

**POST &
AUXILIARY
MEETINGS**
3RD Thursday
both 7 p.m.

Benson VFW Post 2503
JANUARY 2023
www.vfwpost2503.org
(402)-571-8397

**Honor Guard
Meeting**
2nd Thursday
every month
7:00 pm



POST 2503 OFFICERS 2022-2023

*Commander: Larry Quilliam
Sr. Vice Commander: Al Dorn
Jr. Vice Commander: Mike Hackenberg
Quartermaster: Sharon Cooper
Chaplain: Dennis Kerr
Surgeon: Jim Sorensen
Judge Advocate: Tom Penke
Officer of the Day: Mike Hackenberg
Adjutant: Richard Runnels
Guard: T Trotty
Service Officer: Paul Riccio*



AUXILIARY OFFICERS 2022-2023

*President: Micky Dorn
Sr. Vice President: Linda Humphrey
Jr. Vice President: Jan Davis
Treasurer: Sue Stark
Secretary: Luanne Rosso
Chaplain: Mary Dalton
Conductress: Marcia Jones
Guard: Jeanne Shadden
Patriotic Instructor: Luanne Rosso*

From the Commander

Hope you enjoyed the holidays and are looking forward to another good year ahead. Soon you will be receiving the Post's annual Building Fund drive letter. I hope you will consider giving generously this year to ensure we have sufficient funds to meet the needs of our building: The roof remains a constant worry, and needs more work on it to properly maintain it. Our heat/air system is under an annual maintenance contract to control our expenses, but it covers only labor and not the parts. Parts are never cheap. Normal maintenance continues, and unlike years long since past, we usually have to hire the work to be done because we have a very limited supply of able volunteers. Unlike many of the other Posts in Omaha, we are fortunate to have a great facility and property that we own. We are proud of what we offer to our members, but we need your help to keep it all going. Your financial assistance is a key ingredient for our success. Saturday, January 14th at 12 noon, is our annual Dart Tournament! Skill in playing darts is not a requirement because partners are picked at random. This event is about fun at the Post. Add it on your calendar and plan to attend. Following the Saturday event, every Tuesday we will be having our weekly Darts competition starting at 6:30 PM. Again, partners are drawn at random each week. It is all for fun and a time to get out of the house during the winter months. Sunday, January 8th, at 8:00 AM is our monthly Post breakfast. The Post will be serving the Best Breakfast in Town until noon. Sunday, January 15th, A.B.A.T.E. is sponsoring the *Chili Cook Off* contest at the Post starting at noon. Bring your six quarts of Chili, traditional and/or non-traditional recipes. For those attending and just wanting to taste, you may do so for a \$5 donation. We will watch some sports, enjoy meeting with friends, have some great chili and support this worthwhile organization! Another great reason to get out of the house and enjoy your Post.

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From the Auxiliary President

What will we be in 2023?

Auxiliary objectives are to be fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable and educational; to assist the Post and its own members; to maintain true allegiance to our constitution and laws; maintain freedom and equal rights and justice for all men and women (Excerpt from the Auxiliary Bylaws Manual 2022.)

The Auxiliary meets these obligations by participating in Auxiliary Programs. We work on programs all year. Our Chairmen are: Mary Q, Linda H, Marcia, or The Jans (Davis & Brown) or me. We send Holiday cards, stuff holiday bags for Vets Homes, send Valentine's Day Cards, sew donation items and serve at fundraisers, like serving dessert on Wednesdays. Call to see what's going on next.

Welcome new members: Lori Sorenson, Misti and Jaycee Hackenberg. Jaycee is in ROTC and the youngest member of our Auxiliary.

You can still pay dues thru June 30, 2023.

Great Plans are coming for 2023 join us and make new friends, help Veterans, bring a friend and have some fun, while we do something for Veterans and Community.

Happy 2023!

Respectfully submitted,

Micky Dorn, President
402 850-5075

SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023, at 6:30 PM
**VFW POST 2503 PATRIOT PEN AND VOICE OF
DEMOCRACY WINNERS WILL BE
RECOGNIZED BEFORE THE POST MEETING**



SHARON COOPER is our new VFW Post 2503 Quartermaster. Sharon is a retired Army Master Sergeant and a former high school junior-ROTC instructor at Bryan and Central High Schools. And she has been a long-time member of the Post's Honor Guard. Sharon has been Junior- Vice Commander and Coordinator of the Post's Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program for local middle/high school students.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE OF HOPE

I was so happy to have Interfaith Thanksgiving with continued strong attendance, after it was cancelled in 2020 for Covid. My dream as Chaplain is to see a strong presence of VFW hats scattered in the hall. We sacrifice and work so hard, not just for our own particular brand of religion, but for everyone.

A strong presence of veterans in attendance will bring added hope to everyone.

