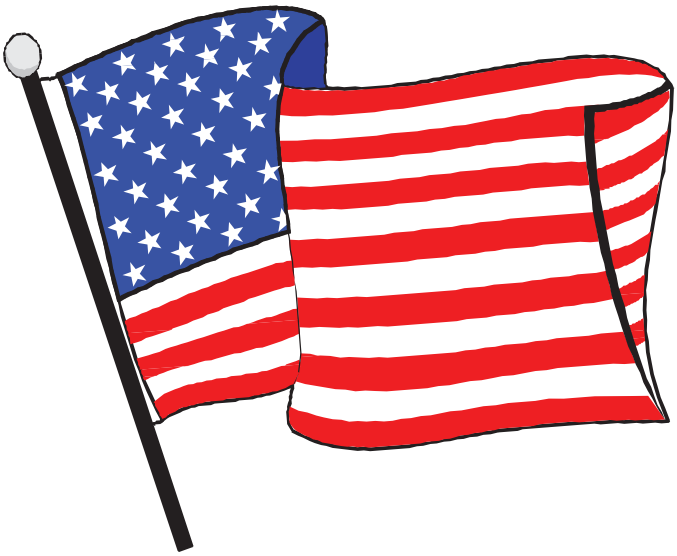

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Commanders Column

Dear Comrades,

I want to thank the Post members for electing me as your Commander for 2021 - 2022. I will do everything I can to listen to your concerns and help in any way to make the Blaine VFW the best.

Our 4th of July celebration was a HUGE success. It wouldn't have been possible without all the wonderful volunteers. THANK YOU! A special thank you to Phil and Greg, the rib guys, who spent 11 hours preparing ribs. I heard lots of great comments. Lots of help made the day go by smoothly.

We are waiting for bids for the patio which will happen.

You may have heard the Post is taking back the kitchen in September under new management. The kitchen will be open every day. Stop by, check out the menu and enjoy good food.

We will be having a rifle raffle on September 11th. The doors will open at 11:00 a.m. The raffle tickets are $10.00 each. There will be bingo going on, Booya will be available, etc.

We got all the "wrinkles" from the last raffle figured out. Things should go smoothly. If you have any questions, call me at 651-285-5459 or call Nick at the Post 763-757-4540.

On 9/11 Remember and Honor Our Heroes!

I will be attending the Fall Conference in Willmar September 24th - 26th.

GOD BLESS YOU AND OUR VETERANS

Your Commander,
Randy Monson

NOTE: RIFLE RAFFLE - September 11th, 2021
11:00 a. m. until ?
Check out the Commanders column for information or call Commander Randy at 651-285-5459.

Poppy entry, 2nd place at the State Convention

4th of July bake sale

Greetings VFW Auxiliary Members!

Since our last newsletter the auxiliary has been very busy. We hosted 6 funeral luncheons, helped with the 4th of July picnic at the post, had 2 Quilts of Valor ceremonies, had our audit, attended both the VFW and Auxiliary State and National Conventions and hosted a blood drive on August 31 at the post.

The State Convention was held in June in Maple Grove. We had a great time and even managed to bring home an award or two:

Chief of Staff/Extension - Outstanding Achievement - Use of Publicity to Revitalize the Auxiliary
Healthy Auxiliary during the Covid Pandemic

Hospital- Green Shower Donation Award
Best Overall Sewing Program- tied with St. Cloud for 1st Place
Best Overall Hospital Program- Category 5- 1st Place

Legislative- Category 3- Best Promotion of the Legislative Program

Membership- 3 Citations for reaching each set goal during the year
Honorable Mention- Exceptional Monthly Reporting

Scholarships- Certificate for Awarding Teachers for participating in the Patriot's Pen program

Youth Activities- Certificate for Book Donations

Buddy Poppy- Category 1- 2nd Place
Category 2- 2nd Place

The VFW and Auxiliary also received a joint award- Post Publication Contest, Category 2- 2nd Place.

Congratulations to our hard-working members for an outstanding year!

