



MAY/JUNE 2024

THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE

2024 State Convention

JUNE 12-15, TUNDRA LODGE, GREEN BAY

See pages 10-14 in this issue for details,
and visit vfwwi.org to reserve your place.

SEE YOU THERE!

Comrades,
It is with a heart full of gratitude and pride that I write my last column as your State Commander. I am overwhelmed by the dedication, hard work, and unity you have exhibited throughout this year. Indeed, the year has flown by, echoing the timeless wisdom shared by other Past State Commanders, that there's never enough time, and it always passes too swiftly.

As I jot down these words, we stand impressively close to our membership target, at 96.30%, merely 1,367 members shy of our ambitious goal of 102%. The clock still ticks, offering us ample opportunity to cross the finish line triumphantly. Your relentless effort and loyalty have been the wind beneath our wings, and I have every confidence that together, we can "BEAT THE CHALLENGE!"

Reflecting on the year, it has been nothing short of extraordinary. From uniting Veterans and their families under the banner of "Mission First, Family Always," to advocating tirelessly for Veteran benefits on both state and federal levels, we have shared momentous experiences. My journey across the state, coupled with light-hearted moments and the strengthening bond within our VFW community, will be treasured memories.

I extend my deepest thanks to our State Legislative Chairman Jordan Tilleson; National Legislative Chairman Jason Johns; and the entire Council of Administration for their unwavering dedication to our cause. The introduction of Voter Voice, our legislative endeavors, and the support of our State Adjutant, Quartermaster, Assistant Adj/QM, Office helper Mary, and the Service Office staff, underscore our collective commitment to the betterment of Veterans' lives.

Ron Ramos
State Commander

VFW
715-928-3606
cmd@vfwwi.org



Thank you to my Chief-of-Staff Mitch Cline and Deputy Chief-of-Staff Sandra Marcum for supporting me throughout the year and helping ensure I was always where I needed to be.

I cannot forget to recognize the tireless efforts of our Auxiliaries. We cannot continue to do work on behalf of Veterans and our communities without their support. They are a vital, unspoken lifeline for the VFW. President Rosenau, thank you for working alongside me these last few years and showing that the VFW and its Auxiliary CAN and MUST work together. Continue to "BEE THE CHANGE!"

As we await the finalization of the All-State packages, I am eager to dive into the selection process with all the crayons I've been gifted throughout the year at the ready for a long day of reading. Your hospitality and the impactful work you've accomplished for our Veterans and communities have not gone unnoticed.

I look forward to our gathering at the State Convention in Green Bay this June 12-15. Together, we shall celebrate our achievements and set our sights on future endeavors.

Let us continue to strive with unwavering determination, always remembering our guiding principle, "Mission First, Family Always!"

Mary Ann Christopherson
State Sr. Vice Commander

VFW
715-835-9238
svc@vfwwi.org



Comrades,
Spring clean-up is not just about tidying up our surroundings; it's also about organizing our responsibilities and plans for the coming months. As the weather warms and nature begins to bloom, it's a cue for us to spring into action in various aspects of our lives.

Firstly, let's address administrative duties. Have all reports been submitted? It's essential to ensure that paperwork and documentation are up to date, providing a clear picture of our progress and accomplishments. Most importantly, your State Delegate fees are due. If you are unsure what this is and how much you owe, please contact Department Headquarters at 608-221-5276.

Furthermore, as we prepare for Memorial Day, it's an opportunity to plan something special at our Post. Whether it's a ceremony, fundraiser, or community event, honoring the sacrifices of our Veterans deserves thoughtful consideration and planning.

Amidst these responsibilities, personal commitments may also arise. Balancing obligations such as State and National Conventions, Elections, appointments, and welcoming visiting family requires careful time management and organization. Despite the busyness, it's important to remain focused and committed to fulfilling each obligation with diligence and enthusiasm.

In the midst of these tasks, let's not forget to celebrate our successes. Each achievement, no matter how small, contributes to the greater impact of our Post. By highlighting our accomplishments through initiatives like the All-State Award, we not only acknowledge our efforts but also inspire others to strive for excellence.

As we embark on this season of renewal and growth, let's embrace the opportunities it presents and tackle our responsibilities with determination and pride. Together, we can accomplish great things and make a meaningful difference in our community and beyond.

Adam Wallace
State Adjutant

VFW
708-574-7676
adj@vfwwi.org



I also want to commend you all on giving our new online forms (AKA Jotforms) a try, which not only makes it easier for you, the user, to submit but also streamlines the back-end processing at HQ. Thank you to Asst. ADJ/QM Steve Eisenhauer for mastering these online forms!

Comrades,
I hope this article finds you healthy and doing well. Your outstanding advocacy for Veterans resonates in every community across this great state. I continually hear nothing but positive comments about what you do every day for Veterans. I cannot thank you enough for the work you do to make a difference in the life of a Veteran every day!

The last issue of the paper highlighted the outstanding work your VFW did in Washington, D.C. for the Legislative Conference. I was honored to be a part of that delegation and I have to say, at times it was information overload for me. However, the experienced comrades from Wisconsin were patient in helping me understand all the intricacies and nuances of D.C. A highlight that was not discussed in depth in the newspaper was the tremendous tour of the Capitol Building given by Congressman Derrick Van Orden. Derrick took us into places that only a Congressman can go, and to make it even more special, we were on the house floor the night before the President gave his State of the Union address to the Nation. He showed us the crypt for George Washington located under the rotunda; the blood stains and bullet holes in the Capitol from the two shootings that took place there; and things in the artwork that only a knowledgeable historian, like the Congressman, would know, e.g. Thomas Jefferson stepping on John Adams' foot because the artist did not like Adams. I want to publicly thank the Congressman for a great tour and experience.

I cannot believe my year as Junior Vice Commander is coming to a close. The past year has been an incredible learning experience for me, educating me in community Veteran support, Legislative advocacy, and just how this volunteer organization works. Each of these items are so much the same and so very different at the Post, District, Department, and National levels. It is mind boggling how all this works at so many levels as well as it does. I am proud to say I am a member of the VFW and even prouder to say I am a member of the Wisconsin VFW.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the State Convention. It is a distinct honor for me to serve this past year as your Junior Vice Commander and I look forward to serving you as Senior Vice next year. Until next time, remember to make it count in everything that you do, because you make a difference in the life of a Veteran every day!

Ty Letto
State Jr. Vice Commander

VFW
920-296-6753
jvc@vfwwi.org



Tom Heath
State Quartermaster

VFW
608-221-5276
qm@vfwwi.org



Howdy everyone,
Wow! This year is flying by and before we know it the program year will be over, and we will be in the next!

I have been seeing a major trend in the VFW and how we do business. What is this trend? Well, it's been creeping up on us for years and is now standing at all our footsteps. Technology! Don't be scared, computers have been around for 45 years. The invention of the computer was in the year 1801 and the first automatic computer in 1941. Modern cell phones have been around for at least 50 years, but the technology was created right after WWII in 1946. As the years continue, technology gets better, faster, and more affordable. The computer speed of our today computer is roughly 100,000 times faster than the computer used on the Apollo 11.

My point is the things that we depended on for years are going away and not needed. Very few people have a pen pal anymore because we all have e-mail. Did you know that the traditional landline is going away soon? You will only be able to have a home phone that is connected to the internet unless you want to pay big dollars. Don't even get me started on the rising cost of postage, but the truth of this in my opinion is because less and less of us are using it because we can use technology instead.

Credit card usage started in the '50s, I would guess most of us have a credit or debit card. You can buy everything you need online now and can do your banking 100% online if you want to. This technology trend is not going away and, in fact, because of AI (Artificial Intelligence), technology is going to progress faster than

we can keep up.
So back to the major trend of the VFW. If it's ordering poppies, entering your Election Reports, signing up new members, reporting Community Service or ordering your supplies from the VFW Store, it can be done online. Soon all of this will only be able to be done online like some of this is already. But don't worry, that hasn't happened yet to everything and if you need to get with technology there is time and help for you. Ask a family member, a fellow post member or even a friend or neighbor. I know that it all comes down to accepting change, which is hard for many people. Accepting change versus refusing to change is the difference between whether you are going to keep up with technology or not. My suggestion is to be who you are and change if you want, but technology is not going away.
I hope to see you all at the State Convention. By the way you can register, pay for your meals, and submit your Delegate Report on our state website - vfwwi.org. Be safe this summer, and as always, if you need any assistance, don't hesitate to call us at the State Headquarters.

Happy Spring Comrades!
I can't believe we are getting ready to close the 2023-2024 year! I first want to thank Commander Ramos for the appointment as State Adjutant. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the State Adjutant for a second term, and to contribute to the success of the Wisconsin VFW.

Thank you, Commander Ramos, for leveraging technology to reach our members across the state. We had the multi-day October online training, the online Post Service Officer training conducted by DSO Tim Neary, the CDR/QM end of year listening session, and other State Commander calls. These training courses/online sessions attracted hundreds of attendees from every corner of the state, and of every age!

I want to sincerely thank all our members, but especially our older members, for embracing the Wisconsin VFW's use of technology to streamline communications and information processing. In my travels and interactions with other VFW Departments, I can confidently say that we are at the forefront of using technology to enhance interactions with our members. As an example, not every Department can or will use credit or debit cards as of me writing this article! And our Convention/Conference technology integration is only rivaled by National.

Technology, in general, is so rapidly evolving that even someone like me in their mid-30s can have a hard time keeping up. Things have changed since my Windows 95 and N64 heyday! Here at HQ,

our intent is to keep the Wisconsin VFW in general alignment with the minimum "standards" of technology, which is, effectively, the use of email to communicate, and the use of our website for general updates and form processing.
As the VFW in general becomes more agile over the next decade, we all will need to learn how to do more with less. How to have a greater impact on our communities with less. How to effectively advocate for legislative change with less. How to check in with comrades, brothers, and sisters with less. Regardless of what resources we have available to us, our mission of serving Veterans, service members, and our communities remains unchanged! I am ready to tackle the challenges of our changing organization, are you?

STATE OFFICERS

Greetings Comrades,

I hope this column finds you well. I regret to inform you that this will likely be my last column as your Department Surgeon, for now. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve you in this capacity. I am taking a step back from the Department level to be able to take some time to focus on my young family. Jackson is growing like a weed and becoming harder and harder to contain, which makes attending Council Meetings and Conventions where I must be in the front of the room, increasingly difficult. I will still be involved with a few committees but am prioritizing my family right now.

This brings me to my topic for this column— knowing when to say no. It should be easy, it's a two-letter, one syllable word. Saying yes to everyone can leave you feeling over-committed, tired, and stressed out. Feeling this way for long periods of time can lead to burnout. Saying no can sometimes come off as harsh and aggressive, but it is an important part of setting personal boundaries. Saying yes when you really should decline, takes time away from your family and loved ones, yourself, your goals and the things most important to you.

Here are some signs when you should say no for your own good:

1. You're just too busy – if saying yes means you must lose sleep working late or sacrifice time with your kids or your partner, or shuffle things around in your already crazy schedule, just say no.

2. You feel guilty or obligated – take stock of how you really feel about a situation and what motivates you. If you feel a sense of guilt or obligation, ask yourself why, but don't let emotions make the decision for you. If you can't come up with a good reason why you should do something, then don't do it!

3. You're being used – some people will never learn to take responsibility for themselves because they are always finding someone to bail them out. They move from person to person until they can no longer get what they want out of them. Don't let this happen to you, say no and say it firmly!

4. You get a bad feeling – sometimes the instant someone asks you to do something, you'll feel a strong reaction in the pit of your stomach, either for good or ill. Don't ignore that response. That's your intuition. There is a deeper intelligence behind gut feelings, and you'll be much happier if you learn to listen to it.

5. You just aren't excited – Okay, so you're given offers, invites, and choices almost every day, in which we're not being used or manipulated, and we're not overwhelmingly busy. There are no obvious reasons for saying no. But, if you say yes to all of them, it leaves very little time for yourself and those that matter most. If the choices before you do not give you joy, then you should not do them.

That is all I have for now. I hope to see many of you at State Convention! Until next time, stay happy and healthy!

Angela Thomsen
State Surgeon
VFW
715-218-5148
surgeon@vfwwi.org



**Wisconsin Veterans
of Foreign Wars News**

VFW

Hello, Aloha, Bonjour, Hola, Guten Tag Comrades,

It has been an interesting Spring so far. We finally received some much-needed moisture. Spring, to me, symbolizes revitalization, change, and new beginnings. In some cases, a fresh new start.

I have recently started to update/redesign our state website – vfwwi.org - specifically, the Members Only area. The goal is to streamline it, make it easier to navigate and quickly identify where the online resources are that you are looking for. A good portion of the information, such as the Trustees' Guide, is linked to the Manual on the National website.

This serves two purposes. The first is the goal for our state website to be your primary resource. Secondly, anytime National updates a manual, it will automatically be updated on our state website. This ensures you have access to the most current and relevant guidance.

April was election month, so we have started to receive Election Reports. It is disheartening to see Election Reports that have elected Officers with no email address listed. Email is the quickest, most efficient way for us (State Headquarters) to communicate with you. If the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, or Adjutant does not have an email address, there is a good chance the

Steve Eisenhower
Asst. Adj./QM
VFW
608-221-5276
aaqm@vfwwi.org



Post is not getting informed of online training opportunities, updated policies, and procedures.

Quartermaster Tom Heath and Adjutant Adam Wallace have also touched on the topic of technology and change. For example, I have had the opportunity to speak with a couple of Quartermasters who called HQ asking us to mail them forms that are available on the website. In both cases, I was able to talk them into going to the website and walked them through what was available. In both cases, these Quartermasters commented on how much easier going to the website is and how it will make things easier for them.

If anyone has any questions or would like a website tutorial, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can and will provide the training when it is convenient for you.

Mitch Cline
Chief-of-Staff
VFW
651-492-9634
cos@vfwwi.org



Hello Comrades,

Well, we just came out of the last turn and are headed for home. This year seemed to go by so fast. From last year's Convention to District meetings and Mid-Winter Conference, and now it is coming to an end.

Posts: are you gearing up for that dash to the finish line? Go through the Commander's Program Book one more time. After this winter or should I say, the one we didn't have, are you planning any outdoor events? Are any membership drives planned to get to 102%? Did you donate to the Commander's special project SIERRA DELTA? It would be great to win this year.

As you read this, hopefully May's warm weather and sunny days have arrived. Memorial Day is right around the corner. Now is the time to plan for Poppy Distribution. We need to be out in our communities reminding people that freedom isn't free. As we are giving out Poppies, how about having some membership applications ready?

May is also the time that leadership changes at the Post level. If you have new leadership in your Post, make sure that transition is smooth. Also, now is a good time to start planning for the upcoming

program year. Let's face it, the requirements don't change that much from year to year. Start planning now for success this summer and fall.

In my first article I said that we should take the VFW message to the streets. We have a great organization from the top to the bottom. Tell people what we do for Veterans. If we don't, who will?

It has been an honor to be the Department Chief-of-Staff this year. Commander Ron, thank you for the appointment and putting your trust in me. It has been great to work with you and for you. Also, I've enjoyed traveling and visiting as Chief-of-Staff. I look forward to seeing you all at the State Convention.

Happy Spring Comrades,

Hope everyone's Easter was a blessed one. Our Almighty has risen for you, your family, your community, the leaders of our churches, and this great organization, Wisconsin VFW.

My prayers are for the new Officers elected at the Post, District and State levels. I ask for us all to come together, for our Father's presence be in the midst of it. If I have not met you, I hope to at the Convention in June. If you need resources, a prayer or listening ear, please reach out to me anytime. From District Chaplains to Post, I am here for you.

Lastly, I will be running for another year. I humbly ask for your prayers, for your support, and for our Almighty to place the

Ilein Taipe
State Chaplain
VFW
608-566-7470
chaplain@vfwwi.org



next Wisconsin State Chaplain. Blessed Memorial Day and God bless you all.

"He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee." – Luke 24:6 NIV

Wisconsin VFW News Production Schedule

Department Convention • June 12-15, 2024

July Issue	Vol. 42, No. 1	Deadline to Editor: June 21, 2024
September Issue	Vol. 42, No. 2	Deadline to Editor: August 9, 2024
November Issue	Vol. 42, No. 3	Deadline to Editor: October 11, 2024
Jan. 2025 Issue	Vol. 42, No. 4	Deadline to Editor: December 6, 2024

Mid-Winter Conference • February 14-15, 2025

March 2025 Issue	Vol. 42, No. 5	Deadline to Editor: February 7, 2025
May 2025 Issue	Vol. 42, No. 6	Deadline to Editor: April 4, 2025

Department Convention • June 11-14, 2025

Wisconsin VFW News

Wisconsin Veterans of Foreign Wars News is published six times per year by the Department of Wisconsin Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, P.O. Box 6128, Monona, WI 53716-0128. Periodical Postage Paid at Madison, WI and additional office: Stevens Point, WI. Subscription rates \$15 per year for VFW members; \$10 for non-members and VFW Auxiliary members.

Postmaster: Send address changes to:
V.F.W. Circulation Department
406 West 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111.

EDITOR VFW:
Marla J. Morgan
505 S. Apple Avenue, Marshfield, WI 54449
715-384-2500 • wivfweditor@gmail.com

COMMITTEE:
Joel P. Walker, PSC, Chairman
Jr. Vice Cdr., Ty Letto
QM Tom Heath, Member
John Ustruck, Member
Asst. Editor Bill Knudson, Member

AUXILIARY CHAIR:
Marla J. Morgan
715-384-2500
marla.morgan@charter.net

I.S.S.N. #1061-4591 U.S.P.S. #007787
Wisconsin Veterans of Foreign Wars

2024-2025 Student Essay Themes

Patriot's Pen – "My Voice in America's Democracy"
Voice of Democracy – "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"
Visit vfw.org for Program info

Planning for Upcoming Meetings

- **2024 Department Convention**
Wed.-Sat., June 12-15, 2024
Tundra Lodge & Conference Center • \$100 + taxes
865 Lombardi Ave., Green Bay, WI 54304 • 920-405-8700
Overflow Hotel: Aloft (by Marriott) – call 920-884-0800 – Limited rooms available for Friday or Saturday ONLY. Rate: \$104 + taxes
- **2024-2025 Program Kickoff/Council of Administration**
Fri.-Sat., July 12-13, 2024
Stoney Creek – La Crosse • \$110/120/125 + taxes
3060 S. Kinney Coulee Rd., Onalaska, WI 54650 • 608-781-3060
Deadline for room block rates is June 15, 2024
- **2025 Department Mid-Winter Conference**
Fri.-Sat., February 14-15, 2025
Oshkosh Waterfront Hotel • \$125 + taxes
1 N. Main St., Oshkosh, WI 54901 • 920-230-1900
- **2025 Department Convention**
Wed.-Sat., June 11-14, 2025
Madison Marriott West • \$124 + taxes
1313 John Q Hammons Dr., Middleton, WI 53562 • 608-831-2000

NOTE: In most instances, special room blocks include the night before events start.

