



Ron Asby Post 304 News

4220 S. Main Street
Acworth, GA 30101
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“There is always one more thing we can do to make a difference!”

Happy Easter!



COMMANDER'S NOTES

COMMANDER BOB KOZORA



Serving our
Armed Forces Members



No April fools jokes today in this newsletter. Welcome to a new month at your Post. For those who missed it last month, the celebration of the American Legions 100 Anniversary and the re-dedication of your Post turned out to be a great event. I have included some of the pictures on page 7. It was truly a great day even though a number of tears were shed as well. Thanks to all who came out for this outstanding event.

Want to make sure that you are aware of the fact that next month is the final nomination and election of officers for the coming year. Bob Hughes has place a great informative article on page 2. Make sure you take some time to read it and consider putting your name forward to carry on the legacy and dream of your Post.

Volunteer staff are still needed for various functions at your Post, including kitchen help, handyman, general maintenance and duty officer. Training is available from our current staff of volunteers who have been providing the necessary functions to keep your Post alive and well. Please consider giving some of your time.

The Post will be closed on Easter Sunday but available for your dining and drinking pleasures every other day. Some things to note are the addition of Thursday Trivia nights hosted by Kaycee and proving to be a hit. Come join her for an enjoyable evening. Wednesday Steak Night continues to be a great evening at the Post but we still need some volunteers to run food, make salads and just make the evening a great success. Serving from 5 to 8 PM, grilled to order steaks and all the sides.

Malt tasting being held on April 6th with the listing of donated Single Malts on Page 9. This is a great evening to try your taste buds on unique whisky. Big Shanty in Kennesaw is on April 13th and 14th. Volunteers are needed to man the booth and spread the word of just what we do. I have to offer a special thank you to Jack Kimmich for the work that he and a great number of volunteers did for a very successful Casino Night last month. It was very successful. Thanks to everyone.

**Don't forget to visit our website for all the latest information:
www.Post304.org**

Thanks and God Bless!

The Adjutants Additions



Post Elections – Officer Nominations: Members of Ron Asby North Cobb Post 304, we need your assistance. The election of Post Officers will occur during the May General Monthly Meeting. Nominations for Post Officer positions need to be submitted prior to the voting taking place on May 16th. There are 6 elected officer positions to be filled; Commander, Sr. Vice-Commander, Jr. Vice-Commander – Programs, Jr. Vice-Commander – Assembly Quarters, Jr. Vice-Commander – Social Quarters, and Jr. Vice-Commander – Exterior Property.

Nominations can be made at any time prior to the voting by putting your name or someone else's name on the nomination sheet posted in the front of the assembly quarters, or by making the formal nomination during the April or May General Monthly Meeting. You may nominate yourself, or someone else you think would make a great officer for our Post. Remember though, if you are nominating someone other than yourself, please get their agreement prior to nominating them. Additionally, when a person is nominated their DD-214 must be submitted to certify eligibility.

We want to encourage anyone who might be interested in a leadership position to seriously consider it. Maybe you know someone that you think might be a good candidate for one of the positions. Ask them if they would consider being nominated. Our Post cannot be successful without strong, effective leadership. This Post belongs to all of us and it is up to us to ensure that it not only survives, but thrives moving forward. Is it your time to “Step Up”?

Employment Opportunities: Every week I receive a series of 4 emails from the Department containing multiple attachments concerning veteran employment information and job postings. I have started an email distribution list of those members that I know of who are seeking employment, and I forward the emails to them. If you, or someone you know, is in the process of looking for a job and would like to receive these emails, please send me the email address and I will add it to my distribution list. Send to: bob.hughes@post304.org.

March General Meeting Minutes Published: The meeting minutes for the March 21st General Meeting have now been published on our Post304.org website. Look under the “Post304 New” menu item. It is important for all of our members to be aware of status of programs and activities going on in our Post. You may even see something that peaks an interest inside of you and you might consider volunteering to help us. We could sure use your help.

Notes from our Jr. Vice Commander of Programs



Hello to All,

Well, our 2nd Annual Casino Night is in the books and it was an unqualified success! Far and away our biggest fundraiser ever with a net of nearly \$10,000. I want to personally thank all those members of the fundraising committee who worked so hard to make this year so successful. If you haven't been to one, you need to make plans to go next year. Lots of food, fun and fellowship!

Next up is the Big Shanty Festival, April 13th and 14th. We are going to be manning a booth where we will be raffling off several firearms, including an AR-15. We will also be selling hats. We NEED volunteers to help man the booth so please contact either myself or John Dowdy to sign up.

WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET?

