

**in our post home >>>**

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**2024**  
**MARCH**



# POST 52'S NEWS

*A Publication of VVnW Jack Greer Memorial Post 52*



**Our Troops >>>**

## **Project Support our Troops**

**UPCOMING PACKING:**

➤ **Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup> – 5:45 pm**

Visit us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Project-Support-Our-Troops/>

**We are accepting stateside names and addresses, in addition to those deployed! Reach out to your friends and neighbors and let's get as many soldiers boxes as we can.**

**Please Contact:**

**Kim Lengling at (814) 724-9099**

**OR**

**Laurie Davis at (814) 853-8145**

### Commander's Comments

I hope this newsletter finds everyone healthy and happy that winter is about over.

It is the end of February, and we are moving into March and things remain busy at the Post.

Dinners are up and down depending on the weather, but we are still able to pay the bills and help those in need. We are very fortunate to have good members that will answer when we call for help. Whether it be to build a wheelchair ramp, color guard for a funeral detail or donations for our care packages to our soldiers, our members step forward.

As you know, our local National Guard unit was recently deployed to Africa and an urgent need for donations was sent out to the community and you responded. Also, we have received many names of other soldiers that are deployed to help in the effort in Iraq. Thank you to everyone for your help.

Our Benevolent fund continues to help our Veterans in need. This is an on-going project that makes a difference in the lives of local veterans and their families.

The VA Clinic is in need of volunteers, especially drivers. Veterans that need a ride to their appointments are having to reschedule or find other ways of getting to where they need to be. If you are able, please call and volunteer.

The Post has several members on the sick list or who are not able to help as much as they used to help. We are always looking for help in the dining room and kitchen. Please call and let us know if you can help, please do not just show up. Some weeks we don't have enough help and other weeks we have too many helpers. People feel frustrated when there's not enough work for them. So please let us know ahead of time.

Lots of stuff coming up in the near future - keep updated by reading your newsletter and checking the website, [www.post52.com](http://www.post52.com).

Thanks For all you do.

Yours In Brotherhood,  
Phil 814-282-9737



**We are excited to have 2 members  
upgrade to Life membership:  
Dee Dee Prusia and Charlene Smith  
Thank you for your commitment ladies!**

# *Post 52 Saturday Night Dinner Menu*

Deep fried haddock, Baked haddock, Spaghetti and Shrimp basket served every week. See below for weekly feature!

**Beer Battered Fried Fish** **\$15**

Deep fried haddock served with choice of fresh cut French fries or baked potato. Served with side salad, veggie and dessert included.

**Lemon Pepper Baked Haddock** **\$15**

Haddock seasoned with lemon pepper seasoning, freshly baked served with choice of fresh cut French fries or baked potato. Served with side salad, veggie and dessert included.

**Spaghetti** **\$10**

Post 52 homemade spaghetti meat sauce. Served with side salad, bread and dessert included.

**Shrimp Basket** **\$15**

8 pieces of golden fried butterfly shrimp served with choice of fresh cut French fries or baked potato. Also served with side salad and dessert included.

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**Feature dinner March 2, 2024**

**MEATLOAF** **\$12**

Homemade meatloaf served with mashed potatoes, side salad, veggie, bread and dessert included.

**Feature dinner March 9, 2024**

**HOT ROAST BEEF SANDWICHES** **\$12**

Roast beef slow cooked - tender and juicy. Served with mashed potatoes, veggies and side salad. Dessert included.

**Feature dinner for March 16, 2024**

**WINGS** **\$1+**

Wing flavors are BBQ, Dry Ranch, Butter & Garlic, Hot or Dry Cajun. Upgrade to a meal add \$5. Includes fresh cut French fries, side salad and dessert.

**Feature dinner for March 23, 2024**

**BBQ COUNTRY STYLE RIBS** **\$12**

Boneless ribs slow cooked to mouth-watering tenderness seasoned with BBQ sauce. Includes choice of fresh cut French fries or baked potato, side salad and dessert.