Any awards given out at the National Convention will be delivered at Fall Conference in September.

As many of you may know, we lost Patricia Boda and Donna Olson recently. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

We also extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Opal Petersen who, although not a member of our auxiliary, held almost every position and title throughout her years of auxiliary service in Minnesota and will not soon be forgotten.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are ill and our sympathy to those who have lost a loved one.

President Shelley
651-206-1777
ssolheid19@hotmail.com

Dates to Remember

September

6 - Labor Day
7 - Post and Auxiliary meetings, 7:00 pm
11 - Patriot Day- Also known as the National Day of Service and Remembrance, in memory of those killed during the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks
11 - Post Raffle and Bingo, 1:00 pm
17 - POW/MIA Recognition Day
24-26 - VFW/Auxiliary Fall Conference, Wilmar
26 - Gold Star Mothers/Family Day

October

5 - Post and Auxiliary meetings, 7:00 pm
15-17 - Big Ten VFW and Auxiliary Conference, South Dakota
19 - Blood Drive, Noon-5:00 pm
31 - Halloween

Now Hear This Cooties:

The fall season is a good time for us to dedicate our obligation as good VFW members.

The Cooties have a valuable function for the VFW in:

1. Membership quota
2. Visiting hospitalized Veterans
3. Donating blood at blood drives
4. Selling venison program raffle tickets
5. Working with other VFW members in supporting Military and their families, both current and for previous conflicts
6. Support the VFW National Home for Children orphaned or absent

A good dues paying VFW member who wishes to join this gathering, all you have to do is get permission from your Post Commander, show up for VFW meetings and any committees you have volunteered for, be known and recommended by a current Cootie Member because we pick the best to join. Welcome aboard for 2022.

Jim "Smiley" Harvieux, Seam Squirrrel

VFW Auxiliary officers for 2021-2022

Front row L to R: Conductress Betty Jo Wahlstrom, President Shelley Solheid, Chaplain Heidi Collins

Second row L to R: Guard Shirley Hagen, Treasurer Ann Asbury, Trustee #3 Darlene Magnuson, Jr. Vice Pres. Jeanne Engelsmeier, Trustee #1 Joyce Pierret, Secretary Doris Anderson, Patriotic Instructor JoAnn Nisbet, Sr. Vice Pres. Mary Lou Michels

Cootie Auxiliary

I'm pleased to announce that St. Benedictine is ready to resume Bingo! I hope to post a schedule in the next newsletter.

We lost MOCA member Donna Olson recently and our thoughts and prayers go out to her family. Opal Petersen, Past Grand MOCA President also passed away. Please keep her family in your prayers.

I attended the Supreme Convention in Kansas City, and it was so fun seeing everyone again. It was also exciting to go up and receive a few Supreme awards on your behalf- The Grand of Minnesota MOCA received an award for 100% of the inspections being done and reported- Way to go Doris Anderson!

MOCA #11 received the following awards:

Membership - 90% in membership by 12/31/2020 - Thank you Mary Lou!

Scholarship - Certificate of Recognition for Participation in the Sarah Ducharme Scholarship Program

** Two Special Awards were also created for Advertising the Scholarship Program. One went to a MOCA member in Texas and the other one went to our Joyce Pierret! Congratulations Joyce!

Supreme President's Special Project - Early Bird Award, Division 4, 2nd Place for turning our tickets in right away

Secretary Award - To Marilyn Sheffield for sending in her meeting minutes in a timely manner. Nice work Marilyn!

Supreme President Jennifer Winn did a drawing during the meeting and Laura Patch won the President's Coin! Lucky Laura from Lucky 'Leven! Congratulations!

The Grand C of A is August 21 in Dilworth so I will report on that next time.

