

On  
Veterans  
Way



October  
November  
2023

9550 Pflumm Road, Lenexa, KS 66215

### From your VFW Commander

Greetings Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

It's hard to believe summer has come and gone as we turn to the fall and the holiday season that is not too far away. We did have a great summer that was topped off by the VFW Post Riders Annual Poker Run that was held on September 9<sup>th</sup>. We were fortunate to have Cars 4 Heroes here once again as they gave a vehicle to a fellow veteran in need. I want to thank the Riders President Chris Stergos for the great job he did this year with both the Car and Bike Show in June and the Poker Run, between both events we were able to give a check of \$500 to Cars 4 Heroes that will go towards getting the donated cars road worthy.

I also want to say "Thanks" to our other units that call VFW Post 7397 their home, Specifically the American Legion and Marine Corps League. You have been great in supporting our events such as our Monthly Steak Nights, at the August Steak dinner we served over 145 dinners. We want to make sure we support their fundraising events like the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Legion Dinners that are at 6 pm. Working together we continue to make Post 7397 the location where veterans and their families in the Johnson County area want to come and hang out.

I ask each of you to remember when a stranger walks into the Post, please make them feel welcomed. There's never a second chance for a first impression. I know that all you do a great job making this an inviting and warm place. Now that Fall is upon us, that means many things are happening at the Post for the next few months. Please follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/VFW7397](http://www.facebook.com/VFW7397) to stay up to date on the events. Here's just a few things we have planned.

November 4<sup>th</sup> is the VFW Auxiliary Dinner and Comedy Show, stay tuned for more details

December 9<sup>th</sup>, is Breakfast with Santa from 8:30 am to 10:30 am followed by the annual Army vs. Navy Football game.

Many more events are in the works, so if you have an idea for an event and would like to chair it, please let us know.

Please remember to always treat the bar staff with respect, they don't do the job because of the pay. They do it because they want to take care of us (the veteran and our families) so please remember to be kind and be generous if you can with your tips.

Finally, if you know a veteran in need or crises, please let us know, we never want any member, veteran or family member to ever feel alone or abandoned at any time and especially as the holiday season closes in.

Once again, I want to thank every member of both VFW and our Auxiliary and your families, I'm very grateful to you all for your continued support, you are what makes this post awesome.

In comradeship,

Rick McKenna  
VFW Post 7397 – Commander  
913-481-2973 / [rmckenna65@gmail.com](mailto:rmckenna65@gmail.com)  
[vfw7397.org](http://vfw7397.org) / [Facebook.com/VFW7397](http://Facebook.com/VFW7397)

## From your VFW Auxiliary President



Greetings Brothers & Sisters,

Time just keeps flying by! Fall is upon us and we are all going to get busy.

We have Dinner and a Show on Saturday, November 4, with the Comedy Vets. This is an adult humor show, so leave the kids and grandkids at home, and come have a side-splitting good time.

The following Saturday is Veteran's Day, and we will have a Buddy Poppy Drive at the Hy-Vee, 87th and Pflumm from 9am to 2pm. Be on the lookout for an email with details and signup link; even an hour helps.

There are lots of events coming up, so watch the [Facebook](#) page for details. And don't forget that the Post is open in the evenings for a place to unwind and hang out.

Yours in Service!

Tanya I Brunning  
VFW Post 7397 Auxiliary President  
[vfw7397aux@gmail.com](mailto:vfw7397aux@gmail.com)

## VFW 7397 Riders



A huge thank you to everyone who made it out for our Annual Poker Run. Combined with the Care & Bike Show in the spring we were able to donate \$500 to Cars 4 Heroes and help present a car to a Veteran in need again this year. We also raised a couple hundred bucks for the Post general fund to help with the HVAC payments.

As summer turns into fall, that means Toys for Tots is right around the corner. The big ride supporting them should be the first Sunday in November again this year. Keep an eye out for more details.

Reminder we meet first Thursdays directly after regular VFW/Aux meetings.

