



HEALING AND HONORING

The 2024-2025 Department of Wisconsin VFW and Auxiliary leadership teams assumed their offices in a bitter-sweet Joint Installation, following the close of the 2024 State Conventions in Green Bay. Immediate Past State Commander Ron Ramos was elected to the “Journey to Healing Together” year planned by our late Sr. Vice Commander Mary Ann Christopherson, while Cheryl Woodards began her “Honoring Veterans

Together” year as Auxiliary Department President. Dual member Michele Rathke, PSC, served as Installing Officer for both groups. Several touching and special moments were shared as a number of family members and comrades placed the VFW covers on the newly-installed elected and appointed leaders, under the watchful “eye” of their departed colleague. After remarks by the Commander and President, both led

their respective Departments in the first Council of Administration meetings of the new year. More detailed sessions to begin the year followed at the mid-July Program Kickoff weekend. Please see additional information for the “Healing and Honoring” year throughout this newspaper. Congratulations to all and best wishes for a successful year of many fine accomplishments! *Sherri L. Smith photos.*

Forever in Our Hearts

State Sr. Vice Commander Mary Ann Christopherson of Eau Claire, 70, passed away from cancer on May 21, 2024, less than a month before she would have been elected and installed as the 103rd Commander of the Department of Wisconsin Veterans of Foreign Wars. A Gold Legacy Life member of Eau Claire VFW Post 305, she was also a Life Member of Auxiliary 305. Born in Frankfort, Germany, Mary Ann was adopted at the age of 4 by Lt. Col. Ray Rohde and his wife. After years of moves in Europe, the



family eventually settled in the Eau Claire area, where Mary Ann had a combined banking and military career. She joined the WI Army National Guard in 1984 and was assigned to the Det 2 13th EVAC Hospital in Chippewa Falls, deploying to Saudi Arabia in 1990-1991, during Operation Desert Storm. After joining the Army Reserve in 1993, Mary Ann held many positions, including First Sergeant at the 88 RSC at Ft. McCoy.

SEE OUR HEARTS, PAGE 7



Mary Ann Christopherson
November 19, 1953 – May 21, 2024

Greetings comrades,
I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for a fantastic year and for placing your confidence in me to lead us for another term. This past year has been a testament to our shared dedication and strength, and I am excited about the journey ahead.

This year, our focus will be on community service and continuing our return to the core values that define the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We must step out from behind the bar and immerse ourselves in our communities. It's essential to remember that it is the community that supports and sustains us, enabling us to fulfill our mission to advocate for and assist our Veterans in need.

In addition, this year marks the beginning of our "Journey to Healing Together" initiative, which is the vision of Mary Ann Christopherson. Her mission was aimed at fighting the mental health stigma often associated with the Veteran community. Too many times, we have silently borne the burden of our military experiences. This year, we are committed to changing that narrative by ensuring both Veterans and their families receive the support they rightfully deserve. It is crucial that we demonstrate we are not broken, but rather, we are cherished members of our communities.

This initiative is the start of this year's special project: The Mary Ann Christopherson Journey to Healing Together Grant. This project aims to fund this grant

Ron Ramos
State Commander

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with a strong enough "foundation" that we can help anyone who is seeking help over suicide. Let's make "Journey to Healing Together" a slogan we can truly all support.

We are once again setting our sights on achieving a remarkable 102% recruitment goal. Drawing inspiration from last year, I am full of confidence that we can reach our target, driven by our shared belief and dedication. Just remember, as we continue to strive towards this objective, keep in mind the powerful mantra from Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt: "Believe in what you do, do what you believe in." This commitment and passion are the key tools that will propel us to surpass our membership goal and strengthen our mission.

I am looking forward to another outstanding year where we highlight why the VFW leads the way in caring for our Veterans. Together, we will continue to make a significant impact. Thank you once again for your unwavering support and dedication.

Comrades,
I hope this article finds your summer going well and you are enjoying what little summer weather that we are getting this very wet season. I enjoyed a wonderful day with family and friends on July 4th weekend, cooking out and enjoying the lake. I hope you did the same.

VFW leadership teams across the state hit the ground running after the VFW State Convention to continue the great work that Posts and Districts do every day in their communities. I can attest that the State leadership team is doing the same to kick off Mary Ann's programs and vision. There have been multiple News Committee and Finance Committee meetings to begin that work and I envision other Program Committees will initiate their work in the coming weeks.

I had the pleasure of representing Commander Ramos at the Flag Day celebration on June 9 in Waubeka, Wisconsin. The weather was windy, but warm and dry for the celebration. This was my first time speaking at Flag Day and I highlighted what the flag truly means to me. There was a large parade, and the day was capped off by the VFW Honor Guard and VFW Riders winning trophies for their participation in the parade.

The 125th VFW National Convention is taking place in Louisville, Kentucky as this paper is published. I am excited to attend this year as your newly elected Senior Vice Commander. This year will be special as the VFW celebrates its 125th anniversary. No telling what is in store for the celebration, but I will certainly make sure that I share it with you in my next article.

Thank you for having the confidence and trust in electing me as your Senior Vice Commander. It is a distinct honor to serve all of you. 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 Sr. Vice
Commander

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Greetings VFW family!
It was great seeing each and every one of you again during this year's Convention! Congratulations to all of the newly elected and appointed Officers for 2024-2025! Also, congratulations to all of the 2023-2024 All-State Districts and Posts!

It's a great honor to be Chief-of-Staff for 2024-2025 command year. Last year, State Senior Vice Commander Mary Ann Christopherson asked me if I would like to serve as Chief-of-Staff for her year. I was humbled and honored when Mary Ann asked me and I graciously accepted this great privilege. Thank you Mary Ann for the appointment! I would like to thank State Commander Ron Ramos for continuing on with the 2024-2025 year in memory of "Honorary" State Commander Mary Ann Christopherson.

I've earned my eligibility for the VFW while deployed to Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, receiving an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. I joined Potosi VFW Post 5276 in 2019, where I was elected as Post Quartermaster, and I'm still serving in this position. After being in this great VFW, I was nominated and elected as District 3 Commander in 2022,

Carla McAndrew
Chief-of-Staff

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serving through June 2024.
This year I look forward to serving as Chief-of-Staff for State Commander Ron Ramos, and I'm excited to continue on with Mary Ann's program year, "Journey to Healing Together". Let's strive to honor what Mary Ann envisioned by gaining momentum to ensure this year is a memorable one for all within our VFW family. National and Department have set a membership goal of 102% for this year. We can achieve this because we are in the awesome State of Wisconsin
And, let us all have "A Journey to Healing Together" by checking on our VFW family. Mary Ann, we will make you proud of our great State VFW!

STATE OFFICERS

THE TICK MARK

Life provides great material when we need it most. During a recent celebration of one of my siblings, I was happy to have a few moments to chat with a dear family friend. He is not only a Veteran but a member of the VFW as well. We talked about his time in the National Guard and circled around to the VFW and what lies ahead.

He told me this great story about when he was the commander of his VFW Post, he would make tick marks on a piece of paper during the meeting. He informed the membership that when a complaint was made about new ideas, events, programs or anything else, he would put a tick mark by their name. Whomever had the most tick marks come election time would be voted in as the next Commander.

Not that this happened mind you, but it made a difference in how they conducted business in their community. Sadly, as things do, settling into old habits has brought concern for my friend about the longevity of his Post.

It made me think about how do we counter the tick marks? With change. Change within any organization is inevitable, it still is not any easier to accept. While change is needed for us to grow and flourish, we also need to ensure that the change is made *thoughtfully and responsibly*.

Conducting a little research I ran across an article in Forbes called "Changes in a Growing Organization", written in July 2021. The *Forbes Nonprofit Council* shared their expert advice on how to approach those changes.

1. Make A Plan – Communicate the plan
2. Be Completely Transparent – Be upfront to increase buy-in
3. Get Key Stakeholders' Buy-In Early On – Articulate the "why" early
4. Seek Input From the Most Affected – Share the problem and share ideas
5. Explain Why The Decision Is Needed – "Do they understand the why?"
6. Two-Way Communication – Regular two-way communication
7. Be Caring And Intentional – People want to know they are being cared about
8. Understand The Impact – Evaluate whether the change is having its intended effect
9. Leverage Storytelling – Purpose and the part people will play in the change
10. Be Empathetic To Build Trust – Safe and trusting environment to empower people
11. Create A Task Force – Collaboration
12. Consider The Associated Costs – Loss of money, staff, donors or other supporters
13. Think Proactively – Fear of change is real, explore how to mitigate those concerns

Hopefully this helps you look at change in a way that you are more thoughtful and successful. Thank you to the VFW membership for allowing me the opportunity to be a part of your future successes. Please never hesitate to contact me if you need assistance. I am here to help you in any way that I can.

Renee L. Simpson
State Jr. Vice
Commander

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"The HQ Dispatch"

Greetings from your Headquarters Staff!

We hope this article finds you well and hope you all are ready and energized to make the 2024-2025 year an amazing one! We'd like to remind you of a few important items to ensure your success.

- The June **Audit** is due to HQ July 31. If there is a delay, please contact us ASAP to communicate that. Also, QM/Officer/Club **Bonds** are due to us no later than September 30. If you use a third-party Bond, not through the WI VFW, proof of that Bond is due at the same time. You **must** send proof of Bonding if you are not using the WI VFW to bond your QM.
- Our website, www.vfwwi.org is where you can find your required documents. Login to the Members Only Section, using your membership ID# as your login, and your last name as the password. In the Members Only Section, you can find the **Bond application, Bond fee schedule, the State Officer/Post Roster Book, and the 2024-2025 Program Book**, among many other useful documents and forms!
- We encourage new and seasoned Officers to review your respective training guides for your position, to include the QM Checklist. **The QM Checklist** will help give you a road map of the benchmark due dates for yearly business items.

If you need any assistance, call us at 608-221-5276 or send us an email. We're here to help.

One last thing! If you attended the State Convention, please see the QR code below, scan it with your smart phone by holding your camera app over it, click on the link that appears (without taking a photo), and take our State Convention survey. We value your feedback to make these events the best for you, the membership!

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State ADJ Adam Wallace
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State Asst. ADJ/QM Steve Eisenhauer
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Congratulations to our 2024 Frank Brown Scholarship Recipients

Hayden Johnson	Kaukauna	\$600
Devin Foulkes	Fall River	\$500
Magan Greenless	Burlington	\$500
Amber Hoeft	Cashon	\$500
Andrew Kerr	Tomah	\$500
Logan Rogney	Waupaca	\$500
Eleanor Zgon	Brookfield	\$500
Lainey Fredrick	Eagle	\$350
Miriam Larson	Sparta	\$350
Tabitha Larson	Sparta	\$350
Anna Von Eiff	Oconomowoc	\$350

STATE OFFICERS

Greeting Comrades,

I want to bring you up to date regarding which State Bylaw Amendments and National Bylaw Amendments were passed during the Department Convention last month. For a more in-depth review of the proposed Bylaw amendments, please refer to pages 13-14 of the May/June 2024 *WI VFW NEWS* where each amendment was listed and explained. [Visit vfwwi.org, click on *NEWS*, then *WI VFW NEWSPAPER*. The Bylaws were also listed on pages 13-15 in the 2024 Convention Book.]

The following proposed **State** Bylaw Amendments (SBA) **passed** and will be updated in the State Bylaws:

- SBA 2024-01 "Loyalty Day Observance"
- SBA 2024-02 "State Convention, C of A, Mid-Winter & Big Ten Conferences"
- SBA 2024-03 "Convention Committee"
- SBA 2024-04 "State Convention, C of A, Mid-Winter & Big Ten Conference Supervision"
- SBA 2024-05 "Committees"
- SBA 2024-06 "Voting"
- SBA 2024-07 "Convention Bids"
- SBA 2024-08 "Electronic Voting By The Council of Administration"
- SBA 2024-09 "Committees"
- SBA 2024-11 "WI VFW Foundation"
- SBA 2024-12 "Delegates"
- SBA 2024-13 "Assessment"
- SBA 2024-14 "Amendments"

The following proposed **State** Bylaw Amendments (SBA) **did not pass**:

- SBA 2024-10 "Wisconsin VFW Communications Committee"

The following proposed **National** Bylaw Amendments (NBA) **passed** and will be forwarded to National for consideration:

- NBA 2024-02 "Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees"
- NBA 2024-03 "Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees"

The following proposed **National** Bylaw Amendment (NBA) **did not pass** and will not be referred to National:

- NBA 2024-01 "Eligibility"

If you have any questions regarding the approved Bylaw changes, please reach out to me at georges@vfwwi.org.

