

PAGE 10
Nat'l Pres.
Visit



PAGES 12-13
A Busy
Summer



PAGE 15
Jr. Vice Cdr.
Announcement



VFW WISCONSIN



NEWS 2024



VOL. 42 NO. 2

JOURNEY TO HEALING TOGETHER

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024



A JOB WELL DONE AT NATIONAL

Celebrating our Department's top achievers is always one of the highlights of the National VFW and Auxiliary Conventions. And a large Wisconsin delegation made the trek to Louisville, KY in late July to partake in the many business and training sessions and other events offered. It wasn't the "dry

heat" of last July in Phoenix, but it seemed as though a good time was still had by all. Congratulations to Aspinall-Bair-Stober VFW Post 11038 in Waterford and 2023-2024 Commander James A. Cairo, who accepted the Post's All-American Award from outgoing Commander-in-Chief Duane

Sarmiento. And kudos to now-Past Dept. Auxiliary President Sherrie Rosenau who was welcomed into the prestigious "Circle of Excellence" by 2023-2024 National President Carla Martinez. A job well done! Please see additional pages elsewhere in this issue for more photos and the other Aux-

iliary Program Award Winners for the year. *Thank you to the attendees who supplied photos, including PDP Rita Byers; PDP Faith Elford; Tina Flanagan; NCM Cory Geisler; SVC Ty Letto; SVP Kim McWilliams; PSC Gundel Metz; PSC Michele Rathke; and whomever I may have missed.*

Wisconsin Mourns PDP Jean Hoium

The Department of Wisconsin VFW and Auxiliary are saddened by the passing of Auxiliary Past Department President Jean A. Hoium of Janesville on August 28, 2024. Jean served as our 61st President of the then-Ladies Auxiliary VFW in 1985-1986, alongside State Commander Robert Gascoigne (deceased) of Post 721, Waukesha.

Continuing to serve Veterans and the Auxiliary in the years following her term, Jean served in many capacities at all levels of the organization. She and her late husband Richard Hoium, a U.S. Army Veteran of the Korean War, were very active members of Kienow-Hilt VFW Post and Auxiliary 1621 in Janesville, as well as the Military Order of the Cootie (MOC) and Auxiliary. They enjoyed nearly 65 years of marriage and many wonderful travels and memories. Richard passed away in April 2019.

Jean is survived by sons Dwight

(Tammy) Hoium, Vincent Hoium and Karl (Angela) Hoium; five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and other extended family members and friends. And of course a large VFW and MOC "family". In addition to Richard, Jean is predeceased by her daughter Shelley; infant son George; and daughter-in-law Beth.

Visitation and services for Jean were held on September 4 and 5 at Schneider Funeral Home and First Lutheran Church in Janesville, with private family committal services at Oak Hill Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made in Jean's memory to Mercy Hospice or VFW Auxiliary 1621.

A full tribute to PDP Hoium will be published in the next WI VFW NEWS which will be printed and mailed in early December. *Sincere thanks to Aaron Kerr and the Schneider Funeral Home for sharing the photograph on behalf of the family.*



Jean A. Hoium
1985-86 Auxiliary Dept. President

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REGISTER TODAY!
November 28, 2024
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Greetings Comrades,

The new VFW year is in full swing, and Wisconsin has hit the ground running. Since our State Convention we have held our Council of Administration/Kickoff to discuss plans for the new year, followed by the VFW National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Many of our comrades, sisters and brothers of Wisconsin showed up in force with fantastic representation at the business sessions and Committee meetings.

Thank you all for being an important part of the process in this great organization while making Wisconsin stronger. I'd also like to recognize our very own State Adjutant Adam Wallace and our NCM Cory Geisler for their hard work ensuring the members' voices were heard at the Convention. Adjutant Wallace spearheaded a call for a Roll Call vote on a controversial Bylaw change, the first time in 29 years this has been done. The attendees at the National Convention had their voices heard with an overwhelming majority. Bravo Zulu for leading the way!

Shortly after being sworn in as our Commander-in-Chief, Al Lipphardt immediately went to work on the goals for this VFW year. Our membership goal for this year is 102%. I wanted to share my experience during my visit to Hudson Post 2115's VFW booth at the North Hudson Pepper Fest.

I was thoroughly impressed by the remarkable organization and effort put in by Post Commander Nate Haumschild. The booth was not only informative but also inviting, effectively spreading the word about the VFW's mission and activities. They also had a little Fundraiser selling slushies and distributing Buddy Poppies. Their dedication paid off as they successfully recruited four new members, showcasing the strength and appeal of the VFW community. Bravo Zulu to Post 2115 for their outstanding work and commitment! It is community events like this that continue to help us be one of the top Departments within the VFW while accomplishing our mission!

Fall District Meetings have begun around the state. State VFW representatives will be in attendance and look forward to seeing and talking with you. Your attendance at District meetings is important for the dissemination of information not only from the Department regarding this year's goals but updates as well. It also affords us the opportunity to share with one another ideas and our concerns. We are all a vital piece to the growth and stability of our organization.

You should also have started working on your programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year. If you need any assistance, please let us know. Remember, you do not have to go through a school to participate in the VOD or PP. Your nieces, nephews, sons, daughters, grandchildren, any school-aged child that meet the grade criteria can participate in their respective program. Don't forget home schooled and parochial school students, too.

Plans for this year's Fallfest trip to the VFW National Home October 25-27 are in the works. Registration for the event can be completed on www.vfwwi.org. **The deadline is September 27!** This year's costume theme is the "The Wizard of Oz". Please contact Chairman Michele Rathke with any questions. You will not regret taking part in this event or visiting the magical land that is the VFW National Home.

Thank you for your support and dedication. Together we can achieve great heights.

Ron Ramos
State Commander



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STATE OFFICERS

A NEW YEAR

A new VFW year is upon us, filled with endless possibilities that will strengthen not only our organization but the communities we serve. Many of our Posts have already taken part in a number of activities in our communities. It is important to report those activities to ensure that proper recognition of our volunteers is given at State Convention. If you are struggling for ideas of good Community Service, below are some ideas from the *VFW Guide For Community Service Best Practices*:

Examples of Good Community Service

- Assisting of Veterans within the community
- Scholarships to youth
- Sponsoring of youth teams
- VA hospital work on behalf of the VFW
- Blood drives
- Legislative town halls
- Care packages for troops, homeless etc.
- Register to Vote campaigns
- Food Bank support
- Building of ramps for disabled Veterans
- Hosting job fairs
- Visiting VA Homes & nursing facilities
- Community Clean Up activities
- Natural Disaster Relief support
- Clothing Drives
- Donations to civic organizations within the community that align with our values

This along with a number of other valuable resources can be located at www.vfw.org.

Renee L. Simpson
State Jr. Vice
Commander



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To report your community activities, go to www.vfwwi.org and click on Login and then **Members Only**. Your membership number on your VFW Membership Card is your username and the password is your last name.

Along with a number of our Post and Auxiliary activities, many will have a Buddy Poppy Drive to coincide with those activities. Buddy Poppies can be ordered online or you can download a printable version and mail it to VFW Headquarters. This information can be found at www.vfwwi.org, click on Programs and then Buddy Poppy. You will also see a number of items available for the Buddy Poppy program, including an online and printable Buddy Poppy report form. **Just a gentle reminder that a Buddy Poppy Drive is not a Community Service reportable item. Please report Buddy Poppy activities separately.**

If you have any questions concerning the above topics, please feel free to contact me and I will be happy to assist. Remember, when one succeeds, we all succeed.

"The HQ Dispatch"

Greetings Comrades!

We hope your year is going well so far, and you are staying up on your year-to-year tasks. The HQ team had a busy but enjoyable time in Louisville for National Convention, participating and observing the business of our National organization.

We'd like to talk about a few items this time.

• First are quarterly audits. If a Post owns property and/or operates a Canteen, the Operations section must be filled out. If a Post operates a Canteen, the Post Canteen or Club Fund information in the Funds section must also be filled out. We are using the Post's Election report to determine if property is owned and if there is a Canteen. This is not a new requirement. The Operations Section has been a part of the Audit for many years. The amount of liability insurance also must be reported. If the Operations Section is not filled out, if applicable, the audit will not be accepted and returned to the Post to complete the audit.

• Next, your 990, which is required to maintain your Post's nonprofit status. Once you have filed your 990, please send proof of IRS ACCEPTANCE to HQ. Your 990-filing status will not be updated until we have a copy of the Acceptance letter.

• Regarding Bonds: if you are not going through the State (Wisconsin VFW) to get your Bond, ensure you are getting a **Surety Bond** and you must send proof of Bonding to State Headquarters.

Finally, the new online Rosters are in the **Members Only Section** of the State Website. There is a listing with Post Commanders and Quartermasters; a listing with Post Information (meeting dates, time and addresses); and a listing of Department Officers and Chairmen.