A little progress has been made. Mr. Ron Hernandez joined me at my church for our prison ministry. His presence filled me with hope: others can be mentors through their church as well. I remain hesitant to simply push my own church, as it seems like proselytizing. My little church has had many partners for the Thanksgiving service, since its start in the '90s. And we have many partners in the prison ministry. My vision for the coming year is to involve as many veterans in as many of our partners as possible. I am filled with hope for 2023.

Dennis Kerr,
Post Chaplain



When Honor Guard member Les Hardesty was not performing Military Honors for the grieving families of deceased veterans, he brought Christmas joy playing Santa Claus to the children of the many families who shop weekends at Mangelsen's. Les also appeared at Christmas parties as Santa. He spread joy almost everywhere.



From the Commander

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Our monthly Post meeting will be on Thursday, January 19th, at 7 PM. Every monthly meeting is important to attend because we discuss the needs of our members and the needs and events at the Post.

Your involvement in those meetings helps us work together on the future direction of the Post.

Please plan to attend; you are important as we move forward.

Carry on,
Larry Quilliam
VFW Post 2503 Commander

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15th

1pm

A.B.A.T.E.

Annual Chili Contest

Traditional & Non-Traditional Categories

Registration starts at 1 pm and ends promptly at 2 pm

Voting ends at 3 pm -Winners announced at 3:45 pm

\$50 First Place in Both Categories

A \$5 donation is requested to vote

ROOM RENTALS at VFW POST 2503

NORTH ROOM

OR

SOUTH ROOM

Contact MONA RUSSELL at 402-943-9067 to reserve a room. Spread the word to your friends and family.

The Post's rooms look great

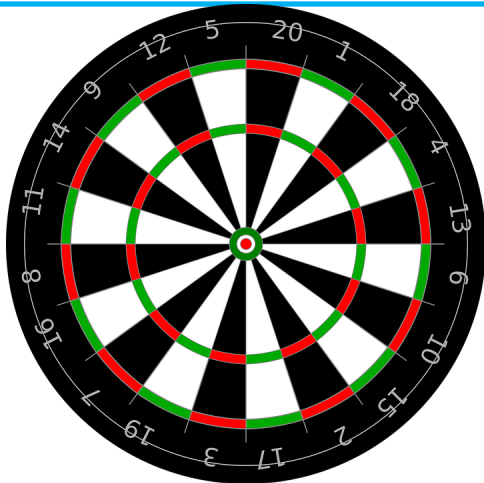
decorated for

Weddings, Birthdays,
and Graduation parties.





**SUMMER, SPRING,
WINTER, AND FALL
THE HONOR GUARD
DOES IT ALL:
MILITARY HONORS,
PARADES, POW/MIA
CEREMONIES,
RAISING FLAGS AT
THE POST AND
AT MANY
PATRIOTIC
OCCASIONS.**



**DARTS
TOURNAMENT AT
THE POST ON
SATURDAY,
JANUARY 14th, AT
NOON.**

**DARTS LEAGUE AT
THE POST BEGINS
TUESDAY,
JANUARY 17th, AT
6:30 PM.**

DON'T MISS OUT!

House and Building Committee Report
House and Building needs your help! We usually have the same people helping around the Post, but some new faces and helping hands would be very nice and very welcome. We have quite a few small and not so small maintenance projects already in the works or planned for the near future. Project schedules will be determined and published in the Newsletter, so anyone who can and wants to lend a hand will be aware. Look for that schedule in our next newsletter and going forward. To provide an idea of the things we're working on, here are a few items currently on our *TO DO* list that are small one person items: paint touchup, fix/replace thermal stripping on doors, having a window installed on the north door leading to our new patio, fixing an exterior door that's not closing properly, fixing the men's restroom door in the canteen: it's been slamming shut on people, fix the gas burner pipe and rearrange lava rocks in the new firepit, which were disturbed by an unsupervised child. Regarding the patio, we're discussing ways to restrict access to it when access isn't needed, as well as a damage deposit or usage fee. We're also looking into some ideas for Post appearance improvement and entertainment and food options. More details will be provided once our current ideas are fully formed, researched, and discussed among the Committee. Give us your feedback on anything that needs the attention of the House and Building Committee. If you have any suggestions, concerns, or maintenance issues, please write it down and put it in the suggestion box, or let any of the Post officers and/or Committee members know.

Thanks,
Joe Bohelski



JANUARY DONATIONS
**JANUARY Wish List for
Moving Veterans Forward:
THINGS ARE WELL STOCKED FOR
JANUARY.**

FOR FEBRUARY, A WISH LIST WILL PROBABLY RETURN. Dan and Kathy Raabe are still the contacts for Moving Veterans Forward. We work with MVF, G4V, 50-Mile-March, and Peer Support. Thank you all for your continued support of these organizations that directly support Veterans.

Questions? Call Dan at 402-651-8039, or Kathy at 402-392-0210.

Happy New Year from the Raabes!

JANUARY 2023

KITCHEN NEWS for JANUARY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Still looking for volunteers for Hamburger Nights—help in the Kitchen or the Serving Table.










If you have a group of 5 or 6 volunteers, **YOU** can start your own crew!