George Stoeber
Judge Advocate



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**Wisconsin Veterans
of Foreign Wars News**



Comrades:

Congratulations to all new Post, District and Department Officers. If you are new to your position as Post Commander, Quartermaster, Adjutant or Trustee, please review your duties in the VFW Manual of Procedure, Section 218. Comrades who last held one of these positions should be dedicated enough to mentor the new Officers, but if they fail to do so, ask your District Commander for help. Many aspects of your position have VFW online video training and manuals available at vfwwi.org, under Member/Post Resources. The Department also has recorded sessions in the Members Only section of our website – vfwwi.org - they may help you learn more about your duties.

District meetings are a great place to learn more about your duties as well. All Districts are required to provide Officer training at least once a year. These sessions are usually done in smaller groups and are face-to-face, where it's easy to ask questions.

We all need to work hard this year in memory of Mary Ann Christopherson. She was the State Inspector during 2022-2023 and really tried to make sure Posts and Districts were submitting accurately completed Quarterly Audits. This last year, I saw a big improvement in reports during the second half of the year. So, keep up the good work. It can actually feel good to perform your duties correctly and get reports in on time as you work toward a possible Red Carpet and All-State Award for your Post.

I just have a few reminders about Quarterly Audits:

1. Make sure your **ending balances** from the previous quarter are the same as

Leroy Jansky
State Inspector



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the beginning balances of the quarter you are currently working on. Also of great importance is that the total in funds (in box 15) matches the total in your bank accounts (total in box 17). It makes sense that these totals must be equal or balanced.

2. Second, we **DO NOT** accept audits that are **missing Trustee or Commander's signatures**.

3. Third, Posts that own property or a building must complete applicable portions of the **Operations section (box 16)**.

4. Get your new **Quartermaster's Bond in place before August 31**, and make sure it is adequate to cover all liquid assets – including certificates of deposit (CDs) and most investments. The inclusion of CDs and investments is not necessarily new. They are considered as liquid as your checking account, so they need to be protected by your Bond.

Thank you, Mary Ann, for the appointment as the 2024-2025 State Inspector. I hope that I can live up to your high standards. I will miss you, but know you are watching over your Department this year on a "*Journey to Healing Together*".



**The September 2024
and January 2025
issues of the
WI VFW NEWS
will not be printed
and mailed,**

but will be available
on the State website

– vfwwi.org – about September 13
and January 10 respectively.

Go to the website – vfwwi.org –
click on **NEWS**, then click on
WI VFW NEWSPAPER.

2024 – 2025 Student Essay Themes

Voice of Democracy
(Grades 9-12)

"Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"

Patriot's Pen
(Grades 6-8)

"My Voice in America's Democracy?"

**DEADLINE to Post for BOTH Programs is
midnight, October 31, 2024**

Please be sure to use the CURRENT entry forms!

Download them at
vfwwi.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships
OR order in packets of 50 from the VFW Store

Department Chairmen

VFW: Richard "Sarge" Verheyen – 920-370-3905

Auxiliary: Deanna Carothers – 920-728-1176

Wisconsin VFW News Production Schedule

September Issue* Vol. 42, No. 2 Deadline to Editor: August 9, 2024

December Issue Vol. 42, No. 3 Deadline to Editor: November 1, 2024

Jan. 2025 Issue* Vol. 42, No. 4 Deadline to Editor: December 13, 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

*Digital-only Issues

Planning for Upcoming Meetings

■ 2025 Department Mid-Winter Conference

Fri.-Sat., February 14-15, 2025
Best Western Premier • \$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

■ 2025-2026 Program Kickoff/Council of Administration

Fri.-Sat., July 11-12, 2025
Hotel Mead • \$92/\$102 + taxes
451 E. Grand Ave., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 • 715-423-1500

■ 2026 Department Mid-Winter Conference

Fri.-Sat., February 6-7, 2026
Hilton Appleton Paper Valley • \$129 + taxes
333 W. College Ave., Appleton, WI 54911 • 920-733-8000

■ 2026 Department Convention

Wed.-Sat., June 10-13, 2026
Holiday Inn & Suites/Central WI Expo Center • \$109 + taxes
1000 Imperial Ave., Rothschild, WI 54474 • 715-355-1111

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

Wisconsin VFW News

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Wisconsin Veterans of Foreign Wars

Sierra Delta Project Scores Big



The results of another “friendly competition” between the VFW and Auxiliary were announced at the 2024 Convention Banquet, with the Auxiliary again earning “bragging rights” for the year. As the wonderful big check shows, a total of \$40,383.67 was presented to the Sierra Delta Life Buddy Program. Sierra Delta CEO and Founder BJ Ganem (center) looks pretty enthused, as do (from left) NCM Jeff Carroll of GA; our *elegant* Auxiliary Dept. President Sherrie Rosenau; VFW State Commander Ron Ramos and Special Project Chair Lee Otto. And of course a contented Life Buddy “Sayge” in front. Oh, the numbers? Auxiliary: \$22,404.78; VFW: \$18,178.89. (I know, doesn’t add correctly. Another \$200 came in after Convention.) The bottom line: The winners? *ALL of us.* Sherri L. Smith photo.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

2024 Joint Awards Presented



JROTC Cadet of the Year John Hannigan of the Kenosha Military Academy at Indian Trails High School was one of several award recipients at the Annual Joint Awards Program at the 2024 State Convention. Cadet Hannigan is pictured with his parents Jennifer and Denis Hannigan, as well as Program Chairman Cory Geisler, PSC. Photo by 2023-24 Chief-of-Staff Mitch Cline.

Other awards presented included:

- 2024 Public Servant Awards:**
- Dispatcher – Alaina Schindler, City of Stoughton
 - EMT – Joe Schick, Mason Area Ambulance Service
 - Firefighter – Assistant Chief Robert Arnold, Sparta Area Fire District
 - Police Officer – Sargent Kyle Baldwin, Kenosha Police Department

- Scout of the Year:**
- 1st Place: Gold Scout Sandy Brierton, Schofield sponsored by VFW Post 8733
 - 2nd Place: Eagle Scout Ambrose Engling, Middleton sponsored by VFW Post 8216
 - 3rd Place: Eagle Scout Adam Krasowski, Wausau sponsored by VFW Post 388

- Auxiliary Member of the Year Award:**
- Deb Knackers from Auxiliary 2113, De Pere

- VFW Member of the Year Award:**
- Ted Kirmse, VFW Post 664, Clintonville

- VFW Membership Recruiting Awards:**
- 1st Place: David Zien, VFW Post 305, Eau Claire
 - 2nd Place: James Cairo, VFW Post 11038, Rochester
 - 3rd Place: Steven Eisenhauer, VFW Post 1318, Madison
 - 4th Place: Jason Coffey, VFW Post 11038, Rochester
 - 5th Place: Peter Pemrich, VFW Post 1621, Janesville

- 2024 Outstanding Student Veteran Scholarships:**
- Alyssa McKay, U.S. Army Veteran, Mauston
 - Mitchell Kraemer, U.S. Army Reserve Veteran, West Bend

- Top “Buddy”® Poppy Distributors:**
- 1st Place: Don Bolton, VFW Post 1621 - \$10,077.00
 - 2nd Place: Phil Hess, VFW Post 1916 - \$5,544.53
 - 3rd Place: Dave Posey, VFW Post 2534 - \$1,366.19

- National Convention Scavenger Hunt:**
- Manny Salas
 - Angela Thomsen

Congratulations to our 2024 All-American Posts!

Post 305, Eau Claire	David Zien, Cdr.
Post 328, Stoughton	Rob Drogsvold, Cdr.
Post 664, Clintonville	LeRoy Wilken, Cdr.
Post 1163, Beaver Dam	Ty Letto, Cdr.
Post 1318, Madison	Steven Eisenhauer, Cdr.
Post 1638, Merrill	John Rathke, Cdr.
Post 2113, De Pere	Patrick Moran, Cdr.
Post 2373, Williams Bay	Ronald Grabski, Cdr.
Post 2534, Wis. Rapids	Paul Morrison, Cdr.
Post 5276, Potosi	Lester Jantzen, Cdr.
Post 6279, Adams	Scott Colburn, Cdr.
Post 6375, Elkhorn	Scott Weber, Cdr.
Post 7534, Green Bay	Bruce Jagodinsky, Cdr.
Post 7692, Freedom	Henry Calmes, Cdr.
Post 8338, Barron	David Peterson, Cdr.
Post 10549, New Glarus	Robert Harvey, Cdr.
Post 11038, Rochester	James Cairo, Cdr.

Another Great Department Golf Outing!



Thank you to all the participants, sponsors and raffle donors who made the Fifth Annual Dept. Golf Outing a success! Despite the drizzly, damp and chilly day – quite the opposite of 2023 – our 15 hardy teams seemed to have great fun and camaraderie.

Congratulations to our winners:

First Place - VFW Post 2723, Shawano
Phil Nelson, Larry Romuald, Jesse Rankin, John Mondus

Second Place - Scott Woulf Team
Scott Woulf, Kevin Woulf, Chad Vanbellinger and Matt Clark

3rd Place - VFW Post 7534, Duck Creek
Bruce Jagodinsky, Tom Schmidt, Adam Jagodinsky and Joe Kasprzycki.



And the BEST part: proceeds of \$5,020 to support Wisconsin VFW Unmet Needs!

Thanks and blessings to all – let's do it again next year.

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.

MEMBERSHIP

Randy Engness State Membership Chairman 715-651-0263 engnessr@gmail.com



Current Membership Totals By District

Dist.	Life	New	Reinstate	Continuous	Total	Prior Year	Percentage	N/R LM
1	2283	67	42	333	2725	2845	95.78	38
2	3194	32	13	403	3642	3769	96.63	33
3	734	5	0	126	865	897	96.43	5
4	1172	19	3	151	1345	1393	96.55	9
6	1723	16	3	176	1918	1963	97.70	23
7	2168	43	21	309	2541	2528	100.51	31
8	1834	22	6	251	2113	2166	97.55	33
9	2582	62	22	186	2852	2851	100.03	52
10	1321	30	19	245	1615	1616	99.93	25
11	1638	45	22	235	1940	1961	98.92	21
99	1531	75	21	244	1871	2007	93.22	39
Totals	20180	416	172	2659	23427	23996	97.62	309

Totals as of June 30, 2024 348 Legacy Life Members

Legacy Life Membership Incentives

Member Incentive	Bronze \$400	Silver \$800	Gold \$1200
Plated Engraved Legacy Life Card *	•	•	•
Legacy Life Lapel Pin *	•	•	•
Legacy Life Hat Pin *	•	•	•
Distinctive VFW Store items for Legacy Life members *	•	•	•
Legacy Life membership certificate	•	•	•
Member Recognition on Internet & Convention Program	•	•	•
Legacy Hat Patch *			•
Personalized Brick at Centennial Plaza *			•
VFW Store Discounts (personal use only) *	5%	10%	15%
Annual Endowment: Post	\$6	\$12	\$18
Annual Endowment: Department	\$6	\$12	\$18

* does not apply to Memorial Life Membership

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP How About a MEMORIAL?

Congratulations to those who have up-graded their membership to a Legacy Life Membership! Your Post, Department and our National organization will all benefit from your annual endowment. Did you

Gundel Metz Membership Co-Chairman

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know that your Post can purchase a Memorial Legacy Life Membership, to honor a hard-working VFW member who passed away before the VFW instituted the Legacy Membership program?

You can ensure that future generations know about, and remember, the sacrifices and contributions of a Veteran who has passed away, by establishing a Memorial Legacy in their name. The same three levels – Gold, Silver, or Bronze – apply. You can establish a Memorial Legacy in the name of any deceased Annual or Life VFW Member. Just like Legacy Life memberships for living members, an annual endowment will be made to the Post, Department and the National organization in their memory.

In addition to establishing this endowment in their honor, you will receive a special commemorative plaque memorializing the Veteran, to display and commemorate their life and their service to our great nation. A Post Quartermaster can fill out the application for the Memorial Legacy Life membership online. If, by chance, the Post does not have the membership number of the deceased member, National Member Services can help get you that information.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and please consider this opportunity to honor the memory and service of a deceased member with the lasting tribute of a Memorial Legacy.

Comrades, We just finished a great membership year. Thank you for all your efforts and hard work. Now is the time to start working on this year’s membership! Our goal again this year is 102%, which is easily attainable if we start now.

New this year: RECRUITING EVENT GRANTS AVAILABLE! These are on a “FIRST COME – FIRST SERVED” basis. Department has limited funds to award Posts for Recruiting Events. Any Post or District may apply for a reimbursement recruiting grant for recruitment event-related expenses such as event registration, booth fee, table rental, promotional materials, etc. This will be based on qualifying expenses turned in and verification of VFW members recruited. Total funds are capped, so hold your event early. Contact me or State HQ for details.