***NO DINNER MARCH 30th. HAPPY EASTER***



## Details and Dates.....

### Troops packings:

**Next Troops packing – March 26<sup>th</sup> – 5:45 pm.** Plan on this packing taking a little longer. We will be packing between 125 and 150 boxes.

**Basically everything we collect is needed.** Sunscreen in large amounts is needed, along with body lotion, hand lotion, men's deodorant, body powder, foot powder, eye drops, toothpaste, and toothbrushes. We have over 100 soldiers who are in need of personal hygiene items. If you have some to donate, please do not wait until this packing to deliver those. We are shipping personal hygiene as soon as they are received.

In 2023 the number of soldiers we sent to was quite low and then came 2024. **You've heard the slogan "more in 2024".....** Well that certainly fits this situation.

We are now sending to over 200 soldiers.

If you don't like to shop, please feel free to make a monetary donation. We do have buying power on some of the items so we are able to make the money stretch further. You can keep up-to-date on information at [www.post52.com](http://www.post52.com).

### Lions dinners: - help needed

**Lions dinner March 14<sup>th</sup>.** *If you can help, please call Charlie Manning 814-333-2519*

### Post Meetings:

All Post monthly meetings are scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 7:00 PM.

**NEXT MEETING – March 18<sup>th</sup>, 7pm**

**April 15<sup>th</sup>, 7pm**



### Primaries are being held Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>

The Post will have the traditional Roast Beef Sandwich dinner, serving from 11 am – 7 pm. If you can help in the kitchen during any of those times, please contact Phil at 814-282-9737.



### RENTALS of the POST HOME

#### Use of Building Only:

- Member Rental Fee - \$75
- Non-Member Rental Fee - \$100



#### Use of Kitchen with Building:

- Member Rental Fee – \$125
- Non-Member Rental Fee -- \$150

**Renter is responsible for set up of building prior to event and clean up after event. Thank you!**

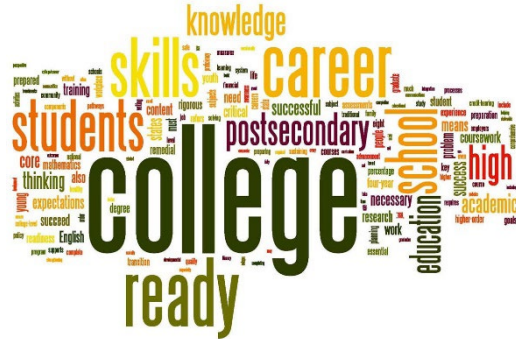
### Save the Dates for Later in 2024!

- 2024 POW/MIA Vigil – Friday September 20<sup>th</sup>
- 2024 Ride for Freedom – Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup>
- 2024 Christmas party – Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

**Happy St. Patrick's Day!**







Are you attending a trade school?

Are you a high school senior, accepted to attend a college or other higher education institution in 2024?

Would you like to apply for additional funding?

Email: [Vetspost52@gmail.com](mailto:Vetspost52@gmail.com) to request your application to apply for educational assistance from Post 52 this year!

Requirements will be listed on the application!

You don't know until you try!

You've already applied for further training/education, why not apply for some funding!



*Do you have a special prayer request?  
Let us know! We'll add you to our list!*

*Do you know a veteran in need?  
Let us know! We have a benevolent fund!*

*Do you have a suggestion for the post?  
Let us know! We are listening!*

**Prayer Request:**  
*Please keep Sheila Preston, Past Secretary and wife of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commander Del Preston, in your prayers for a smooth and speedy y!*



## **FROM the VA News #1**

### **In one of the largest-ever expansions of Veteran health care, all Veterans exposed to toxins and other hazards during military service — at home or abroad — will be eligible for VA health care beginning March 5**

For immediate release

February 26, 2024, 5:00 am

At the direction of President Biden, VA is expanding health care eligibility to millions of Veterans — including all Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, or any other combat zone after 9/11 — years earlier than called for by the PACT Act

**WASHINGTON** — Today, VA announced that all Veterans who were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving in the military — at home or abroad — will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care beginning March 5, 2024. This means that all Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror, or any other combat zone after 9/11 will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits. Additionally, Veterans who never deployed but were exposed to toxins or hazards while training or on active duty in the United States will also be eligible to enroll.