We'd also like to remind you all to please take our State Convention survey. **[See info elsewhere on this page.]** Your feedback is appreciated. As always, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to us!

State QM Tom Heath
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State ADJ Adam Wallace
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State Asst. ADJ/QM Steve Eisenhauer
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Comrades,

I hope this article finds you doing well and that your summer was full of memories spent with family and friends. I want to start off by expressing my sincere appreciation for all the hard work that each of you do in your Posts and local communities across this great state. You are truly making a difference in the life of a Veteran every day.

Well, as I indicated in my previous article, my excitement for the 125th VFW National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky completely met my expectations. The Convention itself, venue, and location were all outstanding. I arrived in Louisville on Saturday, just in time to attend the Big Ten Conference meeting. We took care of several business items including the nomination of Officers. Our own PSC Michele Rathke provided her National Home campaign speech to the membership.

Sunday was a full day of Committee meetings. I had the opportunity to really see how the sausage is made during the proposed amendments to the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual Committee meeting. Let me just say that what appeared like a majority vote in Committee was taken to a floor vote in the business session and was overwhelmingly shot down. Kudos to our State Adjutant for his part.

Ty Letto
State Sr. Vice
Commander



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Monday – Thursday were the business sessions where we heard from several speakers, voted on the recommendations of the Committee meetings, as well as the Nomination, Election and finally, Installation of Officers. However, the highlight of the week for me was having the opportunity to collaborate with my other classmates from the 2025 – 2026 command team led by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Carol Whitmore. I also had the chance to do a little sightseeing, taking in the Louisville Slugger Museum and a couple of bourbon distilleries. Now, I think you can see why I was so excited!

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!

SAVE THE DATES!
October 2, 3 & 5
Online Training Sessions
Varied times to accommodate most schedules.
Watch the State Website under News > Events for specific times and the content/agenda.

LAST CALL FOR STATE CONVENTION SURVEY!

If you attended the 2024 State Convention in Green Bay, PLEASE give us your feedback!

We appreciate your thoughts and ideas to help make this and other events what YOU and other members want. Your voice matters!

Please scan this QR Code with your smartphone using your camera app and click on the link that appears.
OR use this link:
[Wisconsin VFW 2024 State Convention Survey](#)

All responses are optional and surveys can be anonymous.

THANK YOU!



STATE OFFICERS

Greeting Comrades,

In my last article, I provided an update regarding which State Bylaw Amendments and National Bylaw Amendments were passed during the Department Convention. Last month, during the National VFW Convention, I had the opportunity to participate in the National Bylaw, Manual of Procedure and Ritual Amendments Committee, which reviewed 40 proposed changes, including the two recommended for approval at our Convention.

Six of the 40 proposed changes were recommended by the Committee, with four being adopted by the Convention body. It was an amazing process to be part of, especially when one of the six recommended Bylaw changes went to a roll call vote, the first in approximately 29 years, and was soundly defeated by the Convention body. I want to give a shout-out to our Department Adjutant Adam Wallace, for organizing the coalition of delegates who forced the roll call vote. This is noteworthy because it shows that our voice as a Department, District or Post impacts the direction of the VFW.

Of the two proposed National Bylaw Amendments (NBA) passed at our Convention, one was adopted and will be updated in the 2025 Podium Edition VFW Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual. I want to commend the Burnett County VFW Post 1256, for bringing forward

George Stoeber
Judge Advocate



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ward the recommendation to change Section 216, "Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees", Subsection (b), which changed the requirement that the Post Commander "shall" appoint a Service Officer, to "may" appoint a Service Officer.

As a result, National has already updated the Post Bylaw Template to reflect this change and the new template is already available on the National and Department websites. If you, or your Post, have identified something in the Department or National Bylaws which you believe should be changed or updated, now is the time to start working on your recommendation so it can be forwarded to Headquarters for the Department Bylaws Committee to review prior to next year's Convention.

If you have any questions regarding submitting Bylaw changes, please reach out to me at GeorgeS@vfwwi.org.

Wisconsin Veterans
of Foreign Wars News



Page 3
SEPT/OCT 2024

Comrade Quartermasters:

Technically, it's "tax time" again for VFW Posts and Auxiliaries. Please save your sanity and keep your stress level low and get your IRS 990s filed. If your fiscal year ended December 31, you should have filed before May 15 and if your year ended June 30 you can procrastinate until November 15. If your gross revenue (total monies you've received) for the year is less than \$50,000, filing should be a snap. However, maybe one thing you didn't know, is that even if your gross receipts are more than the maximum, you can average the last three years and hopefully a smaller total appears.

In addition, there may be a few other ways to reduce gross revenue to stay under the \$50K amount. I actually read part of a 49-page instruction manual (boring!) on completing the IRS 990EZ form and noted that receipts that do not benefit the Post might not need to be included in gross revenue. Two examples may include: The portion of annual dues the Post collects but passes along to National/Department and State Raffle monies we collect and forward to the Department. These funds **pass through** the Post's financial accounts and look like revenue but don't directly benefit the Post. Also, if you sell your Post home, there may be a cash windfall exemption for the Post as well. I could hardly believe that I learned something from reading portions of the IRS instructions (yikes!). Note that I am not an expert in these matters, so if you find yourself with excessive revenue that forces you into more complicated reporting, talk to a professional to see if there is some financial wiggle room available.

Posts should also note that the Quartermaster bonding period begins again on September 1. Likely the least expensive bond available is through the VFW and when you bond that way there is little doubt at HQ that you are bonded. Private bonding is also acceptable, but it should be in force for the same period of time, i.e. September through August. The bonding level needs to include all liquid assets like CDs and most investments. State Quartermaster Tom Heath has indicated that a short grace period is allowed for renewals but it's highly recommended to get it done before September 1.

Lastly, annual Post inspections are starting so show off for your Inspector and have everything they need at hand when they arrive. You'll feel good because you did a great job preparing and your Inspector will be pleased with a smooth and complete audit. An Inspection Checklist is available on the State website (vfwwi.org), under District Manuals and Forms. Being prepared will lower your stress level and improve your mental health. Maybe that's why Mary Ann put a Quartermaster's Checklist on page one of her Commander's Program Book. Thank you Mary Ann, for thinking of us!

Leroy Jansky
State Inspector



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Greetings VFW family!

Congratulations to the 2024-2025 VFW National newly elected and appointed Officers.

Also, congratulations to all of the All-American Posts.

Hope everyone made it back home safely! It was great seeing many Wisconsinites and my VFW family at the 125th VFW National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, in late July. It was a very informative and fun Convention, and good to meet new fellow Veterans from around the country. After the business sessions, we went to see the sights, including the Ohio River, Churchill Downs, Kentucky Derby Museum, and Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory, enjoying great comradeship. Thank you comrades for being there for each other!

We are back home now to continue our mission - "Journey to Healing Together". Let's continue to check on our fellow Veterans, our VFW family and their family members, to ensure they are doing well.

Let's continue to strive to invite new members to join our family-oriented organization. Let them know the more we recruit, the bigger our family and bigger our voice that will be heard. Our goal is to reach 102% or to hit this percentage out of the ball park. We are confident that we can hit a home run! Let's show the VFW, our family and our communities who we are and that we have what it takes to be one of the best, also to show we can complete Mary Ann's vision with State Commander Ron Ramos at the plate.

To start the pitch, Post Commanders and Quartermasters, it's time to look over the Commander's Program book, to get your game plan together for your year. Take a look at when each program is due. At this time, you should be preparing for Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year. This deadline to the Posts is fast approaching - October 31.

Continue to strive to be the next Post All-Star, by achieving the next All-State award. Keep on pressing forward to achieve that line drive, VFW family!

Carla McAndrew
Chief-of-Staff



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Fellow Comrades,

May the Lord be with you at this moment and with your family. Hope the summer has been a good one and we are ready for the beautiful fall in Wisconsin, but not yet! I was elected for another year and I want to thank each of you that were part of that, your Posts and your Districts for supporting me. Thank you.

In the next couple of months we have our elections for this great country of ours. This may stir our faith, tempt us to say and do things that can be out of character, but let's stand firm Comrades! Let's remember who our Almighty is. Let's give all our thoughts, worries, wants and requests to him alone. Let's always Pray! The power of Prayer is important, and I ask that we pray for all our leaders and the one that God will place. I also ask to pray for our students going back to school, our teachers, the leaders in the school. Continue to unite in your Posts, Districts and this organization of ours.

We have some Past National Chaplains that are continuing the Chaplain Zoom training monthly. This is for all Chaplains from the Posts to the Districts. Please reach me any way - call, text and email - and I'll send you the Zoom link. The next session is September 19. The topics

Ilein Taipe
State Chaplain



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change every month and you will be able to meet Chaplains from every state and every Post. You can ask anything to the other Chaplains and if I could help, please let me know.