The Commander’s Membership incentives this year include:

- First 70 members to convert to Life Member or join as a Life or Legacy Member will receive a rebate.
- \$50 rebate to the first 20 who increase to Legacy Life

Top 5 Recruiters - July 1, 2024 – May 31, 2025

- **First Place:** Upgrade to Life Membership or Gold Legacy Life Membership (If already Gold, then \$500 cash.)
- **Second Place:** Upgrade to Life Membership or Silver Legacy Life Membership (If already Silver, then upgrade to Gold. If already Gold, then \$400 cash.)
- **Third Place:** Upgrade to Life Membership or Silver Legacy Life Membership (If already Silver, then upgrade to Gold. If already Gold, then \$300 cash.)
- **Fourth Place:** Upgrade to Life Membership or Bronze Legacy Life Membership (If already Bronze, then upgrade to Silver. If already Silver, then upgrade to Gold. If already Gold, then \$200 cash.)
- **Fifth Place:** Upgrade to Life Membership or Bronze Legacy Life Membership (If already Bronze, then upgrade to Silver. If already Silver, then upgrade to Gold. If already Gold, then \$100 cash.)

Recurring Incentives Throughout the 2024–25 Command Year (Applies to New and Reinstates)

- 1st Member Recruited: Letter from the State Commander.
- 3 Members Recruited: Letter from State Commander and a special recruiter T-shirt.
- 10 Members Recruited: \$150 stipend for use at State Convention and “10 Members Recruited” plaque.
- 15 Members Recruited: \$200 stipend for use at State Convention and a “15 Members Recruited” plaque.
- 20 or more Members Recruited: \$300 stipend for use at State Convention and a “20 or More Members Recruited” plaque.
- 50 or more - J.R. Weber Award, will receive an additional \$500 and a “50 Members Recruited” plaque.

All the incentive details can be found in the 2024 – 2025 Commander’s Program book and all necessary forms can be downloaded from the State website – vfwwi.org. Log in to the Members Only area, and click on

TOP RECRUITING FINAL RESULTS 2023-2024

Recruiter	Post	Dist.	Recruits
David A. Zien	305	9	51
James A. Cairo	11038	1	22
Steven J. Eisenhauer	1318	2	18
Jason T. Coffey	11038	1	17
Peter A. Pemrich	1621	1	16
David G. Green	10818	9	16
DeWitt H. Woodworth	1530	11	14
Randy L. Engness	2204	9	11
Tricia L. Flaig	2112	11	10
Christina F. Flanagan	664	7	9
Patrick E. Pierce	8280	7	9
Willie E. Stokes	7908	11	9
Wayne A. Georgeson	1916	11	8
Frederick N. Falk	2708	1	7
Robin L. Drogsvold	328	2	6
Norbert H. Strasser	10262	7	6
Scott J. Weber	6375	1	5
John D. McCoy	7308	1	5
Phillip D. Allen	7308	1	5
Scott R. Colburn	6279	7	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
Michael E. Zientek	1621	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
Christopher Ellenbecker	3358	6	4
Mark E. Dewitz	5612	6	4
Michele A. Rathke	1638	7	4
Paul E. Morrison	2534	7	4
Bruce E. Jagodinsky	7534	8	4
Henry J. Calmes	7692	8	4
Anthony R. Matecky	8813	8	4
Richard A. Mitchell	9464	9	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

Plus: 24 Recruiters with 3 each; 64 Recruiters with 2 each; 166 Recruiters with 1 each; and 174 new members with no designated Recruiter. Total Recruits this year: 890

Department Governing Documents.

With all the incentives, everyone that recruits at least one member is eligible for something. Everyone’s goal this year should be to get at least one new member! Recruit, engage, inspire, retain!

Recruit, engage, inspire, retain!



Sgt. Jack H. Hohlfeld to Return Home to Wisconsin

Another Wisconsin Prisoner of War/Missing in Action has been positively identified nearly 82 years after his death in WWII. As announced in late May by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), the remains of U.S. Army Air Forces Sgt. Jack H. Hohlfeld will be returned to Wisconsin this summer for burial with full military honors.

A native of Hamburg Township in Vernon County, and the son of the late Ignatz Hohlfeld, Jr. and Mary (Stremka) Hohlfeld, Jack spent his teenage years in Centerville, in Trempealeau County. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1938, and was assigned to the Headquarters Squadron of the 24th Pursuit Group in the Philippines when the Japanese attacked. In a few days this unit's combat aircraft was destroyed or otherwise combat ineffective. Jack and most of the remaining members of the 24th were then rolled into a new organization – the 2nd Infantry Regiment (Provisional), and rushed to the Bataan Peninsula under the 71st Division.

Airman Hohlfeld was captured following the American surrender of the Bataan Peninsula on April 9, 1942, and forced on the 65-mile Bataan Death March. He was ultimately interred in the notorious Cabanatuan Prison Camp in Nueva Ecija Province, Central Luzon, Phillipines, where he died of pellagra on December 26, 1942. [Pellagra is a severe deficiency of niacin (Vitamin B3) that affects the



Sgt. Jack H. Hohlfeld
July 25, 1907 – December 26, 1942

skin, GI tract and brain.]

At its peak, Cabanatuan held approximately 8,000 American and Filipino Prisoners of War that were captured during and after the Fall of Bataan. Conditions at the camp were poor, with food and water extremely limited, leading to widespread malnutrition and outbreaks of malaria and dysentery. By the time the camp was liberated in early 1945, approximately 2,800 Americans had died at Cabanatuan.

Sgt. Hohlfeld was buried in Common Grave 811, at the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery along with other deceased American Prisoners of War. Following the war, American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) personnel exhumed those buried at the Cabanatuan Cemetery and relocated the remains to a temporary U.S. military mausoleum near Manila. There, the AGRS examined the remains in an attempt to identify them. Of six sets of remains recovered from Common Grave 811, three were identified, but the rest were declared unidentifiable and buried at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial as Unknowns.

In 2018, the remains associated with Common Grave 811 were disinterred and sent to the DPAA laboratory for analysis. The laboratory analysis and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available established an association between one set of these unknown remains as Sgt. Hohlfeld. His positive identification was finally announced on May 29, 2024.

Sergeant Hohlfeld is memorialized on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines, where a rosette will now be placed next to his name indicating he is no longer Missing in Action.

Extended family member information was not made available for this article, but it is noted that Sgt. Hohlfeld's parents Ignatz, Jr. and Mary, died in 1944 and 1968 respectively, with his two siblings Helen and William passing in 1947 and 1952. Hohlfeld married Gladys Cole in 1928, later divorcing. Their only child, Eloise Hohlfeld Austin passed in 2007. Info on his second wife, Iva Gardner of Nevada is also unknown. We do offer our deepest sympathies to his remaining family and keep them in our thoughts as they bring their loved one home to his final resting place at long last.

Thanks to VFW comrade Steven Nott of Onalaska for sending this information.

SERVICES for Sgt. Hohlfeld are scheduled for Monday, August 26th at 10:30 am, at St. Patrick Parish, 1031 Main St., Onalaska, WI 54650. Burial with full military honors will follow immediately in the Catholic Cemetery, 519 Losey Blvd. S., La Crosse, WI 54601. Both the funeral and burial are open to the public.

BURIAL PLOTS FOR SALE

The Bell Tower Memorial, Inc. is selling two burial plots located at Wisconsin Memorial Park Cemetery in Brookfield.

All monies received from the sale will be used to further the Bell Tower's mission to Honor, Educate and Remember those who have served our great country.

PRICE: \$10,000 for both, OBO
(total value = \$18,900)

For more information, or to make an offer, please contact Air Force Veteran Bill Rheingans at (262) 232-8484, or email wrheingans@gmail.com



Bell Tower Memorial

Bell Tower Memorial, Inc.
PO Box 681
Pewaukee, WI 53072
(262) 523-0100
www.belltowermemorial.org

Bell Tower Memorial, Inc. is a 501c3, non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Wisconsin servicemembers have been collecting **SOUVENIRS** since the Civil War.

Learn the stories of **THE THINGS THEY KEPT.**



EXHIBIT ON VIEW THRU 2024



WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM

**ON CAPITOL SQUARE
30 W. MIFFLIN ST.
MADISON, WI 53703**

WisVetsMuseum.com

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	Mary Ann Christopherson	Eau Claire	2112	Wallace Lewis	Sparta	5778	Michael McLaughlin	Kennan	8343	Martin Muszynski	Cape Coral, FL
305	Leonard Fisk	Saint Paul, MN	2112	Scott Nelson	Sparta	5780	Edward Mumper	Cornell	8400	Mark Mayer	Phelps
305	Gary Thompson	Eau Claire	2112	David Schuster	Sparta	5960	Thomas Dael	Nekoosa	8400	Gene McGee	Polo, IL
328	Gary Halverson	Portage	2112	Ivan Short	College Station, TX	6005	Delvin Meyer	Cadott	8483	Walter Vandervest	Sun Prairie
328	Gordon Nelson	Warner Robins, GA	2113	James Bergman	De Pere	6279	Marshall Coon	Friendship	8512	Paul Walker	Apple Valley, MN
328	Gordon Peterson	De Forest	2113	Harold Zelten	Green Bay	6279	Robert Frede	Greenville, NC	8527	Jerome Hopperdietzel	Athens
388	Ervin Braski	Wausau	2114	Robert Severson	Mauston	6498	John Best	Saukville	8733	Richard Hotchkiss	Mosinee
388	Dale Carr	Mosinee	2204	Ervin Samshal	Haugen	6498	Baldwin Carstensen	Milwaukee	8770	Norman Young	Marion
388	Thomas Lawrence	Wausau	2219	James Earl	Ripon	6498	Ramee Fulani	Milwaukee	8834	Otto Quandt	Hartford
659	Merrill Buck	Manitowoc	2260	Earl Eppler	Oconomowoc	6769	Roman Steines	Cumberland	9156	Roger Gering	Sheboygan
721	Wilmer Wellstein	Waukesha	2312	LaVern Isely	Monroe	7221	Harold Schmidt	Cedarburg	9202	Steve Moker	Hubertus
1037	Arlin Barden	Plover	2534	Terry Carlson	Wisconsin Rapids	7232	Harold Davis	Twin Lakes	9387	Maurice Delmore	Wisconsin Dells
1256	Ronald Yourchuck	Siren	2534	James Huber	Wisconsin Rapids	7232	David Gunderson	Eau Claire	9464	John Jez	Tony
1318	Todd Norman	Madison	2534	Charles Lester	Wisconsin Rapids	7308	Frank Cucunato	Kenosha	9464	Dale Paschke	Tony
1318	Mark Von Allmen	Oregon	2534	Daniel Schanes	Nekoosa	7485	Joseph Graf	Travelers Rest, SC	9719	Walter Arndt	Lena
1530	Richard Cagle	New Richmond	2653	Edward Berg	Antigo	7534	Thomas Watermolen	Pulaski	9719	Eugene Herrmann	Oshkosh
1530	Linus Kujak	Onalaska	2653	Richard Viergutz	Antigo	7591	Robert Hall	Madison	10173	Lawrence Lindloff	Janesville
1530	George Ronkoske	La Crosse	2687	Orin Bozart	La Crosse	7591	James Van Loenen	Madison	10231	Jerry Wenger	Verona
1530	Alan Woodworth	Tomah	2687	Kathryn Johnson	Boyd	7694	Eldor Fruehling	Sauk City	10263	Jack Woodward	Portage
1621	Norman Doering	Janesville	2778	Richard Alberts	Forsyth, MO	7694	Richard Karls	Lodi	10272	Thomas Harrington	Madison
1621	Fred McCann	Janesville	2778	Lawrence Sievert	Neenah	7784	Lester Luther	Bonduel	10272	James Rowe	Oregon
1621	John Okell	Winter Park, FL	2823	Robert Larson	Burlington	7784	Ernest Stevens, Sr.	Oneida	10272	Joseph Vondra	Oregon
1621	Thomas Thalacker	South Beloit, IL	2895	Rickie Borchardt	Milwaukee	7784	Donald Vande Hei	Seymour	10394	Donald Rieck	Milwaukee
1621	Robert Wyman	Beloit	2925	Lester Davey	Winneconne	7908	Alec Thompson	Capitol Heights, MD	10394	Anthony Witkowski	Cudahy
1638	Kenneth Graap	Merrill	2977	Darrell Berg	Gilman	7924	James Campbell	Racine	10441	Bernard Tamsett	Waterford
1865	John Cable, Jr.	Kenosha	3088	Richard Cotter	Sturgeon Bay	8021	Keith Tainter	Westby	10818	Gerald LaPitz	Roberts
1865	Travis Gilliland	Kenosha	3319	Carl Verstegen	Menasha	8123	Charles Groves	De Soto	11279	Richard Jones	Mesa, AZ
1865	Guy Turco	Franklin	3709	Gordon Checki	Watertown	8239	Thomas Gorman	Minneapolis, MN	15051	Ronald Corcoran	Galesville
1879	Clifford Johnston	Eureka, MT	3709	Timothy Olson	Sussex	8278	Merrick Beron	Rockland	15051	Richard Decker	Eagle River
1879	Robert Krentz	Fort Atkinson	5276	Roger Zimmerman	Watertown	8278	Donna Thorsen	West Salem	15051	Dennis Johnson	Superior
1904	Peter Stotzheim, Jr.	Tucson, AZ	5276	Wilbert Post	Potosi	8280	Charles Duberstein	Mosinee	15051	Richard Keskinen	Bennett
1915	Ora Braudt	Minneapolis, MN	5716	Michael Nowak	New Berlin	8280	John Stieber	Mosinee	15051	Trygve Olsen	Brooklyn
1916	William Walsh	Holmen	5729	Kenneth Balciar	Medford	8320	James Durrett	Milwaukee	15051	Thomas Schmitt	Park Falls
1959	Charles Slenczka	Hixton	5729	Harvey Kleiber	Sun Prairie	8320	Carlos Whiting	Milwaukee	15051	Donald Stansky	Superior
			5778	Ronald Heizler	Rib Lake						

