



VFW Post 7721  
13131 Collier Blvd.  
Naples, FL 34119  
(239)455-7721  
Email: [post7721@vfwfl.org](mailto:post7721@vfwfl.org)

**Commander  
Tony Reyes**

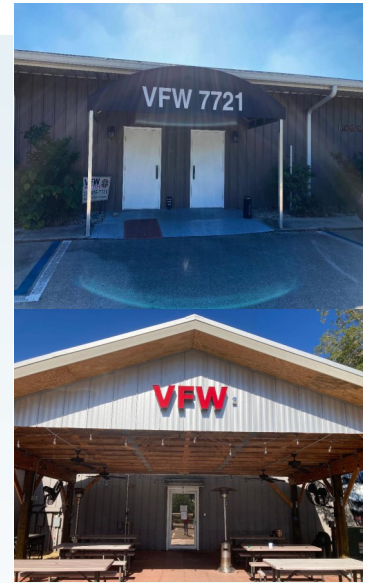
**Volume 17  
Issue 11  
May 2024**

Greetings Comrades!

Hoping everyone is doing great now that we enter our Spring season; the weather will change with the rains and humidity coming soon. For those departing, we have the capability of Zooming our monthly members' meetings, and those interested in connecting during the meeting let us know beforehand. While you'll be able to observe and listen, only members physically present at the meeting will be allowed to participate in voting. We've recently received our new Post polo shirts starting at \$30.00 and with member's name \$45.00. Please call Post for additional information.

Our Post membership had their elections last month, and I thank our members for their vote of confidence for being elected as your Commander. I pledge to fulfill this leadership role to the best of my abilities and continue to improve upon our Post infrastructure and activities.

**Continued...**



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**PLEASE, HAVE ALL  
ENTRIES IN FOR THE  
NEWSLETTER BY THE  
25TH OF EVERY  
MONTH!**

Congratulations to our new elected officers: Sr. Vice (Justin Baxter), Jr. Vice (Eric Kooiker), Quartermaster (Randy Cash), Trustee 3<sup>rd</sup> year (Mike Knudson), Trustee 2<sup>nd</sup> year ( J.B. Holmes), and Trustee 1<sup>st</sup> year (Tom Walker). Our appointed House Committee Chair Mike R. continues in this capacity and other House Committee voting members include the team of Commander, Jr. Vice, Quartermaster, Jack Fulmer, Charlie Gergel, and Dick Miller. While the new VFW elected officer does not officially enter office until the new Florida Department officers are installed in June, our Post officers will enter office immediately since some already are in these positions and others will fill gapped vacancies. Our next members' House, Staff, and Honor Guard meetings are scheduled for Thursday, May 9 with Members' meeting on Tuesday, May 14.

Of special interest are the efforts of our Post member J.B. Holmes and VFW Auxiliary President Betty Bailey's efforts to move forward with the VA Nursing Home initiative and the establishment of a future home in Naples, Florida. Both have initiated discussions with our County and State elected officials, and they have tentatively scheduled a meeting at our Post on May 29, starting at 5pm, where the Florida VA nursing home representative will provide us with a presentation on the status of this initiative. A special thanks goes out to J.B. and Betty for working on this very important topic. All are welcomed to attend the meeting.

As stated in April's Post newsletter, the Post will be having a once-a-month Friday or Saturday meal and entertainment event for all to enjoy. May's highlight will be the VFW Auxiliary's Sock and Hop dinner and entertainment on Friday, May 24, Dinner 5-630pm, and music 5-8pm. Presale tickets \$15.00 until May 21 and \$20.00 at the door on event day. Please call the Post for additional information.

May's additional calendar of events include the following:

—Monday Bingo: 1300-1600hrs.

—Lunch M-F. 1100-1400hrs.

—May 18: District 13 meeting at North Ft. Myers Post 10157. Members will hold elections for the 2024-2025 calendar year. Post members are welcome to attend the meeting.

— May 27: Memorial Day activities at Post. More information to follow.

House Status: I'm pleased to announce that we have placed our new VFW sign on the Pavilion, and we will soon be receiving quotes for the screening of our Pavilion. The new kitchen dish washer is in place, and this is welcome news by all. Thank you, House Chair Mike, for placing our new U.S. military service flags plaques on the Post wall of our meeting room, and a special thanks goes out to Post member George Miserendino for donating these portraits to our Post.

As always, we appreciate Post and Auxiliary volunteers for their support and efforts during our events. Without their services, we would not be successful in running our activities that includes our Sunday breakfast. We thank you for your service.

Regards and Stay Safe!

Tony Reyes, VFW Post 7721 Commander



Hello friends,

We have arrived at the month of May. I'm seeing the car carriers arrive at all of our gated communities in town and that is the signal that our Northern friends have started their annual migration back home. Now begins the season of me never getting my pool chemistry correct, the rainy season. We need the rain badly as most of you know. The recent fires in the Golden Gate Estates are proof of that.

