



# VFW Post 10281 Family News

## April 2024



### Post Operating Hours:

10:00am - 11:00pm (Monday – Thursday)

10:00am - 1:00am (Friday)

8:00am - 1:00am (Saturday\*)

(\*8-11am Open to public for breakfast)

Sunday Closed (except for Special Events)

### Post Contact Information:

Address: 299 Briggs Lane, Vine Grove, KY 40175

Phone #: 270-877-2138

E-mail: [vfw10281dsl@bbtel.com](mailto:vfw10281dsl@bbtel.com)

Web Site: <https://vfwpost10281.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/vfwpost10281>



### Post Officers

Commander - David “Dusty” Rhoads

Senior Vice - Andrell “Jack” Jackson

Junior Vice - Scott Scholl

Quartermaster – Belinda Gaither-Schmitt

Chief Of Staff - Drew Flynn

Chaplain – Steve Egan

1 yr. Trustee - Chris Squires

2 yr. Trustee - Gregg Bibb

3 yr. Trustee - Tommie Eiland

Adjutant - Eddie Knowles

Acting Veterans Service Officer – Steve Grant

Judge Advocate - David Lower

Surgeon - Ralph “Butch” Hartzell

### Post Membership as of 22 March 2024

1,432 Veterans strong

104.37% of 102% Goal

550+ Auxiliary Members at 100%

# *VFW Commander's Corner*

*From VFW Commander David "Dusty" Rhoads*

Greetings Team 10281 Family,

**April 2024**

Our Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Foundation started on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 1899 in Columbus, Ohio, where the 'American Veterans of Foreign Service' organized as a National body. The VFW Foundation is to serve veterans, service members, and their families by securing resources for programs that facilitate enhanced outcomes. Our Mission is to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflict and to serve our veterans, the military, and our communities. Our Motto is: "No one does more for veterans!" Our Post, including our Auxiliary and our Cooties, does a fantastic job supporting our veterans, their families, and our community by visiting veterans at the local Veteran Center and nursing homes and assisting homeless brothers and sisters! Additionally, we are reaching out to our fellow Veterans Service Organizations, such as our Disabled American Veterans and American Legion brothers and sisters enhancing resources for our veterans.

Our Post has been doing an incredible job with our membership drive – as of Friday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, we have 1,432 members and 1,300 of them are Life Members. We have surpassed the National Commanders goal of 102% and are currently standing 104.37%. At our VFW State Conference in Erlanger on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> our very own Quartermaster, Mrs. Belinda Gather-Schmidt, was recognized by the Department (State Level) as the Number One Recruiter in the state with 46 new and returning members. Way to go Belinda; keep up the great work!

We have also added an additional official Post Recruiter, Sergeant First Class (SFC) Jason Graham; he is still on Active Duty and will be leading our membership drive on Fort Knox. We will be sending out dates on Facebook and our texting platforms looking for volunteers to support Jason on Fort Knox in the near future!



I would like to thank SFC Justin Drake (Senior Instructor), Staff Sergeant Hernandez, and their nine other classmates from Fort

Knox Recruiting Command for supporting our Community Breakfast on the 14th of March; they assisted Senior Vice Commander Andrell "Jack" Jackson and his team by cooking, setting up the hall, welcoming the community, and the cleanup efforts. Their help was greatly appreciated and they received a class certificate from the Commander for their efforts. The community was very pleasantly surprised to see them at the breakfast. SFC Drake said they would like to continue supporting our VFW. The next Community Breakfast will be on April 14th in the hall.

The last Turkey Shoot of the season was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March and will reopen in October. This year we had over 500 and raised over \$5,000. Jack pots were over \$2,000 for the season. An Appreciation Dinner will be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April at 1pm in the Turkey Shoot building. I would like to personally thank Shane O'Conner (Chairman), Robert Davis, Stephanie Woosley, and their team of volunteers for providing such a great safe season filled with fun, prizes, and camaraderie.