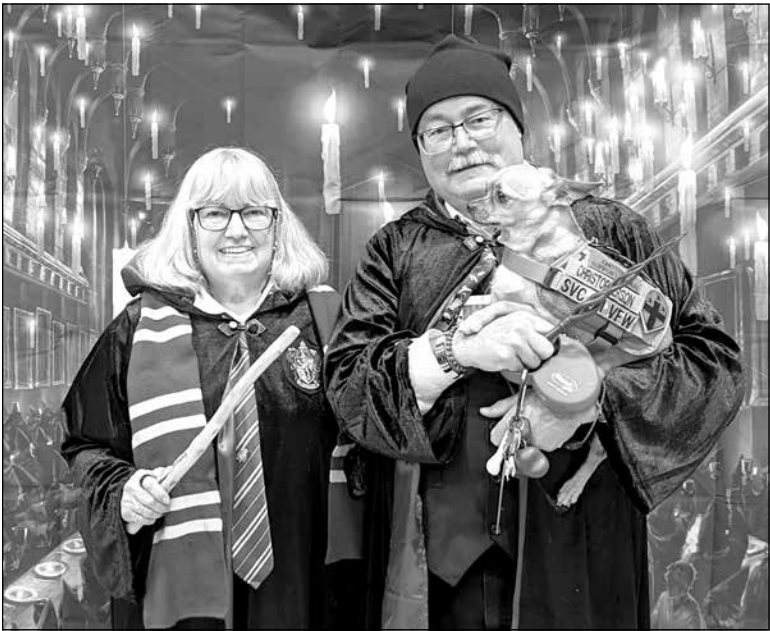
Deadline for the September 2024 issue is August 9.

Our Hearts —
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It was in the Reserve that she met the love of her life, Roy Christopherson. They married in April 2005. Mary Ann retired in 2013 as a Master Sergeant, after a 30-year career, with her last position working for the 4/413th SROTC 104th Training Division at UW-Stout.

Mary Ann's unwavering dedication and service to our nation continued in every office she held in both the VFW and Auxiliary, at all levels of the organizations. Her commitment to serving Veterans, their families and our communities, and to strengthen the VFW, is especially evident in her 2024-2025 Commander's Project, that of supporting the mental health of combat Veterans. The 2024-2025 "Journey to Healing Together" and "Honoring Veterans Together" Joint Project actually establishes a Fund through the Wisconsin VFW Foundation to create grant funding to provide financial assistance to those needing mental health support. [See Foundation Secretary/Treasurer Renee Simpson's report on page 13.]

Preceded in death by her parents Ray and Doris Rohde, Mary Ann is survived by her loving husband Roy; stepdaughters Jessica and Christine and their families, including five grandchildren; and her brother Robert as well as the "extended siblings", comrades, sisters and brothers of her large VFW, Auxiliary and Veteran family.



Mary Ann, Roy and Simba fully embraced the Harry Potter theme of the October 2023 trip to the VFW National Home Fall Festival, representing well the Hogwarts House of Gryffindor. Faith Elford photo.

THANK YOU
*Comrades, Sisters, Brothers
and "Prayer Warriors"
for your love and support during
Mary Ann's cancer fight
and following her passing.
We are grateful for your friendship
and appreciate your many kindnesses
and tributes. She will always be in our hearts.
With love from,
Roy and Simba and
the Christopherson Family.*

the principal music of the service. Many ARNG and Reserve comrades shared their favorite memories in a room filled with love and affection. A job well done.

Rest in peace, good and faithful

servant. It is hard to believe that just one year ago, our then Sr. Vice Commander penned these words in her column in the July/August 2023 WI VFW NEWS: "As we move forward into the new year,



Taking the oath of office as Jr. Vice Commander at the February 2023 Mid-Winter Conference in Oshkosh. Sherri L. Smith photo.

I am filled with excitement and optimism. There is much work to be done, and I am eager to hit the ground running. In the coming months, we will face new challenges and opportunities. We will continue to advocate for the rights and well-being of our fellow Veter-

ans, support our communities, and strive for a better future. Together, we can make a difference and ensure that the VFW remains a beacon of hope and support for those who have served our nation."

Now, we move forward, on a "Journey to Healing Together".

DRAPING OF THE CHARTER

This listing reflects names as of the most recent reporting of deceased members. 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. **Treasurers:** please remember to report your deceased Sisters and Brothers in a timely fashion so we can honor them and their service with this final tribute.


Aux.	Name	City	Aux.	Name	City
305	Mary Ann Christopherson*	Eau Claire	7534	Delores M. Luberda*	Oneida
388	Virginia Davide*	Merrill	7534	Christine Tilque	Green Bay
388	Mary Smith*	Wausau	7591	Gladys Schoeffel*	Waterloo
388	Delores Anderson*	Merrill	8068	Florence Pawlowski*	Hatley
388	Lois Niewolny*	Kronenwetter	8478	Donna Dickinsen*	Augusta
1393	Dorothy A. Loecher*	West Bend	8483	Bernice M. Patton*	Madison
1621	Lester Millard*	Janesville	8733	Sharon Dvorak*	Mosinee
1638	Loretta M. Seidler	Merrill	9156	Judy Rahn*	Sheboygan
1865	Beverly J. Irish*	Omro	10262	Betty Lou Andringa	Stevens Point
1866	Patricia A. Dickerson*	Mission, TX	10394	Doloras Schmidt*	Conroe, TX
1866	Corrine Kettleborough	Spencer	10424	Eileen M. Klicko*	Menomonie
1879	Suzanne A. Clark	Leesburg, FL	15051	Fern A. Chmielewski*	Hales Corners
1915	Theresa A. Stanislawski*	Trempealeau	15051	Myrtle Fraley*	Crandon
2977	Irene Brooks	Gilman	15051	Elizabeth B. Hendrickson*	Nampa, ID
3032	Clementine Tryggstad	Viroqua	15051	Dorothy M. Jensen*	Monroe
3709	Martha Dallman*	Lake City, MN	15051	Marjorie W. LaDue*	Canton, SD
3709	Luanna Fenz*	Juneau	15051	Yvonne Lasure*	West Bend
3709	Barbara M. Gaugert	Watertown	15051	Lois N. Mattson*	Cedar Rapids, IA
5970	Mary Jean Cauley	Mauston	15051	Mary Frances Payer*	Black River Falls
6707	Mary Vogel*	New Holstein	15051	Marvelyn Pufall*	Ashland
6856	Mary L. Leslie	Amery	15051	Elizabeth G. Ryan*	Hayward
7232	Lesley K. Kentgen*	Augusta	15051	Paula Schwantz*	Mauston
7300	Betty A. Buechs	Slinger	15051	Mary O. Sramek*	Beaver Dam
7300	Patricia K. Reas	Mellen	15051	Adeline St. Ledger*	Oak Creek
7300	Carol Schuelke*	Glidden	15051	Angeline Stopczynski*	Land O'Lakes
7534	Delores Karls*	Green Bay	15051	Jean Ussel*	Sun City West, AZ

* DENOTES LIFE MEMBER

2024 Jeannette Frank Award Presented



The recipient of this year's Jeannette Frank Continuous Service Award is Debra R. Syring (center) of Mosinee Memorial VFW Auxiliary 8733. Deb joined the Auxiliary in 1976 and she has been busy ever since her first term as President in 1979. She has held that office as well as Secretary for multiple terms over the years, spearheading and participating in many activities such as Poppy Drives; Parades; Funeral Honors; Bingo at WVH-King; and more. Deb makes sure she welcomes home every Never Forgotten Honor Flight at Central WI Airport and she is a regular helper at an Assisted Living Center in her community. We hope she wears her Jeannette Frank Award medallion proudly! With the recipient following the presentation are (front from left) National Auxiliary Chaplain Donna Mills and Dept. President Sherrie Rosenau, with Awards Chair Marla J. Morgan, PDP in the back row. Thanks to Dept. Historian Nicole David for the photo.



BEE the Change

2023-2024 Ways and Means Wrap-up

Our 2024 Convention Ways and Means Totals:

50/50 Raffles	\$1,714
Wisconsin Quilt	\$245
Mystery \$ Raffles	\$190
Gift Card Trees	\$1,055
Basket Raffles	\$1,715
Add'l Donations	\$ 81
For a Convention TOTAL of	\$5,000!

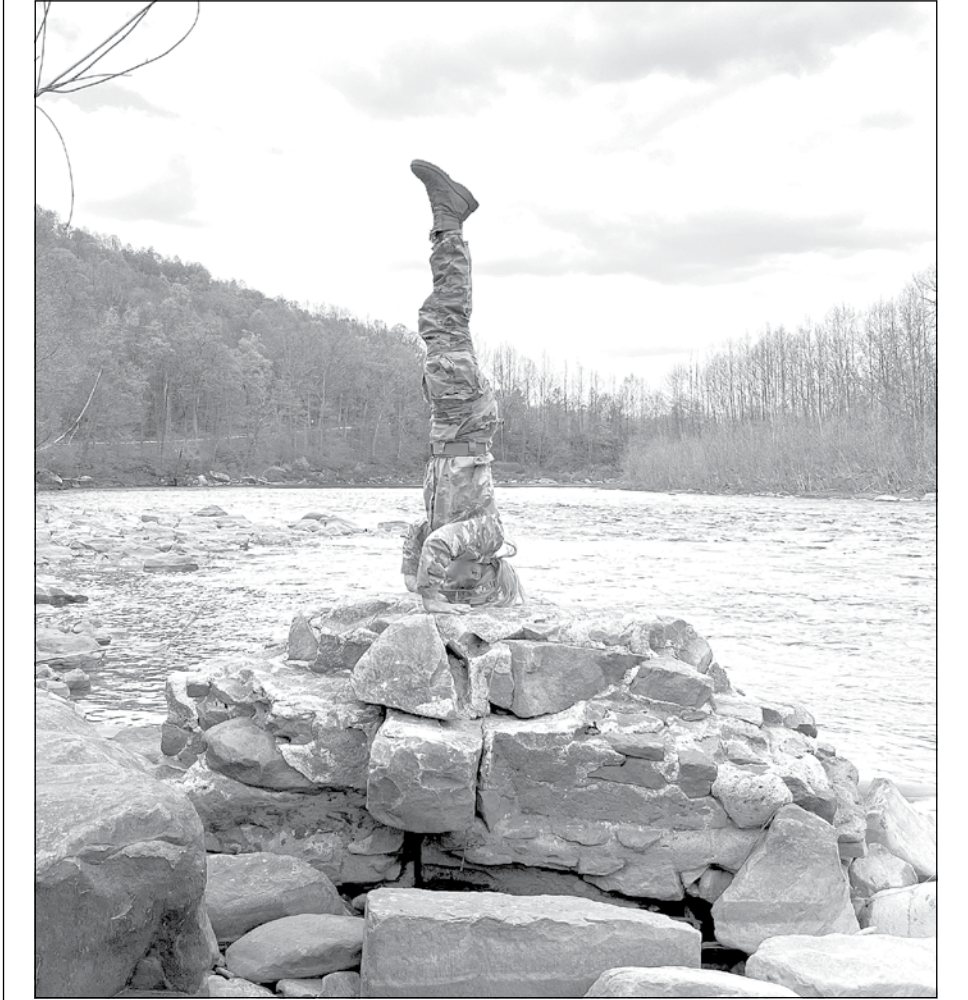
THANK YOU for a successful Ways and Means year!
Co-Chairmen Alicia Weix & Barbara Stillman

Words of Wisdom



VFW Auxiliary National Chaplain Donna Mills conveyed the best wishes and encouragement of National President Carla Martinez in her role as National Representative to our 2024 Department Convention. Soon-to-be PDP Sherrie Rosenau (standing at right) and other Officers and Chairmen take in Donna's closing remarks just before the Convention adjourned on Saturday. Nicole David photo.