Greeting Comrades,
By now your Post and District have elected this coming command year's Officers to run your Post/District. If you recall in my last article, I implored the need for every member to get, and stay, involved in the Post. In my Fall article, I touched on Section 218 of the National Bylaws which outlines the "Duties and Obligations of Officers and Chairmen" elected or appointed to positions in the Post. Hopefully these articles have stirred discussions at your Post, as well as encouraging your members to step up to fill vacant leadership positions as your comrades "run the chairs!"

If you have been reelected to run your Post, are new to one of the many positions outlined in the Bylaws, are contemplating the possibility of running for a position in the future, or just want to get a better understanding of how the Post operates, I ask that you read, or reread, Section 218 of the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual, to understand the **required** duties for each position. For those of you who have been elected as the Commander for your Post, I want to remind you that you are responsible for ensuring that you fulfill your responsibilities to your Post, as well as ensuring the Officers, elected or appointed, fulfill the responsibilities of their

George Stoeber
Judge Advocate
VFW
262-909-1248
judge@vfwwi.org



positions also. If any of you should ever have a question, please reach out to me, and/or, someone at State Headquarters. We are here to help you and your Post succeed.

On a different note, I want to give a shout-out to an often-overlooked position, the position of Trustee. You may not know it, but this is an extremely important position, as you are the gatekeeper(s) who certify the accuracy of the books, records and accounts of the Post. In this position, you review the Monthly Report of Receipts and Expenditures of the Post Quartermaster, as well as, conducting quarterly audits. Besides the Quartermaster, your diligence in this position ensures the fiscal well-being of the Post.

I wish each of you a successful 2024-2025 Command year.

Commanders, Quartermasters and Trustees:
The last quarter (June 30) of the administrative year is fast approaching and there are still a few messy issues that occur when the quarterly audits are not balanced themselves, or from one quarter to the next.

I have recently been asked to untangle several financial reports that just don't balance between the Post bank accounts and its funds for a particular quarter. As you already know from past articles, the total amounts in the Post bank account(s) need to equal the final totals in the Post's funds to be balanced. If an individual audit is not balanced, it cannot be approved and a corrected version will be requested.

Just as with not having the Commander's and all three Trustee's signatures on the quarterly audit, not starting the new quarter with the previous quarter's ending balance will absolutely hold up approval by the State Inspector. It also indicates that the Trustees are not doing the very easiest part of their job. That is, comparing the previous audit report with the current one. So, what should a Trustee have available to them to help verify an audit's accuracy prior to approving it? The following are the minimum documents needed to complete an audit:

1. The previous audit to compare ending and starting balances.
2. The bank statement(s) for the months of the audit being completed/reviewed.
3. The checkbook register (hard copy or paper register) for the period in question.
4. The Quartermaster's ledger for the previous three months so that deposits and disbursements can be verified against the bank statements.
5. Meeting minutes for the quarter under review to verify approval of expenditures.
6. The proposed quarterly audit form to be reviewed/completed.

Trustees first need to compare the ending fund balances from the previous audit to the beginning fund balances of the current audit. They need to be the same. Then, make sure that the calculations are accurate across and down in the Funds area. Next, make sure that the checking account bank statement balances (less outstanding checks) with the checkbook register and enter this on the appropriate audit lines. Lastly, the total of all bank accounts (checking, savings, CD, etc.) are reported and needs to equal the ending total balance of the Post's Funds. These two totals (total funds and total bank) need to be equal or balanced. The Adjutant's minutes, Post Bylaws (and maybe a Standard Operating Procedure) are used to verify if expenditures were authorized.

Nobody's perfect - the Quartermaster could make an error, and it's the Trustees' job to make sure incomplete or incorrect reports are NOT submitted. Make corrections in-house and submit a complete and accurate report to the Department. As State Inspector, I appreciate not receiving error riddled reports that somehow slide by local Post review and may create larger issues down the line if not corrected.

Thank you to all Quartermasters and Trustees for your diligence and hard work making Post finances accurate and complete.

Leroy Jansky
State Inspector
VFW
715-723-0408
inspector@vfwwi.org



Greetings all comrades -

I hope you are all staying safe and having a nice spring season. The Service Office team and I are still working diligently to represent and provide the best service for our Veterans and their families.

We have added a new Claims Consultant - Dawn Pfister - to our team. She started on April 1, coming to us from the VA Regional Office where she worked as a Veteran Service Rep, helping make decisions on claims for benefits. We are working to get Dawn fully up and operational as soon as possible. Let's give a big VFW welcome to our new Claims Consultant and comrade, because she is a member of the VFW as well.

Our office continues to set the standard for Veterans' advocacy, doing an excellent job representing Veterans and also making the atmosphere of the office more interesting and inviting to our clients. We've added things like the various models that the team and I have built for display and

Tim Neary
State Veterans
Service Officer
VFW
414-902-5748
timothy.neary01@va.gov



other various military items. We have received a lot of praise and positive attention for this effort.

Here is some of the new things happening regarding the VA and Wisconsin Veterans:

PACT ACT

- Permanent extension of Gulf War Illnesses, removal of 10% requirement, and definition of Persian Gulf War Veteran was expanded. In addition, any VA medical fa-

STATE OFFICERS

Comrades,
I hope this latest edition of the VFW NEWS finds you well. As many of you are aware, the State Legislative Session ended in the middle of March, and they do not reconvene again until January of 2025. With the Wisconsin Supreme Court case to have the District maps redrawn, many of our State politicians will be running election campaigns for the fall election. If you are unsure how your representation is affected, you can go to maps.legis.wisconsin.gov

and click on the map where you live to see the changes for Assembly and Senate Districts.

With that said, let's talk about how the last Session went for us. We started with the Veterans Day at the Capitol (VDATC) in the March of 2023 and made sure that the Legislators knew what we wanted to see happen during the Session. Our priorities were the **Property Tax Credit Bill** (SB102/AB102); **Expanding Tuition Remission** (SB238/AB239); and **Funding for the UW/MIA Recovery and Identification Project** (SB8/AB26).

From there the Legislative Committee and I got to work advocating and providing testimony for the Bills, and kicking off our new Voter Voice app. [See **Registration info elsewhere on this page.**] We formed relationships and negotiated deals to keep the Bills moving forward. Things were looking positive until the Legislators and the UW System had disagreements in the Fall. Due to that, we could not get further traction on UW/MIA.

While disheartened, we kept up the fight on the other two priority bills and things were looking good. Our testimonies got Property Tax Credit and Tuition Remission passed out of committee and to the floors. We were especially excited because Property Tax had never made it to the Assembly floor in all our years of advocating for it, and it passed unanimously through the Assembly! We were also able to get Tuition Remission through the Senate side. The two bills then had to go through opposite House's Committees, and we began to worry because time was running out before the Session ended. We ended up getting them through Committees but were unsuccessful on them scheduled for a Floor vote. We tried every trick we could think of and contacted every Senator to try and get Property Tax to the floor, and I appreciate how everyone took the time to do the same when I emailed a call to action through our App.

I will be sending out a more detailed email on this past session reviewing all State level Veteran Bills through the Voter Voice app in the next few weeks. If you have not been receiving my Legislative updates and Calls to action emails I have sent out, please go to votervoice.net/VFWWI/home to register or scan the QR code elsewhere on this page.

In the Armored Cavalry we have a saying, "Death Before Dismount" and that will hold true for our priority bills. Getting them further along than in past years only encourages me more! We WILL keep up the fight! We learned some good lessons and have a good grasp on the Voter Voice App. We have already begun to form our courses of action for when the election is over and will be more prepared than ever. I am more excited about our plans than I am for a fancy suit, and I DO love my fancy suits! I encourage anyone who wants to get more involved to reach out to me. I am looking for more support at the VFW District Level to have Legislative Committee Reps help spread the word to the Post level.

Between the Sessions, the Committee and I are continuing to build our relationships with State Agencies. We are working on having a Veterans Fraud Media Day with the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, helping them Beta Test their new website to highlight the many great benefits Wisconsin offers its Veterans. We are also working with the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority to bring more light to their VALOR Home Loan Program.

To wrap up, while we were not as successful this session as we hoped, we are still moving in the right direction. I encourage all of you reading this to get involved in your local and state level politics. The world needs more **Veteran Advocates!** I appreciate all your support and I am honored to represent you at the Capitol!

Hug your comrades, eat hot dogs, and stay fashionable!

Jordan Tilleson
State Legislative
Chair
VFW
262-227-2937
jordanT@vfwwi.org



Stay on top of the issues!
Register for the
**Wisconsin VFW
VoterVoice**
updates.

And tell your friends too!

Visit:
[www.votervoice.net/
VFWWI/home](https://www.votervoice.net/VFWWI/home)

OR
Scan the QR Code to the right.



cility will be required to complete a DBQ [Disability Benefits Questionnaire] if a Veteran presents with at least one symptom of Gulf War Illness.

- Expansion of locations associated with radiation exposure.

PACT ACT Claim Status Update

- There are 6,639 claims pending for Wisconsin residents. The number of completed claims is 18,090, with an average day to complete (ADC) of 161.5 days. Grant rate is 79.2% with retroactive benefits paid of \$78,085,692.28.

Blue Water Navy Update

- There are 386 claims pending for Wisconsin. 4,263 claims have been completed with retroactive benefits of \$50,203,564.60.

Gulf War Particulate Matter Claims

- There are 418 claims pending for Wisconsin. 2,169 claims have been completed

with retroactive benefits of \$9,318,909.11.

- These numbers are not just our VFW office numbers but the whole of Wisconsin's VA benefits.

Tomah Equitable Relief cases

- The total number of living Veterans who have opted into the review is 147. Five survivors have opted in. The number of completed claims is 19, of which 9 have been granted. Total retro benefits paid is \$266,432.24.

- All initial reviews for Veterans who have opted in have been completed and examinations scheduled. There will be an "Equitable Relief - Tomah" flash on these cases as well as a special issue 6.

Additionally, the new VAMC-CBOC in Oconomowoc opened on Friday, March 8. Once again if there are any issues with VA benefits, please contact our office for further information.

MEMBERSHIP

Current Membership Totals By District

Dist.	Life	New	Reinstate	Continuous	Total	Prior Year	Percentage	N/R LM
1	2279	59	40	320	2698	2845	94.83%	36
2	3252	26	11	392	3681	3846	95.70%	32
3	732	5	0	123	860	897	95.87%	4
4	1171	17	3	145	1336	1393	95.90%	9
6	1716	13	2	168	1899	1963	96.73%	18
7	2163	30	17	295	2505	2528	99.09%	27
8	1821	20	3	239	2083	2166	96.16%	20
9	2563	50	9	167	2789	2851	97.82%	35
10	1320	26	17	232	1595	1616	98.70%	25
11	1631	32	16	220	1899	1961	96.83%	17
99	1464	64	19	217	1764	1930	91.39%	36
Totals	20112	342	137	2518	23109	23996	96.30%	259

Totals as of May 1, 2024
337 Legacy Life Members

Recruit, engage,
inspire, retain!

CONGRATULATIONS

to VFW Post 11038
and Commander Jim Cairo
for being in the Top 2 in your Division
in the "Meeting the Challenge" contest!
The Cdr. receives a 5-night stay at
the National Convention in July.

Let's have some more Wisconsin winners
in the final challenge!



COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

THE FINISH LINE IS IN SIGHT!



With the possibility of historic growth ahead of us, it is time for every VFW Post to focus on recruiting and retention! We can make that 102% goal happen!

From the beginning of May through the -end of the membership year on June 30th, the Commander-in-Chief is issuing one final membership challenge: the Post in each membership division that shows the highest membership increase in these last two months will receive a \$500 cash award and also a \$500 gift certificate to the VFW store.

This is going to count all dues-paying members: new members, renewing members, reinstates, and paying transfers! Get out there and push for that 102% and beyond!

In addition, the Commander of the Department with the most Posts above 102% as well as the Commander of the Department with the highest percentage of their Posts above 102% will each receive a special Commander-in-Chief windbreaker jacket to commemorate all the hard work shown by the Department through the year!

We've done amazing work so far, let's finish the membership year strong!

This is our chance to make membership history.
Don't miss your opportunity to be a part of it!
Its time to make one final push this year to
MEET THE CHALLENGE!

This contest will compare membership totals from May 1 through June 30. Applications and payments processed online before close of business will be credited that day, payments and applications made through the mail will be processed when received. Questions about this or other membership programs can be sent to membership@vfw.org.

Greetings comrades,

As we approach the end of our 2023-2024 year, I would like to say thank you for the great job everyone has done with *recruit, engage, inspire, retain!* As of May 1, 2024, the Department has 342 new members, 137 reinstated members in

Randy Engness
State Membership
Chairman



715-651-0263
engnessr@gmail.com



TOP RECRUITING
UPDATE

through 5/1/2024

Recruiter	Post	Dist.	Recruits
David A. Zien	305	9	29
James A. Cairo	11038	1	22
Jason T. Coffey	11038	1	18
Steven J. Eisenhauer	1318	2	18
Peter A. Pemrich	1621	1	16
David G. Green	10818	9	14
Tricia L. Flaig	2112	11	10
Randy L. Engness	2204	9	9
DeWitt H. Woodworth	1530	11	9
Christina F. Flanagan	664	7	8
Patrick E. Pierce	8280	7	8
Norbert H. Strasser	10262	7	6
Wayne A. Georgeson	1916	11	6
Scott J. Weber	6375	1	5
John D. McCoy	7308	1	5
Phillip D. Allen	7308	1	5
Robin L. Drogsvold	328	2	5
Kevin J. Bertetto	305	9	5
Ronald Ramos, Jr.	10818	9	5
William S. Vach	5729	10	5
Anthony D. Wright	10568	10	5
Cliff O. Sannes	10568	10	5
Willie E. Stokes	7908	11	5
Michael E. Zientek	1621	1	4
Frederick N. Falk	2708	1	4
Michael P. Morgan	6375	1	4
Larry F. Sorensen	7308	1	4
Gundel M. E. Metz	1318	2	4
Chris W. Roelke	8090	2	4
Gregory S. Kirchberg	8090	2	4
Donald J. Lynch	6498	4	4
Mark E. Dewitz	5612	6	4
Paul E. Morrison	2534	7	4
Bruce E. Jagodinsky	7534	8	4
Anthony R. Matecky	8813	8	4
Kenneth L. Patterson	5729	10	4
Dennis M. Olson	10232	10	4
Timothy F. Salzwedel	2114	11	4
Eric R. Sherry	3032	11	4

TOP RECRUITING
POSTS

through 5/1/2024

Post	District	Recruits
11038	1	47
305	9	40
1621	1	26
10818	9	25
7308	1	24
1318	2	22
2112	11	13
8280	7	12

VETERAN ACTIVE DUTY GUARD & RESERVE

MILWAUKEE
ESTD 2015
IRREVERENT
WARRIORS
SILKIES HIKE



24 August 2024
7am - 5:30pm CDT

The Tap Yard - Milwaukee
1555 N. River Center Dr.,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53212



WE BRING VETERANS TOGETHER
USING HUMOR AND
CAMARADERIE
TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH
AND PREVENT VETERAN SUICIDE
www.IrreverentWarriors.com

REGISTER NOW



RAIN OR SHINE!
9.3 MILES WITH 7 STOPS
A FULL DAY OF CAMARADERIE, HUMOR, AND HEALING!

REGISTRATION FOR BUDDY POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST
ANNUAL STATE/DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Post and/or Auxiliary Number _____ City _____

Category (1,2, or 3) _____ Display No. Leave Blank _____

Number of Poppies used in Display _____ (where display is entered in Category 3 & is a sample of a number of identical items, only one item needs to be displayed, but indicate the number of such items used and the total number of Poppies used.)

Name of Person/Persons responsible for setting up & taking down the display. _____

If you are the top winner in one of the three categories, do you wish to have your display entered in the National Contest? If yes, you will be responsible for having the display transported to the National Convention. In case the winners cannot get their display to the National Convention, the VFW and VFWA Chairmen will pick a substitute.

YES _____ NO _____

Your Signature & Title _____

NOTE: This entry form must accompany your display to the designated area at the State/ Department Convention prior to 12:00 noon on Friday of the Convention week. If entering a display in more than one category, prepare a separate copy of this form for each display.

BUDDY POPPY ANNUAL CONVENTION AWARDS PROGRAM
BUDDY POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST

- Will follow State/Department Rules
- Judges Award for **"MOST IMPRESSIVE"**-\$25.00 State/Department Convention Only
- 1st, 2nd,3rd place awards in each category-**State/Department Convention Only**
- 1st place in each category will be entitled to represent the State/Department of Wisconsin in the National Convention Contest

DISPLAY CONTEST CASH AWARDS-ANNUAL STATE/DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

CATEGORY	1	2	3
1 st Place	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
2 nd Place	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
3 rd Place	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00

STATE CONVENTION
POPPY DISPLAY INFO

Have you thought about your “Buddy”® Poppy entry for the VFW State/Department Convention? You still have plenty of time to make a display and enter it into the competition.

There will be first, second, and third place winners in each of three categories. First place winners will have the option of submitting their entry for judging in the National Competition in Louisville, KY. The three categories are:

CATEGORY 1: Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign

- Window, booth, parade, poster displays, campaign pro motion, etc.
- Displays must be designed for public exposure and must bear a message soliciting a donation for and wearing of the VFW “Buddy”® Poppy.

CATEGORY 2: Memorial or Inspirational Displays

- Wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes.
- Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the “Buddy”® Poppy.

CATEGORY 3: Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies

- Post Home displays, table center-pieces, corsages, pictures, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.
- *Any display not meeting the qualifications of Category 1 or 2, shall automatically be entered in Category 3.

In ALL CATEGORIES, at least one (1) of the poppies used in the display **MUST BE** in its **ORIGINAL FORM AND COLOR WITH LABEL ATTACHED**. Full details can be found on the State VFW website at vfwwi.org under the PROGRAMS tab. Scroll down to “Buddy”® Poppy to locate Poppy resources. The entry form is also there to print out full size in advance if you wish. (The form at left is for your reference.)

We hope to see many creative entries this year. **Good luck to all.**

Renee
Simpson
VFW "Buddy"®
Poppy Chair
VFW
608-343-3906
sheserveswi@
gmail.com



Faith Elford
"Buddy"® Poppy/
Natl. Home Chair
VFW
608-322-5144
faelford@
outlook.com



Greetings Comrades!
I hope this article finds you starting to warm up from this long Wisconsin winter. It’s the time of year where we will soon be voting on leadership within the Post, District, State, and even National level. At every level we need to make sure our leadership is on solid footing and we aren’t just voting to keep the same Officers in place. At every level I encourage members to think about stepping into leadership positions. Make a difference and be part of the solutions. Too often I have heard that a member has a problem with something within our organization, but when I’ve asked what they think the solution is I typically hear that they want other leaders to come up with the answers. I challenge you to step up and be part of the process!