May our Father above rest in your hearts, your health, your relationships, careers, in your homes and in your communities. I pray to meet you at your District meetings and Posts. If there's an event you would like me to attend, we can coordinate our schedules and it will be my honor.

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong."
—1 Corinthians 16:13 NIV

Wisconsin VFW News Production Schedule

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

*Website .pdf only

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Wisconsin Veterans of Foreign Wars

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.

Greetings Comrades!
My name is Wayne Georgeson, your State Surgeon for the 2024-2025 command year. I am humbled and honored to be given the opportunity to serve my fellow comrades on the Department level. I am forever grateful to have known Mary Ann Christopherson and did not hesitate to say YES when she asked me to serve as Surgeon for her command year. Under the leadership of Commander Ron Ramos, her legacy and mission will carry on.

**Wayne
Georgeson**
State Surgeon
VFW
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While I know many of you, there are even more I have not had the pleasure of getting to know yet. I am new to the State leadership team and would like to take this time to introduce myself.

I was born and raised in Central Wisconsin where I now live with my wife, Jamie, and daughters, Alexis and Alaena. My family centered around military service with one grandfather serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, and another grandfather serving in the U.S. Navy during WWII. Following in the footsteps of my grandparents' service, I joined the Wisconsin Army National Guard from 2007-2011, earning the rank of Sergeant, serving as an Ammunition Specialist in the Ordnance Corps and as a Military Police Officer in Detainee Operations, earning my eligibility for the VFW during deployment to Camp Bucca, Iraq, from 2009-2010.

Joining the VFW in 2019, I signed up at my hometown VFW, Post 1916 in Reedsburg. There, I served three terms as Post Commander from 2021-2024, leading our Post to earn All-State recognition in 2023-2024. On the District 11 level, I am currently the Sr. Vice Commander.

On the civilian side, my wife Jamie and I are small business owners, operating a Health Insurance Agency in Reedsburg. Prior to this, I had the privilege of serving for 11 years with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, as the State Commercial Driver License Coordinator, Wisconsin Driver Training School Coordinator, and Lead Commercial Driver License Auditor.

For the 2024-2025 command year, I would like to continue on with Mary Ann's mission of recognizing and openly talking about mental health issues in our Veterans community. As Veterans, this is something we can all relate to as we all know someone that PTSD has touched in some way. PTSD does not just affect the Veteran, it affects us all. From the wife or husband at home that may wonder why you are quiet that night, or the son, daughter, niece, or nephew that wonders why you got so angry at something so small. PTSD affects us all.

This is also a personal issue for myself, struggling with PTSD and the accompanying depression for many years. Like many Veterans, I had to come to the conclusion myself that the only way I could overcome this was to talk about it, get out of my shell, and fight back. While we all have our own ways of working through this complex disorder, it is my goal to bring you tools and resources to add to your toolbox.

Recognizing PTSD is the first step in the treatment of PTSD. While this may seem obvious to some of us, it is easily denied by saying "I am just cranky" or "I only drink socially." It is important to openly recognize and identify these signs. The signs can be obvious or subtle, and can gradually build up or come out of nowhere. So, let's openly talk about that first step in this article.

1. Recognizing the physical changes: These may include the Veteran having difficulty staying or falling asleep; irritability or outbursts of anger; physical reactions when exposed to internal or external cues or reminders of the traumatic event such as certain sounds or smells.

2. Recognizing the mental changes: These may include the Veteran having recurring and intrusive thoughts about the event; recurring and distressing dreams of the event; acting or feeling as if it the traumatic event were recurring—also known as having flashbacks; difficulty concentrating; and efforts to avoid thoughts, feeling or conversations associated with the trauma.

3. Recognizing the emotional changes: These may include the Veteran having intense distress when exposed to internal or external reminders of the event; a noticeable lack of interest or participation in important activities; feelings of detachment or estrangement from

others; limited ability or inability to show affection or love; feelings of a bleak future, overly alert and/or exaggerated response when startled.

4. Suicidal thoughts or ideation: These may include the Veteran having thoughts of suicide and they may openly share the thoughts with you. The Veteran may say things like "Maybe I should just end it," or "I wonder if anyone would find me." These thoughts can go from thoughts to action in a second and need to be addressed immediately.

If you are a **Veteran**, or are concerned about one, **call 988, then press "1"** to speak with a responder qualified to support Veterans. You can also **text 838255**.

We must recognize and openly talk about these symptoms to move forward and heal. We are Veterans, we are family, we are friends. Together we can tackle this issue, even if it is one chip from the rock at a time, we will get it done. Remember, it affects us all. God Bless.



others; limited ability or inability to show affection or love; feelings of a bleak future, overly alert and/or exaggerated response when startled.

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STATE OFFICERS

Greetings to everyone!

It's been a very busy summer for the VFW of Wisconsin as we held our State Convention, July C of A, and then it was on to the 125th VFW National Convention. One of the most important parts of our great organization to understand is that it is run by the MEMBERS and that everything starts with gaining approval from the membership. The reason I mention this is that even though we have a State Commander who is in charge of Wisconsin and a Commander-in-Chief who is in charge of the entire VFW, they must still act in accordance with the wishes of the membership.

At the National Convention, there were many Bylaws and Resolutions that were proposed from Departments throughout the VFW. This is common every year and every year those specific Committees meet to discuss whether these should be proposed for adoption or rejection or if they are out of order and need to be sent back to Department level for review and resubmission the next year. Many of these Bylaw or Resolution changes are very common sense: to update language, fix language, or clean up certain areas, but this was a bit different.

Resolution 204 was put forth by the C-in-C to make a change to the VFW National Charter. Resolution 204 would have allowed membership into the VFW for Cold War Veterans who served in Africa, Asia, Europe, or their territorial waters from September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991, for not less than 60 consecutive days, to deter Communist aggression or advances. This resolution was recommended by the Resolution Committee for adoption. When the time came for it to be voted on the main floor, it was resoundingly defeated by the membership. **The membership spoke!**

The other contentious change was to our Bylaws, in particular Section 618, Subsection #6. This covers the Commander-in-Chief's appointment of the Adjutant General, which is by far the most important appointment they make. The membership voted last year at the 124th VFW National Convention, to change the approval of the Chief's appointment from a simple majority of the Council of Admin-

Cory Geisler
National Council
Member

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hotmail.com



istration to a two-thirds approval. This was done so that this important appointment had resounding approval and confidence. This year, C-in-C Sarmiento put forward a change to the Bylaw under B-15, to have it changed back to a simple majority vote.

I was on the Bylaw Committee and spoke against this change on the grounds that a simple majority could lead to someone being appointed that may not be qualified and if they are not performing, it still takes a two-thirds majority vote to remove them. Despite several others speaking against this change, it was still passed by the Bylaws Committee and recommended for adoption.

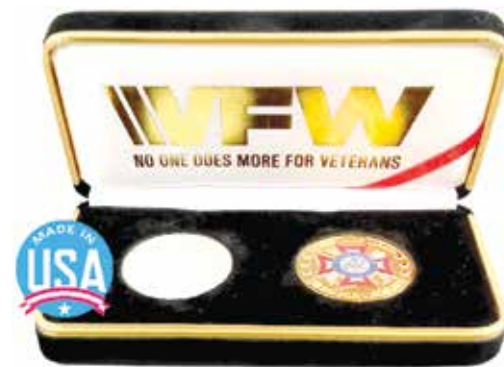
Once again, the membership of this great organization made their votes count. When this went to the main floor for an approval vote, our State Adjutant, Adam Wallace, called for a Roll Call vote which is something that had not been done in over a decade. There were over 8,000 votes cast and when it was completed, it was resoundingly defeated, receiving fewer than 1,000 votes of approval. **The membership spoke!**

Too often I hear from members that the leadership doesn't always listen to their concerns or that they feel they don't have a voice in what happens. That is quite the opposite, but if you don't attend Post and District meetings or the State Convention, it's hard for your voice to be heard. I want everyone to understand that this is a membership-driven organization. If you want your voice to be heard, or count, then show up. Much like the membership who attended the National Convention and made sure their voices were heard and counted.

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MEMBERSHIP

Current Membership Totals By District

Dist.	Life	New	Reinstate	Continuous	Total	Prior Year	Percentage	N/R LM
1	2254	33	29	73	2389	2665	89.64%	2
2	3107	12	4	56	3179	3537	89.87%	1
3	722	0	2	25	749	850	88.11%	0
4	1146	6	2	28	1182	1283	92.12%	1
6	1697	2	2	27	1728	1881	91.86%	2
7	2099	14	3	35	2151	2456	87.58%	2
8	1801	15	3	39	1858	2047	90.76%	0
9	2512	31	4	28	2575	2772	92.89%	0
10	1298	10	1	49	1358	1565	86.77%	0
11	1601	2	3	40	1646	1896	86.81%	2
99	1453	26	4	49	1532	1861	82.32%	0
Totals	19690	151	57	449	20347	22813	89.19%	10

Totals as of September 10, 2024
356 Legacy Life Members

OPERATION: ALL IN



VFW National Membership Program

2024-2025

Al Lipphardt

Commander-in-Chief

"Believe in what you do, do what you believe in."