Auxiliary Members Serve, Too



One of the newest members of Pewaukee Memorial VFW Auxiliary 9537, SPC Courtney Clemetson, is currently serving as part of the Engineering Battalion Army National Guard Unit from Richland Center, WI. This past May, 15 Unit members attended special training in the "Urban Search and Rescue Extractor Course", at Camp Dawson, West Virginia. The three-week training included some free time for exploring and enjoying the sun! We think SPC Clemetson did just that at the Cheat River. Submitted by proud Mom and VFW Post 8320 Jr. Vice Cdr., Teresa Clemetson.

★ ★ ★ ★ 2023-2024 All-State Awards ★ ★ ★ ★



Congratulations to the 14 Posts that qualified for the prestigious All-State Award for the 2023-2024 program year. We salute you on a job well done to earn your "White Hat"! Winning Post Commanders and Quartermasters (or their representatives) are pictured (l-r) with State Commander Ron Ramos and National Representative Jeff Carroll.
Sherri L. Smith photos.

Team Captains: Post 11038 (Rochester) Commander James Cairo and Quartermaster Brent Hibbard.



Co-Captains: Post 664 (Clintonville) Commander Leroy Wilken and Quartermaster Tina Flanagan.



Co-Captains: Post 2534 (Wisconsin Rapids) Commander Paul Morrison and Quartermaster Camerron Wettern.



Co-Captains: Post 328 (Stoughton) Commander Rob Drogsvold and Quartermaster Dennis Schwenn.



Co-Captains: Post 7534 (Duck Creek) Commander Bruce Jagodinsky and Quartermaster John Weirer.



2023-2024 All-State Awards



FAR LEFT: Post 5276 (Potosi) Commander Lester Jantzen and Quartermaster Carla McAndrew.



LEFT: Post 8338 (Barron) Commander David Peterson and Quartermaster Greg Roth.

RIGHT: Post 6375 (Elk-horn) Commander Scott Weber. Quartermaster Michael Morgan was unable to attend.



FAR RIGHT: Post 1163 (Beaver Dam) Commander Ty Letto and Quartermaster Keith Lauth.



FAR LEFT: Post 1318 (Madison-Cranefield) Commander Steve Eisenhower. Quartermaster Gundel Metz was unable to attend.



LEFT: Post 1638 (Merrill) Commander John Rathke and Quartermaster Codey Schultz.



RIGHT: Post 2113 (De Pere) Commander Pat Moran and Quartermaster Randy Hansen.



FAR RIGHT: Post 7692 (Freedom) Trustee Gerald Weyers and Quartermaster James Reader. Commander Hank Calmes could not attend.



FAR LEFT: Post 1318 (Madison-Cranefield) Commander Steve Eisenhower. Quartermaster Gundel Metz was unable to attend.

Congratulations

to Post 6279 (Adams)
Commander Scott Colburn
and Quartermaster Terry Hatlevig
who were unable to attend
this year's Convention.

2023-2024 Auxiliary Achievement Awards

The annual VFW Auxiliary Achievement Awards are presented to the top Auxiliaries successfully participating in programs and events over the course of the program year. Five Outstanding Auxiliaries each received a \$50 monetary award and were recognized at the Convention Banquet. CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Auxiliary 2260 – Oconomowoc
Auxiliary 10394 – Hales Corners
Auxiliary 10544 – Combined Locks

Auxiliary 5729 – Medford
Auxiliary 10519 – Greendale

Meet Our 2024-25 Chief-of-Staff and District Commanders

Congratulations to those who have answered the call to serve in the very important roles of State Chief-of-Staff and District Commanders for the “Journey to Healing Together” program year. You’ll recognize some of these seasoned leaders who are returning to their roles, as well as meet some new District Commanders. Contact info for all is included so do reach out to see how you can help your Post, District and Department. Let’s have a great year!

■■■

Carla S. McAndrew
Chief-of-Staff

VFW

608-763-0042
cos@vfwwi.org



Air Force Veteran Master Sergeant Carla McAndrew of Potosi signed up under the Delayed Enlistment Program in 1985, following her graduation from Potosi High School. Following basic training at Lackland AFB in Texas, she attended technical training school at Lowry AFB, Colorado, specializing as a Materiel Facilities Specialist. The ensuing 20+ years took her to assignments in Sicily, New Jersey, Nevada and back to New Jersey, during which time she deployed to Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, earning her eligibility for the VFW. Carla’s final assignment concluded as the Chief of Supply at the 95 Reconnaissance Squadron (RS), Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England, from August 2007 to retirement in September of 2010, after a total of 24 years, 3 months on active duty. Among her numerous military medals and ribbons are the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster; National Defense Service Medal with one service star; the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. A Life Member of Berg-Averkamp VFW Post 5276 since 2019, Carla continues to serve as Post Quartermaster, earning All-State (2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024) and All-American honors (2021-22 and 2022-2023). She also earned All-State (Co-Captain) District Commander as well as All-American District Commander for 2022-2023. After serving two consecutive terms as District 3 Commander, she is honored to serve her appointment this year as Chief-of-Staff, in honor of Mary Ann Christopherson. Master Sergeant Carla McAndrew and her husband of 33 years, Master Sergeant Kenneth McAndrew, were both assigned to RAF Mildenhall, England at the time of retirement. Both MSgts retired on the same day as their only son, Joseph, graduated from RAF Lakenheath High School, England. Joseph is also an Air Force Veteran and he and his wife Amber are the proud parents of the two McAndrew grandsons.

■■■

James Cairo
District 1

VFW

262-237-2593
dist1cmd@vfwwi.org



A Gold Legacy Life Member of Aspinall-Bair-Stober Post 11038 in Rochester, Jim Cairo served 21 years in the U.S. Army. He gained his eligibility for the VFW while serving in Iraq from 2003-2004. Jim has held numerous offices and appointments at the Post, District and Department Levels. He was elected to Post Commander in 2023, earning All-State and All-American honors. He


has also served as Quartermaster of Post 11038, earning 5 All-State and 2 All-American honors. This is his first term as Commander of District 1. Commander Cairo resides in Waterford with his wife of 21 years, Miki Cairo, and their 4 children. When not busy serving Veterans, Jim served as Master of his Masonic Lodge #247, Commander of American Legion Post 20, Waterford Lions President, and Scoutmaster of Troop 338.

■■■

Steven Eisenhower
District 2

VFW

420-239-3737
dist2cmd@vfwwi.org



Steve Eisenhower is a second-generation sailor serving in the United States Navy Submarine Service from 1982 – 2004. Following initial basic training, he was assigned to the USS James K. Polk (SSBN 645) Gold crew. During his time onboard, he made two strategic deterrent patrols, earning his eligibility for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. During his career he served as a Radioman and earned his commission as a Submarine Communications Limited Duty Officer. He also served aboard the USS Dolphin (AGSS 555), a Deep Submergence Research and Development submarine, and the USS McKee (AS 41). Steve’s shore command tours included Commander, Submarine Forces U.S. Pacific Fleet, United States Atlantic Command, United States Joint Forces Command, and United States Strategic Command. Joining the VFW in 2019, Steve is a Gold Legacy Life Member of Lt. Marion C. Cranefield VFW Post 1318 in Madison. He is currently serving his second term as Post Commander, achieving All-State and All-American honors in 2023-2024. This is his first term as District 2 Commander. Additionally, he is the WI VFW liaison to the USS Wisconsin SSBN 827 Association and a founding member of the Submarine Advisory Group. A resident of Cottage Grove, Steve is also our State VFW Assistant Adjutant/Quartermaster.

■■■

John Scanlan
District 3

VFW

608-732-2929
dist3cmd@vfwwi.org



John Scanlan served in the USMC from 1994-98. While in the Marines, he served in California, North Carolina, and as he says, “Germany for two months by mistake.” He was Meritoriously promoted to Lance Corporal when he finished at the top of his MOS class. He served in HQ Battery 10th Marines Motor T. At first he was a truck driver and was one of two Logistical Vehicle Operators. Hauling heavy equipment for the engineer platoon in HQ Battery John became a fuel hauler, running a deuce and a half refueler that “no longer existed in the Marines.” Since the trucks were supposed to no longer exist, he also became the mechanic for the trucks. After his promotion to Corporal, he became a squad leader, the barracks NCO for his platoon and the parts room NCO. He left the Marines in 1998. In June of 2001, Scanlan joined the 229th Combat Support Equipment Engineers, WI Army National Guard. He was sent to Nicaragua, Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar, Germany, Washington D.C., Alaska, Hawaii, Arizona, Florida,


and Minnesota. He earned his eligibility for the VFW in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. As part of the 229th, he was a dump truck and lowboy operator. Not satisfied with just being a truck driver, he proceeded to learn how to operate all of the equipment the company had, also serving as the licensing and training NCO, the Equal Opportunity NCO, the Family Support NCO, and a squad leader. While in Iraq, John was injured from an IED, receiving the Purple Heart. John was Medically Retired from the National Guard in 2013. A member of Joseph F. McCrea Memorial VFW Post 7896 in Benton since his return from Iraq, John has served as Post Commander since 2009. He has also been District 3 Adjutant and Quartermaster, and is a VFW Rider in his District. He has earned All-State honors as Post Commander, as well as All-State and All-American honors as District Quartermaster. He has also served as National Aide de Camp. John currently works full-time as a Network Engineer. He also is a volunteer Emergency Medical First Responder for the Benton First Responders and Hazel Green Area Rescue Squad. A resident of Benton, John is married, with two kids, three stepchildren and four grandkids. In the little spare time he has, he enjoys riding motorcycles and camping.

■■■

Donald Lynch
District 4

VFW

847-436-4833
dist4cmd@vfwwi.org




A Gold Legacy Life Member of Gross-Yaksh VFW Post 6498 in Milwaukee, Don Lynch served 10 years in the U.S. Air Force. He gained his eligibility for the VFW while serving in South Korea from 1990-1992 and again in 1994-1997. Don has held numerous offices and appointments at the Post, District and Department Levels. He was elected to State Jr. Vice Commander in 2017, and went on to serve as State Commander in 2019-2020, earning All-American honors. He also served as Chairman of the Big Ten Conference in 2021-2022. This is Don’s second consecutive term as District 4 Commander. Commander Lynch resides in Kenosha with his wife of 23 years, Lori. They have three children and two grandchildren. When not busy serving Veterans, Don enjoys golf and hunting at his camp in Upper Michigan.

■■■

Robert Buehler
District 6

VFW

262-334-4013
dist6cmd@vfwwi.org



Wisconsin native and lifelong resident Bob Buehler graduated from UW-Whitewater in December 1981, where he was also commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army Reserve through ROTC. He feels privileged to have served in a variety of increased leadership and staff positions during a 30+ year service with the United States Army Reserve, from January 1981 to December 2011. Bob’s active-duty assignments (January 1981 to August 1993) included: Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; a 1-yr overseas tour in the Republic of South Korea (HQs, 19th Support Command), and Rock Island Arsenal, IL. His Reserve assignments from January 1994 through to retirement in December 2011, in-


cluded: 84th Division in Milwaukee, WI; 2nd Brigade, 85th Division at Fort McCoy, WI; mobilization in support of Operation Noble Eagle; and upon promotion to Colonel, served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Materiel (G-4) for the 416th Theater Engineer Command (TEC) in Darien, IL. Bob also transferred into the Multi-Functional Support Command (MSFC) at Rock Island Arsenal, IL, and served a 1-year overseas mobilization tour in Kuwait/Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (November 2008 to October 2009). Bob concluded his career at Rock Island, IL, as a Joint Munitions Command Detachment Commander. He is a Distinguished Graduate of the Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, KY, and a 2009 Inductee to the Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe. A Bronze Legacy Life member of VFW Post 1393 in West Bend, he continues to serve as Post Commander. This is Bob’s fourth consecutive term as District 6 Commander.