Cory Geisler
National Council
Member
VFW
262-853-1811
corygeisler@
hotmail.com



The National Council of Administration held its workshop meeting at the Washington Legislative Conference. In that meeting, there was a lot of discussion about how we are marketing ourselves. Yes comrades, we need to sell the idea of the VFW to prospective

new members. When I was younger, both of my Grandfathers were World War II Veterans who were members of the VFW. It was not only the center of the community, but also a place for families.

The idea of it being a place for families is what sold me on joining when I became eligible. Let’s make sure our Posts are welcoming to families; let’s make sure our District meetings are welcoming to that member who has to bring their kids. I think we can all agree that there is nothing so top secret at meetings that we can’t allow children.

The other topic that was discussed with the marketing was bringing in new members. That’s an old topic that is always in discussion. We need to partner more with outside organizations where the younger and active members are. Organizations such as Irreverent Warriors; Team Red, White, and Blue; Team Rubicon and so forth. Our younger members want to be active and this is where they can be found. Then it’s time to talk about all of the great programs we have for our youth, communities, and how we are making a difference. Market your Post, market your District.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

LEST WE FORGET

OPEN JUNE 2024

UNBROKEN
LIFE AS A PRISONER OF WAR

This powerful new exhibit includes a prison cell experience where visitors will peer into the prison door to view a POW cell from the infamous “Hanoi Hilton.”

Visitors will also learn the “tap code” prisoners used to communicate with each other.

YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

In Veterans Gallery, there will be a stunning “dog tag chandelier” comprised of 530 dog tags (each dog tag represents 10 prisoners of war from Wisconsin) going back to the Civil War.

LEST WE FORGET
REMEMBERING WISCONSIN'S POW/MIA

MAJOR SUPPORT OF OPERATION ADVANCE PROVIDED BY:

- ★ Chris Abele
- ★ Lynde & Harry Bradley Foundation
- ★ Michael W. Grebe
- ★ Melitta S. & Joan M. Pick Charitable Trust
- ★ We Energies Foundation

JOIN US

The War Memorial Center Board of Trustees invite you to join us at the opening of our latest exhibit, LEST WE FORGET, honoring Wisconsin’s service members held as prisoners-of-war and those classified as missing-in-action on Friday, June 7, 2024 at 10 am.

VFW
VFWSTORE.ORG

VFW EAGLE T-SHIRT Heather navy blue, 60/40 cotton/polyester blend. Slightly fitted men’s cut.
7066 S-3XL \$19.00

VFW TACTICAL BACKPACK Durable, high-density polyester with military grade webbing straps and loops. Has insert for 17” laptop. Adjustable straps. Comes with black VFW Logo patch.
1020 \$89.95

COLORBLOCK RAIN JACKET 100% water-resistant polyurethane. Hook-and-loop pockets. “Established 1899” patch on left chest. 7723 S-3XL \$58.00

LED POPPY PIN Four flashing lights. Pin back. 2 x 1½".
0520 \$9.00

VFW UMBRELLA The color opens up on the inside! The inverted closing action keeps the dry side of the umbrella on the outside when brought indoors. Rubberized pistol grip on steel shaft. Fiberglass ribs. Manual open with automatic inverted close. Open diameter 41". Closed length 31". 1008 \$27.00

Prices valid through 8/31/2024

To place your order, call 1.833.839.8387 or go online to VFWSTORE.ORG

TAPS TAPS TAPS TAPS TAPS TAPS TAPS

This listing reflects the most recent reporting of deceased members obtained from VFW National Headquarters. While every effort is made to provide accurate and timely information, it does not necessarily reflect the year of the members' passing. Please contact Editor Marla J. Morgan (wivfweditor@gmail.com) with any questions or corrections.

Post	Name	City	Post	Name	City	Post	Name	City	Post	Name	City
305	John Olinger	Eau Claire	2115	Marvin Roberts	Hudson	6279	Thomas Skurnicki	Wisconsin Dells	9075	Ronald Roberts	La Farge
328	Robert Van Etten	Queen Creek, AZ	2119	Loren Marcusen	Wausau	6377	William Buttram	Hartford	9156	Ellsworth Jaeger	Milwaukee
388	Robert Molon	Wausau	2119	Donald D. Miller	Appleton	6377	Gordon Daily	Menomonee Falls	9336	Patrick O'Dell	Waunakee
388	Matthew Triolo	Wausau	2219	Donald H. Miller	Randolph	6377	Anthony Golner	Chippewa Falls	9392	David Biel	Beaver Dam
659	Kenn Kiesner	Bellingham, WA	2119	Jeff Otto	Suring	6498	Willie Hart	Milwaukee	9440	Richard Hebgen	Highland
721	Lawrence Howard	Pewaukee	2227	Daniel Hilber	Wisconsin Rapids	6498	John Pedersen	West Bend	9464	Henry Hall	Eau Claire
721	Daniel Moody	Nekoosa	2241	Larry Tessman	Neillsville	6498	Russell Spilka	Franklin	9510	Jack Helsdon	Gilberts, IL
1039	Thomas Koranski	Menomonie	2260	James Aucutt	Oconomowoc	6498	Jerome Wesolowski	West Bend	9677	Gerald Jossart	Green Bay
1318	Dennis Johnson	Columbus	2267	Elbert Block	Richland Center	6550	Robert Iverson	North Branch, MN	9677	Dennis Kinney	King
1393	Marvin Hoffmann	West Bend	2312	Richard Keehn	Monroe	6858	Philip Bell	Jacksonville, FL	9924	Michael Markelz	Sheboygan
1530	Dominic Pogreba	La Crosse	2534	Robert Gardner	Wisconsin Rapids	7080	John Brinkmann	Cassville	10170	Chester Margelofsky	Beaver Dam
1530	Steven Stenberg	West Salem	2534	Leo Ruesch	Wisconsin Rapids	7080	Robert Kane	Mount Horeb	10197	John Deterling	Poplar
1621	Daniel McKeown	Janesville	2653	Joe Servi	Antigo	7232	Derald Brunner	Eau Claire	10262	Leonard Christianson	Stevens Point
1621	Delbert Rittenhouse	Janesville	2687	Calvin Arnold	Tomahawk	7308	Stephen Jusits	Kenosha	10262	Orville Halverson	Stevens Point
1621	Eugene Rux	Janesville	2687	Clarence Towle	Tomahawk	7308	Samuel Vena	Cypress, CA	10272	Anthony Roberson	Galesburg, IL
1638	John Jirovec	Merrill	2708	Donald Bennett	Cullman, AL	7534	Larry Jackson	Green Bay	10405	Ronald Olson	Altoona
1691	Robert Niesing	Fredonia	2895	James Schmitz	Milwaukee	7591	Alan Bell	Monona	10405	Richard Sanwick	Altoona
1691	Abner Wimes	Milwaukee	3032	Richard Inman	Viroqua	7591	John Jay	Madison	10818	Wayne Baillargeon	Gig Harbor, WA
1707	Robert Hellenbrand	Lodi	3319	Thomas Steinfeldt	Appleton	7591	Robert Joachim	Monona	10818	Samuel King	New Richmond
1865	Peter Sebetic	Kenosha	3392	Donald LeCaptain	Kewaunee	7591	John Pavlak	North Canton, OH	10818	Richard Mier	New Richmond
1866	John Zwaschka	Marshfield	3709	Herbert Harwood	Johnson Creek	7692	Steven Buss	Appleton	11038	Dennis Schwab	Muskego
1879	Darrell Roddick	Fort Atkinson	5158	Norman Hanson	Ixonia	7692	Julian Merde	Iola	11244	Eugene Smith	Waunakee
1904	Douglas Hoffmann	Fond Du Lac	5270	William Hazel	Waukesha	7692	Monroe Trout	Appleton	15051	James Christensen	Cushing
1908	Wilbur Fuller	Warrens	5716	Michael Nowak	New Berlin	7898	Kenneth Pride	Minocqua	15051	Willis Kintigh	Superior
1916	Lawrence Krejcha	Reedsburg	5716	Don Reynolds	New Berlin	8171	John Romaszewski	Muskego	15051	George Laukant	Sussex
1916	James Thompson	Reedsburg	5729	Rae Kohn	Medford	8216	George Heideman	Madison	15051	Raymond Lawrence	Algoma
2037	John Mertens	New Franken	5828	Robert Hammer	Grantsburg	8337	Harry Baker	Pewaukee	15051	S. Arthur Leider	Marinette
2112	Roger Jerome	Sparta	5828	James Morelock	Clear Lake	8527	Thomas Lotter	King	15051	Richard Vallin	Racine
2115	Bruce Hansen	Hudson	6175	Jonnie Peterson	Roseville, CA	8813	Richard Francour	Marinette			

Deadline for the July 2024 issue is June 21.



Staff Sergeant
Henry Lee Stevens
January 31, 1921
– December 23, 1944

A native of Monroe, Louisiana, Staff Sergeant Henry Lee Stevens entered the U.S. Army Air Forces on January 16, 1941, proudly serving his country in the 557th Bombardment Squadron, 387th Bombardment Group. On December 23, 1944, he was the engineer-gunner on a B-26F Marauder (Serial Number 42-96309), nicknamed “Shirley D”, which departed Clastres, France, for a bombing mission to Magen, Germany. While over Bitburg, Germany, “Shirley D” was hit by anti-aircraft artillery in the right engine and caught fire. The seven-man crew was ordered to bail out, and four succeeded in doing so, before the plane crashed and exploded near Winville, Belgium. Remains of the pilot and co-pilot were recovered and identified shortly after the crash, but it took several years of excavations in 2019, 2022 and 2023 to recover and positively identify SSG Stevens.

Funeral services were held in Bushnell, FL, with interment at Florida National Cemetery. Stevens is survived by his daughter Daisy Marie Franklin (Jack) of Bunnell, Florida; grandson Garrett Franklin (Jamie) and great-granddaughters Hayley and Tesla. His widow Thelma Estelle Stevens Johnson and son Arnold Lee Stevens Apple are deceased.



University of Wisconsin team members excavate units at the site of a World War II-era bomber crash located in Belgium, July 11, 2023. Alan F. Lee photo courtesy of UW MIA Project.

An Update from the UW MIA RIP

We were thrilled to receive this exciting update from our friends Charles Konsitzke and Lauren Jentsch at the UW Missing-in-Action Recovery and Identification Project, and we congratulate them all on their latest accomplishments. Visit mia.biotech.wisc.edu for more info on their continued partnership with the DPAA and to donate to their work.

On March 8, we were honored to attend the funeral service of Staff Sgt. Henry L. Stevens, in Bushnell, FL, who was killed in 1944 during WWII at the age of 23 in Winville, Belgium. [See Stevens obit.]

From the DPAA release: “The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that U.S. Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Henry L. Stevens, 23, of Monroe, Louisiana, killed during World War II, was accounted for September 15, 2023. In 2019, while working in conjunction with researchers from the University of Wisconsin, possible remains were located

and sent to the DPAA laboratory for testing and possible identification.”

In the recovery mission for Sgt. Stevens, the team excavated approximately 960 square meters to depths ranging from 30 to 80 cm below the surface, over a three year period. Through this excavation, possible material evidence, possible osseous material, along with life support equipment were retained. The team also recovered aircraft wreckage and non-incident related debris. The UW Missing-In-Action Project Team appreciated the landowner, Monique Wagner-Dewez, as they had to remove roughly thirty-plus trees on the tree farm to expand their investigation site. They and the Belgium Authorities were very welcoming and supportive!

As well as Sgt. Stevens, the UW Missing-In-Action Project has also assisted in the recovery of three other service members: 2nd Lt. Walter Stone, 1st Lt. Frank Fezekas, and Pfc. Lawrence Gordon.

Outside of field work, we support about

30 undergraduate and graduate students, who volunteer their time to help research Wisconsin MIA case biographies, military service, and the possible location of their incident. The MIA suite on campus - The War Room - serves as the headquarters for this research effort as well as a collection of physical resources in the Projects library. Each volunteer specializes in an individual service member’s case, pursuing new information from a variety of sources including cooperation with local museums and historical societies. The Project is currently working on thirty-six Wisconsin cases.

In recent developments, the Project has expanded research further into the Pacific Theater of the War, putting together an adult external volunteer cohort to specialize in losses in Papua, New Guinea. Undergraduate volunteers will continue research focused across the world, including Germany, France, Northern Africa, and Japan. Looking forward to this summer, the team will be taking on a new case for DPAA.

THE BUZZ

Wow! It's hard to believe that this year is almost over. The time just "buzzed" by! It seems like just yesterday that I walked into the Department Convention, thinking I was going to be Laurel Ann Wiese (my mom's) Historian and walked out as Guard! By nature, I am pretty shy and don't care much for confrontation. Through the six years of moving up the line, I have learned so much and became a stronger, more outgoing person along the way.

One of my favorite things from this year was visiting some of the Auxiliaries in Wisconsin at their monthly meetings. Everyone was so friendly and kind and very welcoming. This surprises me because when I became that Guard six years ago, I was really dreading those same visits. Sometimes you must step out of your comfort zone and grab life by the horns. It's been a wild ride, but I wouldn't change a minute of it! I am indeed a different (better) person than I was back then and for that, I thank you all!

As of May 1, we are 39 members away from being 100% paid in membership. I know we can do this! I challenge every

Sherrie Rosenau
Department President

920-251-8888
littlemama6@yahoo.com



Auxiliary to add at least one new member. If we all do this, we can easily meet our goals!

Please join us as we close out the year at our Convention at the Tundra Lodge in Green Bay from June 12-15. The banquet is formal and an opportunity to get all dressed up and celebrate what we've all accomplished this year.

In closing, I'd like to thank all of you for your part in helping Veterans and keeping our organization going strong. We did lose a couple of Auxiliaries this year but there are a few new ones in the works as well and that's always good news!

Please continue to "Bee the Change" as we are "Banding Together for Our Veterans!"

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Spring has sprung as well as my final report for Membership. Thank you for your tremendous efforts to maintain and grow our organization. As of May 1, 2024 Wisconsin is at **99.52 Paid Percent and 96.89 Current Percent**. Wisconsin only needs **39 more members** to reach 100% by June 30, 2024, the end of our Recruitment Year.

Please continue to **renew** annual dues, **recruit** new Annual and Life Members, and **transfer** members of closed Auxiliaries so that those members are not lost. Please also remind annual members that they must renew their dues by June 30, 2024, to maintain their continuous membership status. Otherwise, they must re-apply for membership. And don't forget: **National Annual Dues will increase to \$10.00 on July 1, 2024.**

Membership is the lifeblood of our organization and without new and existing members, we would cease to exist. We must *invest* in the *future* of our organization.

Our Department Membership as of May 1, 2024:

Auxiliary	Current Total	Deceased	Paid Total	Prior Total	Current Percent	Paid Percent
Total - Non-District	108	5	113	107	100.93%	105.61%
Total - Dist. 1	396	10	406	465	85.16%	87.31%
Total - Dist. 2	1110	40	1150	1212	91.58%	94.88%
Total - Dist. 4	304	4	308	301	101.00%	102.33%
Total - Dist. 6	509	25	534	529	96.22%	100.95%
Total - Dist. 7	1283	28	1311	1325	96.83%	98.94%
Total - Dist. 8	862	25	888*	884	97.51%	100.45%
Total - Dist. 9	802	17	819	773	103.75%	105.95%
Total - Dist. 10	679	10	689	715	94.97%	96.36%
Total - Dist. 11	460	8	468	492	93.50%	95.12%
WI - At Large	1345	40	1385	1307	102.91%	105.97%
Total - Dept. of WI	7858	212	8071*	8110	96.89%	99.52%

* Includes one Canceled.

EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary team for your unwavering commitment and active participation in our Extension and Revitalization year. Your dedication and hard work have contributed significantly to the success of our program year to "BEE THE CHANGE".

Your innovative ideas (Honey Bees Band), attention to detail (costumes and props), and ability to work collaboratively (Deliver a Band presentation) as a team have set a remarkable standard. Your positivity and resilience inspire members every day, and we are privileged to have you as part of our organization.

As we move forward, your expertise and insight will continue to be instrumental in driving our Auxiliaries to new heights. Your unwavering support and belief in our shared vision have not gone unnoticed. Thank you for exemplifying excellence in all that you do for our Auxiliaries, our Veterans and our communities.

Let us continue to push boundaries, foster connections, and maintain organizational morale. Together, we can create a brighter future for our organization and the Veterans and families we serve.

Vicki Newbauer
Extension & Revitalization

715-257-2099
vnewbauer1950@gmail.com



AUXILIARY

MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP

Brothers and Sisters from the great Department of Wisconsin,

Another Auxiliary year is coming to an end. Thank you, District Presidents, for all that you did this year to try and keep your Auxiliaries healthy. It's amazing what we can do when we all work together.

I want to thank all of you for your mentoring efforts during the year. Thank you to all the Chairmen and members who fulfilled the role of being a mentor in your Auxiliary.

I hope you enjoyed doing my Trivia activities in the various bulletins this year. I received several entries for Most Outstanding Activities and/or Training that educates your Auxiliary members on how to train mentees. These entries will be forwarded to National for judging. Hopefully we will have some winners announced at National Convention in Louisville this year. **THANK YOU** to those who participated.

Linda Moran
Mentoring Chairman

920-337-9922
loopylin1950@gmail.com



Thanks also to Department President Sherrie for asking me to part of her team this year. I wish all incoming Officers and Chairmen best wishes for their upcoming year and look forward to seeing you at Department Convention. God Bless.

"A mentor is someone who sees more talent and ability within you, than you see in yourself, and helps bring it out of you."
~ Bob Proctor

BEE A WAYS AND MEANS SUPPORTER!

LET'S END THIS YEAR WITH SOME FUN AND REWARDING RAFFLES FOR THE VFW AUXILIARY!

GIFT CARD TREES: We will have at least one gift card tree (hopefully two), with gift cards valued at a minimum of \$100. **Please consider donating gift cards of \$10 - \$25. You can also donate cash that will be used to purchase gift cards.**

MYSTERY MONEY RAFFLE: We will have bottles of wine, beer, or liquor that will have an envelope attached with a mystery amount of money. There will be 20 raffles with the envelope containing between \$5 and \$50. The breakdown will be: 6- \$5. 7 - \$10. 5 - \$20. 2 - \$50. You will win the mystery amount of money and the item it is attached to. Tickets will be \$10 each, with a total of 20 winners being drawn. **Prizes will be awarded in the order they were drawn. We need donations (total of 20) of wine, beer, and liquor including non-alcoholic options.**

QUILT RAFFLE: We also complete the Quilt Raffle started at the Mid-Winter Conference. Tickets for the beautiful quilt made by PDP Mary Brown are \$5 each, \$10 for three or \$20 for ten.

