

Commander: We make selections on our likes or dislikes. We make choices from our heart or mind. We make decisions to love or to hate. We sometimes make our mind up because, “everyone else is doing it” or “someone told me; so, I believe it to be true” or “I am the only one who can fix it”. People are complex and sometimes puzzling, but we already know that. We need each other for love, friendship, and help to thrive. As members of a great organization, our primary mission is to serve veterans and their families, not to receive accolades or “pats on the back”, titles, or get something in return, it is to flourish and grow to serve more. We do this because we *choose* to do it. “Service before Self”, “Selfless Service”, “Always Faithful”, and “Commitment” are our core values of each of our U.S. military branches. Directly refusing to participate in VFW traditions is a “gut punch” to honor those before us. I respectfully and humbly ask all to be involved, visit our canteen, sign up and serve on a committee, attend meetings, volunteer, or participate in post activities. Life is too short...ask me.

Auxiliary President: Thank you to the auxiliary membership, auxiliary officers, and program chairman for all our accomplishments in serving our veterans and their families through our program participation. When we diligently work together, we fulfill our mission of helping our veterans and our organization.

Mid-year reports are due in December and will attest to our dedication to educating, promoting, and honoring our veterans by reaching out to our communities. Fall is finally here, and the calendar year is ending. It is undoubtedly a busy time of year, but it is also prime time to remember your veteran, why you joined, and what motivates you to continue to serve our auxiliary.

Several opportunities to celebrate and thank a veteran include Veteran’s Day, the GRAVC Parade, Thanksgiving and Christmas basket drive, Pearl Harbor remembrances, and the Boysville and Autumn Winds Christmas parties.

I believe our veterans deserve the best. I am proud to serve with VFW Post 4676 and the Auxiliary. I celebrate your accomplishments and pledge to remain loyal to our auxiliary, organization, and veterans.

May your family be blessed this holiday season with lots of love and laughter.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas, *Jennifer Group*

Auxiliary Chaplain: There are so many things to celebrate this time of year; Veteran’s Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Fall reminds us how small we are in the big picture of life and yet how important we are to God. It is a season that brings comfort and highlights the power of a thankful heart. 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18, “*Always be joyful, never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.*”

Veterans Day is our opportunity to give thanks to all veterans. Honor the veterans in your life for we would not be the “home of the free and the brave” without the servicemen and servicewomen who protect us. We can’t undo any hardships they may have experienced, but we can do what the Bible tells us to do – pray for them and love them.

It is not always easy to give thanks, but this is the very thing we must do in order to see God's will accomplished in our lives. This Thanksgiving, say a prayer of thanks for the bountiful gifts bestowed upon you and share those gifts with veterans and your VFW family. Make your Thanksgiving Day a true celebration of generosity and love for all.

However, you choose to celebrate the season of Christmas, I challenge you to show others the true meaning of Christmas by giving the gift of God's love and by loving others as God first loved you. Our organization’s greatness is a reflection of your continued commitment to our objectives and assisting veterans whenever possible. This holiday season, recognize the veterans in your life and make it a celebration of generosity, health, and love. And as this year draws to a close, fill your heart with cherished memories of the past and hope for a bright future. Pray for those who are ill, those who are grieving; pray for our nation, and those who serve to protect us.

May you have a thankful heart and the Merriest Christmas! *Chrystal Coble*

Military Order of the Cootie (MOC) and Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary (MOCA): The Military Order of the Cootie (MOC) is the Honor Degree from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). The origin of the order dates back to the Spanish American War and the Imperial Order of the Dragon. Founded in 1920 after World War I, the “Cooties” have to be members in good standing of the VFW who have displayed a willingness to work hard for the parent organization. They have an offbeat humor and apply that to their problem-solving and the services that they deliver. Military Order of the *Cooties* (<https://gravelspeaking.com/2012/03/14/military-order-of-the-cootie/>)

Primary project is to visit hospitalized veterans. If you are curious, meet the Cooties on the last Sunday of the month at their “all you can eat” breakfast for \$8, from 8a-11a...and inquire about their “Scratch” thereafter.