As [directed by President Biden](#), this expansion of VA health care eliminates the phased-in approach called for by the PACT Act — meaning that millions of Veterans are becoming eligible for VA health care up to eight years earlier than written into law. This is a critical step forward because Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care are proven to have better health outcomes than non-enrolled Veterans, and VA hospitals have dramatically outperformed non-VA hospitals in [overall quality ratings](#) and [patient satisfaction ratings](#). Additionally, VA health care is often [more affordable](#) than non-VA health care for Veterans.

VA encourages all eligible Veterans to visit [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) or call 1-800-MYVA411 to learn more and apply for VA health care beginning March 5. Since President Biden signed the PACT Act into law on August 10, 2022, more than 500,000 Veterans have enrolled in VA health care.

“If you’re a Veteran who may have been exposed to toxins or hazards while serving our country, at home or abroad, we want you to come to us for the health care you deserve,” said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. “VA is proven to be the best, most affordable health care in America for Veterans – and once you’re in, you have access for life. So don’t wait, enroll starting March 5<sup>th</sup>.”

“Beginning March 5, we’re making millions of Veterans eligible for VA health care years earlier than called for by the PACT Act,” said **VA Under Secretary for Health Shereef Elnahal, M.D.** “With this expansion, VA can care for all Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror, or any other combat zone after 9/11. We can also care for Veterans who *never* deployed but were exposed to toxins or hazards while training or on active duty here at home – by working with chemicals, pesticides, lead, asbestos, certain paints, nuclear weapons, x-rays, and more. We want to bring *all* of these Veterans to VA for the care they’ve earned and deserve.”

In addition to expanding access to VA care, this decision makes it quicker and easier for millions of Veterans to enroll. Many Veterans believe they must apply to receive [VA disability compensation benefits](#) to become eligible for VA health care, but this is not correct. With this expansion and other authorities, millions of eligible Veterans can enroll directly in VA care – without any need to first apply for VA benefits.

This expansion of care covers Vietnam Veterans, Gulf War Veterans, Iraq War Veterans, Afghanistan War Veterans, Veterans who deployed in support of contingency operations for the Global War on Terror (Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Freedom’s Sentinel, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation Inherent Resolve, and Resolute Support Mission), and [more](#).

This expansion also covers many Veterans who never deployed as a part of a conflict but were exposed to toxins or hazards while serving in the U.S. Specifically, under this expansion of care, any Veteran who participated in a

toxic exposure risk activity (TERA) — at home or abroad — is eligible for VA health care. VA has determined that Veterans who were exposed to one or more of the following hazards or conditions during active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training participated in a TERA: air pollutants (burn pits, sand, dust, particulates, oil well fires, sulfur fires); chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, depleted uranium with embedded shrapnel, contaminated water); occupational hazards (asbestos, industrial solvents, lead, paints including chemical agent resistant coating, firefighting foams); radiation (nuclear weapons handling, maintenance and detonation, radioactive material, calibration and measurement sources, X-rays, radiation from military occupational exposure); warfare agents (nerve agents, chemical and biological weapons); and [more](#). VA will use all available information to determine if Veterans participated in a TERA, including military records and service connection.

VA is executing a nationwide campaign to ensure that as many Veterans as possible enroll. To date, VA's PACT Act outreach campaign has included more than 2,500 events nationwide, \$13 million in [paid advertising](#), 88,000 earned media clips, more than 400 million emails and letters to Veterans, VA's first-ever text messaging campaign, the creation of a [one-stop-shop PACT Act website](#), and more. This is the largest outreach campaign in VA history, which has one goal in mind: ensure that all Veterans — and their survivors — get the health care and benefits they deserve under the PACT Act.