ANNOUNCING!

The Department of Wisconsin VFW Leadership Development/ Mentorship Program

Greeting Comrades,
Are you considering taking on a leadership position at your Post, District and/or the Department? Or perhaps you are a current and relatively new Officer or Chairman?

If you answered yes, I suggest you consider participating in our Leadership Development/Mentorship Program. What can you expect? Virtual discussions with Past State Commanders, other Past Officers and "Subject Matter Experts", as well as group discussions on topics and questions generated by YOU! Any and all topics or questions are welcome. This Program is to help YOU develop your leadership skills for current or future positions within the VFW.

If interested in more information, please email me with your pertinent info, including: Name; Post; Title (if applicable) and complete contact info. Thank you!

George Stoeber
State Judge Advocate
GeorgeS@vfwwi.org

Hello Comrades,

We are into a new membership year and it is time to make some big progress toward this year's 102% goal. We need a total of 23,270 members by June 30, 2025. That is 457 members over 100%.

In order to facilitate this, Posts need to be aware of what's happening with their membership. By the time you read this in mid-September, Memstats will be updated with our Life Membership numbers, and we'll be able to clearly see how much work we need to do to reach and surpass that 102% mark. One way to do this is to make sure every Annual member is paid, past July 1, 2025, especially all Post Officers. **Remember:** If an elected or appointed Officer's membership expires while in office, the position is declared vacant, and that member cannot hold another Officer position for the remaining VFW year. Don't lose your Officers!

Obviously, recruiting new members is important, but equally critical is the need to recover those members who have yet to renew their Annual membership. A very helpful tool is the "Unpaid/Relocated" list of those current VFW members who have moved into your area and can be transferred into your Post. These are members who have already recognized the value of being a VFW member and we should not simply let them walk out the back door. The list can be pulled from the National Online Membership System (OMS). Posts can also contact State HQ or me if they would like to get that list for their area.

To give you some ideas for recruiting new members, I had a nice conversation with Wisconsin's Top Recruiter for 2023-2024, Dave Zien of Post 305 in Eau Claire. He had some valuable insights, including:

- **Always have a Membership Application with you** because you can meet potential members **anywhere**. No matter where he is or what he is doing, Dave is proud to talk about the VFW and all it does, and is ready to explain the program benefits and cite examples of how we volunteer to help others.
- **Every place is a chance to network.** Dave is a member or alumnus of over 120 Veterans organizations, Fraternities, Historical groups, Motorcycle groups and Legislative groups. Consider the groups you belong to including clubs, churches, etc., and who in them may be eligible for VFW membership.

Randy Engness
State Membership
Chairman



715-651-0263
engnessr@gmail.com



TOP RECRUITING UPDATE

through 8/25/2024

Recruiter	Post	Dist.	Recruits
James A. Cairo	11038	1	17
Nate Haumschild	2115	9	8
Jason T. Coffey	11038	1	6
Peter A. Pemrich	1621	1	4
Thomas E. Heath	1621	1	4
Michael F. Fischer	11038	1	4
Tami Zaleski	2260	2	4
David G. Green	10818	9	3
Michael E. Zientek	1621	1	2
Douglas L. Cochran	1865	1	2
George A. Stoeber	7308	1	2
Larry F. Sorensen	7308	1	2
Phillip D. Allen	7308	1	2
Robin L. Drogsvold	328	2	2
Kerry E. McAllen	7591	2	2
Giles E. Svehle	9387	2	2
Christopher T. Ankele	6003	7	2
Bruce E. Jagodinsky	7534	8	2
Mark T. Schiltgen	2115	9	2
Randy L. Engness	2204	9	2
Edward J. Quinn	8338	9	2
Michael R. Harris	7898	10	2

- **Be sure to look for the obvious things that indicate someone is a Veteran**, such as a Veteran's ball cap; military branded clothing; even the license plates on their vehicles. Use this as a way to start the conversation.

- **Make yourself stand out as a Veteran.** Veterans like to talk to other Veterans. Dave does this with his appearance, motorcycle, flags, etc.

We just need to recognize the opportunities that are in front of us everyday and seize them. Engage in those conversations, and the recruiting possibilities are endless!

Post 6455 Celebrates 50 Years



VFW State Chief-of-Staff Carla McAndrew (center) presented Rie-menapp-Averkamp-Stelplug VFW Post 6455 in Dickeyville, with the National Certificate recognizing their Golden Anniversary at their monthly Post meeting in late June. The Post was mustered on March 24, 1974.

Accepting the Certificate on behalf of the Post are Quartermaster David Splinter (left) and Commander Norman Hanfeld. Congratulations on your 50 years of dedicated service to Veterans and your community. Here's to the next 50! Submitted by State COS Carla McAndrew.

VFW Remembers the End of the Afghanistan War

It has been three years since the United States finally left Afghanistan in a calamitous and deadly withdrawal of our troops after almost two decades of war. Whether it is the footage of Afghan civilians clinging to the side of a C-17 Globemaster III and falling to their deaths or photos of the aftermath of the deadly attack at Abbey Gate which took the lives of 13 service men and women and more than 100 Afghans, these images from the chaos in Kabul at that time are seared into our collective memory. It is especially painful for those who fought so hard and for so long there. The frustration, the anger, the sadness, the sense of helplessness and hopelessness, and the never-ending question of "how could this of happened" all pile on to the moral injury many Afghanistan War Veterans experience as we observe the anniversary of the end of the conflict. As a Veteran of the Vietnam

War, I say to all of you struggling – you are not alone. I know exactly how you feel.

As I watched the video of the CH-47 Chinook helicopter landing on the roof of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul to evacuate diplomats and staff, it brought me right back to April 1975 and the images of evacuees boarding a helicopter just outside the U.S. Embassy in Saigon as the city fell to communist forces. After leaving my family behind, being wounded, losing friends, and fighting so hard for the Vietnamese people to maintain their freedom during my two tours of combat there, it felt like all of that was for nothing. That sinking feeling like you let your country down is a hard one to shake.

I'm here to tell you that, like me and my fellow Vietnam War Veterans, you have nothing to be ashamed of. You upheld the warrior ethos – you always placed the mission first, you never accepted defeat,

you never quit, and you never left a fallen comrade. You took the fight to the enemy right where they were and for 20 years, you kept those terrorists from attacking our country like they did on 9/11. You successfully executed the largest non-combatant evacuation airlift in U.S. history. You did exactly what your country asked you to do and did it courageously with honor and dignity. Because of all of this, you can hold your head high. We are all so proud of you.

The question of why everything went down the way it did still needs to be answered, and of course this will take time. I'm glad that Congress saw to it to form a commission to do a deep dive into the Afghanistan War and get the answers we all deserve. I'm honored that the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Memorial Building was selected as the location for the inaugural meeting and that VFW Washington

Office staff were able to host the commissioners and witnesses for the hearing. You can read the Afghanistan War Commission first interim report here. Never again should we go to war without a clear path to victory and without our political leaders making the same sacrifices that they ask us to make.

On behalf of the more than 1.4 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary, we ask all Americans in joining us in honoring the memory and sacrifice of the 2,459 brave Americans who died in service to a grateful nation, prosecuting Operations Enduring Freedom and Freedom's Sentinel for nearly 20 years in Afghanistan for each one of us. To those who came back, we say, "thank you," "welcome home" and "job well done."

Alfred J. "Al" Lipphardt
Commander-in-Chief
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

LAST CALL for Voice and Pen!

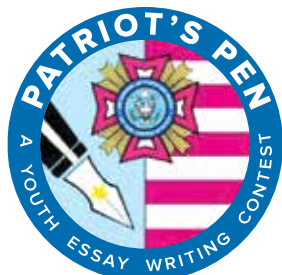
Another start to the program year has flown by and as you read this, there are only about six weeks left to make sure entries for the **Voice of Democracy** and **Patriot's Pen** reach your Post by the **DEADLINE of October 31, 2024**.

The 2024 themes are:



Voice of Democracy
(grades 9-12)
"Is America Today Our
Forefathers' Vision?"

Patriot's Pen
(grades 6-8)
"My Voice in America's
Democracy?"



There is still a little time to get the program info to local students but you need to get on it right away! **Please be sure to use the CURRENT entry forms!** Complete rules, eligibility requirements and downloadable entry forms for both Scholarship Programs are at: vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships.

Special notes: PLEASE ensure that you are familiar with all of the program rules and double-check the entries **as soon as they are received** so that if info, signatures, etc. are missing, the situation can be remedied before the deadline. It is heartbreaking to disqualify entries because they were not reviewed by Post/Auxiliary level Chairmen!

Wisconsin has a long history of success in these programs – let's get out there and give it our ALL to make these opportunities available to all of our young Americans!