I have great news to report. As of May 1, 2024, our membership recruitment is at 100.61%. We have until June 29, 2024, to achieve 102%. We currently need just 8 new members to meet our goal for the All-State Award. We have been moving along all year to arrive at this point, so close to the finish line. There are only 2 months left but that should be plenty of time for us to go out and find these 8 new members. Now we know Tom Walker and Dick Miller will be getting after it BUT let's not just rest the responsibility of this final recruitment push on their shoulders. If we all get out there and talk to just one Veteran we cast a wider net. Keep that blank membership application handy and be ready. If for whatever reason you meet a Vet that qualifies and you're without that application don't let the opportunity pass by. Get their info, name & phone # and get it over to your leadership team. We will take it from there and even give you the credit for recruitment.

Meeting our recruitment numbers year after year is fun but it serves us well to take it seriously. Recruitment and retention is how we keep the doors open and the lights on in your hometown VFW Post. All hands on deck!

As always, I will see you at the post!

Justin Baxter

Senior Vice Commander

## **Junior Vice**

**Greetings Comrades,**

**Welcome to May and get ready for the heat and rain! It is my pleasure to be here supporting any and all parts of the post I can.**

**For program reporting this month we are still the top post in the district. Great efforts by all in the getting reports entered to reflect the hard work and efforts put into all we do. Please reach out for any assistance you may need with report entry.**

**I would to mention that House Chair Mike is working to complete several projects soon, to include the screenings, TV and some other items for the patio. This will be a great addition with the rains coming soon.**

**I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to grow with our post that is already very active in our community events, for all our members and local veterans alike. Please feel free to contact me for any input, assistance or comments as needed.**

**Regards,  
Eric Kooiker  
Jr Vice Commander**



## May 2024 - Auxiliary Newsletter

***Our April elections were held 24/25 officers are. Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.***

President: Betty A. Bailey	
Sr. Vice – Alecia “Sue” Craft	Jr Vice – Lois Bolin
Treasurer – Theresa Mook	Secretary – Mary Ellen Cash
Chaplain – Colleen Walker	Asst Chaplain – Patricia Benvenuto
Conductor – Margaret Finnerty	Guard – Joyce Blanter
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Trustee – Darlene Izzo	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Trustee – Georgia Pinto
1 <sup>st</sup> Year Trustee – Tracilyn Rydzewski	

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Saturday May 11, 2024 - Raffle item** Orca 40 qt cooler Flexible grip handles, padlock ready value \$320.00. **Raffle Tickets \$10.00** Do not have to be present to WIN, proceeds benefit Auxiliary Relief Fund, drawing after queen of hearts.

**Saturday, May 18, 2024** – District 13 meeting at Post 10157, North Ft. Myers meeting

**Friday, May 24, 2024** – Sock Hop Dinner – Presale tickets are **\$15.00** until 7pm on 5/21, in the canteen tickets at the door **\$20.00**, dinner served 5-6:30, Music from 5pm-8pm, oldies, doo whop, dance music, Contests: Costume, Hulla Hoop, Twist all proceeds go for Auxiliary relief fund, Groups of eight or more, please email Betty [bann652@aol.com](mailto:bann652@aol.com) for special seating.

**Monday, June 3, 2025 – 5pm** – Women’s Self Defense class, conducted by collier county sheriff’s department cost is \$5.00 donation, contact Betty to reserve space [bann652@aol.com](mailto:bann652@aol.com)

**June 12 -16, 2024** Dept of Florida convention – Orlando, many auxiliary members will be attending, this will be when awards are given for achievements in all programs for the year.

Come out and support our auxiliary for events and dinners. We all would like to get to know our Veterans better, it takes time to plan and have people volunteer and as members we all need to support all efforts for continued improvements.

Special thanks to post member “Marine” George Miserendino for his donation of the beautiful wood hand carved wall hangings representing branch of services which are hung in the front room at our post.

**Betty A. Bailey, President, 7721 Auxiliary, [Bann652@aol.com](mailto:Bann652@aol.com)**  
Dept of Florida Chairperson – Hospital Program, Dist. 13 Chaplain



## Auxiliary Treasurer

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We presently have 356 members in our Auxiliary and we are 104.4%. Our paid membership stands at a bit higher percentage with 362 members at 106.16%. Our membership year is almost at an end. There is still time to recruit new members!! So keep up the good work.

There are still a few annual members who have not paid their dues. If you are experiencing financial or health difficulties, please let me know. The auxiliary will pay your dues. The deadline to pay annual dues is June 30, 2024 to pay your dues. If not paid by then, you will need to reapply and show proof of eligibility.

For those auxiliary members who are attending the Convention in June, please show the tax exempt form upon check-in. Failure to do so will result in you having to pay the tax on your room. Please save your gas receipts and email a copy to me. You will be reimbursed up to \$60.00. Tax exempt forms, food allowance checks and the Agenda for the Convention will be distributed to all who are going at the June Auxiliary meeting.

It is a pleasure to be nominated and elected for the office of Treasurer for another year. Thank you for putting your faith in me to make sure that the financial business of the Auxiliary is carried out.

Thank you to our Trustees-Darlene Izzo, Georgia Pinto and Donna Keating for all your support in making sure my records are accurate. Welcome to our new Trustee for the upcoming 2024-2025 Fiscal year, Traci Lyn Rydzewski.