■■■

Dale Dahlke
District 7

VFW

715-521-0046
dist7cmd@vfwwi.org




Dale Dahlke was elected as the VFW District 7 Commander in May of 2024. This is his first term. He served as the District 7 Adjutant from 2015-2023 and has also served as District 7 Junior and Senior Vice Commanders. He is a Gold Legacy Life Member of Edgar Memorial VFW Post 10187 since November 2011, serving as Post Adjutant, Junior and Senior Vice Commanders, and is now in his second term as Post Commander. A U.S. Navy Veteran, Dahlke joined the United States Naval Reserve SAM Program (Sea-Air-Mariner) under the Delayed Entry Program in November 1983. He did boot camp at Great Lakes Illinois in early 1984 and attended the Navy Electricity/Electronics A-School at the Great Lakes Naval Base from late 1984 to July 1985. As a “Weekend Warrior”, he drilled at the Naval Reserve Facility in Plover, WI, from 1985 -1992. That facility then moved and became the Naval Reserve Center Stevens Point. Due to the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closures) List, Stevens Point was closed and his unit was transferred to the Naval Reserve Center in Green Bay, WI, in 1997. During some drill weekends, they worked on the WWII Submarine USS Cobia in Manitowoc doing various repairs onboard to bring some systems back to life for the public tours given to the visitors at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum. Dale achieved the rank of Navy Chief Petty Officer in 2007. He served for over 28 years in the Naval Reserve, retiring in September 2012. Dale’s VFW eligibility was earned with his activation in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from September 2010 to November 2011. Assigned to the Air Force 738th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group, 443rd Mission Support Squadron, at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, his duties included training and mentoring Afghan Air Force personnel on computer and phone systems and wiring, as well as military bearing. He also did installs and upgrades on the Army NIPR and SIPR computers along with wiring and installing phones for the Air Force Squadrons. He also held the position of Squadron Superintendent for the 443rd Mission Support Squadron. So, he was a Naval Reserve Chief Petty Officer, wearing an Army ACU uniform (with Navy patches), working for the Air Force. Dahlke lives near Edgar, Wisconsin, with his wife Amy. They have four children and four grandchildren. He currently works in the Telecom industry.

Meet Our 2024-25 Chief-of-Staff and District Commanders

**Aaron
Volling**
District 8

WFW

262-930-9100
dist8cmd@vfwwi.org



Aaron Voling is serving his second consecutive term as VFW District 8 Commander. A Life Member of Florence County VFW Post 3635, he is also serving his 6th term as Post Commander.

Aaron served in the U.S. Army in 2005 – 2015, earning his eligibility for the VFW while deployed to Iraq. He is very interested in helping other Veterans get their VA benefits. A special event for him is the Veterans Tribute Ride in Iron Mountain, MI.

A resident of Niagara, WI, Aaron and his wife of eight years, Kristin, have a very busy household with four children.

**Krist
Beseler**
District 9

WFW

507-459-3238
dist9cmd@vfwwi.org



Legacy Life member Krist Beseler joined the VFW as a Member-at-Large in Camp Casey, Dongducheon, South Korea, in 1995. Later, while visiting home on military leave circa 1998, he joined the Cochrane-Buffalo City VFW Post 10406, where he has been a member ever since. Becoming more active after he moved home to finish his military career at Fort McCoy in 2009, Krist has since held multiple Officer positions at his Post. While

Commander, his Post attained the distinction of an All-State and All-American Post. Krist was elected a District 9 Officer in 2021 and he is now serving his first term as District Commander.

Krist's related military service started in the US Army in 1986 as an infantryman serving in the 2/502 Infantry at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. In 1989, Krist briefly joined the U.S. Army Reserves with Alpha Company 389th Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy) in Onalaska as a Motor Transport/Heavy Equipment Operator. In 1990, he transferred to the 1st Army Non-Commissioned Officer Academy at Fort McCoy as a Reserve Instructor on Active Duty. Accepted into the U.S. Army's Warrant Officer Flight Training program at the U.S. Army Flight Training Center in Fort Rucker, Alabama in 1993, Krist was appointed an Active Army Warrant Officer and commissioned in 1996. After graduating from the Warrant Officer Flight Training program in 1994 as a UH-1H Iroquois (Huey) Pilot, he became a UH-60 Blackhawk pilot in 1995.

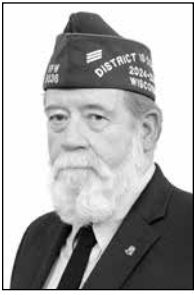
In 2006, Krist graduated from the U.S. Army Fixed Wing Multi-Engine Qualification Course, continuing his aviation career as a C-12 Huron pilot until his retirement in 2013. His 27 years of active-duty service include multiple state-side and overseas assignments at Fort Benning, Georgia; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Fort McCoy, Wisconsin; Fort Rucker, Alabama; Fort Carson, Colorado; Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, Georgia; Camp Stanley, Uijeongbu, South Korea; Seoul Airbase-K-16, Seongnam, South Korea; Balad Airbase, Iraq; and Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

Krist holds a Bachelor of Science in Professional Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Florida. He currently resides in Buffalo City with his wife Kimberly, a Veteran who served as a U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules Medical Crew Member supporting Operation Desert Storm. She is a VFW Auxiliary Life Member. Krist now spends much of his time camping, fishing, duck hunting with his dog Millie, and enjoying life with his family. He currently

**Robert
Davis**
District 10

WFW

262-527-7358
dist10cmd@vfwwi.org



Sergeant Robert Davis enlisted in the United States Army while attending Mercer High School, Mercer, Wisconsin. He entered the Army Security Agency (ASA) and upon receiving clearances/training, was assigned to the newly formed 329th ASA company based in South Korea in support of intel, communications, and electronic warfare activity for the 2nd Inf Division from January 1976 - February 1977. After returning from overseas, he was assigned to the 337th ASA Company, Ft. Riley, Kansas in support of the 1st Infantry Division. He participated with the 1st Infantry Division in "Reforger 77", along with other missions with various units within the military. Bob returned to civilian life in 1978.


Bob holds degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and Prairie State College in Illinois. After 32 years plus, he retired from Rockwell Automation in 2011 as Executive VP for Global Systems, and again in 2013 as Executive/Sr. Vice President, The Oilgear Company - Global Systems. He then relocated to Mercer, where he has served with a number of community groups, including President of the Board and Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity - Northwoods WI; President of the Mercer School District Board of Education; President of the Education Foundation of Mercer; and the Mercer Planning Commission.

A Life Member of Mercer Area VFW Post

**Paul
Wuensch**
District 11

WFW

608-386-7830
dist11cmd@vfwwi.org



Paul Wuensch joined the Wisconsin Army National Guard in 1983, while a Junior at Bangor High School. Following graduation and basic training at Fort Dix, NJ, he attended AIT at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Aberdeen, MD, becoming a service and recovery specialist with the 107th Maintenance Co. in Sparta, WI. He deployed with the 107th to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1990. Paul received an honorable discharge in 1993, after serving 10 years with the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

Still serving his community, Paul is Commander of VFW Post 8278 in Bangor, where his late father, George, a WWII Navy Veteran was also a member. In addition, he is a Past President of the Bangor First Responders EMS team; a twenty-year veteran of the Bangor School District Board of Education; and he currently serves on the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors.

Paul works full-time as a Global Key Account Manager in the automotive electronics industry. He and his wife Michelle have two adult daughters, and reside in Rockland, WI.

2024-2025 Joint VFW & Auxiliary Project
Mary Ann Christopherson
Journey to Healing Together Grant

WI VFW Foundation Mental Health Support Fund

From the 2024-2025 Commander's Program Book:

PSC Renee Simpson, dedicated manager of our Foundation, has taken an admirable initiative by establishing a fund within our organization. This fund's noble objective is to provide financial assistance to individuals who may forego mental health therapy due to their inability to afford the associated co-payments. PSC Simpson has meticulously designed an application process and form to ensure the fund's efficient operation.

I am proud to announce that my Commander's Project centers on kick-starting this crucial fund with immediate financial resources. By doing so, we can swiftly begin making a positive impact in the lives of those who would otherwise be unable to access vital mental health support. This endeavor embodies our commitment to community welfare and mental health advocacy.

From the Secretary/Treasurer of the WI VFW Foundation, Renee Simpson:

Never before has someone embraced an initiative as Mary Ann did when this fund was brought up over a year ago. Allowing the VFW and VFWA to assist our Service Members who are financially struggling to get the quality mental health care that they deserve. Mary Ann was so proud of this year's Commander's Special Project and that President Cheryl was all in as well. A living, breathing program that Service Members can use immediately.

During our July Kickoff Council of Administration meeting, we kicked off this project much like Mary Ann. While small in numbers, the attendees made a BIG impact. Thanks to Commander Ron's challenge to the VFWA for a "silkie show" at Mid-Winter, they raised \$1,500. The VFW Chief of Staff Carla made a raffle basket filled with comfort items that raised \$746.

The application and directions will be made available 1 August 2024 on vfwwi.org and vfwauxwi.org. Donations should be made out to the WI VFW Foundation and earmarked for the Mental Health Support Fund. Mail to: WI VFW Foundation, P.O. Box 242, Camp Douglas, WI 54618

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& CRISIS
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If you or someone you know
needs support now,
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or
chat 988lifeline.org

2024 “Buddy”® Poppy Contest Results

Each year, the Poppy displays at the State Convention are incredibly creative and detailed and this year’s entries raised the bar just a bit higher. Thank you to all who participated and congratulations to this year’s winners:

CATEGORY 1: Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign

1st place - Auxiliary 8584, Cashton - \$75

CATEGORY 2: Memorial or Inspirational Displays

1st place – Auxiliary 10406, Cochrane - \$75

2nd place – Auxiliary 10262, Plover - \$50

CATEGORY 3: Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies

1st place – Auxiliary 1038, Chippewa Falls - \$75

2nd place – Auxiliary 1038, Chippewa Falls - \$50

3rd place – Auxiliary 1393, West Bend - \$25

MOST IMPRESSIVE:

Auxiliary 1879, Fort Atkinson - \$25

Please continue to promote one of the most recognized symbols of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary, and publicize what each donation received does for our Veterans, their families and our communities. *Sherri L. Smith photos.*

Renee L. Simpson, PSC
2023-2024 VFW Poppy Chair

Faith Elford, PDP
2023-2024 VFWA Poppy Chair

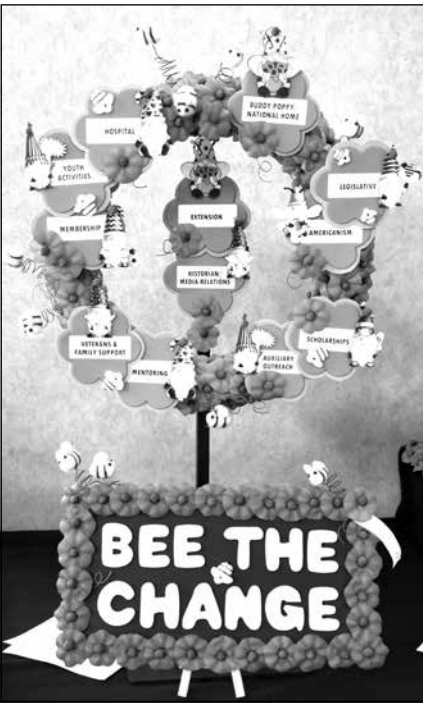


AT LEFT:
Category 1 –
Auxiliary 8584,
Cashton

BELOW LEFT:
Category 2 –
Auxiliary 10406,
Cochrane

BELOW RIGHT:
Category 3 –
Auxiliary 1038,
Chippewa Falls

BOTTOM:
Most Impressive
– Auxiliary 1879,
Fort Atkinson



Cootie Corner

Greetings Cooties:

I have been busy this year already. Back on May 4th was a trip to the VFW National Home and time spent with Dave Rogers of Cooking with a Veteran. We had a lousy time of it – and all food was prepared from *scratch* (yes, this was a Cootie event). State VFW Convention and Cooties Across Borders were also great. Congratulations to the new slate of VFW Department Officers. Make sure you keep up with District and Department VFW. By the time you read this, we will be at the Supreme Scratch in Louisville.

Grand Inspector Patrick Moran will be contacting you about Pup Tent Inspections, which we hope to complete by the time we meet in Tomah in September. Summer is exciting and busy – let’s “Keep ‘em Smilin’ in Beds of White”.

Paul Kirsch
WI Grand Commander
414-803-4633
89pulsar89@gmail.com



Hello everyone,

Hope you are all staying cool and safe with this odd weather we are having. Not a lot to report this month. I went to Cooties Across Borders in Tomah. We played bingo at the nursing home. We also had a cookout at Woodman’s, it was a very relaxing time. The Commander and I are discussing our visits we will be doing at the hospitals. Auxiliaries I need to meet with: it would help me out a lot if you could let me know the days and times your Auxiliary meets so I can plan on doing my inspections.

Wishing everyone a great summer. Get well wishes to those who are under the weather and condolences to those who have lost a loved one.

Rose Jacobson
WI Grand President
608-756-2851
brandyseven@hotmail.com

COOTIE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 31-Aug. 4	105th Supreme Scratch and MOCA Convention – Louisville, KY
September 13-15	Tomah Days – Hospital Visit and Scratch (Watch Cootie e-mailings for details.)
November 8-10	89th MOC/MOCA Tomb Trek to the Argonne Cross and Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington, VA (Visit lotcs.org for info.)
December – TBD	Cootie Christmas at the VFW National Home – Eaton Rapids, MI (Watch lotcs.org for dates and details.)
January 10-12, 2025	MOC/MOCA Grand Mid-Winter Conference – Janesville, WI (Watch Cootie e-mailings and future papers for info.)
April 11-13, 2025	MOC/MOCA Grand Convention – Janesville, WI (Watch Cootie e-mailings and future papers for details.)