The Joint Executive Council of Veterans Organizations of Kentucky (JECVO) is comprised of 33 organizations who speak in one voice on behalf of Kentucky veterans and their families. They meet on the first Wednesday of the month throughout Kentucky. They have a direct influence on legislative concerns in Kentucky. The next meeting is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April in Frankfort at the VFW Post 4075. Please come join us at a meeting.

On, Wednesday, April 10th, the VFW and Auxiliary will be holding our elections starting at 7:00pm with the meal following.

Just a reminder – the Kids Fishing Derby (KFD), led by Drew Flynn, will be hosting a great NASCAR race (Talladega) on April 21<sup>st</sup>; doors will open at 1:30pm. All proceeds will be going to the KFD on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at Camp Carlson Army Recreational Area.

Coming Up on May 4<sup>th</sup> – yes, during the Kentucky Derby time – our Post will be hosting a military combat veteran comedian, Mr. Drew Hernandez and other comedians. They are very well known, concentrating on military humor and supporting the VFW and American Legion posts around the country. Tickets are on sale on the Post and District Facebook sites. Please join me and come out and support our fellow combat veteran comedians. It will be a great night of laughs, camaraderie, and fellowship!

*Stay Safe, be nice to each other, and check in on our elderly.*

*VFW Motto - No One Does More for Our Veterans! <sup>3</sup> Post Motto - Serving the Best with Our Best!*

# *VFW Auxiliary President's Pen*

*From VFW Auxiliary President Cindy West*

Happy Spring Team!

**April 2024**

I want to take a moment to thank everyone who came Spring Conference! It was a fantastic time and a lot of information was shared. I know that Department President Annie was grateful for the turnout.

I also want to thank those who participated in our Easter Event. It's always fun to spend time with our little bunnies!

Remember that elections are this month. It's been my biggest honor to help guide this team over the last 4 years. It's the toughest job you'll ever love and there's so much that goes on behind the scenes. It requires a thick skin and the ability to take direct feedback without taking it as an attack. I've learned a lot to be sure!



**We are all an important piece of our Volunteer puzzle!**





# *Cootie Bites*

*From Military Order of the Cooties Seam Squirrel Scott VanTassell*



Hellllooooooo Cooties!

**April 2024**

Well, well, well - April is finally here! A lot has happened this last month behind the scenes and a lot will be happening in the future for the Pup Tent 7 Cooties! Congratulations to Chris Squires who is our incoming Seam Squirrel for the 2024-2025, May you have the best of successes!

Please don't forget that our Scratch is on the second Sunday of the month, which is 14 April 2024 at 1330 hours. Immediately after the Scratch, those who want to, will head over to the Radcliff Signature Home.

On 6 Apr 2024 at 1100 hours we will be visiting the Veterans at the Carl M. Brashear Veterans Center in Radcliff. And if Mother Nature allows, we will check on their bird feeders and fill those that need it.

Please don't forget that on the first and third Monday of the month you can attend the Supreme Zoom Meeting. If you need the link, just ask your Seam Squirrel or CCDB.

And last, if not least, let us remember that our mission is to "keep `em smiling in beds of white". Our job is not to be better than our VFW, but to make our VFW Better! See you around the Post! LOTCS!



**Be safe and wet, we'll see you around the Post!**



# Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary



**From MOCA #7 President Ashtin Birkicht**

Happy April, Everyone!

Last month the MOCA had their second nomination and elections for the new '24-'25 year. I announce the new MOCA President for Pup Tent 7's Auxiliary is Madison Albert. I know she will do her absolute best to serve the Cooties. It has been an honor to serve as your president these past two years, and I look forward to closing out my year doing what we do best. Keeping them smiling in beds of white.

The Cootie mission has always been to serve our veterans in nursing homes, hospitals, and those who just can't make it out to see us at our Post on a regular basis. We frequently visit Signature in Radcliff, as well as Robley Rex and the Radcliff Veteran Center. If you would like to come with us one day to spread cheer, please feel free to meet us at the RVC or at the Post before our Signature visit. We will be going to the Radcliff Veteran Center on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am, and Signature will be after our monthly meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will start at its usual time of 1:30pm.