Sincerely,  
Theresa Mook

145 Teryl Road #4, Naples, FL 34112

(239)298-1648

pasmagic1@yahoo.com



### Sick Call

Savannah Lehnhard  
Sarah Jenkins  
Sue Brennan  
Michelle Faccioli  
John Rydzewski



### Taps





***PATRONS:*** You & your friends can help us in producing the monthly newsletter. A \$10.00 donation will put a name in either of these columns for 1 year. Mail your donation to VFW Post 7721 @ 13131 Collier Blvd, Naples, FL 34119. Make check payable to VFW Post 7721.

**In Loving Memory**

**July 2024**

**Jim Brennan  
Randy Baum**

**September 2024**

**Sam Heath**

**Patrons**

**July 2024**

**Marian Nickel**

**August 2024**

**Sarah Jenkins  
Wayne Jenkins**

**March 2025**

**Joyce Heath**

**Website: [www.vfwpost7721.org](http://www.vfwpost7721.org)  
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VFW Post #7721 Golden Gate**



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**NEW CONSTRUCTION  
RENOVATIONS**



# May 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Lunch 11-2 PM	2 House Meet 9 AM Honor Guard Meet 11 AM Lunch 11-2 PM	3 Lunch 11-2 PM	4  Queen of Hearts 6 PM
5 Breakfast 9-11:30 AM Happy Hour 1-5 PM Lost Riders 5 PM	6 Lunch 11-2 PM Bingo 1 PM BFT 6 PM	7 Lunch 11-2 PM Lions 10:30 AM  FF 7 PM	8 Lunch 11-2 PM	9 House 9 AM Honor Guard 11 AM Lunch 11-2 PM U Bass 7 PM	10 Lunch 11-2 PM	11  Queen of Hearts 6 PM
12 Breakfast 9-11:30 AM  Happy Hour 3-8 PM	13 Lunch 11-2 PM Bingo 1 PM Rolling Thunder 7 PM	14 Lunch 11-2 PM Naples Fish Board 6 PM  Post/Aux Meet 7 PM	15 Lunch 11-2 PM  Hall Rent 5:30-930 PM	16 Lunch 11-2 PM  CC1013 7 PM	17 Lunch 11-2 PM  Hall All Day	18 Defenders 10 AM Hall All Day Wedding 4:30 PM
19 Breakfast 9-11:30 AM Lama 10 AM Happy Hour 1-5 PM	20 Lunch 11-2 PM Bingo 1 PM  Submarines 6 PM	21 Lunch 11-2 PM MOASWF 3-5 PM  Naples Fish 7 PM Lions 7 PM	22 Lunch 11-2 PM	23 Lunch 11-2 PM	24 Lunch 11-2 PM	25  F. Hall 5-7 PM  Queen of Hearts 6 PM
26 Breakfast 9-11:30 AM A.B.A.T.E 11 AM Happy Hour 1-5 PM	27 Memorial Day BBQ 12-4 PM	28 Lunch 11-2 PM  Magicians Assoc. 7 PM  FC Bass 7 PM	29 Lunch 11-2 PM  F.Hall—4-8 pm	30 Lunch 11-2 PM	31 Lunch 11-2 PM	





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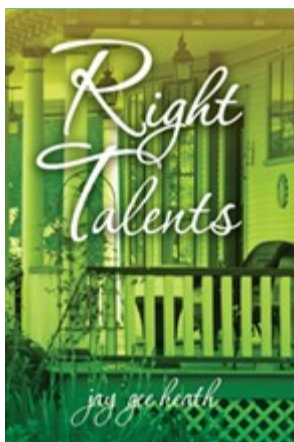
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**QM**  
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**Chaplain**  
**Gary Asztalos**

**Judge Advocate**  
**Frank Roberts**

**Surgeon**  
**Ron Taylor**                      **248-462-0801**

**1 Yr. Trustee**  
**Frank Robert**

**2 Yr. Trustee**  
**Thomas Walker**

**3 Yr. Trustee**  
**Mike Ricci**



## *VFW Post 7721 Auxiliary Officers*

**President**  
**Betty Bailey**                      **239-738-4199**

**Sr. Vice President**  
**Sue Craft**                      **913-544-5255**

**Jr. Vice President**  
**Lois Bolin**                      **239-777-2281**

**Treasurer**  
**Theresa Mook**                      **239-298-1648**

**Secretary**  
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**Chaplain**  
**Colleen Walker**                      **239-285-7681**

**Guard**  
**Linda Ramos**

**Conductress**  
**Margaret Finnerty**

**1 Yr. Trustee**  
**Donna Sylvester**

**2 Yr. Trustee**  
**Georgia Pinto**

**3 Yr. Trustee**  
**Darlene Izzo**

<b>House/Staff Meeting</b>	<b>1st Thursday</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
<b>Honor Guard</b>	<b>1st Thursday</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<b>Auxiliary Meeting</b>	<b>2nd Tuesday</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>Post Meeting</b>	<b>2nd Tuesday</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>