For the good of the Post,
Jack Kimmich



BITS AND PIECES

Auxiliary President Lynda Asby



Do you know the difference between the Auxiliary Preamble and the American Legion Preamble? The preambles are nearly identical, except for one line, one very significant and important line:

*“to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment
of the aims and purposes of The American Legion”*

We, as an Auxiliary, pledge our full support to The American Legion, directing our activities to accomplish what this Post has set out to do. Since receiving our charter, we have assisted Post 304 when and where we can. We have served BBQ, provided food for the Oratorical contests, sent girls to Girls State, sponsored one of the quarterly Blood Drives, passed out Poppies to remember our fallen soldiers, participated with the Post in various festivals (Pigs & Peaches; Big Shanty Festival, etc.) The list can go on and on.

My question to you, as a member of the Auxiliary, is this: Where do you fit in? We always need members to participate in the various activities, but it is done by just a handful of members. I want you to become active by giving us an hour of your time at one of our events, even if it is just once a year. We have 52 members and those who do participate on a regular basis would love to meet you.

Remember, the Auxiliary raises money for veterans and their families who are in need. Our next opportunity to work together will be at the Big Shanty Festival April 13th & 14th. The Auxiliary will be raffling off a lap quilt. We always have great fun, so consider giving an hour of your time on one of the days to sell raffle tickets. (More info will be sent in an email for the Big Shanty Festival and how you can help.)

Working together we will continue in service, not self,
Lynda

Happy Birthday to Auxiliary members in April:

17th G. Ann Smith
19th Deanna Bailey
28th Shari Tate



A note from your Post Service Officer

This month I'd like to address -

Proving Service Connection Without Service Treatment Records

July 19, 2017/in Veterans /by Cassandra Crosby, Claims Advocate

Many veterans have had illnesses or injuries that occurred while they were active duty but there are no records of the illness or injury. There can be many reasons for this, such as records getting lost, the veteran was treated at civilian medical installation and the records have been destroyed; the veteran didn't get treatment because they were worried, they might get medically discharged due to the illness or injury. Whatever the reason, just because there are no records does not always mean that a disability cannot be service connected.

What is Service Connection?

When a veteran file for disability compensation, there are several types of claims the veteran can file; **direct service-connected; service-connection through aggravation, presumptive service-connection, secondary service-connection, and service connection for injuries caused by the VA Health System.** Basically, what service connection means is exactly what it says, the injury or illness was connected to the active duty military service. Now, that does not mean that the veteran is limited to being harmed in combat or training. It also included any injury or illness experienced during the time the veteran was Active Duty as long as the injury was not due to willful misconduct. They may also include diseases or injuries that occur after service but are secondary to an illness or injury that did occur in service.

Evidence: Proving an In-Service Injury or Illness

Every claim filed with the VA must have some type of evidence to substantiate the claim. Evidence requirements can vary based on the type of claim and the issue being claimed. For an average claim, one without a presumption or an injury caused by combat or being a POW, there are usually specific types of evidence a veteran would needs to show service connection.

The onset of the illness or an injury documented during active duty service;

Treatment records that are relatively consistent between the time of illness or injury and the date of the claim; and

Records showing a current diagnosis of the illness or injury residual and how they cause disability, even if it is just pain or having to change something such as diet or lifestyle, adding weight gainers for people underweight and so on.

Sometimes, there are no records of treatment in service. There are many reasons why, but often one of the main reasons is that active duty military members do not want to go to the doctor for fear of being medically discharged for something that is potentially going to limit them from doing their job. They will just put up with it until they retire or get out, then they will see a doctor. Several other reasons are that the records were destroyed, or were not even kept (often this happens in the field such as deployed training exercises, survival training, or in combat situations, anywhere there is no official military medical installation).

The VA has a “duty to assist” by law. The law, **the Veteran’s Claims Assistance Act (VCAA)** defines the VA’s role and responsibilities in assisting veterans in developing their claims by attempting to obtain evidence from Federal agencies and providing a VA medical exam or a medical opinion if deemed necessary.

Lay Evidence

Again, what if they don’t exist? This is where another type of evidence comes into play. **Lay evidence** is evidence that does not come from professional sources. Getting people who knew the veteran while in the service who can attest to the condition of their health (no medical diagnosis, but personal observations), or who can recollect and corroborate an injury or event that caused an injury can also serve as evidence. Lay evidence must meet certain criteria to be considered by the VA. It must be credible and competent. This means that it must be believable and fit with other evidence that is presented such as current medical records. If a fellow Airman makes a buddy statement saying a veteran, he served with broke his leg on a hike during training. However, the current X-rays do not show evidence of an old fracture. Therefore, that would not be a credible statement because the current evidence disputes the lay statement. If a mother makes a statement that her veteran son, who was on a ship, had bronchitis. That would not be a competent statement as she is not a medical professional who can access the veteran to make a diagnosis. What they can provide is a statement that the veteran hurt his leg when he fell and the second veteran was coughing a lot. Only professionally licensed personnel can make a diagnosis. Moreover, exaggerations of events will only serve to ruin the credibility of any other evidence that person submits on the veteran’s behalf, no matter how true it is.