Dates to Remember

September

6 - Labor Day
14 - MOC and MOCA meetings, 7:00 pm
11 - Patriot Day
17 - POW/MIA Recognition Day
26 - Star Mother's/Family Day

October

12 - MOC and MOCA meetings, 7:00 pm
19 - Blood Drive, Noon-5:00pm
31 - Halloween

Membership

Letters were sent out and calls were made reminding our annual members, their dues are due. As of this writing only 6 annual members haven't paid their dues. PLEASE pay your dues as soon as possible so we can be 100% reporting. Send your check, made out to VFW Auxiliary in the amount of $18.00 and mail to me at 928 Constance Blvd. NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304. Consider going with a Life Membership.

Our sympathies to the families of Donna Olson and Pat Boda, lifetime members, who passed away recently.

We welcome a new member, Sheryl Kocur.

Mary Lou Michels, Sr. Vice President and Membership Chairman

On Wednesday, August 11th, at the Majestic Golfcourse, there was a fundraiser for the Minnesota National Guard Youth Camp. One hundred plus golfers were in attendance along with family and friends. Blaine VFW Auxiliary provided the 24 vases of flowers for the Banquet with a flag in each vase.

Laura wins Supreme Presidents Coin

Five Veterans Receive Their Quilt of Valor.
Due to the much needed rainfall, the Quilts of Valor did their presentation of Quilts of Valor indoors at the Blaine VFW. On August 7th, five Veterans were honored with beautiful quilts. Presenters were Paul Evenson and Linda Novotny.

Veterans receiving their Quilts of Valor were L to R:
Don Groetsch Army 1977 - 1982
Marcus Wright Navy 2014 - 2020
Travis Rehnelt Army 2010 - 2018
Tom Elfering National Guard 1969 - 1975
Al Johnson Air Force 1970 - 1974.

"THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, SACRIFICE AND VALOR".

On Saturday, July 31st, three Veterans received their Quilts of Valor at the Blaine Veterans Park. Presenters representing Quilts of Valor Chapter Grateful Hearts Quilters of Anoka were Paul Evenson and Linda Novotny.

Veterans receiving their Quilts of Valor were L to R: Willis Friberg Marines 1941 - 1945
Mark Smith Air Force 1962 - 1970
Dick Barton Army 1946 - 1948

"THANK YOU FOR SERVING OUR COUNTRY"

Americanism

What is Gold, Silver and Blue Star families?

- Gold Star Families can display a flag or banner with a white field and a red border with a gold star that represents a family member who died during military operations.
- Blue Star Families display a flag or banner with a white field and red border with a blue star for each family member serving in the United States Armed Forces during any period of war or hostilities.
- Silver Star Families can display a flag or banner with a blue field with outer red border and inner white border and a silver star that represents a family member who was injured, wounded, or became ill as a result of combat.

Please recognize and honor these families in your community.

Veterans and Family Support

To help Veterans experiencing homelessness access stable housing and other services, MDVA created the Minnesota Homeless Veteran Registry. The Registry connects Veterans experiencing homelessness with housing and services in their community. It also helps programs and partners serving Veterans to coordinate their efforts. Anyone who served in the U.S Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard can join the Registry, regardless of the type of discharge or length of time in service. Participation is voluntary and choosing not to participate will not affect eligibility for services. Use the link https://mn.gov/mdva/resources/homelessnessandprevention/homelessveteranregistry.jsp

Bake Sales

We will be starting our Bake Sales again on October 15th at 4:00. Stop by and check out the goodies our Auxiliary has. Take some home for your family to enjoy.

Laura Carlson, Fundraising Chairman

Hospital

Did you know that some VA facilities have an HONORS ESCORT program as part of the end-of-life protocol for veterans that pass when in their care?

***A Veteran's gurney is draped with the American Flag and a procession escorts the veteran to the morgue. As the procession moves through the medical facility other veterans can pay their respects. ***

Many of our Veterans that reside in these facilities are lonely, especially after this last year. Feel free to send Thank You for Your Service cards to our auxiliary and we can deliver them to the Minneapolis Veterans Home and the VA Medical Center. It might be something fun to do with a community group you belong to or if you know of a youth group that might like to participate. Cards can be sent to: Sgt. John Rice VFW Auxiliary #6316, 1374 109th Ave NE, Blaine, MN 55434. Thank You for supporting our veterans.