Keep the shiny side up

Chris Stergos ~Jarhead~  
7397 Riders President  
[chris.stergos@gmail.com](mailto:chris.stergos@gmail.com)

## American Legion Post 407



Hello fellow Legionnaires,

We are getting close to all the holidays please take a few minutes of your time to check on your Veteran friends, that would help them so much and they would welcome the visit more than you can imagine. We are going to have a membership dinner on October 18<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 7pm. That evening it will be Spaghetti and meatballs with bread and desert. We could sure use some helpers to serve or help with cleaning up. Dinner is free for the appreciation for your membership. Please contact me or Leo, or Ralph so we can have a head count. So, there will be no dinners in November or December due to the holidays.

I would like to invite all members for our November meeting for a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans. During that meeting we will hold a Pinning ceremony. If you served between November 1st to May 15th, 1975, you are eligible... regardless of where you served. If you would like to receive a pin, please arrive no later than 6:45pm. There is also a pin for surviving spouses. So please show up.

We will have our membership meal Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 7pm and it will be our class A chef there for dinner, it will be Spaghetti and Meatballs and it will be free. So please contact me or Ralph, or Leo. I want to thank every member of American Legion Post 407 for all your support and for being our member in this post.

Your Commander  
Anthony Pantoja  
[apantojasr@yahoo.com](mailto:apantojasr@yahoo.com)  
[kslegion407.org](http://kslegion407.org)  
[Facebook](#)

Thank you for your membership with the American Legion Post 407 family in Lenexa! If you are interested in volunteer opportunities, making a donation, or if you have questions, comments, or recommendations, please feel free to contact Commander Anthony Pantoja ([apantojasr@yahoo.com](mailto:apantojasr@yahoo.com)) Post address is 9550 Pflumm Rd. Lenexa, KS 66215-1263

## American Legion Auxiliary Post 407



Following are upcoming events:

- October 7** District Two Legion Family Homecoming at Paola Post 156, 5 Delaware St, Paola, KS 66071. Starting at 4:00 PM Dinner/Program at 5:00 PM, \$12.00 in advance \$15.00 at the door.
- October 13** US Navy Birthday
- October 14** Eisenhower Pilgrimage Abilene, KS.  
National Auxiliary President Lisa Williams will be coming. It will also be the Homecoming for Dept. Vice President and Dept. Auxiliary Vice President
- October 21** District Two Auxiliary Northern Fall Conference at Overland Park 370, 7500 W 75<sup>th</sup> St, Overland Park, Ks from 10 AM to 2 PM Registration and Lunch \$15.00 (lunch will be sandwiches, chips, desert & drinks). RSVP by 10/19 to Cindy Ward by text 309-222-7233 or email [cindy.ward2019@outlook.com](mailto:cindy.ward2019@outlook.com)
- November 10** Marine Corp Birthday
- November 19** Big Red 1 Turkey Run (8:00 AM Fort Riley KS)
- November 24** Thanksgiving
- December 2** Operation North Pole Fort Riley, KS
- December 9** Department Holiday Party 12:00 to 5:00 at Emporia, KS Post #5

We certainly hope that everyone will have the chance to be with their family and loved ones this Thanksgiving. And for those who are able, remember the needy during this time of year with any help you can provide.

**Membership dues of \$30.00** for 2024 are now due.

We are always on the lookout for new members so let your friends that qualify know the benefits of belonging to the Auxiliary.

Pat Willcox  
American Legion Auxiliary President

## Sons of the American Legion Post 407



Hello All,

We still have some burritos available; vacuum packed for freshness. As your bartender to hook you up.

Don't forget to pay your dues. Its \$35, drop a check off or go to [MyLegion.org](http://MyLegion.org) and pay online.

Cullen Davis  
Squadron Commander

## American Legion Riders Post 407



We are once again holding our Hunting Firearm Fund Raiser with the drawing to be held on October 12<sup>th</sup>. First prize is a very nice Benelli M2 semi-auto 12-gauge shotgun, and the second prize is a Ruger 10/22 carbine with scope. Suggested donations are \$5 per ticket or five tickets for \$20. Any member can provide you with tickets. The proceeds will provide funding to support programs to assist veterans in our area.