Questions? Contact your State Chairmen:

VFW
Richard "Sarge" Verheyen
920-370-3905
sargevfw6705@gmail.com

Auxiliary
Deanna Carothers
920-728-1176
dhaugen53538@gmail.com

WISCONSIN UNMET NEEDS FUND

The "Unmet Needs" Program is offered by the Wisconsin VFW as a reflection of its commitment to helping our comrades-in-arms and their families when they need a hand-up, not a handout. Through this program we provide direct financial assistance to provide for basic life needs of Wisconsin Veterans and their families.

Once an application is received, action is taken quickly by the Unmet Needs Committee (made up entirely of VFW volunteers). If a grant is approved by the Committee, a financial distribution is promptly and directly made to the applicant's creditor. Additionally, whether approved or denied, the committee will make all efforts to refer the applicant to an appropriate agency or other nonprofit that may be able to provide further assistance.

Funding for the Unmet Needs Program comes directly from private and corporate donors who trust the Wisconsin VFW and it is a trust we do not take lightly. 100% of all donations goes directly to providing needed financial assistance to Wisconsin Veterans and their families.

For more information and the Unmet Needs Application,
or to DONATE to the Program,
ctrl-click here: [Wisconsin Unmet Needs Program](#).

Pictured: State Adjutant Adam Wallace;
Ho-Chunk Rep. Jordan Dominguez; State QM Tom Heath



Thank You
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MADISON

for selecting the Wisconsin VFW as
your May "nonprofit" organization.

And MANY thanks to your generous
patrons who donated their change and
gaming slips totaling \$10,542.13 to support
our Wisconsin VFW Programs!



TAPS 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
328	Norman Gerber	Stoughton	1908	Mathias Salzsieder	Oshkosh	5780	Frank Bonczyk	Cornell	9387	Gene Jones	Wisconsin Dells
328	Larry Hauger	Stoughton	1916	William Wilde	Wisconsin Dells	5960	Clifford Baierl	Nekoosa	9511	John O'Bryan	Mount Horeb
388	Kenneth Heiser	Conover	2126	Victor Metzsig	Neenah	6186	Harold Winger, Jr.	Eau Claire	9511	Gerald Poe	Black Earth
388	Orville Mallak	Saint Cloud, FL	2227	Bernard Kunze	Abbotsford	6455	Bernard Heileman	Dickeyville	9536	Richard Kemplin	Mercer
690	Richard Gierzak	Silver Bay, MN	2260	Donald Lurtsema	Nashotah	6707	Edward Kleckner	Cleveland	10173	William Paxton	Lake Geneva
1038	Gary Close	Boyd	2306	R. Rasmussen	Janesville	7233	Charles Aubart	Hayward	10197	Michael Willis	Ashland
1038	William McIlquham, Sr.	Chippewa Falls	2534	Russell Plawman	Racine	7308	Lawrence Fliess	Sturtevant	10262	James Borski	Sun City, AZ
1038	Wilfred Stai	New Auburn	2653	Barry Thiel	Elcho	7308	Ronald Kugel	Fox Lake, IL	10262	Robert Pallen	Custer
1038	Donald Webb	Chippewa Falls	2653	Gerald Weix	Antigo	7534	William Strauss	Green Bay	10331	Edward Toft	Rice Lake
1256	Daniel Murgaw, III	Danbury	2925	Ervin Fay	Omro	7692	Norman Van Beek	Appleton	10394	James Cotter, Sr.	Appleton
1391	Leonard Klappauf	Racine	2925	William Kelm	Aurora, CO	7924	Thomas Goetz	Union Grove	10394	Steve Geboy	Greenfield
1530	Merlin Huber	Onalaska	3032	John Runice	Coon Valley	7924	Charles Schumann	Bristol	10519	William Betchner	West Allis
1621	Paul Baltzer, Jr.	Janesville	3032	Peder Swanson	Viroqua	8483	Marvin Urban	Madison	11244	Clarence Driscoll	Sun Prairie
1621	Leonhard Gehrke	Janesville	3392	Ronald Paplham	Kewaunee	8494	Fred Gee	Eau Claire	15051	Gerald Dricken	Watertown
1621	Ronald Scobie	Janesville	5373	Eugene Walsh	Monona	8584	David Schwarz	Cashton	15051	Kenneth Heitz	Jefferson
1621	Thomas Walsh	Beloit	5716	Tim Fagan	Kissimmee, FL	8584	Edmond Spaeth	Little Chute	15051	Edward Sellers	White Lake
1691	John Fogl	Hartford	5716	Robert Massey	Phoenix, AZ	8733	Lawrence Mendrzyski	Mosinee	15051	Donald Smith	Lake Nebagamon
1865	Kenneth Karls	Mount Pleasant	5729	Stephen Kalmon	Medford	9156	Donald Gerrits	Mayville	15051	Lee Verhulst	Sheboygan Falls
						9336	Donald Williams	Arena			

Deadline for the December 2024 issue is November 1.

#MoreThanLetters — 'the words we use are immensely important' for remembrance

Editor's note: Previously published in our September/October 2023 NEWS, this info bears repeating, especially as we continue to identify and repatriate the remains of many of our heroes from 70+ years ago. It is excerpted from 2023-2024 Auxiliary National Americanism Ambassador/Patriotic Instructor Linda Roloff's National Program Book. Please continue to honor our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action on Recognition Day (September 20) and all year-round.

#MoreThanLetters

The words we use are immensely important! Just as our nation was "spoken into existence" so too we must speak the words we need people to hear in order to manifest the reaction we want to see.

For expedience, more than anything else, we tend to shorten things or use acronyms. The acronyms, while accurate, don't pack the same punch as saying the entire word.

This year and going forward, I encourage you to use **#MoreThanLetters** especially when referring to our POWs, MIAs and KIAs. They are more than letters.

Encourage the use of the words: **Prisoner(s) of War, Missing in Action, Killed in Action.**

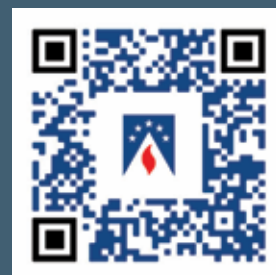
- Acknowledge them daily
- Learn and say their names
- Have a dedication ceremony
- Host a special program
- Write about them in your newsletter
- Share their stories
- Meet their families
- If your state has a POW/MIA Day ceremony at the Capitol, GO! If it doesn't, start one.

Remember, not all of our treasured service members returned home from their duty protecting us and our way of life. So really, our celebration of other patriotic holidays (while important) would not be possible without those who put their lives on the line, who were taken prisoner, went missing in action, or who were killed in action defending and guarding the nation. We must all remember that and include an acknowledgment of them in every holiday observance.

Source: 2023-2024 VFW Auxiliary National Program Book, page 7.



No one knows better what it is like to have their freedom suddenly snatched away than those individuals who, in the process of serving their country, have found themselves prisoners of war or missing in action. This interactive exhibit explains the history and background of a POW/MIA and the stories of the soldiers from Wisconsin who were missing or held as prisoners dating back to the Civil War. On the lower level is a reproduction of a POW cell from the Hanoi Hilton, a prison used to hold American servicemen during the Vietnam War.



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FROM THE HEART

First, let me say thank you everyone, for what you do for our Veterans. Everyone in this organization plays an especially important role in keeping us moving forward. While we should always work as a team, there are times when we need to let each side settle issues that arise.

At no time do we want to close Auxiliaries if we can save them. However, there are times when either through a Post closure or members aging out with no one to take over, or they just decided to close down one day, we are left with no choice but closure. During the past couple of months, we have had those types of closures come up.

If you are aware of an Auxiliary that is struggling, please let us know as quickly as possible. We will gladly come in and do what we can to help turn the Auxiliary around to save from closure. Under no circumstances should any Auxiliary just up and decide to close. There are procedures that need to be followed to properly conclude business. While we may not be able to save an Auxiliary, we may be able to get their members transferred to another Auxiliary instead of going "At Large".

On another note, we are extremely happy to work with the VFW side to help create new Auxiliaries where none exist at the moment or bring back Auxiliaries that folded. This may mean we would like to see more than the required number of members fully engaged in our work and

Cheryl Woodards
Department
President
608-692-4027
wivfwacheryl55@gmail.com



aware of what that commitment might look like. We want to be sure that any new Auxiliaries that are set up are done so in a manner that sets them up for success and not failure. Remembering it is not about us, but our Veterans will help bring us together.

The National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, brought another Circle of Excellence award. Congratulations to Past Department President Sherrie Rosenau on a phenomenally successful year for Wisconsin. Also thank you to all the Program Chairs that succeeded in bringing home awards and citations for jobs well done.