BASKET RAFFLES: As always, we welcome donated Raffle baskets. Please bring them to the Ways and Means tables when you arrive at Convention.

50/50 RAFFLES: We will have multiple 50/50 drawings throughout the Convention.

NOTES: ALL raffles will conclude on Friday afternoon, June 14.

If you are planning to bring donations to the Convention, please let **Alicia** know what you are bringing so we can prepare. Her contact info is below.

Alicia Weix • 715-370-2096 duds444@gmail.com
Barbara Stillman • 414-447-1685 stillmanb@att.net



Get Your Quilt Raffle Tickets

Tickets for this wonderful quilt, lovingly hand-made by PDP Mary Brown, will be available for \$5 each; \$10 for three or \$20 for ten.
Photo courtesy of Alicia Weix.

DRAPING OF THE CHARTER

This listing reflects names as of the most recent reporting of deceased members, including a number of "At-Large" members recently marked as deceased by the National organization. While every effort is made to provide accurate and timely information, depending on when the member was reported (or not), it does not necessarily reflect the year of their passing.

Additionally, please note that member Mary L. Murphy of Auxiliary 7591 was reported as deceased in error in the March/April VFW NEWS. We are pleased to report that Mary is still very much with us!

Aux.	Name	City	Aux.	Name	City
659	Elizabeth Denis	Manitowoc	15051	Ruth I. Buss*	Wild Rose
1318	Myrty L. Brazee*	Wauwaukee	15051	Geraldine Callies*	S. Milwaukee
1318	Helen Mae Chadwick*	Monona	15051	Mildred B. Clark*	Brodhead
1318	Evelyn G. Mettel*	Madison	15051	Loris Cook*	New Berlin
1318	Helen Newton*	Madison	15051	Lucille Erickson*	Barron
1638	Mildred J. Behm	Wausau	15051	Margaret D. Furuseth*	Lancaster
1638	Laura Gryskiewicz*	Merrill	15051	June Greenwald*	Barron
1638	Charlotte M. Mootz*	Merrill	15051	Kathryn A. Holmes*	Waukesha
1638	Carol G. Pester*	Merrill	15051	Mary Hotmar*	Waterloo
1638	Pearl Sabatke*	Merrill	15051	Marcella W. Johnson*	Lake Nebagamon
1865	Carole Ann Fechner*	Kenosha	15051	Caroline J. Jorgensen*	Withee
2112	Carolyn Klein*	Sparta	15051	Helen J. Kasper*	Hurley
2267	Lucile Gauger*	Endeavor	15051	Lucille M. Klein*	Cuba City
3319	Patricia Arnoldussen*	Kaukauna	15051	Muriel Laufer*	West Bend
3319	Bette McDaniel*	Kaukauna	15051	Delores Lorenz*	Mission, TX
5278	Vickie L. Schlaak	West Allis	15051	Lenore C. McEvoy*	Reedsburg
5828	Erma Johnson*	Amery	15051	Genevieve B. McKeag*	Oak Creek
5970	Mary C. Marshall*	Mauston	15051	Agnes J. Mika*	Eau Claire
6279	Ruthann Fritz	Verona	15051	Gladys Miller*	Mayville
6352	Ella Wisniewski*	Stevens Point	15051	Gertrude A. Moyer*	Springbrook
7221	Ruth E. Meeth*	Mukwonago	15051	Jean Otteson*	Monroe
7591	Rebecca J. Jorgensen*	Minnetonka, MN	15051	Dorothy Owen	Hartford
7591	Nola Lendborg*	Madison	15051	Stephanie Pawlak*	Mosinee
7896	Marjorie Cherry*	Shullsburg	15051	Betty J. Rankin*	Sandwich, IL
8329	Lynn P. Skandel*	Barnes	15051	June D. Sarnowski*	Adell
8337	Marvel Hartel	Sturgeon Bay	15051	Corrine Schoenberger*	Woodruff
8338	Debra King	Barron	15051	Loretta Shimkus*	Rhineland
9362	Ruth E. Weisensel*	Sun Prairie	15051	Cecilia J. Stroika*	Nampa, ID
9677	Carol Delforge*	Green Bay	15051	Eleanor C. Swanson*	Rollingstone, MN
10406	Carmela Burmeister*	Winona, MN	15051	Deanna M. Ulrikson*	Pewaukee
10519	Carmen Garraghan*	Hales Corners	15051	Elizabeth M. Weiland*	Campbellsport
15051	Venita Arttus*	Tomah	15051	Muriel Zettel*	West Bend
15051	Edna A. Burbank*	Milwaukee			

* DENOTES LIFE MEMBER

President Sherrie Visits Clintonville



Some of Dept. President Rosenau's travels in February took her to Arthur Gensler Post and Auxiliary 664 for their monthly meeting and a special award ceremony. From left are: Auxiliary Chaplain Carol Fuqua; Secretary John Campbell; President Wendy Schoelkopf; President Sherrie; Treasurer Connie Schoelkopf and JVP Ella Kratzke. Photo and info courtesy of Post 664 QM/Adj. Tina Flanagan.

Auxiliary 3589 Donates Patriotic Books



Endl-Gruennert Medal of Honor VFW Auxiliary 3589 of Jefferson donated 13 patriotic books to the Jefferson High School recently, as a part of the National Auxiliary program "Patriotism through Literacy". Accepting the donations from Auxiliary Youth Activities Chairman Susan Kurz and President Deb Kitsemel (at right) are six Jefferson HS students (back row), Library Paraprofessional Georganne Schacht and District Library Media Specialist Miles Allie. Good job! Submitted by Susan Kurz of Auxiliary 3589.

Auxiliary 1038 "Card Party"

It always looks like such fun when Chippewa Auxiliary 1038 gets together to make their seasonal greetings for the 72 members at the WI Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls and the 40 residents at the Veterans Housing and Recovery Program. And the creative cards are exceptional – we don't think Hallmark is going to locate there anytime soon – they cannot compete! Keep up the great work Chippewa! Submitted by Auxiliary 1038 President Patty Jansky.



Auxiliary Outreach in Chippewa Falls



What a great Auxiliary Outreach project! Chippewa Auxiliary 1038 partnered with the Women of the Moose Chapter 770 to prepare and serve a meal at Agnes' Table, a local Food Pantry which also serves meals to members of the Chippewa Falls community. Emma Ritchie (Women of the Moose); Sue Carlson (Auxiliary 1038 and Women of the Moose); Jeanette Prince (Aux. 1038); Patty Jansky (Aux. 1038 and Women of the Moose); Bettyann McCluham (Aux. 1038); Sue Delaney (Aux. 1038) and Barb Abraham (Women of the Moose). Way to go! Submitted by Auxiliary 1038 President Patty Jansky.

Auxiliary 9677 Breakfast with the Bunny



By the looks of it, the 3rd Annual "Breakfast with the Bunny" sponsored by Winiecki VFW Auxiliary 9677 was a huge success and fun was had by all attending. There were lots of games and treats to share and each child received a Post 9677 activity book and other goodies. Here, Auxiliary member Nickey Ciha (center) assists an eager group waiting their turn to draw for their prizes, as President Joan Van Ess looks on behind her. All under the very watchful eye of the "Guest of Honor" at right. Nice job! Submitted by Auxiliary 9677 Treasurer Pat Siebert.

REMINDER!

Department Dues for Annual Members are now \$10 per member. (effective October 2023)

So that means your Auxiliary must pay a total of \$20 for each member, after July 1.

National Dues for Annual Members will increase to \$10 per member. (effective July 1, 2024)

IF your Auxiliary's current Annual dues are below \$20, you MUST vote to increase them at one of your next meetings to cover all dues. Otherwise, your Auxiliary will have to make up the difference. (There are no changes to Life Member Dues at this time.)



You are cordially invited to the
Department of Wisconsin
103rd VFW Convention
99th VFW Auxiliary Convention
June 12 – 15, 2024
Tundra Lodge Resort
Green Bay, WI



It is time to gather together to celebrate and recognize the “Mission First, Family Always” and “BEE the Change” leadership teams for a job well done in 2023 – 2024! ALL members in good standing are welcome to attend this year-end event in the beautiful 8th District. Come for just one day or the whole Convention – but **don’t forget:**

« **DEADLINES** are fast approaching – **May 24, 2024** – make sure you have secured your hotel accommodations **and** completed your registration and meals reservations. Forms/online registration are available at **vfwwi.org**. Questions? Call State VFW HQ at 608-221-5276.

« Members (Post and Auxiliary) intending to attend Convention as **Voting Delegates** should ensure their Post/Auxiliary have submitted them as a Delegate – AND, **VFW members must pay their Delegate Fee** *in addition to* the Convention Registration.

« Reserve time during Convention to view the “**Buddy**” ® **Poppy Displays**; visit the **Vendor tables** and support **Ways and Means Fundraisers** for both Auxiliary and VFW.

« **NOTE THESE GREAT EVENTS:**

- **Wednesday, June 12 @ 4:30 pm - Joint Memorial Service followed by a VFW/Auxiliary Night Out at Stadium View**
- **Thursday, June 13 @ 6:00 pm – Cash Bar Cocktail Hour w/ music by Ace Entertainment for You, and the JOINT AWARDS CELEBRATION @ 7 pm!**

« Food, drink and transportation to the Stadium View Sports Bar on Wednesday evening are on your own.

« Travel safely and prepare to have fun — see you there!

Editor's note: Electronic files of the detailed Commander-in-Chief Resolutions for the 125th National Convention are available upon request to State Headquarters, or on the National website – vfwwi.org – in the Document Repository located in OMS. The CIC Resolutions require no action at our State Convention.

125th NATIONAL CONVENTION
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
RESOLUTIONS

NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE NATIONAL POW/MIA SUBCOMMITTEE		VETERANS SERVICE COMMITTEE	
401	PRESERVE THE ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE	601	ADEQUATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BUDGET
402	ELIMINATE SEXUAL ASSAULT AND HARASSMENT IN THE MILITARY	602	VA PHARMACEUTICAL CO-PAYMENTS
403	ENSURE DOD COMPLIANCE WITH TAP LAW	603	VA MEDICARE AND TRICARE REIMBURSEMENT
404	KEEP DEFENSE BUDGET RELEVANT	604	NURSING HOME ELIGIBILITY
405	LINK MILITARY PAY INCREASES TO PRIVATE-SECTOR INCREASES	605	TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY HEALTH CARE
406	PROVIDE FULL CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY AND VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION	606	MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS
407	PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE TRICARE BENEFIT	607	VA HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN VETERANS
408	AWARDING THE ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL FOR EXPEDITIONARY OPERATIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE	608	EXPAND VA CAREGIVER BENEFITS
409	PROTECT POW/MIA FULL ACCOUNTING MISSION FUNDING	609	SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY CARE OPTIONS
410	CALL FOR MORE UNILATERAL POW/MIA ACTIONS BY VIETNAM	610	FOREIGN MEDICAL PROGRAM (FMP) REFORM
411	RECOGNITION FOR AFGHAN AND IRAQI COMBAT SUPPORT ROLES	611	ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MODERNIZATION (EHRM)
412	SUPPORT THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN	612	MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA (MST)
413	SUPPORT THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA	613	TINNITUS AND HEARING LOSS PRESUMPTIVE COMPENSABLE SERVICE CONNECTION
414	SUPPORT THE STATE OF ISRAEL	614	VA CLAIMS WORKLOAD
415	SUPPORT OF NATO DETERRENCE AND SUPPORT TO UKRAINE	615	TOXIC EXPOSURES
416	DEPORTED VETERANS	616	DIGITAL CLAIMS PROCESS
		617	VA LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAM
		618	DOMICILIARY PROGRAMS AND TEMPORARY TOTAL RATINGS
		619	PROTECTING VA ACCREDITATION
		620	APPEALS MODERNIZATION AND LEGACY REMANDS
		621	VSO INVOLVEMENT WITH VA SCHEUDLE FOR RATING DISABILITIES
		622	FAIR AND FAVORABLE EFFECTIVE DATES
		623	JUSTICE FOR ALS VETERANS
		624	IMPROVE BENEFITS FOR SURVIVORS
		625	VETERAN HOUSING AND FOOD SECURITY PRIORITIES
		626	ENSURE VETERAN SUCCESS IN EDUCATION
		627	VETERAN READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY
		628	SUPPORT VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS
		629	VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP
		630	UNDERSERVED VETERANS
		631	CONSUMER PROTECTIONS FOR VETERANS
		632	EXPAND VETERAN TREATMENT COURTS
		633	FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

Our 2024 Convention Representatives

A warm Wisconsin welcome to our National Representatives to the 2024 State Convention. Visiting on behalf of VFW C-in-C Sarmiento is **Jeff Carroll**, the National Council of Administration Representative from the Dept. of Georgia. VFW Auxiliary National Chaplain **Donna Mills** will represent our National President Carla Martinez.

Jeff Carroll was elected to a four-year term on the VFW's National Council of Administration in 2022, representing the Department of Georgia. Jeff served in the United States Air Force from 1980 to 1989, earning his VFW eligibility by serving in the Republic of Korea. In recognition of his service, he received three Air Force Commendation Medals, the Korea Defense Service Medal and two Small Arms Expert

Marksmanship Ribbons.

Carroll joined the VFW in 2004 at Post 2667 in Newnan, Georgia, where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership. He has served in elected and appointed positions at all levels, culminating with his election as the Dept. of Georgia Commander in 2019, when he achieved Triple Crown All-American Commander status. Jeff has served as the Department of Georgia Quartermaster since 2020. On the National level, he has served on several committees, among them General Resolutions and Internal Finance.

Currently employed as a software engineer, Jeff is also a member of the American Legion, AMVETS and the Air Force Sergeants Association. He and his wife Lisa reside in Newnan, GA.



Jeff Carroll
VFW NCM - Georgia



Donna Mills
VFW Auxiliary Nat'l. Chaplain

Donna Mills of Hesston, Pennsylvania, National Chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) Auxiliary, is now in the third of five offices leading to the National Presidency, which she is expected to hold in 2026-2027.

A Life Member of the Standing Stone Auxiliary 1754 in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, she has served the organization in many capacities including: Auxiliary, District and Department President; National District Council Member; Eastern Conference Membership Coach and Veterans & Family Support National Ambassador.

Donna joined at age 16, on the eligibility

of her grandfather, Neal H. Giffin, Sr., who served in the U.S. Army during World War II. She is married to Frank Mills, a VFW Past State Commander in Pennsylvania. A retired software engineer for Pennsylvania State University where she worked for 28 years, she spends much of her spare time indulging in her love of computers and computer programming; reading; watching football and creating cross-stitch and embroidery.

She is a member of the Methodist church; American Legion Auxiliary 24; Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks 976; Moose Lodge 223/220 and the Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary (MOCA) 33.



VOTE Mary Ann Christopherson

State Commander 2024 - 2025

A respectful leader who cares about preserving our traditions while promoting growth and welcoming new Veterans and their skills.

- ★ Desert Storm Veteran - 1990-1991
- ★ U.S. Army MSgt (Ret.) after 30 years
- ★ Joined VFW in 1991 - Gold Legacy Life Member, Post 305, Eau Claire
- ★ All-State and All-American Commander
- ★ Member: MOC and VFW Auxiliary

THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOTE AT STATE CONVENTION



Ty Letto

Candidate for Dept. Sr. Vice Cdr. 2024-2025

- A strategic and dynamic leader with over 33 years of experience
- Proven ability to empower, inspire, and motivate VFW and Auxiliary members
- Passionate about helping Veterans create a better everyday life

"Make It Count"

VOTE Ty Letto
AT THE JUNE 2024 STATE CONVENTION

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

US ARMY IRAQ VETERAN





VOTE RENEE SIMPSON

FOR STATE JR. VICE COMMANDER 2024-2025

- VFW Member since 2003
- Gold Legacy Life Member of Post 10911
- Elected and appointed offices at all levels of the VFW
- every year, 2003 - present
- State Commander - 2013-2014
- VFW Surgeon General (National) - 2020-2021
- National Programs Committee Chairman - 2021-2022
- Member, National Dept. Inspection Team - 2023-2024

Why am I taking this journey again? The VFW is at a pivotal point, looking at what is best for our future. I love educating and helping others become successful. Because of that, and the knowledge I have obtained over the past 20 years, I have been asked to "STEP UP" for our organization. It is my privilege to be #StillServing with amazing comrades, sisters and brothers and I am honored to be asked to be a larger piece of the leadership team. I am very proud of my continued service and ask for your support to help us move forward to address the next chapter of VFW challenges. Thank you in advance for your vote on June 15 at the State Convention.

Choose experience, passion and knowledge.