For more information about how the PACT Act is helping Veterans and their survivors, visit VA's [PACT Act Dashboard](#). To apply for care or benefits today, visit [VA.gov/PACT](#) or call 1-800-MYVA411. More information on eligibility can be found at [VA.gov/PACT](#).

## **FROM the VA News #2**

### ***VA proposes rule to extend presumed areas of exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides, making it easier for exposed Veterans to receive their earned benefits***

For immediate release      February 9, 2024, 9:00 am

VA continues to expand access to health care and benefits for toxic-exposed Veterans as a part of President Biden's Unity Agenda for the nation

**WASHINGTON** — Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs issued a proposed rule outlining plans to expand the locations and time frames for which VA presumes exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides. If this proposed rule becomes final, VA will implement a new presumption of exposure to locations where herbicides were tested, used, or stored outside of Vietnam. Specifically, this proposed rule would add locations in the United States ([full list of US locations where Agent Orange was tested or stored](#)), [Canada](#), and [India](#) to the existing presumptives for Agent Orange in Vietnam, Cambodia, Johnson Atoll, Guam, American Samoa, Korea, Laos, and Thailand.

A presumption of exposure means that VA automatically assumes that Veterans who served in certain locations were exposed to certain toxins. Presumptives lower the burden of proof required to receive disability benefits, helping Veterans get the benefits they deserve as quickly as possible. This expansion of presumptives will help Veterans who served in the specified locations receive health care and benefits for [certain cancers and chronic conditions](#). To be eligible, a Veteran must have served in the identified location(s) during a specific time period and currently have a condition(s) presumptively associated with herbicide exposure.

Delivering world-class health care and benefits to toxic-exposed Veterans is a top priority for VA and the Biden-Harris Administration. As a part of President Biden's pledge to serve Veterans with military toxic exposures, over

the past few years, VA has expanded presumptive service connection for more than [hundreds of health conditions](#) related to toxic exposures under the [PACT Act](#) – the [largest expansion of Veteran care and benefits in generations](#). Thanks to this historic action, VA is delivering [more care and more benefits to more Veterans](#) than ever before in U.S. history.

“This proposed change would make it easier for Veterans exposed to herbicides who served outside Vietnam to access the benefits they so rightly deserve,” said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. “Our goal is to provide every Veteran – of every era – with the VA health care and benefits they deserve, and this is another step in the right direction.”

Veterans who want to file an initial claim for a herbicide-related disability can visit [VA’s website](#), use [VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits](#), or work with a VA-recognized [Veterans Service Organization](#) to assist with the application process. Veterans may also contact their [state Veterans Affairs Office](#). [Survivors](#) can file claims for benefits based on the Veteran’s service if the Veteran died from at least one of the recognized presumptive herbicide diseases.

This proposed rule also codifies provisions in the [PACT Act](#), the [Blue Water Navy Act of 2019](#), and the [National Defense Authorization Act for 2021](#).

For more information about the changes, visit [The Federal Register](#).

## **FROM the VA News #3** *Feeling artistic? This is for you!* **2024 National Veterans Day Poster Contest open for submissions**

*February 20, 2024 Terri Evans, Program Specialist, VA National Veterans Outreach Office*

Whether you’re a seasoned photographer or a budding painter, here’s your opportunity to show off your talent and use your artwork to honor Veterans. VA and the Veterans Day National Committee are now accepting submissions for the 2024 Veterans Day Poster Contest. Submissions are due by 11:59 p.m. (EDT) on April 1, 2024.

This contest is open to all. Your art should reflect this year’s theme: “A Legacy of Loyalty and Service.”

Eugene Russell, creator of the winning 2023 design, shared his thoughts, “My goal was to link the sight, sound and feeling of how we served our country. The pole and American flag in this image are the ones currently flying over VA headquarters in Washington, D.C. It flies for each of us and those Veterans to come.”

