris Ryschevy
April 16	Persuaders 
April 23	Marcus
April 30	Marcus

from the Kitchen and Bar

Happy April,

Quick reminder: We are CLOSED on Sunday, April 4 for Easter.

Some exciting things are happening this month!

Benefit Dinners are back on **Wednesdays!** There will be no full menu on Wednesday evenings.

1. Pork Chop dinner hosted by Vietnam Vets
2. Steak Fry hosted by Crystal Lions
3. Spaghetti Dinner hosted by Westphal Legion Post #251

4. Rib Dinner hosted by Crystal VFW

We also have updated Breakfast and Lunch/Dinner menus rolling out on Thursday, April 1.

Due to rising costs, the \$5 lunch will increase to \$5.95 starting April 1.

Emily Wilkinson,
General Manager

Weekly Entertainment

Bar BINGO: 6PM start Mon. & Thurs.

\$750-\$1,000 Coverall and \$1199

Coverall final game!

Plus an exciting progressive **Hot Ball** jackpot!



For your safety:

Please bring your own dauber or you may purchase one at the VFW.

Bar RINGO: Free to play Saturday, 5 pm

RINGO				
2	17	31	48	63
6	20	38	51	68
7	22	FREE	54	69
12	23	39	57	72
15	27	44	60	75

Seven prize games plus \$500 Coverall. RINGO starts soon after the MEAT RAFFLE, so come on down for the raffle and STAY and PLAY.



**COVID-19
VACCINE**

Help slow the spread



Wear a mask



Wash or sanitize
your hands often



Stay 6 feet
from others

STAY SAFE MN

ROOM RENTALS: For Conference Media Room Rental, Hall Rentals, Banquets, Weddings, Anniversaries and other functions, call the Post and ask for the Manager: 763-537-9914 Extension 23



April 2021

**Note: Calendar information is subject to last minute change.*

Check the signage in the club / bar for the most recent news and updates.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	WEEKLY LUNCH SPECIALS \$5.95 MON—FRI		Wednesday Sponsored BENEFIT DINNERS 1. Vietnam Vets 2. Crystal Lions 3. Westphal Legion #251 4. Crystal VFW No full dinner menu	1 Lunch Special Swedish meatballs w/mashed and roll Bar Bingo 6-9	2 Lunch Special Tuna melt & chips Meat Raffle 4pm Fish Fry \$9.95 GOOD FRIDAY Live music 6:30 pm Wayne & the Boys	3 Breakfast 8:00 Blueberry pancakes or Blueberry waffle w/meat choice Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM KARAOKE 7:00
4 CLOSED FOR EASTER	5 Lunch Special Chicken salad sandwich on croissant with chips Bar Bingo 6-9	6 Lunch Special Tuan noodle hotdish w/roll \$4.94 Burger Basket 5:30-9 DJ Trivia 6:30pm	7 Lunch Special Spaghetti, two meatballs, w/garlic toast Vietnam Vets Pork Chip Dinner 5-8 pm KARAOKE 7:00	8 Lunch Special Salisbury steak, onion gravy w/ mashed and roll Bar Bingo 6-9	9 Lunch Special Hoagie & chips Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 6:30 pm Chris Rychevy	10 Breakfast 8:00 Hamburger SOS w/2 eggs Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM KARAOKE 7:00
11 Breakfast 8:00 Hamburger SOS w/2 eggs Marcus & Friends Music after 3	12 Lunch Special Cuban sandwich w/ chips Gambling Mtg 1 pm CMC MTG 1:30 Bar Bingo 6-9	13 Lunch Special Diced ham and scalloped potato w/ roll \$4.94 Burger Basket 5:30-9 DJ Trivia 6:30pm	14 Lunch Special Chicken parmesan over spaghetti w/ garlic toast Crystal Lions Steak Fry 5-8 pm KARAOKE 7:00	15 Lunch Special Chicken fried steak with mashed, country gravy, roll Bar Bingo 6-9	16 Lunch Special Shrimp basket Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 6:30 pm Persuaders	17 Breakfast 8:00 The stacker: egg sandwich on a bed of hashbrowns w/meat choice & hollandaise Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM KARAOKE 7:00
18 Breakfast 8:00 The stacker: egg sandwich on a bed of hashbrowns w/meat choice & hollandaise Marcus & Friends Music after 3	19 Lunch Special Pulled pork sandwich w/chips Bar Bingo 6-9	20 Lunch Special Chicken noodle hotdish and roll \$4.94 Burger Basket 5:30-9 Aux. Mtg 6:30 Post Mtg. 7:00 DJ Trivia 6:30pm	20 Lunch Special Goulash w/garlic toast Westphal Legion #251 Spaghetti Dinner 5-8 pm KARAOKE 7:00	22 Lunch Special Crispy Chicken breast w/ mashed, country chicken gravy, and roll Bar Bingo 6-9	23 Lunch Special Breaded, fried ravioli Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 6:30 pm Marcus	24 Breakfast 8:00 Chicken and waffle. 2 crispy chicken strips on a waffle. Meat raffle 2 pm RINGO 5:00 PM KARAOKE 7:00
25 Breakfast 8:00 Chicken and waffle. 2 crispy chicken strips on a waffle. Marcus & Friends Music after 3	26 Lunch Special Grilled cheese and homemade tomato soup Bar Bingo 6-9	27 Lunch Special Chicken alfredo hotdish w/roll \$4.94 Burger Basket 5:30-9 DJ Trivia 6:30pm	28 Lunch Special Lasagna rollups w/ garlic toast Crystal VFW Rib Dinner 5-8 pm KARAOKE 7:00	29 Lunch Special Meatloaf with mashed and gravy w/roll Bar Bingo 6-9	30 Lunch Special Crispy Buffalo Chicken sandwich on a bun w/chips Meat Raffle 4pm Live music 6:30 pm Marcus	