Upcoming Patriotic Observances

July 27	National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
August 4	Coast Guard Birthday – established in 1790.
August 7	National Purple Heart Day – Nation’s oldest military decoration created in 1782.
August 14	National Navajo Code Talkers Day
August 21	Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary chartered in 2015.
September 2	V-J Day: Japan signed formal surrender in 1945.
September 2	Labor Day
September 10	U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps incorporated in 1962.
September 11	Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance
September 14	“Star-Spangled Banner” written by Francis Scott Key in 1814.
September 14	Ladies Auxiliary VFW organized in 1914.
September 17	Constitution and Citizenship Day – U.S. Constitution signed in 1787.
September 18	U.S. Air Force established in 1947
September 20	POW/MIA Recognition Day
September 29	Gold Star Mother’s Day
September 29	VFW Day – VFW established in 1899. Happy 125th Birthday!

VFW Politics Policy

Editor's note: We published this item in the March/April 2024 NEWS after receiving it at the beginning of the year. Now that we are in an even more active part of the election year process, it bears republishing.

FROM the National Council of Administration Weekly Update - January 4, 2024

POLITICS

VFW National Headquarters has recently received multiple inquiries pertaining to politics, and we would like to address them for clarification.

The VFW is prohibited by its Congressional Charter and National Bylaws to endorse any political candidate at any level of office. Individual members are free to back their candidates of choice (which includes wearing the VFW cap), and VFW Posts are permitted to allow candidates the use of their meeting halls in order to present their positions regarding Veterans, service members and their families, as well as National Defense and Homeland Security.

It is up to each individual Post to decide how their facility is used. We always recommend a Post open their facility to all candidates to avoid the image of favoring one side over another. Town Hall meetings are a great way for Veterans to understand and ask questions regarding issues pertaining to Veterans.

We recommend your Post reviews Section 702 of the National Bylaws (Politics) to ensure compliance with the National Bylaws and Congressional Charter. If further guidance is needed, please reach out to your Department Headquarters for direction, to ensure no local or state statutes are violated.

The VFW is one of the most respected voices in Washington, D.C., and within local governments across America. We advocate for justice for our nation's Veterans, service members and military families on an array of issues and continue to be the voice for Veterans everywhere. We regularly testify before Congress, meet with elected officials, and rally our national network of VFW members and patriotic supporters, to ensure our lawmakers put Veterans first. When those who've served their country and those that support them stand together, we cannot be ignored.

Flag Presented to Very Special Veteran



U.S. Congressman Derrick Van Orden (WI-3, R) presented the American Flag to 107-year-old Reynolds Tomter, a Merchant Marine Veteran who served during World War II. The flag was flown over the United States Capitol and carried in Congressman Van Orden's cargo pocket while jumping into Normandy for the 80th Anniversary of the invasion. The presentation took place at VFW Post 1530 in La Crosse on July 3.

Mr. Tomter is believed to be the oldest living WWII Merchant Marine in the country. As the ship's baker and backup gunner, he was on five Atlantic crossings – with one mission: to get the supplies to the troops. He and his son Bud also took part in the celebration in Normandy. With thanks to State JVC Renee Simpson who represented the Dept. at the presentation.



Luke Seielstad



Ron Kaiser



Cliff Maas

Three Bangor area Veterans are gifted Quilts of Valor at Independence Day Celebration

Three Bangor area Veterans were honored with Quilts of Valor as part of the Bangor community Independence Day Celebration on July 4th. Quilts of Valor Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing comfort and healing to service members and Veterans through the

gift of handmade quilts. The organization operates through a network of volunteers who create and distribute quilts to recipients.

This year's recipients were: Luke Seielstad, Lance Corporal U.S. Marine Corp, Iraq 2003-2005, four Purple

Hearts; Ron Kaiser, Sgt E-4 U.S. Army, Vietnam 1968-1970, Bronze Star; and Cliff Maas, Specialist E-4 U.S. Army, Vietnam 1970-1971. Heartfelt thanks to all for your service. Submitted by VFW Post 8278 Commander Paul Wuensch.

Joining Forces in Barron



Barron VFW Post 8338 conducted a joint fundraiser with the Barron Fire Dept during the Barron Chamber of Commerce's Music in the Park program in late June. Post 8338 operated a food stand during the event offering brats, tri-tip steak sandwiches and the fixings. The Fire Dept. handled the beverages and proceeds from both stands were split between the Post and the Fire Dept. Featured entertainer was Barron's own Chris Kroeze. Here, the unnamed "Food Crew" stands at the ready to feed the hungry customers. Submitted by Post 8338 QM Greg Roth.

Post 664 "Clean Up Day"



This year's VFW Day of Service for Arthur Gensler VFW Post 664 in Clintonville was spent in the yard of 95-year-old Post member Le-Roy Ashauer (center). Tasks included raking the lawn, trimming bushes, filling in holes, cutting tree limbs, and cleaning out potted plants. Members of the work crew with Comrade Ashauer included (from left): Theodore Much; Post 664 SVC Patrick Much; Nathaniel Much; Post Cdr. Brandon Pszanka; Khloe Pszanka; Post QM Tina Flanagan; and Post JVC Geoffrey Brei. Submitted by Post 664 QM Tina Flanagan.

Post 6498 Day of Service
at Wood National Cemetery



In honor of the National Day of Service on May 4, members of Gross-Yaksh Post 6498 volunteered at Wood National Cemetery by providing critical beautification efforts for approximately 40 trees in a reflection area at the grounds. That's a LOT of mulch and muscle! Post members participating included: Commander Mike Burzelic; SVC Kurt Baker; JVC Chuck Esser; QM Bill Rheingans; Service Officer JC Moore; Past Cdr. Art Lunde; member Keith Porath; and the Commander's grandson Oliver. Thanks to Post 6498 Chaplain Danny Trampe.

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!

Greetings!
 I want to thank all VFW members who attended, volunteered, and participated in WDVA Memorial Day events at our Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries this year. It was an honor to be able to speak at all three ceremonies, and I especially appreciated being able to spend time with Veterans and their families from very different parts of the state. Please forgive me if I don't identify which - King, Spooner, or Union Grove – is my favorite.
 As we just celebrated our nation's birthday on July 4th, I am again reminded of what our nation and its citizens can accomplish when we are unified with one purpose. Together we are stronger. We all benefit when we strengthen relationships with our partners. Veterans and their families are better off, WDVA can do more, and VFW can do more.
 I can't say enough about the positive impact VFW and its Auxiliary have on Wisconsin Veterans. Your efforts are both a testament and a shining example of fulfilling a commitment to service. The countless hours your

James Bond

Secretary,
Wisconsin
Department of
Veterans Affairs



members devote to their local communities is inspiring. The dedication you show by lending a helping hand at our three state Veterans Homes is invaluable and a major contributor to the success of our homes.
 On behalf of everyone at WDVA, I want to say thank you. But I'm also going to ask you to do even more. I'm going to ask you to join our efforts to encourage fellow Veterans to sign up and access all of the benefits available to them. Some of these benefits, like the Wisconsin G.I. Bill, are surprisingly not as well-known as they should be. Unfortunately, too many Veterans, their spouses, and their children are not taking advantage of benefits that could make their lives better.
 Don't be afraid to ask your fellow Veterans if they are aware of and using their benefits. Encourage them to check out our website, WisVets.com. Let them know they can contact our Veteran Benefits Resource Center (1-800-947-8387) to find out what may be available. We want to do all we can for Veterans who have served our country and their families, and you can help us do that.

Helping Veterans win the war against suicide, depression & anxiety.

As Veterans learn to train & care for their own Service Dog, they regain their independence & sense of Self Mastery.

PATRIOT K9s OF WISCONSIN

Would you like to donate, volunteer or get involved?

7333 West Stewart Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401
715-298-1373
info@patriotk9s.org
patriotK9s.org

PATRIOT K9s OF WISCONSIN

SERVICE DOG TRAINING PROGRAM

Raffle Calendar Winners

Date	Ticket	Name	City	Prize
May 3	1126	K. Sturm	Freedom	\$400
	11803	T. Neibauer	Hayward	\$50
	9469	M. Hegna	Cameron	\$50
	3457	L. Richmond	Chicago, IL	\$50
	11050	VFW Post 7694	Prairie du Sac	\$50
	6612	D. Gemert	Franklin	\$50
	3409	G. Robbins	Evansville	\$50
	May 10	10422	D. Follendorf	Sparta
10476		R. Janz	Viroqua	\$50
8792		VFW Post 388	Wausau	\$50
4248		J. Keil	Manitowoc	\$50
9464		G. Holbert	Barron	\$50
11771		D. Fink	Woodruff	\$50
5256		K. Wagner	Prairie du Chien	\$50
May 17		9051	E. Weinfurter	Loyal
	4965	J. Strait	Waukesha	\$50
	2861	VFW Post 11038	Waterford	\$50
	11915	W. Bedard	Danbury	\$50
	6616	J. Kotarak	Greendale	\$50
	8440	J. Sonnentag	Brokaw	\$50
	13386	Debbie Mesce	Montello	\$50
	May 24	1868	L. Matuszak	Pulaski
1371		B. Vandenlangenberg	Oconto	\$50
1426		M. Desroches	Two Rivers	\$50
9444		T. Dreyer	Cumberland	\$50
4735		J. Zalewski	Sheboygan	\$50
7482		D. Susek	Menomonee Falls	\$50
5477		M. Harms	Howards Grove	\$50
May 31		8285	R. Fandrey	Weston
	10545	R. Dempsey	Onalaska	\$50
	9471	M. Hegna	Cameron	\$50
	2911	J. Newcomb	Twin Lakes	\$50
	5707	B. Bean	Benton	\$50
	9456	A. Laffy	Salem, MA	\$50
	1168	P. Rickert	Freedom	\$50

Date	Ticket	Name	City	Prize
June 7	11974	D. Olafson	Iron River	\$50
	11378	J. Jadt	Eau Claire	\$50
	1364	R. Shorkey	Iron Mountain	\$50
	13175	J. Sponholtz	Silver Lake	\$50
	5827	J. Knautz	Platteville	\$50
	10106	T. O'Brien	Stevens Point	\$50
	5026	D. Ewaskowitz	Sturgeon Bay	\$50
	June 14	7010	VFW Post 6498	Milwaukee
5939		R. Novinska	Prairie du Chien	\$50
11269		R. Kubera	Colfax	\$50
10394		N. Green	LaFarge	\$50
7685		R. Schnell	Newton	\$50
3439		J. Timm	Oregon	\$50
7751		K. Jusgeka	Neenah	\$50
June 21		7942	B. & R. Mayer	Elkhart Lake
	9230	G. Kiewra	Thorp	\$50
	2778	D. Grochowski	Burlington	\$50
	13459	M. Sevedge	Milwaukee	\$50
	13044	VFW Post 2823	Burlington	\$50
	11989	B. Davison	Tomahawk	\$50
	11975	D. Benson	Iron River	\$50
	June 28	6149	R. Vicenzi	Broomfield, CO
12881		S. Rost	Tallahassee, FL	\$50
4054		M. Norwell	Oregon	\$50
11290		P. Biron	Turtle Lake	\$50
498		D. Peters	Appleton	\$50
668		L. DeCleene	Oconto	\$50
10756		VFW Post 1908	Holmen	\$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 in the dropdown list, click on **VFW RAFFLE CALENDAR NEWS**.

EVENTS AND DEADLINES

NOTE: Some District Meetings were still not finalized by press time. Please check the VFW and Auxiliary State websites – vfwwi.org and vfwauxwi.org respectively – for updated information.