Blood Drives

Our Blood Drives have been going great and the American Red Cross appreciates all our wonderful and dedicated donors. Mark your calendars for the upcoming drives:

August 31st 12:00 - 5:00
October 19th 12:00 - 5:00
December 27th 12:00 - 5:00
February 15th 12:00 - 5:00
April 12th 12:00 - 5:00
June 14th 12:00 - 5:00

Call Mary Lou at 763-434-6580 if you would like to schedule a time or with any questions.

Benefit for Julie Zender

A year ago our friend, Julie Zender, received a dual Pancreas and Kidney transplant. Julie is doing very well and family and friends are doing a benefit to help Julie with expenses.

JOIN us on Saturday, October 16th from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. for a day of fun. We are doing an Octoberfest theme with lots of things to do, silent auction, door prizes, food, music, etc. Also, Julie's son, Samuel, has some medical issues so let's keep Julie and Samuel in our prayers.

Call Jaimie (Julie's sister) at 763-213-3885 with any questions.

VETERANS DINNER

November 7th, 2021 Social 4:00, Dinner 5:00 p.m.
More information in the November/December VFW Newsletter

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 5th, 2021 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
More information in the November/December VFW Newsletter

SEWING

The sewing committee will start meeting again in September. We meet each Thursday at the Post from 1:00 to 4:00 and work on many items for our Veterans and residents at Nursing Homes. We are in need of cotton material. If you have extra and are not planning to use it, bring the material to the Post marked "SEWING GROUP". Thank you in advance. If you have questions, call me at 763-757-1729.

Marge Saylor, Sewing Chairman

SARAH DUCHARME SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

2021-2022 MOCA Grand Scholarship

The purpose of this program is to assist in furthering the education of a student who wishes to obtain a post high school education to earn a technical undergraduate degree in a medical field. These fields include but are not limited to areas in Nursing, Pharmacology, Radiology, Dental Assisting, Laboratory Technician, Dietitian, and degrees in Veterinary Science.

The scholarship program is not for graduate level or degree advancement. Auxiliary members are eligible for this scholarship.

If you would like a scholarship application, call Joyce Pierret at 763-913-7269.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Mark your calendar for October 23rd from 11:30 to 1:15 when we will meet and help pack food for "Feed My Starving Children" in Coon Rapids. A lot of volunteers are needed. Bring your children, grandchildren, friends, neighbors, everyone is welcome. Please call me at 763-258-9093 or email me at blackcat1957@netscape.com for more information and directions.

Jeanne Engelsmeier, Chairman

POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

September 17th, 2021

In the United States, National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed the third Friday in September. It honors those who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action.

At present there are 81,600 Americans missing from WWII, The Korean War, The Vietnam War, The Cold War, The Gulf wars and other recent conflicts.

Remember our POW/MIA's in our Prayers - YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

PRAYER: WING OF A PRAYER

You went to war,
For the Country you loved
Where you stood with pride.

You stood your ground
And did not run
You were there to protect.

There is a band of angels
All around you lifting you up
I hear your voices and see your faces.

My prayer to our God
Is to send his army of angels
To show us where you are.

It is past due
To bring you home
To the Country you love.

Amen

Joanne Meyer, POW/MIA Chairperson

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Sgt. John Rice VFW Post 6316 Newsletter is Published Bi-Monthly with a circulation of approximately 625.

September/October 2021
SGT. JOHN RICE VFW

SGT. JOHN R. RICE
US Army World War II - Korea
Killed in Action Tabu-Dong, Korea on 6 September 1950

A career soldier who gave his life for his country.
Denied burial in Sioux City, Iowa, because of his race.
Through the intercession of President Truman,
Sergeant John Rice was buried with honors at
Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia.

POW•MIA
BRING THEM HOME

VFW AUXILIARY

MILITARY ORDER OF COOTIE V.F.W.
HONOR DEGREE

M. O. C.
AUXILIARY