I would also like to give a big thank you to all of you who came out to support our St. Patrick's Day event. It was strange having it a week early, but we made it work and I love seeing the support! We have some amazing volunteers and I love working with them.

**April 2024**



**Keep 'Em Smiling in Beds of White!**





# *Kids Fishing Derby*

June 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 @ Camp Carlson

*From Drew Flynn, Chairman & Chris Squires Asst. Chairman*



Greetings, Members and Friends of VFW Post 10281!

**April 2024**

As spring unfolds with its promise of renewal and joy, we're gearing up for an exciting April, leading into our eagerly awaited Kids Fishing Derby at Camp Carlson, Fort Knox, on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Here's what we have planned for this month:

## **KFD Volunteer Meeting** - April 3<sup>rd</sup>

We're kicking off the month with our first volunteer meeting for the Kids Fishing Derby on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm, immediately after the executive committee meeting concludes. This gathering is crucial for anyone interested in contributing to the success of our event on June 1<sup>st</sup>. We're looking for enthusiastic individuals to help with various aspects of the event, from set-up to activities on the day. If you are unable to make it to the meeting but would like to volunteer, please email us at the KFD at [vfwpost10281@gmail.com](mailto:vfwpost10281@gmail.com) with your contact information and how you'd like to contribute.

## **Talladega NASCAR Party** - April 21<sup>st</sup>

Gear up for a thrilling afternoon at our Talladega NASCAR Party! The excitement starts with doors opening at 1:30pm, leading up to the race at 3:00pm. Here's what's in store:

- **Door Prizes & Pull Tabs:** Engage in the fun with fantastic door prizes and the chance to win big with pull tabs.
- **BBQ Cook-off:** We're turning up the heat with a rib cook-off! Showcase your grilling prowess, and let's see whose BBQ reigns supreme. It's the perfect time for our pitmasters and grill enthusiasts to shine, so we won't be needing additional food volunteers for this event. Cash prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Kids Fishing Derby** - Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for the Kids Fishing Derby on June 1<sup>st</sup> at the scenic Camp Carlson, Fort Knox. It's going to be a day filled with fishing, fun, and laughter. Registration forms will be available from May 1<sup>st</sup>, so stay tuned for more details.

This April, let's come together to prepare for an unforgettable Kids Fishing Derby, share in the excitement of the Talladega NASCAR Party, and enjoy the fellowship that makes VFW Post 10281 so special. Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm for our community events. Together, we're making a difference.



Tight lines and safe travels





# Turkey Talk!

Shane OConnor Turkey Shoot Chairman

**April 2024**



Thank you to everyone who helped this year's shoot become a huge success. We will have our appreciation cook out on April 6<sup>th</sup>, at 1pm. I'm really looking forward to spending some time with the people who went out of their way to support me over the last 6 months.



Thank you as well to Dusty for letting me run the shoot and trusting I will accomplish the mission.







# Post Flag Retirement Ceremonies



## **APRIL FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY**

Since 2011, our Boy Scouts of America (BSA), Troop 152 has taken the lead in initiating and executing our Post Flag Retirement Program. Due to the great response of our community donating flags; we have a severe backlog that needs to be retired.

To support this valuable program, it is the Commander's intent to ask our members to volunteer to assist in conducting ceremonies twice a month. Troop 152 will hold a 'Train-the-trainer' flag ceremony on Tuesday, April 9th starting at 6:45pm. It will take place at the dedicated flag retirement area that was built by one of the Scouts as his Eagle Project.

The CVMA has volunteered to hold ceremonies in April and Troop 152 will lead the annual Memorial Day Flag Retirement Ceremony per usual. In the future we are looking forward to all the charters and other organizations to consider holding them. So please support this program and come out and learn how you can be a part of retiring flags respectively for our Post.





# Manager's Mention

From Manager Kim Flynn & Assistant Managers— Malcolm Gass & Carmine Marra

Hello 10281 Family!