House Committee

Chairman: David Crookham

VFW: Carlos Foster, Alberto Mir, Joseph Bergman

AUX: Melissa Strother, Chrystal Coble, Kurt Hougum

Appointed: Tim Strother, Garland Coble

Non-Voting: Commander, Quartermaster, Canteen Manager

House Sub-Committees:

Facility Maintenance: Bob Stone, Joseph Berg, Kurt Hougum, Tim Strother, Alberto Mir

Facility Use: Melissa Strother, Garland Coble,

House Rules and Policy: Chrystal Coble, Carlos Foster

*House committee meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 6p. Meetings are open to all members in good standing and may attend and listen in when discussing general matters of the canteen. If you have a concern, recommendation, or other matter you wish to be discussed at the meeting, please contact a house committee member to present it.

*Meetings will be closed to house committee members only when discussing matters related to house rules and policy violations, disciplinary actions, or personal concerns of post member(s) or staff.

Canteen Operations:

Co-Managers: Kim Goodrich and Jenn Hamilton

Bartenders: Ryan, Kat, Bonita, Rebel, and co-managers.

Cooks/Server/Waitress/Waiter: Monika, Gisa, Gabe, and Hunter

Custodians: Daniel and Gabe

Our canteen staff do their best to provide a service like any other business in the community...but we are not like any other business making a profit, we are a non-profit organization, and our "business" is to serve you, us, Veterans of Foreign Wars, their family, and guests. The bartenders happily make and serve your favorite beverage and take your food order, the kitchen workers cook and deliver your food, the custodians keep our canteen clean, and our managers ensure the operations of the canteen follow Texas TABC, DSHS, TWC, OSHA, etc., and make certain our staff is respected and treated fairly...please do not hesitate to show your appreciation. Tip your cook and server, they are usually one-in-the-same, "chip" your custodians, your bartenders are usually appreciated with tips, and lastly, thank y'all for showing your appreciation to our canteen managers.

Monday Night Bingo: Monday night bingo has been going strong for 33 years. If you are not aware, all the funds generated support our post's scholarship program and other charitable organizations. Every year bingo has provided 3 scholarships at \$1000 each. So, y'all come on out on Monday evenings at 5p, bring your family and friends, have some laughs, drinks, bring your snacks (sometimes someone brings appetizers), and win some cash...but most importantly, know that you are supporting our scholarship program and charitable organizations. And by the way, the members who make Monday night bingo happen are volunteers...Amazing!

Who Knew!?!? National VFW, Texas Department, District 20, and Post requirements...and then there is membership, auxiliary, and MOC requirements...commander, quartermaster, and officers' requirements, and the list goes on and on...never-ending down to the individual member requirement...who knew?!?! "*We all knew...it is nothing new.*" We ask for your patience as we continue to navigate our requirements and for your volunteerism support to meet it.

Special Upcoming Post Events:

-Saturday, Nov. 4. Veterans Day Parade and the After Party at VFW Post 4676. More information to follow. If you'd like to help, there is a sign-up sheet at the post or contact cmdr4676@gmail.com

-Saturday, Nov. 11, at 12p. Veterans Day Burger Burn.

-Saturday, Nov. 18, Auxiliary Fundraiser...Tending Bar from 11a-5p.

-Thursday, Nov. 23, Thanksgiving Meal at 1p.

-Thursday, Dec. 14, Randolph High School Choir Performance at 12p. Light refreshments.

-Thursday, Dec. 14, Autumn Winds Senior Christmas Gathering.

-Friday, Dec. 22, Post Christmas Party at 5p.

-Monday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day Potluck at 1p.

-Sunday, Dec. 31, New Years Eve Happy Hour at 6p.