Don't forget: National President Brenda Bryant will be arriving for a visit to Wisconsin October 9-11, 2024. She would love to meet our Veterans and Auxiliary members while here so if you are available, check out the agenda we have planned for her visit. [Please see that info on the website in the September mailing, and elsewhere in this paper – the deadline for registration is September 20!]

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Monthly Activity:
"Get Your Ask in Gear"

Using our National President Brenda's theme and tree metaphor, we need to step into the gap between the branches. Make a list with two Columns:

Column A = Family you KNOW will qualify. For as many as possible in column A, commit to gifting a membership to them for their birthday or to celebrate a holiday.

Column B = Family who MAY qualify This is your opportunity to reach out and reconnect with family who MAY qualify for membership, but you're unsure. Can you even imagine? If every one of us did this method with ONE family member... We'd DOUBLE our Membership overnight! YOU are the key to success!

Now that you have your lists – Let's move "At the Speed of Light"!

Ready to take this thing to the next level? Our Membership Team (the National Conference Coaches, National staff, and I) are providing a "new" electronic pathway to recruiting and membership. We have created a **QR code**, which is a link to access information that you can provide to potential members. (No more hard copies of stuff that folks can just toss as soon as they are out of sight.)

This will happen phone to phone... a method that is familiar to and preferred by a tech savvy generation. The entire interaction can be quick and painless; AND it shows us to be modern and adaptable. Behind this QR code will be things like the Fact Sheet, Membership Application, What We Do, Auxiliary Locator and anything else we might need in our "Recruiting Tool Kit."

To use military terms: we are in a target-rich environment, so why aren't we hitting anything? If we embrace new techniques, we WILL be able to turn the membership tide and hopefully turn it into a tidal wave! "From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans", we are "Honoring Veterans Together".

Chris Benson
Membership
Chairman
608-577-9657
cbenso@owens-minor.com



Our Department Membership as of September 10, 2024:

Auxiliary	Current Total	Deceased	Paid Total	Prior Total	Current Percent	Paid Percent
Total – Non-District	413	2	415	506	81.62%	82.02%
Total – Dist. 2	963	6	969	1091	88.27%	88.82%
Total – Dist. 4	255	2	257	281	90.75%	91.46%
Total – Dist. 6	457	4	461	507	90.14%	90.93%
Total – Dist. 7	1058	1	1059	1272	83.18%	83.25%
Total – Dist. 8	736	5	741	857	85.88%	86.46%
Total – Dist. 9	685	4	689	789	86.82%	87.33%
Total – Dist. 10	590	6	596	682	86.51%	87.39%
Total – Dist. 11	391	4	395	455	85.93%	86.81%
WI – At Large	1327	1	1328	1393	95.26%	95.33%
Total – Dept. of WI	6875	35	6910	7833	87.77%	88.22%

AUXILIARY

FROM THE CHIEF-OF-STAFF

To ensure that the legacy of our great organization continues, we need strong, healthy Auxiliaries, with members who are prepared to take over leadership roles when needed. Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation and Malta Member Resources are two of the most valuable tools available to members on all levels to learn about and understand their duties.

If your Auxiliary is having problems, remember your "Chain of Command". Contact your District President if your Auxiliary is having any problems. If she or he cannot solve the problem using our National Bylaws and Resources, then contact the Department President. She will work with you and/or assign a knowledgeable Officer or Chairman to help you. Remember: Problems should remain in the Auxiliary, not discussed with the VFW.

At meetings, read the Dept. President's General Orders and have Chairman read the program reports – these can be summarized and only important ideas presented. Only correct information should be given to members.

Remember, our primary objective is the

Linda Moran
Chief-of-Staff
920-337-9922
loopylin1950@gmail.com



VETERAN – not our personal agenda. Everyone is a volunteer and is needed for the success of any year. Remember to thank each person for what they do for our organization.

We need to find members to help build our Auxiliaries and once they join, ask for their input at your meeting. All members have an equal say - accept their opinions and appreciate their help and their contributions. Give out "Good Job Cards" to show appreciation. [See the Extension Resources in MALTA.] Show respect for time, talents, resourcefulness and most of all say Thank You!

Until next time – GOD BLESS and let's have a great year for President Cheryl.



The Wisconsin delegation to the National CAFE poses in front of the Wisconsin Residence. Front (from left:) new little friend Adonis Avery; PSC Michele "Firecracker" Rathke and Auxiliary Dept. President Cheryl Woodards. Back (from left): PDP/Secretary Faith Elford; Dept. Jr. Vice Charlene Cobb; PDP/COS Linda Moran; PDP/D11 Pres. Rita Byers and SVP Kim McWilliams. The "100" specs of course celebrate a big year at the National Home. And the "firecracker"... there are no words.

Auxiliary CAFE Celebrates National Home

National President Brenda Bryant selected the VFW National Home and its upcoming 100th Anniversary as the location for the 12th Annual Celebrating America's Freedom Event (CAFE) on September 7. Held at a place of historical significance and meaningful to the incoming National President, the CAFE replaced the Statue of Liberty Birthday Observance conducted in late October for many decades. This is the second time the CAFE has been held at the National Home. Thanks to PDP Rita Byers and PDP Faith Elford for photos!



Dept. President Cheryl waves as she is introduced during the CAFE program.

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
328	Marlene K. Johnson*	Brodhead	7232	Colleen V. Reichert*	Prescott
328	Kathleen J. Paris*	Oceanside, CA	7232	Lorraine Shay*	Eau Claire
987	Pauline M. Copus*	Baraboo	7444	Gloria A. Persinger*	Amberg
1038	Coletta A. Wams*	Chippewa Falls	7591	Theresa Lynn Bultman*	Madison
1039	Pauline Knutson	Menomonie	7591	Joyce D. Hornburger	Madison
1621	Agnes Chizek	Beloit	7692	Mary Therese Maulick*	Appleton
1621	Jean Hoiom*†	Janesville	7817	Lisa M. Kestler	Brantwood
1691	Lorraine Faller	West Allis	7929	Verneil M. Johnson*	Amery
1916	Regina Puhl*	Reedsburg	7929	Phyllis Martinson*	Amery
2112	Jane Chapiewsky*	Sparta	8329	Lolita Ann Carter*	Barnes
2112	Janet Olson*	Sparta	8527	Dorothy Ewan	Athens
2778	June Kaepernick*	Appleton	8527	Marlene Vesely	Abbotsford
5373	Clarice Buchholz*	Grafton	9202	Elizabeth A. Peck*	Germantown
5373	Dorothy Poull*	Port Washington	9362	Donna Brooks*	Sun Prairie
5729	Evelyn A. Apfelbeck*	Medford	10394	Phyllis Billodeau	Milwaukee
5828	Mardell Anderson*	Amery	10394	Janice Kielski	Milwaukee
6007	Donna Hotchkiss	Wautoma	10544	Betty Jean Paul*	Kimberly
7037	Emilie Kirst	West Bend	15051	Dorothy Melchior	Gillett

* DENOTES LIFE MEMBER
† DENOTES PAST DEPT. PRES.



Our Wisconsin winners (and some helpers!) display the National Awards for 2023-2024. Front row (from left): Youth Activities Chair Patty Jansky; Mentoring for Leadership Chair Linda Moran; Circle of Excellence President Sherrie Rosenau; Legislative Chair Kim McWilliams. Back row (from left): "Buddy" @ Poppy/VFW National Home Chair Faith Elford; Auxiliary Outreach Chair Nancy Ustruck; Jr. Vice President Charlene Cobb; Michele Buehler; Chief-of-Staff Vicki Newbauer. Thanks to PDP Rita Byers for the photo.

WI Auxiliary Brings Home 12 Awards for 2023-24

The National Convention has many exciting components, but most folks will say the Awards portions are some of the best, especially if you're hauling a dozen of them home! The Circle of Excellence presentation on Saturday evening set the tone, with 2023-2024 President Sherrie Rosenau receiving her medallion and scarf to recognize a year of hard work in the Department. The \$500 cash prize for the Department is helpful too!

That wonderful accomplishment set the tone for a lucrative Monday afternoon session, with Wisconsin recognized in nine program categories, once again competing in Membership Division 7. All our awards are listed below.

Immediate Past Dept. President Sherrie expressed it as only our "BEE the Change" President could:

"Did you hear the buzz? The Department of Wisconsin is one in a Buzz-illion! Because you tended to bees-ness last year, the Department received quite a few awards during the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

I am so grateful for the hard work and dedication from each and every one of the members. The stings you did were amazing for our Veterans, families, communities and youth. Let it Bee Gnome: no one is prouder than me! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!"

Congratulations Wisconsin - now let's get going on another great year!



LAST CALL!

"Let's Pair Up to Help our Veterans"

Raffle Tickets were due to our Dept. Treasurer on September 13!

So get yours in **NOW** to Treasurer Lenore Otto or your District President. Drawings start on October 1! Remember, these raffle tickets cannot be mailed by law. Thank you for your support of our primary Ways and Means fundraiser!