Other Avenues of Research

Another way is to find other incidents that can show a probability that an injury or illness occurred. **Deck logs, installation newspaper articles, veteran newsgroups, ship yearbooks, and various other researchable places exist where evidence can be sought out.** Proving that someone was injured in a car accident when the records were destroyed is much easier if something like an accident report, car insurance claim, or article in the paper can be found. Having a representative to assist with the claim can also help provide veterans with researchers who can try to find that evidence to prove the claim. It does not always work, the road is not always smooth and straight, but if you do not try, the answer will always be no.

You can find always find an accredited VSO near to assist you in filing your claim with the VA... go to www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/vso-search.

And always remember, for complete information and assistance with your benefits you may reach out to your local **Georgia Department of Veteran’s Affairs**. They are standing ready to help you with this as well as other matters pertaining to your veteran’s benefits.

Georgia Department of Veterans Services
320 W. Cherokee Ave.
Suite 105
Cartersville, GA 30120
(770) 387-3746
www.veterans.georgia.gov

Want current information on Veteran’s Benefits and legislation come visit my page on Facebook - North Cobb 304 Veteran Services Officer – I update this site frequently with information from various sources to keep you updated as to the latest news, trends and assistance on the benefits you earned while serving your country.

Post Re-Dedication





"This guy
plays some
great Blues!"
— Les Paul —

ROGER HURRICANE WILSON

APPEARING LIVE!

American Legion #304

Friday—April 12th—6 to 9 PM

Saturday – April 6th Malt Tasting
Starts at 7 PM
“A trip up North”

Glenglassaugh – Highland – 12 years old at 46%

Benrinnes – Highland – 11 years old at 59.3%

***Mortlach** – Highland – 8 years old at 60.1% *1 of 242 bottles*

Invergordon – Grain – 25 years old at 53.9% *1 of 378 bottles*

Glen Keith – Speyside – 11 years old at 46%

Laphroaig – Islay – 10 years old at 57.8% (Popular demand)

Bowmore – Islay – 10 years old at 56.4% *1 of 200 bottles*

Port Charlotte – Islay – 8 years old at 66.4%

***Lochindaal** – Islay – 8 years old at 67% *1 of 235 bottles*

***Laphroaig** – Islay – 18 years old at 54.0% *1 of 110 bottles*

Bunnahabhain – Islay – 26 years old at 57%

Port Ellen – Islay – 25 years old at 40%

**Denotes bottling from the SMWS*

As always, whisky is donated and all donations accepted!

Our foodbank donations are back. At the end of each month we will be taking our donations to a local food bank. Please give what you can ... stop by and drop off your donations.... to each monthly meeting make it a priority to bring non-perishable items ... each time you come bring a can of food so that others may eat.



For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore, I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'

[Deuteronomy 15:11](#)



Support Combating PTSD by playing
Find the
Queen of Hearts
Jackpot now at **7342.00**

Drawings: Sunday's at 4:30pm

Ticket donations are \$3.00 each

Available now!

Complete Rules of the Game available at the bar in
LZ304

25% of each weekly ticket donations goes to the
Combating PTSD Fund.

Multiple chances to win besides the Jackpot!

**Playing Queen of Hearts is available ONLY
to members of the Post 304 Family!**

April Birthday's

Make sure you wish them the best!

- 4—Robert Clark, Ruth Lynch and Jesse Winfrey
- 6—Bob Smith, Michael Sullivan and Archie Nalbandian Jr
- 8—Douglas Middleton and Curt Storms
- 13—David Carlisel Jr, David Davenport and Franklin Carrol
- 15—Norris Jarrett and William Tarwater
- 22—Donald Owen
- 23—Larry Asbill and Jason Fazio
- 24—James Hargrave
- 27—Walter Martin Sr
- 28—Steven Gallman
- 29—Tom Conrad and Daniel Jolley
- 30—Mark Widman

If we missed your Birthday, please let us know so we can update our list.



April Happenings

Kiwanis Club meets at the post every Wednesday at 11 AM

ABA has their **Morning Jolt** every 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 AM

Every Monday evening is a Dinner Special starting at 4 PM

Lions Club has their meetings the 1st and 3rd Tuesday's

4th—**ALR Meeting** at 7 PM

6th—**Malt Tasting** at 7 PM

9th—**SAL Meeting** at 7 PM

12th—**Roger Hurricane Wilson** entertains in the Assembly Hall

13 and 14th—**Big Shanty Festival**

17th—**Auxiliary Meeting** at 7 PM

18th—**Legion General Meeting** 7 PM

21st—**Easter Sunday—Post Closed**

27th—**Mario's Gun Safety Class**

Please take some time to join these events and support your Post!