Details of events will be posted to group Facebook page or ask via email at cmdr4676@gmail.com

November 2023

VFW Post
4676

October '23							December '23						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7							1
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8a-11a MOC Breakfast	30 5p Bingo	31 11a Taco Tuesday 5p Pinochle Group	1	2 7p Pool & Dart League	3 11a Red Shirt Friday 5p Happy Hour & Karaoke	4 8a-11a Auxiliary Breakfast Veterans Day Parade
5	6 5p Bingo	7 11a Taco Tuesday 5p Pinochle Group 6p UC Bass Club Election Day	8 7p Submarine Vets 6p House Committee Mtg	9 7p Pool & Dart League	10 11a Red Shirt Friday 5p Happy Hour & Karaoke Marine Corp Birthday 248	11 12p Veterans Day Burger Burn
12 12p VOD/PatPen Due Dist 3p Ruff Ryders MCG	13 5p Bingo	14 11a Taco Tuesday 5p Pinochle Group 6p SAPD Bass Club	15 6p General Membership	16 7p Pool & Dart League	17 11a Red Shirt Friday 5p Happy Hour & Karaoke	18 11a Auxiliary Tend Bar
19 3p TOROS MCG	20 5p Bingo	21 11a Taco Tuesday 5p Pinochle Group 6p Metro Bass Club	22 7p Auxiliary Meeting	23 Thanksgiving Day 1p Thanksgiving Meal 7p Pool & Dart League	24 11a Red Shirt Friday 5p Happy Hour & Karaoke	25
26 8-11a MOC Breakfast	27 5p Bingo	28 11a Taco Tuesday 5p Pinochle Group	29	30 7p Pool & Dart League	1 11a Red Shirt Friday 5p Happy Hour & Karaoke	2 8a-11a Auxiliary Breakfast

December 2023

VFW Post
4676

November '23							January '24						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			28	29	30	31			

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26 8a-11a MOC Breakfast	27 5p Bingo	28 11a Taco Tuesday 5p Pinochle Group	29	30 7p Pool & Dart League	1 11a Red Shirt Friday 5p Happy Hour & Karaoke	2 8a-11a Auxiliary Breakfast
3	4 5p Bingo	5 11a Taco Tuesday 5p Pinochle Group 6p UC Bass Club	6	7 6p VPR-Pearl Harbor 7p Pool & Dart League	8 11a Red Shirt Friday 5p Happy Hour & Karaoke 6p Dist 20 Christmas Party	9
10 3p Ruff Ryders MCG	11 5p Bingo	12 11a Taco Tuesday 5p Pinochle Group 6p SAPD Bass Club	13 6p House Committee Mtg 7p Submarine Vets	14 12p Randolph Choir 12p Autumn Winds Seniors 7p Pool & Dart League	15 11a Red Shirt Friday 5p Happy Hour & Karaoke	16
17 1p Boysville Christmas 3p TOROS MCG	18 5p Bingo	19 11a Taco Tuesday 5p Pinochle Group 6p Metro Bass Club	20 6p General Membership (Pending Open/Close) Birth of Space Force	21 7p Pool & Dart League	22 11a Red Shirt Friday 5p Happy Hour & Karaoke 5p Post Christmas Party	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day No Bingo 1p Christmas Day Potluck	26 11a Taco Tuesday 5p Pinochle Group	27 7p Auxiliary Meeting (Pending Open/Close)	28 7p Pool & Dart League	29 11a Red Shirt Friday 5p Happy Hour & Karaoke	30
31 New Years Eve NO MOC Breakfast 6p New Years Eve Happy Hr	1 New Years Day No Bingo	2 11a Taco Tuesday 5p Pinochle Group	3	4 7p Pool & Dart League	5 11a Red Shirt Friday 5p Happy Hour & Karaoke	6

VFW Post 4676

202 W Aviation Blvd. Universal City, TX 78148

If you know anyone who have served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States in any foreign war, insurrection, or expedition, we want them on our side as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Invite them to our canteen for some camaraderie and have them check out our website and Facebook page.

Website: vfwpost4676.com

Email: vfwpost4676@att.net

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1513705682228151>

Phone: 210-658-9163

Hours: Monday-Thursday 11a-11p

Friday-Saturday 11a-12a

Sunday 11a-9p

****Updated Newsletter with Nov/Dec Calendar of Events****