The winning poster will be distributed to VA facilities and military installations worldwide and across cities and towns in our nation. It will also serve as the cover of the official program for the Veterans Day National Observance at Arlington National Cemetery, scheduled for Nov. 11, 2024.

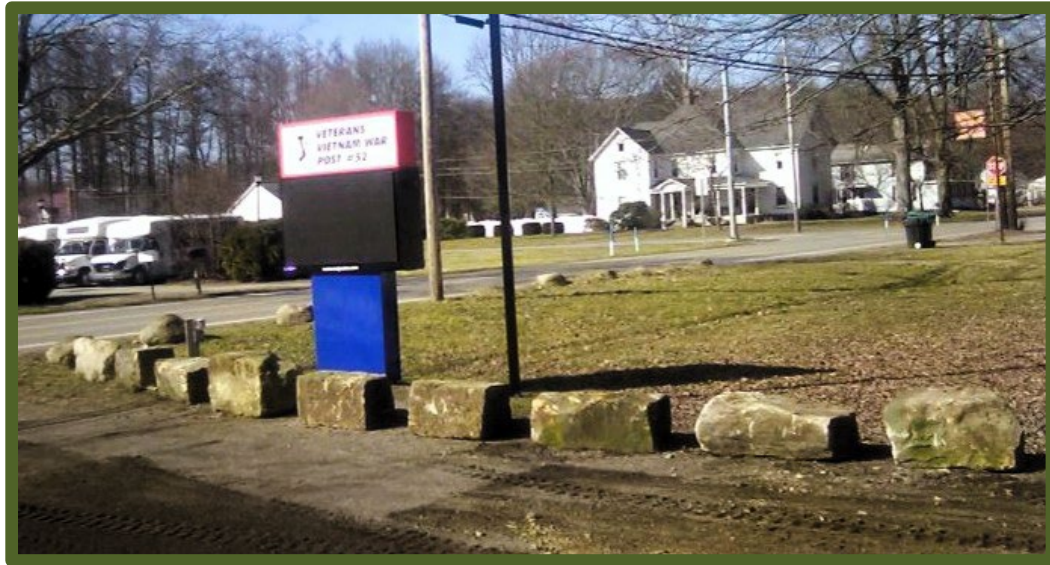
To ensure your submission meets the technical requirements, please review our [design submission guidelines](#) before engaging your creativity. Successful designs are very simple, with minimal imagery and verbiage. To view examples of past winning submissions, visit [The Veterans Day Poster Gallery](#).

Submit electronic versions as jpg images or PDF files by email to [vetsday@va.gov](mailto:vetsday@va.gov).

Questions? Please email the Veterans Day Coordinator at [vetsday@va.gov](mailto:vetsday@va.gov).



**After a long 2 years and 2 different incidences causing damage to the old sign - the new sign is finally in place. Hence you will notice the large stones in place to protect our investment.**



**Thanks for all you do every day of every month!**

**Commander: Phil Davis**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice: Del Preston**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice: Tom Burbidge**

**Master Sgt-at-Arms: Jack Sheets**

**Trustee: Ken Novosel**

**Quarter Master: Laurie Davis**

**Secretary: Marsha Manning**

**Membership dues were to be renewed by December 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**You can pay them at any time.**

**Annual membership \$20;**

**Life membership \$200.**

**Anyone not renewed by January 31<sup>st</sup>**

**will no longer receive their monthly newsletter.**



Do you have a special story or memory from your time in the military, when you were returning home, or since you've been home? Is there a special moment when the ugliness of war was overshadowed by a moment of beauty or some small joy? Was there a moment when you felt that humanity still cared? Has there been a recent experience that surprised you with a good memory?

Would you like to share that with your fellow post members? Perhaps you'd like to leave a softer legacy with those who didn't serve, but support you and love you?