Upcoming events are:

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, Lions Choice, 11313 Metcalf Ave., will donate a portion of their sales between 4-8PM to the riders. Please enjoy their great food and support another of our fund-raising activities!

Our monthly reoccurring activity schedule is: the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday is our meeting night at 7pm; the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month is usually our Dine Out, 5:30 – 8pm at selected restaurants; and rides are normally scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month.

The last Thursday of the month the Riders normally attend an End of Month (EOM) ceremony at Leavenworth National Cemetery to honor our brothers & sisters that have passed away since last ceremony. We invite anyone to join us at this honor ceremony and we will send out notice of staging & KSU location & times.

We look forward to participating in other ALR Post activities when possible. Stay safe in your travels and activities during the holiday season and the new year.

Dee 'Disaster D' Smith, Director  
American Legion Riders Post 407  
ksdisasterqueen@gmail.com  
[www.alr407.org](http://www.alr407.org)  
[Facebook](#)

**General Larry Oppenheimer Marine Corps League Detachment #1025**



Greetings!

It's that time of year again.....Toys for Tots time! The General Larry Oppenheimer Marine Corps League Detachment #1025 is gearing up for another great Toys for Tots season. Through the gift of a new toy or book we can spread the joy of Christmas to children in our community. All donations are welcome and appreciated. I'm also excited to share that our Detachment is in the process of putting together a Young Marines Unit as well as a Detachment shooting team.

Don't forget about these regular monthly events:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Event</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month	1830	VFW Small Hall	MCL Officer's Meeting
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month	0900	Eggtc 7182 Renner Road, Shawnee, KS	Breakfast with the Best
4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month	1800	VFW Small Hall	Chat and Chow
4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month	1830	VFW Small Hall	Regular Detachment Meeting

In addition, we have the following upcoming special events:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Event</b>
5 Nov	0900—1300	VFW- Large Hall (ride begins at Rawhide Harley Davidson and ends with lunch at the VFW)	Toys for Tots Rawhide Harley Davidson Motorcycle Ride/ Luncheon
8 Nov	1800	Stone Pillar Winery 11000 S. Woodland Rd Olathe, KS	Marine Corps Birthday Celebration
11 Nov	1000	Forrest Park 400 N. Locust St Ottawa, KS	Ottawa's Veterans Day Parade

If you have any questions about these events or are interested in participating please reach out to me. Also, please consider a donation to Toys for Tots. Collection boxes will be placed at the VFW shortly.

Semper Fi!  
 Kimberley Mancuso  
 MCL Detachment #1025- Commandant  
 (913) 215-8977  
[Kimberleymancuso@gmail.com](mailto:Kimberleymancuso@gmail.com)

## From the Club Room

### Important Dates

- Tacos Every Tuesday
- October 6<sup>th</sup> — Steak Night, 6pm—7pm, \$20 per person
  - Please RSVP by 5pm on October 5<sup>th</sup> to Quartermaster Jason Parkes at [j.parkes@comcast.net](mailto:j.parkes@comcast.net)
- November 4<sup>th</sup> — VFW 7397 Aux with Comedy Vets presents Dinner & A Show
  - Just \$20 for dinner and a side splitting good time
  - Doors @ 5pm, Dinner @ 6pm, Show @ 7pm
  - This is adult humor, so find a sitter for the kids
- November 10<sup>th</sup> — Steak Night, 6pm—7pm, \$20 per person
  - Please RSVP by 5pm on November 9<sup>th</sup> to Quartermaster Jason Parkes at [j.parkes@comcast.net](mailto:j.parkes@comcast.net)
  - Please consider volunteering to help with [November Steak Night](#)

See you in the Clubroom!  
Farrah Fiocati  
Club Room Manager  
VFW Post 7397  
[hallrental@vfw7397.org](mailto:hallrental@vfw7397.org)  
913-492-2244

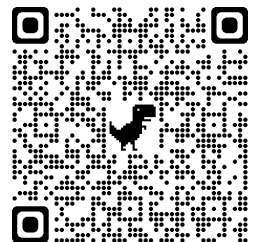


**Don't forget to check out our new swag  
with the VFW Post Logo**

**See the Display Case by the Canteen Door!**

Check out our Google Calendar to stay current with upcoming events!