- Our April Money Madness E-tab tournaments will start on the 1<sup>st</sup> (No foolin'!) and continue every Monday at 7pm.
- Every Tuesday, starting at 7pm, we offer Cornhole.
- April's Balloon Party will be Friday the 12<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7pm.



**April 2024**

This month we want to bring attention to a wonderful employee who works behind the scenes keeping our facility clean and cooking for the canteen.

Leslie Gass, we appreciate you and are happy you are a part of our 10281 Team!

Keep up the great work!

- Join us for the Community Breakfast on Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 11 AM.

Coming up on Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> we are hosting a Fantastic Comedian Show. Reserve your tickets now before they all sell out and find out more info at the QR code or link:



[Drew Hernandez & Friends](#)



**As always, thank you all for your continued support!**





UNWAVERING SUPPORT  
FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

# Views from the V





VFW Commander – David Rhoads  
VFW Auxiliary President – Cindy West

**April 2024**

MOC Seam Squirrel – Scott VanTassell  
MOC Auxiliary President – Ashtin Birkicht

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31 Easter Day</b>  <hr/> <b>POST CLOSED</b> <hr/>	1 - E-tab Tourney: 7pm	2 - Boy Scouts 6pm - Corn Hole 7pm	3 <b>JECVO Mtg: 10AM</b> Frankfort Post 4075 - <b>Executive Mtg: 6pm</b> - <b>House Comm Mtg: 6:30pm</b> - <b>KFD Volunteer Mtg: after Executive Mtg</b>	4	5	6 <b>Breakfast to Order</b> Open to Public 8-11am - <b>USMVMC: 10am (Hill)</b> - <b>Cooties: RVC 11am</b> - <b>TS Appreciation Cookout 1pm</b> - <b>P/P: 8-12pm</b>
7	8 - E-tab Tourney: 7pm	9 - Boy Scouts 6pm - Corn Hole 7pm	10 - <b>General Membership Meeting: 7pm</b> Meal: Cajun	11	12 - <b>Balloon Party: 7pm</b>	13 - <b>Breakfast to Order</b> Open to Public 8-11am - <b>CVMA Mtg: 10am</b> - <b>P/P: 4-9pm</b> - <b>P/P: TS 6-11pm</b>
14 <b>Community Breakfast: 11am</b>  <b>MOC/MOCA:</b> Scratch @ 1:30pm (Pie Nite Follows)	15 - E-tab Tourney: 7pm	16 - Boy Scouts 6pm - Corn Hole 7pm	17 - <b>Aux Audit: 6:30 pm</b>	18	19	20 - <b>Breakfast to Order</b> Open to Public 8-11am - <b>HCPMA Mtg: 9am</b> - <b>USMVMC: 11am</b> - <b>P/P: 8pm-Midnight</b>
21 - <b>KFD: NASCAR Talladega 3pm</b> Doors Open 1:30pm	22 - E-tab Tourney: 7pm	23 - Boy Scouts 6pm - Corn Hole 7pm	24	25 - <b>KFD: NFL Draft Party 7pm</b>	26	27 - <b>Breakfast to Order</b> Open to Public 8-11am - <b>P/P: 5pm-Midnight</b>
28 <hr/> <b>POST CLOSED</b> <hr/>	29 - E-tab Tourney: 7pm	30 - Boy Scouts 6pm - Corn Hole 7pm	1 - <b>Executive Mtg: 6pm</b> - <b>House Comm Mtg: 6:30pm</b>	2	3	4 - <b>Breakfast to Order</b> Open to Public 8-11am - <b>USMVMC: 10am (Hill)</b> - <b>Cooties: RVC 11am</b>

**Legend:** Aux: VFW Auxiliary

**RVC:** Radcliff Veterans Center

**P/P:** Private Party in Ballroom

**D4:** VFW District 4

**TS:** Turkey Shoot

**MOC/MOCA:** Military Order of Cooties / Military Order of Cooties Auxiliary

**CVMA:** Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association

**HCPMA:** Hardcore Patriots Motorcycle Association

**USMVMC:** US Military Veterans Motorcycle Club

**Current as of:**  
**30-Mar-24**