Feel comfortable in sending that short story to: [post52news@gmail.com](mailto:post52news@gmail.com) . We promise to treat your short story (250-750 words) with dignity and care.

(Don't stress over word count, the sharing is the important part. You may make a difference in a fellow veteran's life.)



## It's OKAY to Ask for Help!



**Please utilize this link to sign up and receive updates  
from the Veterans Administration via email  
and/or text messages:**

**<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVA/subscriber/new/>**

**CRISIS LINE – Crawford County 800-315-5721**

**and Erie County 800-300-9558**

**Suicide Hotline 800-273-8255 IF IMMEDIATE DANGER, CALL 911**

**National Resource Directory- [www.nrd.gov](http://www.nrd.gov) – online directory to  
services and resources for wounded troops, veterans and their families.**

**AGENT ORANGE REGISTRY INFORMATION – 412-822-1707 OR**

**<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/benefits/registry-exam.asp>**

**Herbicide Storage Location Link (OUTSIDE of Vietnam):**

**<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations/index.asp>**

**CRAWFORD COUNTY VETERANS SERVICES OFFICE**

**814-333-7314 (phone) OR website information:**

**<https://www.crawfordcountypa.net/VeteransServices/Pages/home.aspx>**

**There is help available 24 hours a day, seven days a week:**

The Veterans Crisis Line — Call (800) 273-8255, then press 1. You can also text and chat online at 838255.

**Dial 988 then Press 1 for crisis support 24/7!**

Also available is the Women Veterans Call Center, which provides U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs services and resources to women veterans, their families and caregivers. You can also chat online anonymously with a call center representative. Call (855) VA-Women (855-829-6636) 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and 8 to 6:30 Saturdays. Use the same number to text.

*The paper edition of Post 52's News is a quarterly publication.*

*The email (e-Edition) is issued monthly.*

*If you wish to receive a monthly copy, please send your email address to: [post52snews@gmail.com](mailto:post52snews@gmail.com)*

**Paper Edition/Copy Schedule (subject to changes / extra editions): March, June, September, December.**

**Email Edition Schedule: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October,  
November, December.**

**Submission Deadline for the Post 52 Newsletter is the 28<sup>th</sup> of each month. Items received after the 28<sup>th</sup>  
will be held for future issues, printed as time and space permit, and as appropriate.**

***Lion's Club dinners are listed on our calendar so that members are aware of when we need additional  
kitchen help; our Post caters the dinners for the Lion's Club. Stop in, lend a hand, and thank the Lion's  
Club members for their community work!***

## What's Happening at Post 52 and around the Globe

### March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER 4-7PM
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Int'l. Women's Day	<b>9</b> SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER 4-7PM
<b>10</b> Daylight Saving Begins A.B.A.T.E. meeting 11:30am at Post 52	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Lions Club Dinner, help needed	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER 4-7PM
<b>17</b> St Patrick's Day	<b>18</b> Post 52 meeting 7pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Start of Spring (Spring Equinox)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Earth Hour SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER 4-7PM
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> TROOPS PACKING 5:45PM	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Holy Thursday	<b>29</b> Good Friday	<b>30</b> NO DINNER <b>Happy Easter!</b>
<b>31</b> Easter						

### April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER 4-7PM
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Lions Club Dinner, help needed	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER 4-7PM
<b>14</b> A.B.A.T.E. meeting 11:30am at Post 52	<b>15</b> Tax Day (Taxes Due) Post 52 meeting 7pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER 4-7PM
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Earth Day	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Administrative Professionals	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Arbor Day	<b>27</b> SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER 4-7PM
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

### May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER 4-7PM
<b>5</b> Cinco De Mayo	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Lions Club Dinner, help needed	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER 4-7PM
<b>12</b> Mother's Day A.B.A.T.E. meeting 11:30am at Post 52	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Armed Forces Day SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER 4-7PM
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Post 52 meeting 7pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> NO DINNER <b>Have a Safe Memorial Day!</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Memorial Day	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	