VOTE RENEE SIMPSON
Jr. Vice Commander 2024-2025

VFW DEPT. OF WISCONSIN
103rd Annual State Convention
June 12 - 15, 2024
Tundra Lodge Resort
865 Lombardi Ave, Green Bay, WI 54304

AGENDA
(Agenda and Room Locations Subject to Change)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024 — Attire for C of A/Committees: VFW Business Casual (Collared Shirt/Polo & Slacks)

11:00 am to 3:00 pm **Registration (Pre-Function Area)**
12 noon to 5:00 pm **Vendor Tables (Hotel Lobby)**
9:30 to 11:30 am **Committee Meetings (Ballroom):** One opening for all committee meetings, which meet in this order:
Convention Committee: Phil Allen - Co-Chair
Veterans Service Committee: PSC William Hustad - Chair
WI VFW Foundation: PSC Renee Simpson - Sec/Treas
Finance Committee: PSC Wilfred "Twiggy" Johnson - Chair
11:30 am to 1:45 pm **Lunch/Break** - On your own.
NOTE: Calendar Distribution to Districts during the Lunch Break
1:45 to 2:30 pm **Council of Administration (Ballroom)** Approval of Convention Rules: Cdr. Ron Ramos
4:30 to 5:30 pm **Joint Memorial Service (Ballroom)** VFW Chaplain Ilein Taibe, Aux. Chaplain Janey Owens
6:30 pm **VFW & Auxiliary Night Out at Stadium View Sports Bar** – Come join in on the fun and camaraderie!
Food, drinks, and transportation on your own.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2024 — Attire for State Line Officers: VFW Business Casual

7:30 to 11:30 am & 1:30 to 3:00 pm **Registration (Pre-Function Area)**
8:00 am to 5:00 pm **Vendor Tables (Hotel Lobby)**
8:00 to 8:30 am **Opening of VFW Convention (Ballroom)**
Open Meeting Commander Ron Ramos
Presentation of Colors State Honor Guard
Opening Prayer Chaplain Ilein Taibe
Pledge of Allegiance Commander Ron Ramos
Post Colors State Honor Guard
Roll Call Adjutant Adam Wallace
Reading of Convention Rules Judge Advocate George Stoeber
Credentials Committee Andrew McKinney – Chair
Intro of National Representative Commander Ron Ramos
National Representative Comments Georgia NCM Jeff Carroll
8:30 to 10:00 am **Reports**
Convention Committee Phil Allen – Co-Chair
Service Committee PSC William Hustad – Chair
Finance Committee PSC Twiggy Johnson – Chair
WI VFW Foundation PSC Renee Simpson – Sec/Treas
News Committee PSC Joel Walker – Chair
National Legislative PSC Jason Johns – Chair
State Legislative Jordan Tilleson – Chair
Membership Randy Engness – Chair
PSC Gundel Metz – Co-Chair
10:00 to 10:30 am **Break**
10:30 am to 12 noon **Reports Cont.**
Awards Committee George Stoeber – Chair
Safety Jason Janeczek – Chair
Student Veterans Curt Lemke – Chair
Honor Guard PSC Mike Eggleston
Hospital Report Dr. Angela Thomsen – Chair
Women Veterans Committee Dr. Angela Thomsen – Chair
National Home PSC Michele Rathke – Chair
Unmet Needs PSC Don Lynch – Co-Chair
Poppy Bruce Sorensen – Chair
Scouting PSC Renee Simpson – Chair
WI-NG CMD Chief Warrant Ofc. Christina Flanagan – Chair
CW5 Charles Mattison
12 noon to 1:30 pm **Past CDRs Club Luncheon Ticketed Lunch (Ballroom A)** *or lunch on your own.*
2:00 to 4:30 pm **Training/Seminars (Classes will run concurrently)**

State and National Website Training (McKinley/Kodiak Rooms): Presented by State Commander Ron Ramos and State AAQM Steve Eisenhauer. Come and learn about the resources and functionality offered on both our State and National websites and answer general questions. All are welcome.

Bylaws and Parliamentary Procedure (Denali/Big Horn Rooms): Presented by NCM Cory Geisler, Judge Advocate George Stoeber and Adjutant Adam Wallace. The presenters will provide guidance on how to have successful and productive meetings utilizing our Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order, and answer general questions. All are welcome.

6:00 to 7:00 pm **Joint Awards Celebration Cocktail Hour (Ballroom)** w/ Music by Ace Entertainment for You
Thank you to our Sponsor: FESTIVAL FOODS
7:00 pm **Joint Awards Celebration (Ballroom)** VFW Chair George Stoeber, Aux. Chair Marla Morgan

2024 STATE CONVENTION

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024 — Attire for State Line Officers: VFW Business Casual

7:30 to 11:30 am & 1:30 to 3:00 pm **Registration (Pre-Function Area)**
8:00 am to 5:00 pm **Vendor Tables (Hotel Lobby)**
8:00 to 8:30 am **General Session, Cont. (Ballroom)**
Reopen Meeting
Opening Prayer
Roll Call
Credentials Committee
Charters, Bylaws, Resolutions Report
8:30 to 9:30 am **Guest Speakers**
American Legion, DAV, WDVA, Legislative Award Presentation
9:30 to 10:00 am **Break**
10:00 to 11:00 am **Nomination of State Officers for 2024-2025**
11:00 am to 12 noon **District Caucuses with State Officer Candidates**
12 noon to 1:30 pm **Lunch** – On your own & **Past State Commanders Luncheon (By Invitation Only)**
2:00 to 4:00 pm **Training/Seminars (Classes will run concurrently)**
Post Commanders Seminar (Denali/Big Horn Rooms): Presented by NCM Cory Geisler, State Commander Ron Ramos, and State SVC Mary Ann Christopherson. 2024-2025 Post Commanders, SVCs, JVCs, and aspiring Post leaders are invited to learn about their responsibilities and what it takes to be a successful Post Commander and leader. All are welcome.
Post QM and Trustee Seminar (McKinley/Kodiak Rooms): Presented by State QM Tom Heath, State Inspector Leroy Jansky, and State AAQM Steve Eisenhauer. Come and learn how to handle Post finances and audits successfully and responsibly. Also learn about the required tasks the Post QM must complete during their year. All are welcome.

Commander Ron Ramos
Chaplain Ilein Taibe
Adjutant Adam Wallace
Andrew McKinney – Chair
George Stoeber – Chair

6:00 to 7:00 pm **Cocktail Hour Cash Bar (Ballroom)** w/ Music Provided by Ace Entertainment for You
NOTE: All-State recipients must check in at Registration Pre-Function Area
7:00 pm **All-State Banquet (Ballroom)**

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024 — Attire for State Line Officers: Business (Suit)

7 to 8:00 am ONLY **Registration (Pre-Function Area)**
8:00 am to 12 noon **Vendor Tables (Hotel Lobby)**
8:00 to 9:00 am **General Session (Ballroom)**
Reopen Meeting/Salute Colors
Opening Prayer
Roll Call
Credentials Committee
MOC Grand of WI
Past State Commanders Continuing
Service Award
9:00 to 10:00 am **Vote on Resolutions and Bylaw Amendments**
10:00 to 10:30 am **Break**
10:30 to 11:15 am **Election of 2024 – 2025 State Officers**
11:30 am **Closing Remarks – Commander Ramos**
1:00 pm **Joint VFW/Auxiliary Installation of 2024 – 2025 Officers**
NOTE: Officers to be installed attire: Business
30 minutes after Installation — **2024 - 2025 Council of Administration Meeting (Location TBA)**
4:00 to 8:00 pm **Commander/President Reception** – Light hors d'oeuvres served.
Duck Creek Pub, Post 7534, 754 Riverview Dr, Green Bay, WI

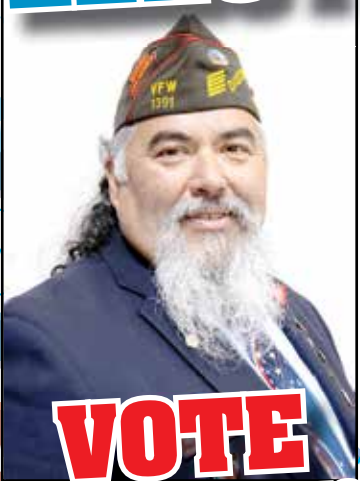
Commander Ron Ramos
Chaplain Ilein Taibe
Adjutant Adam Wallace
Andrew McKinney – Chair
Paul Kirsch, Commander
PSC Mike Eggleston

PSC Michele Rathke, VFW and
Auxiliary Installing Officer



Convention
Help
Wanted!

Our State Photographer Sherri Smith is unable to attend Convention on Wed. and Thurs., June 12th and 13th. If you are an EXPERIENCED and skilled photographer, with a DIGITAL CAMERA (not cellphone), we would LOVE to have your help on those two days. For more information and to discuss the particulars, please contact WI VFW NEWS Editor Marla J. Morgan at 715-384-2500 or via email at wivfweditor@gmail.com. Thank you!



ELECT

MANUEL
"MANNY"
SALAS

State Junior
Vice Commander
2024 – 2025

VOTE
MANNY!

Passionate about the VFW and helping Veterans
Dedicated and proven leadership - Post Commander (2019-2020)
District Commander (2022-present, All-State and All-American, 2022-2023)



RE-ELECT
TOM HEATH

For State
Quartermaster 2024-25

Dedicated, Qualified &
Dependable Service Since 2014

2024 STATE CONVENTION

VFW AUXILIARY — DEPT. OF WISCONSIN
99th Annual State Convention
June 12 - 15, 2024
Tundra Lodge Resort
865 Lombardi Ave, Green Bay, WI 54304

AGENDA
Schedule subject to change.
Chairmen should be ready to report at any time.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024 — Dress is Business Casual (or President's shirt)
11:00 am to 1:00 pm Credentials

10:00 am Cross of Malta Floor Practice
Memorial Service Practice Line Officers & Floor Team
1:00 pm Council of Administration Meeting Sherrie Rosenau
3:00 to 4:00 pm Credentials
4:30 pm Joint Memorial Service VFW Chaplain Ilein Taipe, Aux. Chaplain Janey Owens
6:30 pm VFW/Auxiliary Social At Stadium View Sports Bar
Food, drinks and transportation on your own.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2024 — Dress is Official Look
7:30 to 9:30 am Credentials
8:00 am Convention Convenes - Opening Greetings Lenore Otto, PDP
Cross of Malta March Auxiliary Officers & Floor Team
Auxiliary Ritualistic Opening
Escort of National Representative Floor Team
Escort of Other Guests Floor Team
Approval of 2023 Convention Minutes
Official Communications
Announcement of Convention Appointments Printed in Book
Convention Rules Printed in Book

Program Reports & Awards:
Veterans & Family Support Helen Stearns, PDP
Americanism Sally Lamers
Auxiliary Achievement Awards Cheryl Woodards
Auxiliary Outreach Nancy Ustruck
Historian/Media Relations Nicole David
Buddy Poppy/National Home for Children Faith Elford, PDP
Awards/VFW News Marla Morgan, PDP
National Scholarships Jackie Gregory, PDP
Department Scholarships (Lillian Campbell) Jennifer Mauritz

11:00 am to 1:00 pm Credentials
12 Noon AUXILIARY DUTCH TREAT LUNCH
(Open to all members; advance reservation needed.)
1:30 pm Convention Reconvenes – Opening Greeting Vicki Newbauer, PDP

Program Reports & Awards:
Chief of Staff/Extension & Revitalization Vicki Newbauer, PDP
Youth Activities Patty Jansky
Membership Linda Schluter, PDP
Mentoring for Leadership Linda Moran, PDP
WI Veterans Assistance Mary Lou Duerr
Ways & Means Alicia Weix & Barbara Stillman
Webmaster Jeff Nuernberger
Memorial Service Janey Owens & Floor Team
Nomination of Officers for 2024-2025
Announcements
Recess until 8:00 am Friday

5:00 pm Past Presidents' Dinner
(Advance reservation needed.)
6:00 pm Cocktail Hour (Ballroom)
7:00 pm Joint Awards Celebration (Ballroom) VFW Chair George Stoeber, Aux. Chair Marla Morgan
(Patriotic Clothing Suggested)

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024 — Dress is Official Look
7:30 to 9:00 am Only Credentials
8:00 am ELECTION MAY BE HELD AT ANY TIME FRIDAY
Convention Reconvenes – Opening Greeting Faith Elford, PDP
Program Reports & Awards:

RE-ELECT GEORGE STOEBER
State Judge Advocate for 2024-2025

★ U.S. Navy, 1983 – 2007 (Persian Gulf Veteran)
★ Life Member since 2012
(Post 7308, Pleasant Prairie; Cdr. 2012-18; All-State & All-American 2016)
★ District 1 All-State Commander (2018-19)
★ State Judge Advocate since Feb. 2023
★ Numerous offices & appointments at all levels since 2012

I believe that both my work career and VFW experience make me well suited to continue as your State Judge Advocate.
I look forward to another year of service to our members and I thank you for your continued support.

Wisconsin Veterans of Foreign Wars News VFW

Presentation of Presidents & Flags
Americanism
Legislative
Hospital
Presentation of Hospital Volunteers
Resolutions Presentation

12 Noon 25 Year Club Luncheon
(Advance reservation needed.)
1:30 pm Convention Reconvenes – Opening Greeting
Presentation of Past Department Presidents
Credentials Report
Election of Officers for 2024-2025
Remarks:
National Representative
National District Council Member #11
Past Department Presidents Club Rep.
Announcements
Recess until 9:00 am Saturday
6:00 pm Cocktail Hour (Ballroom)
7:00 pm Convention Banquet Celebration (Ballroom)
(Formal Attire Suggested)

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024 — Dress is Official Look
7:30 am Past Department Presidents' Breakfast
9:00 am Convention Reconvenes
Programs Reports & Awards:
Ways & Means
PDP Club Presentation
Buddy Poppy/National Home for Children
President's Report
Presentation of Past Department President Pin
Anything else
Closing Ceremonies
Joint Installation of Officers (Ballroom)
30 minutes after installation — 2024-2025 Council of Administration Meeting
4:00 to 8:00 pm New Commander & President's Reception

STATE BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

State Bylaws Amendment 2024-01

Submitted by State Commander Ron Ramos,
Judge Advocate George Stoeber,
and Adjutant Adam Wallace.

ARTICLE IV - DISTRICTS

Section 406. LOYALTY DAY OBSERVANCE
Amend Section 406 as follows:

The Loyalty Day Observance in the Department of Wisconsin shall be held on the last Saturday of the Month of April of each year, except when May 1st falls on a Saturday, the observance shall be held on May 1st.
In addition to abiding to the rules set out in the National Bylaws outlining the conducting of District Meetings, no District in the Department of Wisconsin shall conduct a District Meeting, District Convention or other District sponsored functions on the day of the Loyalty Day Observance, only if there is an in-person Loyalty Day event sponsored or endorsed by the Department.

Note: If there is not an in-person event sponsored by the Department, it will free up the day to hold and conduct District conventions and allow for greater flexibility while scheduling District conventions.

State Bylaws Amendment 2024-02

Submitted by State Commander Ron Ramos,
Judge Advocate George Stoeber, Adjutant Adam Wallace, and Quartermaster Tom Heath.

ARTICLE VI – DEPARTMENT CONVENTION, MID-WINTER CONFERENCE, COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION, AND BIG TEN CONFERENCE

Section 601. STATE CONVENTION,
C of A, MID-WINTER & BIG TEN
CONFERENCES, TIME AND PLACE

Amend Subsections (4), (5), (6) and (7)
of Section 601 as follows:

(4) Bids for the DEPARTMENT CONVENTION shall be submitted to the Council of Administration up to seven (7) years prior to the scheduled convention at which time it will be considered.
(5) Bids for scheduled COUNCIL of ADMINISTRATION meetings shall be submitted to the Council of Administration up to seven (7) years prior to the scheduled meeting, at which time it will be considered.
(6) Bids for the MID-WINTER CONFERENCE shall be submitted to the Council of Administration up to seven (7) years prior to the scheduled Mid-Winter, at which time it will be considered.
(7) Bids for the BIG TEN CONFERENCE (scheduled to be held the third (3rd) weekend in October shall be submitted to the Council of Administration up to seven (7) years prior to the Conference at which time it will be considered.

Note: This allows the Department, and the Council of Administration, to plan conventions and conferences further out of the current restrictive timelines, and to lock in more favorable room rates for the members attending these events. These changes also remove the restrictions which specify which meetings the Council of Administration can receive bids for future events.

State Bylaws Amendment 2024-03

Submitted by State Commander Ron Ramos,
Judge Advocate George Stoeber,
and Adjutant Adam Wallace.

ARTICLE VI – DEPARTMENT CONVENTION, MID-WINTER CONFERENCE, COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION, AND BIG TEN CONFERENCE

Section 602. CONVENTION COMMITTEE
Amend Subsections (3), and (4),
of Section 602 as follows:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Sally Lamers
Sally Lamers
Kim McWilliams
Karen Johnson, PDP
Karen Johnson, PDP
Lucetta Jasinski, PDP

Lucetta Jasinski, PDP
Sherrie Rosenau
Dolores Sorensen

Donna Mills, Auxiliary National Chaplain
Laurel Ann Wiese, PDP
Linda Schluter, PDP

Sr. Vice Cheryl Woodards
Alicia Weix & Barbara Stillman
Linda Schluter, PDP
Faith Elford, PDP
Sherrie Rosenau
Laurel Ann Wiese, PDP/Lenore Otto, PDP

Cheryl Woodards
Duck Creek Pub, Post 7534
754 Riverview Dr., Green Bay

2024-2025 Ilein TAIPE
Candidate for State Chaplain
OIF Iraq Veteran • Retired MSgt/E8 USMC
VFW Member since 2017
State Chaplain since 2023
Follower of Christ since 1989 at age 16
VOTE ILEIN AT STATE CONVENTION

STATE BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

(3) Structure. Of a total of seven (7) Committee members, three (3) shall be appointees of the VFW Department Commander and four (4) ex officio voting member of the Committee, who shall be the VFW State Commander, VFW State Junior Vice Commander, the VFW State Quartermaster, and the VFW State Adjutant.
(4) Appointments. No later than 10 Days following the Installation of State Officers, the State Commander shall appoint three (3) members to the Convention Committee. The State Commander shall make any other necessary appointments to fill any vacated VFW Department-appointed term on the Committee. If the vacated term is that of the Chairperson, the Committee Vice Chairperson will automatically succeed to that position and the Committee will elect a new Vice Chairperson from among its ranks. Likewise, if the Secretary position is vacated, the Committee will elect a new Secretary once the vacated term has been properly filled by appointment.
Note: *To lessen the burden of the Commander to find and fill committee positions.*

State Bylaws Amendment 2024-04

Submitted by State Commander Ron Ramos, Judge Advocate George Stoeber, and Adjutant Adam Wallace.

ARTICLE VI – DEPARTMENT CONVENTION. MID-WINTER CONFERENCE. COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION AND BIG TEN CONFERENCE

Section 603. STATE CONVENTION, MID-WINTER CONFERENCE, COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION AND BIG TEN CONFERENCE SUPERVISION.
Amend Section 603 as follows:

These meetings’ time and place shall be under the guidance and supervision of the Council of Administration.

Note: *The Council of Administration has no authority while the Convention is in session, nor over any activity of the Big Ten Conference. This changes the scope of the guidance and supervision to only cover the time and place of these events, and to not imply any authority over these events outright.*

State Bylaws Amendment 2024-05

Submitted by State Commander Ron Ramos, Judge Advocate George Stoeber, and Adjutant Adam Wallace.

ARTICLE VI – DEPARTMENT CONVENTION. MID-WINTER CONFERENCE. COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION AND BIG TEN CONFERENCE

Section 605. COMMITTEES
Delete Section 605 in its entirety.

Note: *These committees will be moved under section 802, Department Committees.*

State Bylaws Amendment 2024-06

Submitted by State Commander Ron Ramos, Judge Advocate George Stoeber, and Adjutant Adam Wallace.

ARTICLE VI – DEPARTMENT CONVENTION. MID-WINTER CONFERENCE. COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION AND BIG TEN CONFERENCE

Section 608. VOTING
Delete Subsection (5) in its entirety.

Note: *Current practice places the responsibility of selecting all event locations into the hands of the Convention Committee and the Council of Administration.*

State Bylaws Amendment 2024-07

Submitted by State Commander Ron Ramos, Judge Advocate George Stoeber, Adjutant Adam Wallace, and Quartermaster Tom Heath.