Scan the QR Code



# October 2023






Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 VFW & Aux Mtg 7pm VFW Riders Following	6 Steak Night 6pm–7pm	7 Hold'em 1pm
8	9	10 \$1.50 Tacos 5-7pm PTSD Class 6:30pm Hold'em 6:30pm	11 MCL Officers Meeting 6:30pm	12 ALR Meeting 7pm	13 Eisenhower Vigil Abilene, KS 11pm–1am Lenexa Chili Fest	14 Hold'em 1pm Lenexa Chili Fest
15	16 American Legion, SAL & Aux Meeting 7pm	17 \$1.50 Tacos 5-7pm PTSD Class 6:30pm Hold'em 6:30pm	18	19 Post Planning Meeting 7pm	20	21 Hold'em 1pm District 2 School of Instruction DeSoto, KS
22	23	24 \$1.50 Tacos 5-7pm PTSD Class 6:30pm Hold'em 6:30pm	25 MCL Meeting 6:30pm	26	27	28 Hold'em 1pm
29	30	31 \$1.50 Tacos 5-7pm PTSD Class 6:30pm Hold'em 6:30pm 				
						



# November 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 VFW & Aux Mtg 7pm VFW Riders Following	3	4 Hold'em 1pm Comedy Vets 5pm
5	6	7 \$1.50 Tacos 5-7pm PTSD Class 6:30pm Hold'em 6:30pm	8 MCL Officers Meeting 6:30pm	9 ALR Meeting 7pm	10 Steak Dinner 6-7pm	11 Hold'em 1pm Buddy Poppy Drive Hy-Vee 9am-2pm 
12	13	14 \$1.50 Tacos 5-7pm PTSD Class 6:30pm Hold'em 6:30pm	15	16 Post Planning Meeting 7pm	17	18 Hold'em 1pm
19	20 American Legion & SAL Meeting 7pm	21 \$1.50 Tacos 5-7pm PTSD Class 6:30pm Hold'em 6:30pm	22 MCL Meeting 6:30pm	23 	24	26 Hold'em 1pm
26	27	28 \$1.50 Tacos 5-7pm PTSD Class 6:30pm Hold'em 6:30pm	29	30		
						

# Stand up COMEDY



November 4, 2023  
Show Starts @  
7:00 PM

- ◆ Doors Open @ 5:00 PM
- ◆ Dinner @ 6:00 PM

Show only \$10

Dinner and show \$20  
\*Appetizer - Salad  
\*Entree - Beef and Noodle  
\*Desert  
\*Cash Bar

Presented by 7397 Auxillary  
RSVP AT:  
[vfw7397aux@gmail.com](mailto:vfw7397aux@gmail.com)

Or on Facebook @ VFW  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of  
Lenexa, Ks #7397



# Sponsors

Need help with your Medicare Supplements, Part D, or Medicare Advantage Plans?  
Looking for Life, Dental or Long-Term Care Insurance?  
I'm here to help!

Channing Wolfe, CLU, CHFC  
913-888-8382  
channingwolfe@gmail.com  
8676 West 96th Street, Suite 101  
Overland Park, KS 66212  
[www.amskc.com/channingwolfe](http://www.amskc.com/channingwolfe)



AFFORDABLE  
MEDICARE  
SUPPLEMENTS  
Independent Insurance Agents

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of our newsletter, please contact  
[vfw7397nwsltr@gmail.com](mailto:vfw7397nwsltr@gmail.com)

All requests will be reviewed by the VFW and American Legion Commanders