YOUR VOICE AND MEMBERSHIP MATTER!

Sign up for Voter Voice

Tell our Legislators

Vote YES on VFW backed Veterans Bills

Stay on top of the issues!
Register for the Wisconsin VFW VoterVoice updates.
And tell your friends too!

Visit:
www.votervoicenet.com/VFWWI/home

OR
Scan the QR Code to the right.

SCAN ME

Debbie Nackers
WI Auxiliary Legislative Chairman
920-362-8184 debnack666@gmail.com

From NDCM #11 Laurel Ann Wiese:

Dear Members of the VFW Departments of Wisconsin and Iowa:

Due to my declining health it became necessary for me to resign as National District Council Member #11 as of August 1, 2024. I am now on permanent dialysis and also have an autoimmune disease. I have received two infusions and now have no immune system, so I can't be around people or travel.

It has been a pleasure serving you and you have all been so very kind. Thank you for all of the love and courtesies extended to me. My continued best wishes to you all. Keep up your great work for our Veterans!



Laurel Ann Wiese

Editor's note: The Wisconsin Council of Administration is currently in the process of selecting a replacement NDCM #11, in accordance with National Bylaw Sec. 809E (B.) Please refer any questions or recommendations to Department President Cheryl Woodards at 608-692-4027 or wivfwacheryl55@gmail.com.

Loyally,
Laurel Ann Wiese

2023-2024 Award Winners

Circle of Excellence

President Sherrie Rosenau
Medallion & Scarf to President
\$500 to Dept.

Legislative

Kim McWilliams
First Place Outstanding Performance
\$200 to Dept., Keepsake

Membership

Linda Schluter
First Place Outstanding Performance
\$200 to Dept., Keepsake

Mentoring for Leadership

Linda Moran
First Place Outstanding Performance
\$200 to Dept., Keepsake

Youth Activities

Patty Jansky
First Place Outstanding Performance
\$200 to Dept., Keepsake

Auxiliary Outreach

Nancy Ustruck
Second Place Outstanding Performance
\$100 to Dept., Citation

"Buddy" @ Poppy/VFW National Home

Faith Elford
Second Place Outstanding Performance
\$100 to Dept., Citation

Chief-of-Staff/Extension

Vicki Newbauer
Second Place Outstanding Performance
\$100 to Dept., Citation

Veterans & Family Support

Aux. 1393 West Bend
Best in Big Ten Conf. - Outstanding Event
\$25 and citation to Aux.

Hospital

Karen Johnson
Best Promo - Non-Traditional Holidays
\$25 VFW Store Cert.

Membership

Linda Schluter
Outstanding Training & Promotion
\$25 VFW Store Cert.

Youth Activities

Patty Jansky
Best Promo - "Literacy" & RAP cards
\$25 VFW Store Cert.

CHECK IT OUT!

Lots of great resources have been added to our State Website - vfwauxwi.org

Be sure to check out the tabs at the top for neat stuff. And remember: if you want to login to MEMBERS ONLY, use your Member # from your card, and your Last name.





Brenda Bryant
VFW Auxiliary National President 2024-2025

National President Brenda Bryant to Visit Wisconsin October 9–10

Madison visit includes side trip to The Milton House

Newly-elected VFW Auxiliary National President Brenda Bryant of Hawk Point, Missouri is scheduled to visit Wisconsin October 9 and 10, 2024. As in recent years, our time with the National President is short, but there are many opportunities to join in on some, or all, of the fun.

The complete Itinerary may be found below, (or in the monthly email, or on the Auxiliary website – vfwauxwi.org). Deadline to register is September 20, so hopefully by the time you read this you have reserved your place! As always, ALL events are open to ANY interested Auxiliary and VFW members.

Many who have attended Big Ten Conference and National events

will recognize our Missouri “sister”. Brenda is a 45-year plus member of Humphrey-Schwerdt VFW Auxiliary 2180 in Warrenton, Missouri, joining on the eligibility of her father, Herman Stuck, who served in the United States Army from 1950 to 1952 in Korea. She is married to Wayne Bryant, a retired Vietnam Navy Veteran.

A retired Special Education teacher, Brenda has served the organization in many capacities including Auxiliary, District and Department President, and many Conference and National appointments. A woman of many talents, she refurbishes furniture for an antique store, has served several terms as Alderman

on her City Board and is certified to perform weddings. She also enjoys crafting, learning about the past and interacting with Veterans.

Brenda is a Life Member of the VFW National Home; the Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary (MOCA); the Fleet Reserve Auxiliary and the Daniel Boone Area Retired Teachers Program.

Brenda and Wayne’s family includes five adult children, 18 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

We hope you can join us to welcome Brenda to Wisconsin and spend some time with this gracious and accomplished Auxiliary Sister!



National VFW Auxiliary President Brenda Bryant Visit to Wisconsin October 9-11, 2024

From Our Roots to Our Branches EXTENDING SERVICE TO OUR VETERANS

Won't you join us in giving her a big Wisconsin Welcome and show her a good time.

The Itinerary



Wednesday, October 9, 1:00 PM— National President flies into Dane County Airport.

President Cheryl & The Dayettes will meet her at the airport. Everyone is welcome to join them.

6:00 PM— Dinner & Meet & Greet at Madison Day Post 7591; 301 Cottage Grove Rd., Madison, WI. It will be a catered dinner from Smoky Jon’s BBQ—Ribs & Chicken Combo Dinner with potato salad and baked beans. (Pay ahead)

Thursday, October 10, 10:00 AM - (Leave hotel at 9:15 am) Tour of the Milton House;
18 S. Janesville Street, Milton, WI

COST: Adult Ticket \$12 - 18 years - 61 years Senior Ticket \$10 -62 years + Pay at the door.

We will have **Lunch at a Mexican Restaurant** on the way back to Madison, after the tour. Dutch Treat. We need to know how many are coming before we pick the venue.

7:00 PM – Attending VFW Post 7591 Auxiliary Meeting at Madison Day Post 7591 and gathering after with Post members.

Friday, October 11, 2024 – Brenda departs on a 7 AM flight out of Dane County Regional Airport.



We have a block of rooms at the Country Inn & Suites, 400 River Place, Madison WI
The room rate is \$99 per night plus tax with Breakfast included.
Call: 608-221-0055 to make your reservation by September 20.
Ask for the VFW Auxiliary block.

2024 President's Visit Registration:

Fill out this form and tell us when you will be with us. Please print:

NAME: _____ AUX #: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ PHONE #: _____

I will be with you on Wednesday for: At the Airport Dinner & Meet & Greet— (\$25-send with registration)

I will be with you on Thursday for : Milton House visit Lunch at Mexican Restaurant

Make check payable to: **VFW Post 7591 Auxiliary**

Mail to: Faith Elford, WI VFWA Secretary; 1414 Montclair Place, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

DEADLINE—Form MUST be in my hands by 09/20/2024 You may email the form to: wivfwfaith@outlook.com

**Deadline
Sept. 20**

Cochrane “Feeds the Troops”

Cochrane-Buffalo City VFW Post and Auxiliary 10406 had the honor of serving a pork dinner to 40 young men and women of the ND Army National Guard Engineers, in support of a bridging training exercise in the area. The group was part of nearly 6,000 Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines training at Fort McCoy for two weeks on rotation in mid-August.

The soldiers enjoyed some down time from training, and the Post and Auxiliary members were pleased to share their Post home displays, and of course serve them a delicious and very welcomed hot meal. Commander William Green and VFW Life Member James Goss had a great time visiting and sharing experiences with the troops. Auxiliary President Kimberly Goss, and members Deb Kujak, Kathy Kochenderfer and Kim Beseler greeted them with a smile and a plate full of happiness.

Photo and info courtesy of Kim Goss.



Post 1163 Receives, Then Pays it Forward



Clarence Keske VFW Post 1163 in Beaver Dam received a very generous donation of \$1,670 from the Fox Brothers Piggly Wiggly in Beaver Dam. The money was raised during a recent “Round-Up” on purchases made in the store. Post 1163 Commander Curt Gruenewald noted, “It is kindness like this that keeps our Veterans Relief Programs strong in our community and we are very thankful for the community’s generosity.” From left are: State SVC Ty Letto of Post 1163; Fox Brothers Piggly Wiggly Store Manager Bob Eickhoff; and Post 1163 Commander Curt Gruenewald.

Turning one good deed into another, among their other good works, the Post also recently donated \$250 to the Kevin Winter Memorial Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to local high school students. *Photo and info courtesy of SVC Ty Letto.*

Greendale Holds Down the Fort at Zablocki



The Zablocki VA Hospital’s Volunteer award recognition and luncheon was held in late August at Meyers Restaurant in Milwaukee. The Veterans Administration Volunteer Service office for the VFW and Auxiliary is staffed solely by volunteers from Greendale VFW Post and Auxiliary 10519. What a team!