ARTICLE VII – COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

Section 704. CONVENTION BIDS
Amend Section 704 as follows:

The Department Convention Committee shall recommend bids to host Department Conventions, Mid-Winter Conferences, July Council of Administration Meetings, and Big Ten Fall Conferences to the Council of Administration no later than two years and one month prior to the scheduled event. The Council of Administration shall decide the location of the above listed events no later than two years prior to the event at a regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose.

Note: *Places the responsibility of selecting Convention and Conference locations on the Council of Administration.*

State Bylaws Amendment 2024-08

Submitted by State Commander Ron Ramos, Judge Advocate George Stoeber, and Adjutant Adam Wallace.

ARTICLE VII – COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

Section 706. ELECTRONIC VOTING BY THE COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION
Amend Section 706 as follows:

The State Commander may choose to conduct, or at the stated request of at least 1/3 of the Council Members shall conduct, email or other electronic means of voting, of the members of the Council on any business or matter that may arise between regularly scheduled Council Meetings. A written record of such instances shall be maintained by the Adjutant and be incorporated into the minutes of the next regular meeting of the Council.
Note: *Removes mail voting and adds language to adapt into other electronic voting means beyond email.*

State Bylaws Amendment 2024-09

Submitted by State Commander Ron Ramos, Judge Advocate George Stoeber, and Adjutant Adam Wallace.

ARTICLE VIII – DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Section 802. COMMITTEES
Amend Section 802 as follows:

The Commander shall appoint within twenty (20) days of assuming the duties of the office, the following committees: Veterans Service Committee, Finance Committee, Wisconsin VFW News Committee, Building Committee, Credentials Committee, and Charter Bylaws and Resolutions Committee. The Commander may appoint any other committees which they may deem desirable, or which may be established by the Convention or Council of Administration.

Note: *Moves Committees removed from Section 605 into Section and rewords the sections into easier language to follow.*

State Bylaws Amendment 2024-10

Submitted by State Commander Ron Ramos, Judge Advocate George Stoeber, Adjutant Adam Wallace, and Quartermaster Tom Heath.

ARTICLE VIII – DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Section 805. WISCONSIN VFW COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
Amend Section 805 as follows:

(1) The Committee shall consist of six (6) members, they are: State Junior Vice Commander; State Quartermaster, Adjutant, and three (3) appointed committee members. The State Commander will designate a chairperson from the appointed committee members.
(2) The Committee shall oversee the editorial, advertising, social media, and marketing policies as mandated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
(3) The State Commander shall appoint the Editor of the Wisconsin VFW News, a Social Media Editor, and a Marketing Coordinator upon receiving the advice of the Committee. The editors/coordinator will advise their committee as subject matter experts and participate in all committee meetings and may be non-VFW members.
(4) The Committee shall be responsible for coordination and supervision of the publication of the Wisconsin VFW News, social media platforms, marketing strategies, and the annual Convention Yearbook.
(5) In the event of a vacancy within the committee or Editor/coordinator positions, the State Commander shall appoint a member/individual to fill the vacancy.
(6) The Department shall publish a minimum of four (4) issues yearly of the Wisconsin VFW News. It shall be the official publication of the Department. Orders and official notices shall be deemed to be sufficient and lawful notice to all members of all purposes whatsoever.

State Bylaws Amendment 2024-11

Submitted by State Commander Ron Ramos, Judge Advocate George Stoeber, and Adjutant Adam Wallace.

ARTICLE VIII – DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Section 807. WI VFW FOUNDATION
Amend Subsection (1) as follows:

(1) The following VFW Department of Wisconsin officers shall by virtue of their office, serve as members of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin VFW Foundation, Inc., concurrent with their term as a Department Officer: Immediate Past State Commander, State Commander, State Sr Vice Commander, State Jr Vice Commander, State Quartermaster and State Judge Advocate.

Note: *This change reflects the current bylaws of the WI VFW Foundation by including the Immediate Past State Commander.*

State Bylaws Amendment 2024-12

Submitted by State Commander Ron Ramos, Judge Advocate George Stoeber, and Adjutant Adam Wallace.

ARTICLE VIII – DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Section 808. DELEGATES
Amend Section 808 as follows:

The State Commander shall appoint the prescribed number of delegates to the Big Ten Conference and any other boards and commissions that the Wisconsin VFW is represented on, to include Regional, State, and Federal entities. The delegates shall represent the Department at all meetings of the respective organizations to which they are delegates.

Note: *This broadens the scope of what external boards and bodies the State Commander can appoint a delegate of the Wisconsin VFW too, such as the Council on Veterans Programs, and other VSO representative boards and commissions that the Wisconsin VFW may have representation at.*

State Bylaws Amendment 2024-13

Submitted by State Commander Ron Ramos, Judge Advocate George Stoeber, Adjutant Adam Wallace, and Quartermaster Tom Heath

ARTICLE X - FINANCE

Section 1001. ASSESSMENT
Delete Subsection (2) in its entirety.

Note: *Setting aside 60 cents designated for the WI VFW News is currently a fraction of the real per capita cost of the newspaper. Any budgeted and approved item in the yearly budget must be paid regardless.*

State Bylaws Amendment 2024-14

Submitted by State Commander Ron Ramos, Judge Advocate George Stoeber, and Adjutant Adam Wallace.

ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

Section 1201. AMENDMENTS
Amend Subsections (2), and (3), of Section 1201 as follows:

(2) These By-Laws may be amended at any Department Convention by a two- thirds (2/3) majority vote. No resolution to amend these Bylaws shall be considered unless the resolution is received by the Department Adjutant in Department Headquarters thirty days prior to the State Convention of the year in which it is to be considered. The resolution must be in proper form, signed by the Commander or Department officer and attested to by the Adjutant.

(3) The Department Adjutant shall ensure the proposed resolutions and bylaw changes are posted on the Department Website no later than ten (10) days prior to the State Convention of the year in which they would be considered.

Note: *This allows time for the District Conventions to pass proposed resolutions and amendments to be considered in the same year in which they are passed. In the current time and publication restrictions, District Conventions are unable to propose a resolution or amendment to be considered in the same year. This also will utilize our state website as the place to publish proposed changes and unencumber the newspaper from the mandate they be published there.*

NATIONAL BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

National Bylaw Amendment 2024-01

Submitted by District 7, VFW Department of Wisconsin.

ARTICLE I - MEMBERS
Section 101 - ELIGIBILITY
Add Subsection (4) as follows:

(4) while a member of the Armed Forces component, who is activated, mobilized and deploys to a foreign country, outside the theater of operation, for the purpose of support of a conflict, for not less than 30 consecutive days.

MANUAL OF PROCEDURE

ARTICLE I - MEMBERS
Section 101 - ELIGIBILITY
Add the following verbiage to Section:

“Any individual while a member of the Armed Forces Reserve component, who is activated, mobilized and deploys to a foreign country, outside the theater of operation, for the purpose of support of a conflict, for not less than 30 consecutive days.

Note: *The Veterans of Foreign Wars has been serving the needs of combat veterans for more than 100 years and the nature of the area of combat has changed over-time. As a result, there has been a greater demand for support personnel, deployed to locations just outside*

the theater of conflict. However, they are still subject to danger without qualifying for hostile fire or imminent danger pay. These extended separation(s) from home and family, usually with short notice and indefinite terms, currently does not provide them with the recognition for the role they play in today’s modern military operations. Therefore, the Veteran of Foreign Wars would be better served to expand their eligibility criteria to include these valuable members by adoption of the proposed provision in the National Bylaw. Request this proposal be retroactive to include Cold War and Desert Storm era veterans.

National Bylaw Amendment 2024-02

Submitted by Burnett County VFW Post 1256.

ARTICLE II - POSTS
Section 216 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees
Amend Subsection (b) of Section 216 as follows:

(b) The Commander shall appoint an Adjutant and Chaplain, and may appoint a Service Officer.

Note: *In Wisconsin, every county has a Veteran Service Officer (VSO) trained to assist Veterans with their issues. Most Veterans either go directly to their VSO or the other Post members help them get there. In the end, they go to a VSO. We recognize that not all Posts outside Wisconsin have easy access to a VSO. By adding “may appoint” to line (b), Posts retain the ability to keep the position if their Post wants to or not fill the position if is unneeded or unused. Posts may need to change their Bylaws to reflect their choice.*

National Bylaw Amendment 2024-03

Submitted by Burnett County VFW Post 1256.

ARTICLE II - POSTS
Section 216 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees
Amend Subsection (c) of Section 216 as follows:

(c) The Post may elect or the Post Commander may appoint a Judge Advocate, Officer of the Day and/or Guard if required by Post Bylaws.

MANUAL OF PROCEDURE

ARTICLE II - POSTS
Section 218 – OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN, DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS
Delete Section 218(a)(9) in its entirety, and remunerate the subsequent subsections to (9) Officer of the Day, (10) Trustees, and (11) Service Officers

ARTICLE IV - DISTRICTS
Section 418 -Officers: Duties and Obligations
Amend Section 418 (a) (13) as follows:

(13) Surgeon. The District Surgeon shall perform the duties properly pertinent to their office. The Surgeon shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be required by the laws and usages of this organization or lawful orders from proper authority.

ARTICLE V - DEPARTMENT
Section 518 -Officers: Duties and Obligations
Amend Section 518 (a) (10) as follows:

(10) Surgeon. The Department Surgeon shall perform the duties properly pertaining to their office. The Department Surgeon shall assist District Surgeons, in an advisory capacity, and promote statewide health programs. The Surgeon shall perform such other duties as may be incident to their office or as may from time to time be required by the laws and usages of this organization or lawful orders from proper authority.

VFW RITUAL
Installation of District Officers - Prayer
Amend to section for Surgeon as follows:

Installing Officer: Comrade Surgeon, it will be your duty to promote and direct health programs for the benefit of the District. You shall perform such other duties in the District as are incident to our office.

Note: *This is a totally unused position. Suspect it is a holdover from the early days of the VFW. If Post members have medical issues they go to their local clinic. If they need help with a VA related medical issue they go to their Veteran Service Officer. Most post members willingly check on and assist other Veterans and their family members when they know someone is ill or injured. Asking people to volunteer, or appointing people, to a position that doesn’t do anything for the Post is just needless, pointless work. The position’s lack of utility for the Post warrants its deletion entirely. The changes to the Manual of Procedure and Ritual serve to clarify the Department Surgeon’s ongoing role with the District level only.*

Deadline for
the July 2024
issue is
June 21.

2024-2025 Program Year
VFW & Auxiliary Kickoff

Journey to Healing Together
Honoring Veterans Together

Friday-Saturday, July 12-13
Stoney Creek – La Crosse
3060 S. Kinney Coulee Rd.
Onalaska, WI 54650
608-781-3060

TENTATIVE SCHEDULES
(Subject to change)

VFW

(Dress Code – Business Casual – Polo/Slacks)

Friday, July 12

9:00 – 10:45 am Introduction and Committee meetings – including:
Finance Committee, News Committee
10:45 – 11:00 am Break
11:00 am – Noon Leadership Training
Noon – 1:30 pm Lunch (On your own)
1:30 – 2:30 pm HQ Orientation/Microsoft Onboarding
(Bring your laptop/tablets/phones)
3:00 – 4:00 pm Joint VFW/Auxiliary Special Project Presentation
4:00 pm Closing of Friday sessions
6:00 pm South of the Border Buffet and Social
– Paid reservation required

Saturday, July 13

9:00 am Opening Ceremonies
9:15 – 11:15 am Committee Reports – including:
Finance, News, VOD/Patriot's Pen/Teacher,
State Legislative, National Home, Membership,
Women Veterans, Unfinished and New Business
11:15 am – Noon District Commanders' Reports
Noon – 1:30 pm Lunch (On your own)
1:30 – 3:00 pm Training – including:
• Running a District Mtg.
• State and Nat'l. Websites
• Yearly/Quarterly Post Requirements
3:15 – 3:45 pm Line Officers' Remarks
3:45 – 4:00 pm Closing Remarks

AUXILIARY

(All sessions open to all members; Dress Code: Business Casual)

Friday, July 12

10:30 am Hospital Committee/AVS Meeting
Noon Lunch on your own
1:00 – 3:00 pm School of Instruction (Open to all)
• District Presidents and Vice Presidents
• Treasurer Training on MALTA
• Audit Training Video
• Other topics and questions
3:00 – 4:00 pm Joint VFW/Auxiliary Special Project Presentation
6:00 pm South of the Border Buffet and Social
– Paid reservation required

Saturday, July 13

8:30 am – Noon Program Chairmen Promotions
Noon – 1:00 pm Lunch on your own
1:00 pm Council of Administration Meeting (Open to all)

2024 – 2025 Program Year Kickoff

Journey to Healing Together ♥ Honoring Veterans Together



Friday-Saturday
July 12-13, 2024

Stoney Creek – La Crosse
3060 S. Kinney Coulee Rd.
Onalaska, WI 54650



As we conclude the current Command year, it's time to set our sights on the Kickoff for the next one. While the sessions focus on preparing the newly-elected and appointed leadership for their roles in the coming year, **ALL** sessions are open to attendance by *any member in good standing*. As meetings are held in different parts of our large state, those who live in the vicinity are always encouraged to sit in and see the workings of *your* VFW and Auxiliary, Dept. of Wisconsin. This one may be especially helpful to newer members and/or those considering stepping up to Department offices in the future.

Be sure to check out the Tentative Agendas elsewhere on the page. Here's the "scoop" on the details – be sure to make your reservations (if needed) by the deadline of June 15:

- ◆ Call Stoney Creek directly for reservations – 608-781-3060
- ◆ Room rates: \$110/\$120/\$125 plus tax. [Ask for the VFW block]
- ◆ Deadline for special room rate: **June 15**
- ◆ This weekend is a great way to learn about the VFW and Auxiliary Programs and events planned for the new year and to meet your VFW Commander Mary Ann Christopherson and Auxiliary President Cheryl Woodards and their leadership teams.
- ◆ Following the Friday meetings, a "South of the Border" buffet dinner is planned – reservation and payment by June 15 is required. **Online reservation at vfwwi.org is PREFERRED!**

2024-2025 Program Year VFW & Auxiliary Kickoff

Friday-Saturday, July 12-13, 2024

Stoney Creek - La Crosse
3060 S. Kinney Coulee Rd., Onalaska, WI 54650 • 608-781-3060

- Call the hotel directly for reservations.
- Room rate is \$100/\$120/\$125 + tax – **Ask for the VFW block**
- **Deadline** for Hotel and Meal reservations is **June 15, 2024**.

Program Kickoff Meal Reservations

NAME: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ST/ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

Friday, July 12 – 6:00 pm – South of the Border Buffet – Ground beef and grilled chicken served taco bar style with all the sides and crisp tortilla chips, salsa, and nacho cheese.

_____ @ \$38 EACH = \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL = \$ _____

- Please make check payable to VFW-Dept. of WI, earmarked "Kickoff"
- Mail to: VFW Dept. of WI, PO Box 6128, Monona, WI 53716-0128
- Or scan the QR Code, complete reservation and pay online.



- **Reservations MUST be received by June 15– no exceptions!**

Cootie Corner

Due to the close proximity of the 2024 Grand Convention and the deadline for this issue of the WI VFW NEWS, we did not have enough time to secure columns from the newly-elected Military Order of the Cootie Grand Commander Paul Kirsch and MOC Auxiliary Grand President Rose Jacobson. We look forward to hearing from them in the next issue. Meanwhile, congratulations to these 2024-2025 Officers of the Grand of Wisconsin MOC and MOCA:

Grand of WI MOC

- Commander** - Paul Kirsch, PT 6
Jr. Vice Cdr. - Pat Moran, PT 23
Chaplain - David Jacobson, PT 9
Surgeon - Julie Harris, PT 23
Chief-of-Staff - Tracy Woodman, PT 21
Hospital Chair - Wayne Woodman, PT 21
Blood Chair - Wayne Woodman, PT 21
- Sr. Vice Cdr.** - Brian Rickman, PT 9
QM/Adj. - Ken Patterson, PT 23
Judge Advocate - Michael Woodards, PT 41
Historian - Wayne Woodman, PT 21
Inspector - Pat Moran, PT 23
Membership Chair - Don Lynch, PT 6

Grand of WI MOCA

- President** - Rose Jacobson
Jr. Vice Pres. - Cheryl Woodards
Secretary - Karen Johnson
Conductress - Laura Coffin
Trustee #1 - Kathy Matthees
Trustee #3 - Judy Borg
- Sr. Vice Pres.** - Connie Lindloff
Treasurer - Dolores Sorensen
Chaplain - Carol Welch
Guard - Rita Byers
Trustee #2 - Rita Byers
Hospital Chair - Karen Johnson



Duly Installed



The newly-installed MOC Grand Officers led by Cdr. Paul Kirsch (next to Flag) look on as the MOCA Grand Officers are installed by Supreme Guard Rosalyn Dandridge (at podium). Taking the oath of office at left (from center) are President Rose Jacobson, SVP Connie Lindloff and JVP Cheryl Woodards. Bruce Sorensen photo.

Military Order of the Cootie Grand of Wisconsin 2024 Raffle Results



- 1st Place - \$500
2nd Place - \$250
3rd Place - \$100
4th Place - \$50
5th Place - \$50
6th Place - \$25
7th Place - \$25

- Owen Leifker
Addie Leifker
Roy Christopherson
Eric Deuel
Shawn Plante
Jackie Frat
Darlene Michalki



Additionally, the winner of the 4x4 ATV Raffle was Rocky Mantik from Medford.

Thank you to all who sold and purchased raffle tickets to support our work for hospitalized Veterans - "Keeping 'em smiling in Beds of White"

MOCA Member of the Year

MOCA Grand of WI Treasurer Dolores Sorensen (at right) received the Member of the Year Award at the Saturday evening banquet, presented by Grand Secretary Karen Johnson. Judy Borg was named President of the Year but was unable to attend. Courtesy of Linda Moran.



Grand Awards

Wayne Woodman (left) was named Seam Squirrel of the Year and Dave Jacobson was awarded Cootie of the Year. Courtesy of Linda Moran.

Clowns and Bingo

Cootie Clowns + Bingo at Pine Crest Nursing Home in Merrill = a "Grand" event!
Courtesy of Linda Moran.





West Bend HS Bears Hockey Coach Mike Driscoll (far right) is a big supporter of Veterans at the school, reminding students of those who have served, especially the fallen. Recently, West Bend Auxiliary 1393 presented a Casket Flag in a case to add to the tribute wall in the locker room. Here he accepts the Flag from Auxiliary 1393 President Kathie Lendosky, while other Auxiliary members and some members of the Bears Hockey team look on. Submitted by Kathie Lendosky.