Please contact Linda at 531-205-5641

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

Martin Luther King, Jr.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Post Closed  NEW YEAR'S DAY Room Rentals Available	2 Post Closed	3 Post Open	4 Post Open <u>Hamburger Night</u> PORK LOIN CHOPS Crew— Am Legion #112	5 Post Open Sewing Ladies 1:00pm	6 Post Open HAPPY HOUR 4 TO 7	7 Post Open 10 point pitch @ noon Room Rentals Available 
8 POST OPENS @ 8 AM BREAKFAST 8 AM to 11:30 AM Room Rentals Available	9	10	11 <u>Hamburger Night</u> MEATLOAF Crew— Kitchen Crew MARINE CORPS LEAGUE @ 7 PM	12 Sewing Ladies 1pm 172nd Trans 5 pm Am Legion 7 pm HONOR GUARD 7pm	13 HAPPY HOUR 4 TO 7 SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION @ 6 PM	14 DARTS TOURNAMENT 
15 CHILI COOK OFF AT Noon  Room Rentals Available	16 <u>DR. KING DAY</u> 	17 DARTS at 6:30 PM US Coast Guard Aux MEETS @ 7 PM 	18 <u>Hamburger Night</u> HOT TURKEY SANDWICH Crew— Shirley Schaefer	19 POST/AUX Meeting 7:00 pm House Comm Meeting @ 6:00pm Sewing Ladies 1:00pm	20 HAPPY HOUR 4 TO 7	21 10 point pitch @ noon Room Rentals Available
22 Room Rentals Available	23	24 DARTS at 6:30 PM 	25 <u>Hamburger Night</u> BAKED SPAGHETTI Crew— Peterson's Crew	26 Sewing Ladies 1:00pm MOC COOTIES @ 7:00pm	27 HAPPY HOUR 4 TO 7	28 10 point pitch @ noon Room Rentals Available
29 AMERICAN LEGION BREAKFAST 8:30—11:30 AM  Room Rentals Available	30	31 DARTS at 6:30 PM 				



V.F.W. Post 2503
8904 Military Road
Omaha, NE 68134

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
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Omaha, NE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



SEE INSIDE FOR:
DARTS TOURNAMENT
TUESDAY NIGHT DARTS
CHILI COOK OFF

From Your Honor Guard Captain, C Wolf
MILITARY RITES: NOVEMBER 2022

Military Members Deceased	Cemetery	#	Hours
11/01/2022 Dan Harnl	Omaha National	7	21
11/02/2022 John E. Jones	Omaha National	8	24
11/03/2022 Kevin L. Grant	Omaha National	5	15
11/04/2022 Thomas D. Craig	Westlawn-Hillcrest	6	18
11/04/2022 Mark E. Greder	Calvary	7	21
11/07/2022 Tim Carl Johnson	Forest Lawn	6	18
11/08/2022 Harold Sebron	Westlawn-Hillcrest	7	21
11/08/2022 Duane Kowalenski	St. Mary Magdalene	5	15
11/12/2022 Rick Woodsmall	John A. Gentleman	7	21
11/14/2022 Oral Wallen	Westlawn-Hillcrest	7	21
11/16/2022 Wayne Sealy	Omaha National	10	30
11/17/2022 Marshal T. Newbury	Omaha National	7	21
11/18/2022 Charles E. Lewis	Omaha National	7	21
11/18/2022 Ronald W. Saf JR	Omaha National	7	21
11/22/2022 Anthony Cervantes	Omaha National	9	27
11/23/2022 Tom T. Lewandowski	Omaha National	6	18
11/25/2022 Melvin T. Banks	Calvary	6	18
11/25/2022 Dr. Harry Jeffery Deeths	Omaha National	6	18
11/29/2022 Marvin Peterson	Omaha National	7	21
11/29/2022 Ron Jacobson	Forest Lawn	7	21


* Post Member
Months' Total: 20 Funerals, 137 Member Participation, 411 Hours

NOTICE: All articles should be in the Newsletter Box, **IN WRITING**, at the Post no later than SATURDAY, JANUARY 21st, for the february **Newsletter**. If articles are not submitted by the dead-line, they will have to wait for the next newsletter. *Thank you.*



NOVEMBER 2022
All of our brave brothers
And sisters
who have
Passed before us.

The Post is selling Memorial Bricks around the memorial walk and flag. Memorial Bricks are being sold by Post 2503 to be put around the outside of the Memorial flag pole. These bricks will cost \$60.00 each. They will be for VFW, Auxiliary, AMVET & Auxiliary members, their families, and people they sponsor. They will be memorials for living or deceased people. They will be ordered once a year on April 1st, for installation by Memorial Day each year. Max 16 spaces per line, 3 lines, and cost \$60.00 per brick.



Name _____

Phone # _____

WORDS ON BRICK

Line 1 _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_

Line 2 _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_

Line 3 _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_ _1_

Checks Only—No Cash / Return this form to the Post