July 27-Aug. 1	VFW/VFWA National Conventions – Louisville, KY
July 31-Aug. 4	105th MOC Supreme Scratch and MOCA Convention – Louisville, KY
July 31	Deadline for Post Audits to State Headquarters
August 9	Deadline for September/October 2024 Wisconsin VFW News (digital .pdf on State Website – vfwwi.org)
August 10	District 2 Meeting – VFW ONLY – 9:30 am – VFW Post 9362, 349 S. Walker Way, Sun Prairie, WI 53590
August 24	District 10 Meeting – VFW ONLY – 9:00 am – VFW Post 2687, 203 S. 4th St., Tomahawk, WI 54487
August 24	District 11 Meeting – VFW and Auxiliary – 9:00 am (Regis. 8:00 am) – VFW at: VFW Post 5970, 147 Oak St., Lyndon Station, WI 53944 Auxiliary at: St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, 377 Rogers St., Lyndon Station, WI 53944
September 7	District 9 Meeting – VFW and Auxiliary – 10:00 am (Regis. 9:00 am) – Liberty Christian School, 17250 Cty. Hwy. J, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
September 7	District 10 Meeting – Auxiliary ONLY – 9:00 am (Regis. 8:30 am) – VFW Post 5778, 306 S. Lake Ave., Phillips, WI 54555
September 14	District 4 Meeting – Auxiliary ONLY – 10:00 am (Regis. 9:00 am) – New Berlin Public Library, 15105 Library Lane, New Berlin, WI 53151
September 14	District 6 – Auxiliary ONLY – 10:00 am (Regis. 9:00 am) – School of Instruction, followed by regular meeting – Port Washington State Bank Community Room, 218 E. Washington St., Port Washington, WI 53074
September 21	District 8 Meeting – VFW and Auxiliary – both at VFW Post 6705, 302 Green Bay Rd., Denmark, WI 54208, VFW meets at 12 noon (Regis. 11:00 am); Auxiliary meets at 10:00 am (Regis. 9:00 am)
September 21	District 1 Meeting – VFW ONLY – 9:30 am – Post 6375, 16 S. Broad St., Elkhorn, WI 53121.
September 21	District 6 Meeting – VFW ONLY – 10:00 am (Regis. 9:30 am) – VFW Post 1393, 260 Sand Drive, West Bend, WI 53095
October 12	District 7 Meeting – VFW and Auxiliary – 10:00 am (Regis. 9:00 am) – VFW Post 388, 212 E. Randolph St., Wausau, WI 54401
DATE TBD	District 2 Meeting – VFW ONLY –
DATE TBD	District 2 Meeting – Auxiliary ONLY –
DATE TBD	District 3 Meeting – VFW ONLY –
DATE TBD	District 4 Meeting – VFW ONLY –
DATE TBD	District 10 Meeting – VFW ONLY –
DATE TBD	District 11 Meeting – VFW ONLY –
October 18-20	2024 Big Ten Conference – Marriott Indianapolis East, Indianapolis, IN (Visit: vfwwin.org for Registration forms and Hotel information.)

FROM THE EDITOR

This year’s “Editorial Services” are in loving memory of the life of Mary Ann Christopherson, and in honor of her service, then and now.

Her words of July 2023 bear repeating:
“As we move forward into the new year, I am filled with excitement and optimism. There is much work to be done, and I am eager to hit the ground running. In the coming months, we will face new challenges and opportunities. We will continue to advocate for the rights and well-being of our fellow Veterans, support our communities, and strive for a better future. Together, we

Marla Morgan
Editor



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can make a difference and ensure that the VFW remains a beacon of hope and support for those who have served our nation.”
You are missed my friend.



Oh
Snap!

A FRIENDLY REMINDER ...

Photos submitted for publication in the **WI VFW NEWS** should be:

- Resolution of at LEAST 1 MB
- In FOCUS
- ORIGINAL, not cropped or edited

And don’t forget to take a GROUP shot of ALL of your winners/honorees. We don’t usually have room for multiple individual pics – a good group photo is your best bet!

UPCOMING GOLF OUTINGS
SAVE THE DATE

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

Saturday, September 7, 2024

VFW Post 10262 19th 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.

Saturday, September 14, 2024

VFW Post 2260 9th Annual Golf Scramble Benefit

- Paganica Golf Course, 1335 South Silver Lake St., Oconomowoc, WI 53066
- Scramble format; Shotgun start: 9:00 am
- Lunch, raffles and Silent Auction results following golf at 1:00 pm
- \$100 per person, includes 18 holes w/cart, lunch and Hole in One event entry.
- Call Shari Leibly – 262-853-5623 for registration information.

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.



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of Kinesiology

Volunteers Needed
for Research Study on
Gulf War Veterans

The purpose of this study is to investigate how blood vessels in the brain and nervous system respond to challenges in Gulf War Veterans.

You May Qualify If You Are

- A Veteran who served in the Gulf War between 1990 and 1991.
- Between 45 and 68 years of age.
- Eligible to participate in an MRI scan.

Participation Involves

- Three visits to the UW-Madison campus.
- Visits range from 2.5-4 hours.
- Blood flow regulation testing, an exercise test and an MRI scan.

Location: 1300 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53706

Compensation will be provided for participants

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Anna Howerly at

608-262-9572 or barneslab@education.wisc.edu



2023-2024 Year Finishes Strong



We know many great events took place throughout the Department in spring and early summer, to finish the 2023-2024 program year on a high note. Here are just some of those wonderful projects, events, awards, and more. Congratulations on another successful year Wisconsin!

Memorial Day in Combined Locks



Heart of the Valley VFW Post and Auxiliary 10544 in Combined Locks observed Memorial Day with a Mass, followed by a luncheon hosted by the Auxiliary. The group also included local Boy Scouts. Thanks to Aux. 10544 President Karen Janssen.

Post 388 and Troop 409 Retire Flags



Members of Burns VFW Post 388 of Wausau participated in a Flag Retirement Ceremony with members of Boy Scout Troop 409 in late April. The ceremony started well after dark at Camp Birch Trails in Irma and lasted for a little over an hour. The Boy Scouts started the ceremony by reading introductory statements and preparing the site for the burning of the flags. After the readings, Post 388 members assisted with placing the more than 25 flags on the fire. Those present stood in solemn silence as the flags were burned and after several minutes of silence, "I Am Old Glory" was read, with more silence following until it was announced that the flags were consumed. The ashes were then collected for disposal. Thanks to Curt Dahlke of VFW Post 388.

Post 10231 Day of Service



The Wayne C. Chitwood VFW Post 10231 in Necedah conducted its 2nd VFW Day of Service at Bayview Cemetery, cleaning over 500 headstones and removing old flags, while placing over 320 new ones in preparation for Memorial Day. Partnering with Necedah American Legion Post 277; Necedah School District; Bayview Cemetery Board Members; and local community volunteers, a total of 25 workers participated, double last year's number. The old flags have been stored for a ceremonial Flag Retirement this summer. Fran Peetz photo courtesy of Post 10231 JVC/Adjutant Jim Starr.

Flag Day in New Richmond



New Richmond/St. Croix County VFW and Auxiliary 10818 presented a Flag Day Program at the Deerfield Senior living in New Richmond in mid-June. The origin of Flag Day was presented and Dave Sharretts, Gene Arnst, Dan Deardorff and Jerry Simon folded the flag, while "13 Folds" was read. All enjoyed ice cream sundaes following the program. Thanks to Wendy Burnett of Auxiliary 10818.

Post 2219, Fall River Students Retire Flags



John C. Brossard VFW Post 2219 conducted a Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Village Park, with the help of the Fall River 5th graders in early May. The usual explanations and texts were read, followed by the students lining up respectfully to present the folded flags for burning. A great way to teach our young Patriots! Thanks to then-D2 Commander Karen Singer, Post 2219 QM Charmaine Schultz and Fall River 5th Grade Teacher Tom Pawlisch.

Post 3071 Awards Scholarships



Each year, Lester J. Crane VFW Post 3071 in Oconto awards three, \$750 Scholarships to Oconto High School graduating seniors. Shown here following the presentations is Post 3071 Assistant Quartermaster John Nowak with grads (from left) Sophia Moody, Anna Vandenlangenberg and Gracie Simon. Post 3071 wishes the students well on their journeys to college and the pursuit of their goals. Submitted by Post 3071 QM Carl Plaster.

★ ★ ★ 2023-2024 Year Finishes Strong ★ ★ ★

Quilts of Honor Presented at Post 7221



A group of grateful Veterans from Mukwonago VFW Post 7221 were thrilled to receive beautiful handmade Quilts of Honor (QOH) recently, in appreciation of their service. Several members of the Milwaukee Chapter of QOH were on hand for the presentations, with many hugs and much gratitude. The Veteran recipients (from left) are: Al Searl; Jeff Semrow; Ken Greenlees; Anthony Marconi; Jim Foster; Jim Paar; Gene Myers and Ed Israel. Not present for picture was Tom Hartmann. *Thank you Jim Paar of Post 7221.*

Post 10262 Day of Service



Greater Plover Area Memorial VFW Post 10262 and the Village of Plover joined forces to clean up Hoover Avenue on the third annual Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Day of Service. The "VFW Cleanup Brigade" divided into teams of two or three, deployed to sites along Hoover Avenue, spending the morning collecting trash and litter from Hwy B to Hwy HH. The Village of Plover collected the filled trash bags and transported them to a local disposal site. Members of the "Brigade" included (from left) Village of Plover Public Works Manager Roy Hopfensperger; Tim Bubla; Fred Gburek; Mike Byrum; Robert "Bob" Decker; Brad Shufelt; then-Post Cdr. Norb Strasser; Mike Wolf; John Cansino; Perry Engel; John Herek; Larry Kinyon; Mike Zynda; Wayne Gorell and Kim Bolender. *Thanks to Debbie Manthey of VFW Auxiliary 10262.*

Bille Named Post 6709 Veteran of the Year



Bentley-Hull VFW Post 6709 in Waupun recently selected Glenn Bille (left) as their Veteran of the Year for 2024. Post Cdr. Frank Mesa is at right. Currently the Post JVC, Glenn is an active member, serving on the Post Honor Guard and always willing to assist in other activities. A U.S. Army Veteran, he served in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne, stationed at Da Nang, not far from the DMZ. He was honorably discharged in 1973. After 33 years with the WI Dept. of Revenue, Glenn and his wife Phyllis moved to rural Markesan. Married for 43 years, they have two children and five grandchildren. Congratulations Glenn and thank you for ALL of your service, then and now. *Photo and info from Post 6709 Adjutant Larry Duer.*

Veteran Headstones in Richland Center



Richland Center CVSO (and VFW Comrade) Karen Knock spearheaded an effort to identify Veterans in the Richland Center Cemetery that were not previously accounted for, to ensure that they would receive a headstone. Many long hours of research and several fundraisers ensued, and the first group of nine received markers in a mid-May ceremony. Pictured with one of the markers to be placed are (front, l-r): Peg Kaul; Joann Tennant and Leonard Frye. In the back row are (l-r): Marlin Clark; Richland CVSO Karen Knock; Danny Zadrazil; Representative Tony Kurtz and District 3 Commander/Department of WI Representative, Carla McAndrew. *Submitted by Carla McAndrew.*

Post 7308 Lunch at Tiny Home Village



Several comrades from Pleasant Prairie VFW Post 7308 visited the Tiny Homes at the Veterans Outreach in Racine, WI providing a "Manwich Luncheon" for the fifteen Veterans residing in the Tiny Homes. Here, the team "fortifies" themselves during the Day of Service event. *Thanks to Randy Strickland and Joel Eaves of Post 7308.*

Auxiliary 8068 Member's Quilt of Valor



Veteran and VFW Auxiliary 8068 Member Dianne Chaignot looks extremely pleased to be one of 45 Women Veterans that were awarded a Quilt of Valor in Elderon in late May. Congratulations Dianne and thank you for your service, then and now. *Submitted by Aux. 8068 Treasurer Darla Oppen.*

★ ★ ★ ★ 2024 Convention Snapshots ★ ★ ★ ★



ABOVE: EMT of the Year Joe Schick, Director of Mason Area Ambulance Service near Ashland, poses with VFW Post 690 QM Keith Tveit (left) and Post 690 Commander Jason Janeczek. Post 690 nominated Joe. BELOW: Alaina Schindler of Stoughton (center) was the recipient of the first Dispatcher of the Year Award. Celebrating her award are (from left): National Representative Jeff Carroll of Georgia; State Commander Ramos; Dept. President Rosenau; National Auxiliary Chaplain Donna Mills of Pennsylvania and 2023-24 Safety Chairman Jason Janeczek. TOP RIGHT: Dashing State Commander Ramos and elegant Dept. President Rosenau set the standard for a very special “Military Ball” Banquet theme. BOTTOM RIGHT: Our Dept. and National leadership pose for a happy candid before the Joint Awards Program. From left: State Cdr. Ron Ramos; Dept. President Sherrie Rosenau; National Auxiliary Chaplain Donna Mills and National Rep. Jeff Carroll.



Many thanks to State Photographer Sherri L. Smith, 2023-24 COS Mitch Cline and 2023-24 District 3 Cdr. Carla McAndrew for all of your Convention photography!



ABOVE LEFT: Sporting their special “silks” during the Irreverent Warriors presentation are Mike Wilke, Great Lakes Regional Co-Coordinator for IW and State Commander Ron Ramos. Some things just cannot be unseen, can they? ABOVE CENTER: Roy Christopherson and 2024-25 Commander Ron Ramos embrace after Roy placed the Commander’s cover following Installation, and Simba Christopherson looks on. ABOVE RIGHT: This year’s PDP skit “buzzed” with energy and fun. No, it’s not out of focus, they’re BEES ... except for the “Lazy” one in the chair. AT LEFT: Afternoon training sessions on several topics were well-received by large groups of attentive participants. AT RIGHT: PSC (1974-75) and PCiC (1989-90) Wally Hogan pauses before cutting the Banquet cakes with the ceremonial sword.