Post and Auxiliary members from Post 664 in Clintonville pose with some of the 85 First Grade students at Clintonville ES during their annual Flag Etiquette presentation. Brochures, Pledge of Allegiance pencils, coloring books and U.S. Presidents rulers were also distributed, and of course, there was milk and cookies! Courtesy of Post 664 QM Tina Flanagan.



Kienow-Hilt VFW Post 1621 in Janesville is very proud to continue their support of the homeless students of their community. Here, a presentation of \$3,500 to the Rock River Charter School (RRCS) includes (l-r): Anthony Landowski (RRCS); SVC Pete Pemrich; Angela Burdette and Lisa Peterson (RRCS); and Post Commander Mike Zientek. Courtesy of Pete Pemrich.



A great group of comrades from Thorp VFW Post 9057 recently presented a \$1,000 donation to the Never Forgotten Honor Flight, which operates in Central Wisconsin. The money was raised in various fundraisers during the year. In front with the check are Cdr. Bill Buss and NVHF Co-Founder and VP Jim Campbell. Courtesy of Fred Baehr.



Once again, Germantown VFW Post 9202 shared proceeds from their Annual Christmas Tree Sale and Golf Event fundraisers with a number of recipients. Here, Post members Dave Gierach (left) and Dale Schuldt present a donation of \$1,000 to Beth Heiman of the St. Boniface Food Pantry in Germantown. Another generous donation of \$1,500 was also made to the Fisher House in Milwaukee. Well done comrades! Courtesy of Post 9202 QM John Schaezel.



Seventeen Vietnam Veterans were recognized earlier this year at an Appreciation Ceremony conducted jointly by Randolph VFW Post 9510 and Cambria American Legion Post 401. Honored Vietnam Veterans were (front, from left): Dale Gajdosik; David Prochnow; Daniel Wingers; LeRoy Kile; Steven Marquardt. Second row (from left): Oscar Parks; Werner Minning; John Barstow; Terry Thompson; Charlie Henke; Harold North, Sr. Back row (from left): Terry Schraufnagel; Richard Nieman; Duane Kovalaske; Gordon Gossink; Michael Zimmerman; Richard Grieger; Bruce Meier. Thank you for your service! Courtesy of Danelle Sadoski of Post 9510.



Cochrane-Buffalo City VFW Post 10406 also honored Vietnam Veterans earlier in the year. Here, State Commander Ron Ramos (left) poses with Vietnam honoree Romie Kujak and Buffalo County VSO Felicia Decker. Courtesy of Kim Goss of Aux. 10406.



Recently, VFW Post 10406 dedicated their Memorial Hall and Military Museum to the late Allen Kochenderfer, PSC. A fitting tribute to a PSC, Past National Council Member, comrade, brother in arms, friend, and mentor to many. Courtesy of PSC and current NCM Cory Geisler.



Members of Klossner-Dietzler VFW Auxiliary 5729 in Medford proudly display their 75th Anniversary Certificate from the National organization. Congratulations Sisters and Brothers – best wishes for the next 75 years of service!
Courtesy of Aux. 5729 President Jackie Gregory.



State Commander Ron Ramos (left) presented Clarence Keske VFW Post 1163 in Beaver Dam with the National Century Anniversary Award Citation, in recognition of their record of outstanding service to Veterans and the community. The Post was mustered on March 23, 1924. Post 1163 Commander (and State JVC) Ty Letto accepted the Award on behalf of the entire Post. *Courtesy of Ty Letto.*



Edwin Frohmader VFW Post 1879 in Fort Atkinson recently honored two comrades for their outstanding decades of service. Past Cdr. Bill Imsland (left) has distributed Poppies for 40 years and Dick Miles has served as Post Chaplain for 30 years. Many thanks you to both! *Courtesy of Post 1879 QM Steve Tague.*



State Sr. Vice Cdr. Mary Ann Christopherson visited Thorp VFW Post 9057 in late March to present them with their National Golden Anniversary Award, celebrating 50 years of service. Mustered on March 6, 1974, the Post has several Charter Members who are still active. Pictured with the SVC are (front row): Post Cdr. Bill Buss and State Sr. Vice Cdr. Mary Ann Christopherson. Middle row (l-r): Judy Jacque, Ginnie Kiewra, Dave Mayenschein. Back row (l-r): Robbie Schesel, Sam Borowski, Larry Luzinski, Jim Alberts. *Photo courtesy of Ross Pattermann of the Thorp Courier, submitted by Cindy Baehr.*



Past State Commander Michele Rathke (center) visited Mar-Lin VFW Post 10203 in Hamburg to present their National Golden Anniversary Award. The Post's 50 years of service began on May 19, 1974. Post members shown with PSC Rathke include (l-r): Steve Sabatke, Commander Terry Krueger, QM Mike Schuster and Past Commander Don Kozlowski. All the best for many more years of service! *Submitted by Terry Krueger.*



Wayne C. Chitwood VFW Post 10231 in Necedah held their 6th Annual Vietnam Veteran Welcome Home event on March 29. Guest speakers included Jennifer Carlson, Executive Director of the WI Veterans Museum Foundation; Richard Lindbeck, Former President of the WI VVA and current WI State Council Executive Director; and State Representative Tony Kurtz (Dist. 50, R-Wonewoc). LEFT: All Vietnam Veterans in attendance were presented individually with the Vietnam Veteran Commemorative Lapel Pin. Here, Life Member and Chaplain Harvey Fields (left) receives his pin from State Rep. Tony Kurtz, while Jennifer Carlson and Richard Lindbeck look on at right. RIGHT: Family Members of Wayne C. Chitwood (from left), Dawn Waltemath, Jane Ayres, and John Waltemath receive Commemorative Certificates, and Vietnam Veterans and Family Member Lapel Pins from the guest speakers as Post Adjutant Jim Starr reads the Commemorative Certificates at the podium. *Photos by Fran Peetz, submitted with info by Post 10231 Adjutant Jim Starr.*

USS Wisconsin Construction is Underway

In 2020, the Navy named the second Columbia-class Ballistic Missile Submarine after the state of Wisconsin - USS Wisconsin (SSBN 827). Construction is just starting, the commissioning is expected in about 2031, and then the men and women assigned to the USS Wisconsin can proudly say “I’m on Wisconsin”!

To help support the exceptional men and women who will one day operate and maintain Wisconsin, a group of Navy Veterans and Wisconsinites formed a tax exempt, not-for-profit organization incorporated in the State of Wisconsin. Officially it is the **USS Wisconsin SSBN 827 Association, Inc.** The Association will harness the synergy of the key partners forming a strategic triad: active supporters, Wisconsinites, and the crew members assigned until she is ultimately decommissioned (~2072).

The Association envisions three things:

- Lifelong bonds with crew members assigned to the USS Wisconsin (SSBN 827);
- Wisconsinites know and are proud of their namesake Columbia-class Strategic Submarine;
- Wisconsin schools, after-school programs, and youth clubs are active in STEM programs



The Newport News Shipbuilding Foundry recently completed a pour of the first casting for USS Wisconsin (SSBN 827), the nation’s second *Columbia*-class submarine. *Contributed photo.*

USS WISCONSIN

SSBN 827 ASSOCIATION



Connecting the people of Wisconsin with the USS *Wisconsin* and her crews.
Your support is appreciated! www.USSWisconsinSub.org

with unique submarine related projects.

Typically, it takes about eight years to build a Columbia-class submarine. USS Wisconsin’s Keel Laying Ceremony is anticipated in 2025, with her Christening expected in FY 2029. Following sea trials, USS Wisconsin is on track to be commissioned, delivered, in-service and on patrol in 2031. **NOTE: The Association’s mock inflatable sub, WIS 827, a one-eleventh scaled, dimensional-**

ly-accurate model of the future submarine, is scheduled to be on display at the VFW Convention in June. Don’t miss it!

Volunteers and donors are needed! Please visit the website for more info – usswisconsinsub.org - and let the Association know how you are interested with an email to: info@usswisconsinsub.org. Submitted by former WDVA Secretary, Captain Mary Kolar, USN (ret), who is Association Treasurer.

FLAG DAY 2024

SUNDAY JUNE 9th WAUBEKA, WI



HONORING
US ARMY Past & Present
and all Military Personnel

- **Lineup Time:** Noon, parade will begin at 1:30 p.m.
- **Location for Lineup:** Americanism Center, 4200 Valley View Drive.
- **Parade Route:** Parade will begin and end at the Americanism Center.
- Awards Ceremony for all Military units will follow the parade at VFW Post 7037 on River Road.

Please complete the application below and return it to: VFW Post 7037, W4137 River Road, Waubeka, WI 53021, or send a copy of the Entry Form to email address: Lorenz7037@yahoo.com

PLEASE ENTER THE FOLLOWING UNIT IN THE FLAG DAY PARADE AT WAUBEKA, WISCONSIN TO BE HELD ON JUNE 9, 2024.

NAME OF UNIT

CATEGORY

GROUP LEADER OR BUSINESS MANAGER

COMMANDER/PRESIDENT/POST/AUX. OR DISTRICT

EMAIL ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

Please return the application before, but not later than, May 31, 2024, in order to allow sufficient time for mailing rules, programs, etc.

This committee has no funds available to defray any expense of units. Flag Day information and Flag Day Program with parade lineup will be emailed to the entering unit the week before the Flag Day Observance.

VFW

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

We invite all VFW Posts and Auxiliaries, Drum & Bugle Corps, Marching Bands, Baton Corps, Drill Teams, Scouting Units, All Color Guard Units, Military/Patriotic Floats.



THE WALL THAT HEALS

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER

A PROGRAM OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND
FOUNDERS OF THE WALL

Nixon Park in Hartland May 30 – June 2

Presented by the Hartland Chamber of Commerce
and the Village of Hartland Community

Open 24 hours a day, FREE to the public.

CLOSES Sunday, June 2 at 2:00 pm

Where do I find the VFW Event Photos on the Website?



Note: ALL photos of a particular album may be downloaded all at once from the Album Cover using the down arrow. They may also be “shared”.

Suggested credit if you submit these to a publication:
Photo courtesy of Wisconsin VFW State Photographer Sherri L. Smith

- ➔ Open vfwwi.org
- ➔ Click on **ABOUT**
- ➔ Click on **GALLERY**
- ➔ Select “Click Here to View all Photo Albums on Flickr”
- ➔ Select Album by name (e.g. 2024 Mid-Winter)
- ➔ Scroll to a photo you want.
- ➔ **OPEN** it on your computer
- ➔ At the lower right, next to the photo in the black field, click on the **DOWNLOAD ARROW**

Then select the size you want – **SMALL** will be about 40-50 kb, good for electronic display. **ORIGINAL** will be about 2-3 MB, excellent for printing.

Quilts of Valor



ABOVE: Quilts of Valor for Berlin Veterans — Six Berlin area Veterans representing Wells-Krause VFW Post 2925 and O'Connor-Chiers American Legion Post 340 were honored with Quilts of Valor at a recent ceremony in Berlin. Each was introduced with a brief summary of his service and presented with a beautiful patriotic quilt crafted by the Pine Tree Needlers Guild of Wautoma. The honored Veterans include (L-R): Ray Darnick, William Niemczyk, Mike Trampf, Keith Hess, Richard Strebelinski, and Paul Micklitz (seated). Thank you all! *Courtesy of our friends at Berlin Journal Newspapers.*

TOP LEFT: Post 7308 Comrades Honored — At a recent Post meeting, two very deserving Veterans of Pleasant Prairie VFW Post 7308 were surprised and honored with Quilts of Valor by Peggy Zimmerman (left), representing the Ladies of Lydia Quilters at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Kenosha. Proudly displaying their cherished quilts are comrades Phil Allen (center) and Joel Eaves. Thank you for your service! *Submitted by Post 7308 member Randy Strickland.*

AT LEFT: Quilts of Valor Awarded in Randolph — Vietnam War Veterans and Purple Heart Recipients Richard Nieman (left) and Oscar Parks were presented recently with beautiful Quilts of Valor to honor their service, then and now. Both are longtime and active members of Randolph VFW Post 9510. Thank you both! *Submitted by Post 9510 member Danelle Sadoski.*

Thank you to these Wisconsin Posts for their support of the VFW NEWS.
For more information on Post Booster Ads, contact Editor Marla J. Morgan at: wivfweditor@gmail.com.

**PEWAUKEE
MEMORIAL
POST 9537**
Meetings — Third Wed. of the month
Post open 4:00-8:00 p.m., Mon-Wed-Fri.
HOME OF THE STATE HONOR GUARD
The greatest little Post in the State

**GROSS-YAKSH
Post 6498**
Home Post of
**Past Cdrs-in-Chief
Walter G. Hogan
and the late
Tommy "T" Tradewell**

VFW Post 305 Supports the NEWS

1300 Starr Ave., Eau Claire, WI
"Overlooking the beautiful Chippewa River and Dells Pond."
715-552-8438
Post meetings – 7:00 pm, Third Tues. of month
We are OPEN for business! Come see us for great food and hospitality. Open daily; visit us on Facebook for info!

Raffle Calendar Winners

Date	Ticket	Name	City	Prize	Date	Ticket	Name	City	Prize
Mar. 1	2493	C. Simpson	Sheboygan	\$50	Apr. 5	3665	J. Dahmen	Monroe	\$100
	5628	L. Weber	Cuba City	\$50		11938	J. Davison	St. Louis, MO	\$50
	6805	P. Schmidt	West Allis	\$50		7545	M. Curran	Chicago, IL	\$50
	10195	D. Dutra	Janesville	\$50		3424	B. Cavanaugh	Manitowoc	\$50
	8414	S. Colburn	Friendship	\$50		8969	G. Lavicka	Athens	\$50
	1529	C. Gezella	Maribel	\$50		7616	C. Marcin	Neshkoro	\$50
	5998	P. Burns	DeForest	\$50		12441	J. Feldman	Freeport, IL	\$50
Mar. 8	2630	C. Springstroh	Kaukauna	\$50	Apr. 12	6520	G. Lewitzke	West Allis	\$500
	3237	P. Erickson	Madison	\$50		12547	R. Diethert	Watersmeet, MI	\$50
	4972	J. Klingler	Sussex	\$50		9138	J. Kuehndorf	Barron	\$50
	1157	T. Effa	Freedom	\$50		11709	J. Schultz	Milwaukee	\$50
	1237	D. Verlagen	Kaukauna	\$50		6810	N. Sarenac	Greendale	\$50
	6424	A. Ooya	Watertown	\$50		12479	H. Reasa	Monroe	\$50
	3096	S. Barrett	Milwaukee	\$50		2828	B. Miller	Burlington	\$50
Mar. 15	5225	R. Haessly	Mayville	\$50	Apr. 19	6906	VFW Post 1465	Milwaukee	\$50
	11027	T. Sherry	Viroqua	\$50		12471	J. Hauser	Beloit	\$50
	8951	O. Wickman	Athens	\$50		9096	T. Curtke	Stratford	\$50
	8407	P. Jungbluth	Friendship	\$50		5510	C. Schultz	Fall River	\$50
	12467	J. Wentzel	Browntown	\$50		10108	B. Clark	Schofield	\$50
	6191	I. Crescio	Randolph	\$50		5670	K. McAndrew	Potosi	\$50
	11195	M. Seegmiller	Postville, IA	\$50		7541	K. Welch	Berlin	\$50
Mar. 22	8196	T. Stenzel	Sheboygan	\$300	Apr. 26	7572	E. Vetrone	Redgranite	\$50
	6409	V. Limberatos	Milwaukee	\$50		2467	G. Sukowaty	Manitowoc	\$50
	13376	V. Wilson	Oxford	\$50		8023	E. Buteyn	Waupun	\$50
	12521	L. CortezInver	Grove Heights, MN	\$50		4925	S. Karlik	Waukesha	\$50
	11872	H. Herrmann	Hayward	\$50		6616	J. Kotarak	Greendale	\$50
	11019	R. Howell	Viroqua	\$50		10104	VFW Post 8280	Kronenwetter	\$50
	661	D. Harrwig	Peshtigo	\$50		2443	L. Stelzer	Whitelaw	\$50
Mar. 29	12546	J. James	Land O' Lakes	\$50					
	11407	J. Pederson	Bay City	\$50					
	3955	B. Henderson	Muskego	\$50					
	4509	T. Dawor	Fond du Lac	\$50					
	10287	D. Brandes	Venice, FL	\$50					
	8465	J. Dahlke	Marathon	\$50					
	3164	V. Radebaugh	Fort Atkinson	\$50					

Raffle Winners are also posted on the VFW State Website – vfwwi.org – following the Friday drawings at VFW State Headquarters. On the website home page, click on **NEWS**, then scroll down and click on **VFW RAFFLE CALENDAR NEWS**.

FROM THE EDITOR

FROM THE EDITOR

“Earn your success based on service to others, not at the expense of others.”
~ H. Jackson Brown, Jr.
Complete Life’s Little Instruction Book

Congratulations Wisconsin, on your **tenth** consecutive National Grand Award in the Large Frequency (5+ issues per year) category. And thank you to ALL who continue to supply us with those incredible items that **Inform, Inspire and Invite**. You make it happen.

As is customary, we will present the annual Department Publications Contest Awards at the State Convention in June. Congratulations to our seven winners listed below. And **BIG congrats** to Post 1879 Fort Atkinson and Post 2113 De Pere on your National Silver Award and Bronze Award respectively. Be sure to bring some help to Convention to carry those extra awards!

My thanks to Commander Ramos for this appointment. It continues to be my honor to tell the Wisconsin VFW and Auxiliary story. This 11-year “labor of love” has been my way to serve *all our members*, and honor their service, then and now. I have been blessed with your support.

I also want to thank longtime VFW NEWS Chairman Joel Walker, PSC and dedicated Committee members John Ustruck and Bill Knudson for your service and your continued commitment to our newspaper. Your support means a great deal. And, as noted on the front page, the success of this publication would not happen without the unwavering support of Ty Gonyo and his great team at Berlin Journal Newspapers. There are not enough superlatives to express my heartfelt thanks for your decades of caring assistance.

As we prepare for the next Command year in both the VFW and Auxiliary, amongst the trials and turmoil of our times, there is no doubt that we are at another critical crossroad. Like many other organizations, we face many challenges – aging and declining membership; fiscal stresses and strains; even a bit of an “identity crisis”, among others. Grave challenges certainly. But also, incredible opportunities.

Opportunities to examine and confirm our mission to serve Veterans, their families and our communities. To stay *connected* with our membership and to listen and respond to their needs. To use our collective ideas, talents and energy to weather the challenges and turn them into opportunities for growth and prosperity. To evolve, adapt and grow, while still honoring our century + of service and tradition. It’s a tall order, but in keeping with what brought us together in the first place: we must strive to work as a team to conquer the obstacles and build a strong and lasting future, leaving NO comrades behind.

To that end, I urge you to review the Convention information found in the center of this issue. Familiarize yourself with those who are stepping forward to hold office. Review the Agenda and make note of the meetings and training sessions, as well as social events and camaraderie. And, please note the various Proposed Bylaw Amendments, concerning the structure and workings of your Department.

I ask you to pay special attention to Proposal 2024-10, concerning Article VIII, Section 805, The Wisconsin VFW NEWS Committee. There was considerable discussion regarding the budget, platform and distribution, and frequency of our paper, at the News Committee meeting at the Mid-Winter Conference. But now, there is no News Committee meeting ordered at this Convention, so the only opportunity to voice your concerns as a member will be when the proposed Bylaw changes are presented and ultimately, voted on. I am confident that our regular communication with the entire membership is still important. Please make your feelings known at Convention, or if not attending, to your Post delegates to the Convention.

There is still an opportunity to register for the Convention and secure your hotel room and Delegate status. Deadline is May 24 – so take action and come take part in YOUR organization.



2024 Department Publications Contest Results

Post Membership Category	Award	Post #/City	Editor
Small (up to 100 members)	First	2113, De Pere	Randy Hansen**
	Second	8338, Barron	Greg Roth
	Third	6709, Waupun	Kevin L. Iverson
Medium (101-200 members)	First	1879, Fort Atkinson	Kelly Stine*
Large (201+ members)	First	1318, Madison	Gundel Metz
	Second	388, Wausau	Curt Dahlke
	Third	2112, Sparta	Tom Schauer

* Denotes National Silver Award in Small Frequency (1-4 issues per year).
** Denotes National Bronze Award in Small Frequency (1-4 issues per year).

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Keep Wisconsin VFW News a bi-monthly publication

Hi Marla,
We heard yesterday, May 4th, from a Past State Commander [Joel Walker], that the paper is not being funded to continue its bi-monthly deliveries. According to him it has been recommended to go quarterly. We also heard that the budget is \$25,000 short. After the meeting and on the way home we had a conversation about the paper and came up with doing a referendum asking how many of the recipients would pay for a subscription. We believe that a majority of the readers would pay to have the paper delivered bi-monthly. And going digital is not the answer. You will lose more readers by going digital only because not all older Vets have computers, or don’t like using them. I, for one, enjoy reading the articles, Taps and the monthly calendar winners and probably would not enjoy getting that information off my computer.
If I understand it, \$25,000 short would be an easy mark, our Post raises more than that with 2 or 3 events. I know Veterans would pay to continue the service you now provide. Please don’t go digital and please recommend doing a subscription to your paper. Just a thought from Post 3153.

Dan DeTroye

Wisconsin Veterans of Foreign Wars News



Greetings, VFW Members!

As Secretary, my main priority has been strengthening the relationships WDVA has with our partners, like the VFW. One way I am doing that is by holding regular meetings with the leaders of Wisconsin’s Veteran service organizations, including VFW State Commander Ron Ramos and his team.

Another important way to build stronger relationships is to get out of Madison and visit Veterans across the state. On April 5 I had the privilege to join the members of VFW Post 305 in Eau Claire for a Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration. I was honored to share the stage with Lt. Nao Shoua Xiong, President WI Hmong Lao Veterans of America, Inc., and Gary Wetzal, Vietnam Veteran and Medal of Honor recipient.

As I’ve said before, none of us can do this alone. We’re lucky to have so many partners like the VFW, American Legion, AMVETS, and DAV. As a Marine, I especially enjoyed addressing the Marine Corps League of Wisconsin’s annual convention in Elkhart Lake the night after I visited Post 305. Collaboration with all our partners is the key to fulfilling our mission of serving Veterans.

The landscape of Veteran issues is ever-evolving. In the last few years alone, we’ve seen a dramatic expansion of VA health care accessibility, a growing prevalence of fraud and scams targeting former service members,

James Bond

Secretary,
Wisconsin
Department of
Veterans Affairs



new barriers to mental health care, and shifts in population dynamics. Our focus remains steadfast on ensuring Veterans have seamless access to the benefits and services they rightfully deserve. Through all this, my message remains consistent – together and through regular communication, we can address the ongoing needs of Veterans and tackle future challenges.

With spring in full swing and longer days ahead, we anticipate more outdoor gatherings within our Veteran community, including Memorial Day events statewide. We are also looking forward to our annual WDVA Women Veterans Retreat on June 7th and 8th. Details and registration are available at WisVetsWomen.com. This retreat provides an opportunity to recharge and connect with fellow women Veterans.

I look forward to seeing many of you at these events and others throughout the summer.



Pausing for a photo at the Post 305 Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration are (from left): WI VFW PSC John “Trapper” Schultz; Lt. Nao Shoua Xiong, President of the WI Lao Veterans of America, Inc.; WDVA Secretary James Bond. Photo courtesy of WDVA.

Upcoming Patriotic Observances

May 10	Military Spouses Day
May 15	Peace Officers Memorial Day
May 15	Women’s Army Corps Founded in 1942
May 18	Armed Forces Day
May 27	Memorial Day
June 6	D-Day: Allied Invasion of Europe in 1944
June 14	U.S. Army Founded in 1775
June 14	Flag Day
July 2	U.S. Army Air Corps Established in 1926
July 4	Independence Day



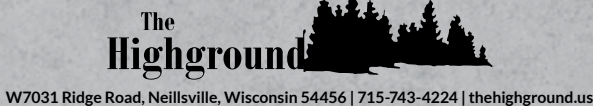
VIETNAM VETERANS REUNION - 4 AUGUST 2024

The Highground will host its annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion on Sunday, August 4, combining Vietnam exhibits, Huey helicopter displays and an opportunity to meet fellow Vietnam Veterans. There are typically 100 or more Vietnam Veterans who come together for lunch!

ITINERARY:

- 10AM (est): UH-1H Huey landing (weather permitting) — Sponsors needed for landing & lunch
- 10AM–2PM: "Vietnam Experience" Exhibit — Carl Bogar Jr with Historic Military Impressions
- 10AM–2PM: Static Display UH-1H Huey Helicopter — Courtesy of VVA 331
- 11AM–1PM: Lunch will be provided at no cost to Vietnam Veterans who RSVP before July 31. Veterans can include one guest. To RSVP, please contact Theresa by email to museum@thehighground.org or by calling 715-743-4224.
- 1PM: Author Doug Bradley — *We Gotta Get Out of This Place: The Soundtrack of the Vietnam War*, named the Best Music Book of 2015 by Rolling Stone magazine

For reunion updates, visit thehighground.us/events/vietnam-veterans-reunion
If you or your organization would like to be a sponsor, or for more information, please email Theresa at museum@thehighground.org or call 715-743-4224.



2024 Korean War Veterans
Memorial Ceremony and Program

Sunday, June 2, 2024
(rain or shine)
Starting at 10:45 am

Korean War Veterans and their families, Veterans from all branches of service, and the public are invited to attend. Representatives from the Korean Consulate and State of Wisconsin are invited to speak at the program. Please join us!

Wisconsin Korean War Veterans Memorial
Pacawa Park, Plover, WI
(Exit 153 off I-39)

EVENTS AND DEADLINES

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| May 11 | 4th District Meeting – VFW ONLY! – 9:00 am (Regis. 8:30 am) – Clifford's Supper Club, 10418 W. Forest Home Ave., Hales Corners, WI 53130
<i>State Rep.: VFW Cdr. Ramos</i> |
| May 24 | Deadline for 2024 State Convention Registration and Meals. |
| June 9 | 2024 Flag Day – Waubeka, WI (<i>See flyer elsewhere in this issue, and more info at NationalFlagDay.com.</i>) |
| June 12-15 | VFW/VFWA Dept. of Wisconsin State Conventions – Tundra Lodge, Green Bay, WI (<i>See page 3 Planning Calendar for hotel info; and all other info in the center Convention pages in this issue.</i>) |
| June 21 | Deadline for July/August 2024 <i>Wisconsin VFW News</i> |
| June 28 | 5th Annual Unmet Needs Fundraiser Golf Outing – Twin Oaks GC, Denmark, WI (<i>See flyer at right.</i>) |
| July 12-13 | 2024-2025 Program Kickoff/Council of Administration – Stoney Creek Hotel – Onalaska, WI (<i>See info elsewhere in this issue for tentative agendas, hotel info and meal reservation.</i>) |
| July 27-August 1 | VFW/VFWA National Conventions – Louisville, KY (<i>Visit: vfw.org and vfwauxiliary.org for hotel and registration info.</i>) |
| July 31-August 4 | 105th MOC Supreme Scratch and MOCA Convention – Marriott Hotel East, Louisville, KY (<i>Visit: lotcs.org for info.</i>) |
| July 31 | Deadline for Post Audits to State Headquarters |
| August 9 | Deadline for September/October 2024 <i>Wisconsin VFW News</i> |
| October 18-20 | 2024 Big Ten Conference – Marriott Indianapolis East, Indianapolis, IN (<i>Visit: vfw.in for Registration forms and Hotel information.</i>) |

EVENTS AND OUTINGS

UPCOMING GOLF OUTINGS
SAVE THE DATE

Another fun summer and fall “out on the links” – register today before these great events fill up!

- Monday, June 10, 2024**
Center for Veterans Issues (CVI) 3rd Annual Golf Outing
- River Club of Mequon, 12400 N. Ville Du Parc Dr., Mequon, WI 53092
 - Registration: 9:00 am; Shotgun Start: 11:00 am
 - \$225 per person; \$900 foursome – includes Driving Range, Boxed Lunch, Dinner, Goodie Bag, 2 drink tickets, game card and more!
 - Registration now open at: cvivet.org. *Hurry, it's almost FULL!*
 - For available sponsorships, contact: Eduardo.Garza@cvivet.org

- Friday, June 28, 2024**
VFW Dept. of WI – 5th Annual Unmet Needs Golf Outing
- Twin Oaks GC, 4871 Cty. Rd. R, Denmark, WI 54208
 - 18 holes, Scramble format; Shotgun start at 9:00 am, RAIN OR SHINE
 - \$100 per person, Veteran/Auxiliary; \$125 per person non-Veteran
 - Call 920-337-9922 or email pmoran3147@gmail.com for info.

- Monday, July 15, 2024**
WI Veterans Museum Foundation 20th Annual Golf Outing
- The Oaks GC, 4740 Pierceville Rd., Cottage Grove, WI 53527
 - Registration: 9:00 am; Shotgun Start: 11:00 am; four-person Scramble
 - Proceeds support the WVM Oral History Program
 - Registration **OPEN NOW**; visit: wisvetmuseum.com

- Monday, August 26, 2024**
12th Annual Fisher House Wisconsin Golf Outing
- Geneva National Resort & Club, 1221 Geneva National Ave. S, Lake Geneva, WI 53147
 - Registration 7:30-9:30 am; Tee off at 10:00 am.
 - Registration **OPEN NOW** at: fisherhousewi.org

- Saturday, September 7, 2024**
VFW Post 10262 9th Annual Golf Scramble
- Wisconsin River Golf Club, 705 West River Dr., Stevens Point, WI 54481
 - Shotgun start: 12 noon; Registration includes dinner at Post 10262
 - Contact Chairman Larry Kinyon to reserve your team's place – 715-498-1225 or lkinyon@att.net

- Thursday, September 12, 2024**
VFW Post 3319 4th Annual Golf with a Veteran
- Countryside GC, W726 Weiler Rd., Kaukauna, WI 54130-8870
 - Scramble format; Registration 8:30-10:00 am; Shotgun start: 10:30 am
 - Visit: [@golfwithavet](https://www.facebook.com/golfwithavet) on Facebook for complete info and registration
OR email Dennis Schmidt at golfwithavet@gmail.com

- Sunday, September 15, 2024**
VFW Post 9202 3rd Annual Golf Outing
- Brown Deer Golf Club, 7625 N. Range Line Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53209
 - Scramble format; Shotgun start: 10:00 am
 - \$500 per Foursome, includes dinner following golf.
 - Sponsorships also available; contact Leah Weber (leah.weber@att.net) or David Labinski (David.Labinski@milwaukeecountywi.gov) for info and to register your team.

SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 28, 2024
WISCONSIN VFW
5TH ANNUAL
GOLF OUTING
18 HOLES



4871 COUNTY RD R
Denmark, Wisconsin

9:00 AM
SHOTGUN START

Drink Tickets
Rolls/Appetizers
Lunch on the Turn

\$100 Veterans
or Auxiliary
\$125 Non-Veterans

All proceeds go to:
Unmet Needs
And STAY
in Wisconsin

Raffle Prizes!!

Help Support your
Fellow Veterans!!

Register today!!
Pat or Linda Moran
pmoran3147@gmail.com
920-337-9922
Wisconsin VFW



District 8 Voice of Democracy winner Henry Pahlow of Denmark HS (center) poses with Post 6705 members and District leaders after receiving his award at the January meeting. From left are: Richard "Sarge" Verheyen; D8 Commander Aaron Volling; Post 6705 Chaplain Eugene Theim; Henry; Post Cdr. Jesse Cain; Charlie Winnekens; and D8 Voice of Democracy Chair Rod Fifield. Submitted by Sarge Verheyen.



District 9 and Department Officers gather with Emerson Byers (center), the District Patriot's Pen winner from Hudson. From left are: D9 Cdr. Randy Engness; D9 Auxiliary President Jody McKinney; D9 Pen and Voice Chair Jim Garey; Emerson; State Cdr. Ron Ramos and Dept. President Sherrie Rosenau. Submitted by Jim Garey.



In a nice change of pace, Milwaukee Montessori School teacher Ben Riggs invited VFW Post 1465 members to present their Patriot's Pen awards at the school. Shown here are (from left): Quinn Mizer (2nd); Post Cdr. Walter Groth; Rishaa Goa (1st) and Anna Graat (3rd). Groth and Post Adjutant Alex Kaleta also spoke with the students about their military service and responded to questions. Submitted by Alex Kaleta.



Post 5276 presented their Voice and Pen Awards at the Potosi School District in early March. From left (front) are: Post Quartermaster Carla McAndrew; SVC Roger Udelhoven; Patriot's Pen winners Rylyn Sahr and Sophia Flesch; Cdr. Lester Jantzen and JVC Bill Hohmann. Voice of Democracy winners in back are (from left): Isaiah Groom and Aidan Uppena. Submitted by Carla McAndrew.



Bentley-Hull VFW Post 6709 in Waupun awarded 2024 Patriot's Pen Awards to three 8th graders at Central Wisconsin Christian School. From left are: Post SVC Glenn Bille; 3rd Place winner Chloe Knorr; 2nd Place winner B. Phineas Alvord; 1st Place winner Caleb TenNapel and Post JVC Cody Bruesch. Submitted by Larry Duer.



Central WI Christian HS 11th grader Lily Wobschall (center) was the Post 6709 First Place winner for the Voice of Democracy, her third in a row! Post SVC Glenn Bille (left) and JVC Cody Bruesch presented the award. Submitted by Larry Duer.



Eighth grader Olivia Zimmerman (center) of St. John's Lutheran School in Baraboo, was named the District 11 Patriot's Pen Winner, receiving her award at the Winter meeting. Sponsored by VFW Post And Auxiliary 987, she poses here with Post Cdr. Jerry Parchem and Auxiliary President Marlene Powell-Parchem. Submitted by Fred Satterlee of Post 987.



The Cochrane-Buffalo City VFW Post and Auxiliary 10406 Veterans Appreciation Dinner held in February included recognition of the Post's Voice and Pen Winners. From left are: State Cdr. Ron Ramos; Voice of Democracy winner Jaycee Lisowski; D9 Cdr. Randy Engness and Auxiliary Trustee Kathy Kochenderfer. Submitted by Kim Goss.

Elkhorn Honor Guard



VFW Post 6375 and American Legion Post 45 work very well together in Elkhorn, especially when it comes time to honor a fallen comrade. Last December, a Marine Veteran from Post 6375 was laid to rest on a day that started with rain, which of course turned to sleet, then snow as the temps dropped. As the winds subsided, the gentle snowfall remaining was the perfect, quiet backdrop for the final salute. Honor Guard members folded and presented a Flag and the Firing Squad offered their tribute.

Submitted by Post 6375 JVC Tim Gudge, with thanks to Steven Montejano of Haase-Lockwood Funeral Home for the beautiful photos.



Serving It Up at Auxiliary 388



One of the great “perks” of being Dept. President – and the NDCM for that matter – is the wonderful hospitality as you visit Posts and Auxiliaries around the state. Oh, and did we mention delicious food? And Burns Post and Auxiliary 388 in Wausau have that down “pat”. Their March Craft Show and Bake Sale was topped off with a scrumptious corned beef and cabbage dinner, and it looks like our Officers pitched right in! From left, on the serving side of the chow line are: NDCM #11 Laurel Ann Wiese; Dept. President Sherrie Rosenau; and from 388 – Dan Southworth; Aux. Pres. Marge Southworth and Kathy Miller. Nice job! *Courtesy of Curt Dahlke of Post 388.*

Post 7534 Vietnam Veterans



The Auxiliary to Duck Creek VFW Post 7534 recognized the Post members with a Vietnam Veterans Day cake at their March meeting. And these Veterans take the cake! Thank you all for your service, then and now. *Courtesy of Bruce Sorensen of Post 7534.*

Bill Signing in Mt. Horeb



The Mt. Horeb Veterans Memorial is on the map. Governor Tony Evers traveled to the site in early April to sign into law Assembly Bill 558, now 2023 Wisconsin Act 270 which will place the Memorial on the next printing of the Official Wisconsin Highway Map. The Memorial was created in 2017, and dedicated in 2021, through a partnership of VFW Post 9511, American Legion Post 113 and WI Vietnam Vets Chapter IV. Tremendous community support helped raise the necessary funds and ongoing donations and Memorial Pavers help the Mt. Horeb Veterans Memorial Association maintain the Park.

Association members, local Veterans and State Legislators instrumental in the Bill’s introduction and passage looking on during the signing by Gov. Evers (seated), including (l-r): Jeff Anderson; Brett Halverson, Village Trustee; State Senator Dianne Hesselbein; John Berryman; Paul Kellesvig; Gary Friske; Don Hartman; State Representative Michael Bare and WDVA Board Member Robert Hesselbein.

Submitted by Jeff Anderson, VFW Post 9511 and MHVMA Board Member. Editor’s note: The Mt. Horeb Memorial was featured as the January photo of the 2024 VFW Dept. Raffle Calendar.

Welcome Home Kristin



Members of Greendale VFW Post and Auxiliary 10519 were overjoyed to welcome home Master Sergeant Kristin Dodds at Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee in early March. She returned from a ten-month Army Reserve Deployment to Latvia. Kristin is also the Post SVC and she was able to communicate with Post members during her deployment. A large number of Kristin’s family and friends were present as well. Welcome home! *Courtesy of Post 10519.*