Recognized at the luncheon were (from left): Nancy Ustruck (100 hours); Ellen Crass (100 hours); Dan Crass, DAV Van Driver (standing); VFW PSC John Dahl (seated), recognized for 26 years and 2,281 hours; Ken Kieck, recognized for 10 years and 2,758 hours; Jean Sonnenberg (500 hours) and Linda Conatty, the newest volunteer member. Not in attendance was volunteer Bosko Sarenac. We thank you all for your dedication and thank God for our “Greendale Hospital Angels”! *Submitted by Post 10519 Commander John Ustruck.*

Auxiliary 10262: Pasta with a Purpose



A highly successful Spaghetti Dinner/Basket Raffle Fundraiser that was held in June by VFW Auxiliary 10262 in Plover, turned into two very generous donations to Plover area organizations. Here, Auxiliary President Sandi Kowalski (left) and Basket Chairman Sally Michelkamp, present a donation of \$2,500 to Outreach Coordinator Kate Mueller of CAP Services - Family Crisis Center. A similar donation was also presented to Director of Operations Mel Dow of the Interfaith Food Pantry.

President Sandi oversaw the kitchen operations and helped serve 159 spaghetti dinners. Basket Chairman Sally spearheaded the basket item donation campaign and assembled 53 baskets for the successful raffle. Thank you to all Auxiliary members who helped with the event, and of course, the very generous diners and ticket buyers. Great job! *Submitted by Debbie Manthey of Aux. 10262.*

Post 388 Welcomes Home National Guard



Members of Burns VFW Post and Auxiliary 388 provided their food trailer and teamed with other Veterans organizations to welcome home National Guard unit HHC 173rd BEB of Wausau, after a long training deployment. The Guard members enjoyed some good food, fun, and camaraderie with Veterans and family and friends. Welcome home!

In the trailer are Auxiliary 388 Secretary Diann Lange (left) and President Marge Southworth. In front are (from left:) Richie Nussbam; Tamara Sillars; Dan Southworth; Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Jonathon Gauze; First Sergeant Pitch; Retired Captain Phil Southworth; Nicholas Marquardt Readiness NCO; Lt. Col. Siverling; and AL Rep. Dennis Borchardt. *Thanks to Curt Dahlke and Dan Southworth of Post 388 for photo and info.*

A BUSY SUMMER

Celebrating Independence Day in Elderon



Seated: Guard Patricia Haskins (left) and member Elizabeth Bartz. Standing (from left): Conductress Rose Dvorak; Secretary Andrea Michaud; Jr. Vice Pres. Cathy Sennett; President Patty Soward and Treasurer Pauline Borgen.

Auxiliary 2687 Celebrates Ten Years

Instituted in March of 2014, Wurl-Feind-Ingman VFW Auxiliary 2687 in Tomahawk marked their tenth anniversary with a small celebration in early June. A brief presentation detailed the history of the Auxiliary and the many events, collaborations, projects and activities they have held and supported since their founding. And of course there were cake and refreshments! Now nearly 60 members strong, they are a great support for the Post and the community. We salute you and wish you many more years of service! *Thank you to Aux. 2687 Treasurer Pauline Borgen.*



Then Dept. Line Officers (from left) SVP Vicki Newbauer; President Dorothy Genthe and JVP Judy Borg stand behind the new Auxiliary Officers SVP Corky Burcalow; Pres. Pat Haskins and JVP Callie Wyles. *Editor photo from the WI VFW NEWS archives.*

Sgt. Kyle Baldwin Named Police Officer of the Year

Kenosha Police Department Sergeant Kyle Baldwin was selected as the 2023-2024 Dept. Police Officer of the Year but he was unable to attend the State Convention to receive his award, for a very valid reason. More on that later.

Dept. Sr. Vice Cdr. Ty Letto presented Kyle's award at the Kenosha Police Dept. in late August. Nominated by Pleasant Prairie VFW Post 7308, Kyle is a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran, starting at Kenosha PD in 2017. Qualified as a Field Training Officer (FTO), he is a member of the KPD SWAT Team. In July 2022, he was assigned to the Special Investigations Unit (SIU), involved in numerous investigations leading to the confiscation of drugs and numerous illegal firearms.

In December 2022, then Officer Baldwin, and other SIU members were monitoring known gang members that were part of an ongoing gang feud. Officers attempted to stop the suspects and were subsequently engaged

in a successful pursuit after one suspect fired upon pursuing Officers. Officer Baldwin showed exceptional bravery and courage during the event, with great risk of bodily harm and in April 2023, was awarded the Medal of Valor.

Now the REST of the story: Kyle was unable to attend the State Convention because his wife, Samantha Baldwin, gave birth to their son Hudson Allyn Baldwin during that week. All are doing well and that is the BEST AWARD of all! Congratulations – and thank you for your service, then and now.

Thank you to Randy Strickland and George Stoeber of Post 7308 for photo and info.



Dept. Sr. Vice Cdr. Ty Letto presents the award to Sergeant Kyle Baldwin in August at the Kenosha Police Department.



Elderon Memorial VFW and Auxiliary 8068 had a strong presence in this summer's 4th of July festivities. The red, white and blue were abundant on each unit's trailer in the parade. The Auxiliary also distributed flags, served food and had other activities for the children in attendance. Nice job! *Submitted by Aux. 8068 Patriotic Instructor Dianne Chaignot.*



Both Post and Auxiliary members were busy engaging with members of the community and recruiting.

Post and Aux 10262 Celebrate Plover

Celebrate Plover is a great annual event and community celebration with loads of family fun and activities for all ages. Greater Plover Area Memorial VFW Post and Auxiliary 10262 had a strong presence in the outdoor expo area, with tents and recruiting booths for both groups. The Post Honor Guard also teamed with AL Post 543 to present the colors and pay tribute to Veterans. Looks like it was a great day! *Thanks to Debbie Manthey of Aux. 10262 for photos and info.*



Special guest "Bluey", the popular children's dog character, dropped by the VFW tent, much to the delight of a number of members enjoying the camaraderie. Post Cdr. Barbara McCloy (at right) received a "pat on the head" while other Post members look on, including SVC John Cansino (kneeling at left) and Past Cdr. Norb Strasser (standing at left), among others.

★ ★ ★ ★ A Fun Weekend in Milwaukee ★ ★ ★ ★

Many Wisconsin Veterans took advantage of one of our last beautiful summer weekends to participate in the camaraderie of the Saturday Irreverent Warrior Silkies Hike, followed by the thrill of ARCA Menards Series Racing with Ryan Roulette driving the VFW-sponsored #12 Ford at the Milwaukee Mile on Sunday. Looks like a great time was had by all! Thanks to Cdr. Ron Ramos for the photos.



ABOVE: Cdr. Ramos greets Ryan Roulette as AAQM Steve Eisenhauer and Adj. Adam Wallace wait their turn. NCM Cory Geisler and PSC Mike "Gunner" Furgal were also on hand but not visible in the photo.

AT LEFT: Looks like Ron was ready to be a part of the crew too!

AT RIGHT: NCM Cory Geisler was thrilled to be "put to work" managing the flag that indicates the #12 pit area.



ABOVE: Pretty much "anything goes" for apparel, including kilts! AT RIGHT: The VFW State Honor Guard posted the colors for the opening ceremonies of the Hike. Thankfully, they were in their regular summer uniforms. BELOW LEFT: Here's hoping the pie-eating contest was AFTER the Hike. Neither the Cdr. or Adjutant reported who won. BELOW RIGHT: A great day for a Hike with comrades – and NCM Cory Geisler (Army Veteran) a good sport about carrying the Coast Guard Flag.





ABOVE LEFT: A military casket team escorts the remains of Sgt. Jack Hohlfeld into St. Patrick's Church.

ABOVE RIGHT: Bishop Gerard Battersby (left) addresses the family toward the end of the service. Sharon and Ron Graw are in the lower right, at the end of the front pew.

AT LEFT: The casket team prepares to fold the flag.

AT RIGHT: Sharon Graw (seated) receives an additional flag during the burial.



Sgt. Jack Hohlfeld Laid to Rest at Last

As previewed in the July/August WI VFW NEWS, the remains of WWII Prisoner of War Sgt. Jack Hohlfeld were finally returned home to Wisconsin at the end of August, nearly 82 years after his death on December 26, 1942. Following the American surrender on the Bataan Peninsula in April 1942, he survived the brutal Bataan Death March, dying of pellagra eight months later in the notorious Cabanatuan Prison Camp. Buried with five others in Common Grave 811 at a local cemetery, it took until 2018 for the remains to be disinterred and sent to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting (DPAA) lab for analysis, with his positive identification finally announced on May 29 of this year.



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

rest, about 80 feet from his parents' graves. He is survived by niece Sharon (nee Hohlfeld) (Ron) Graw of Onalaska; a nephew Ron (Della) Hohlfeld of Flagstaff, AZ, and several great-nieces and nephews.

Thanks again to VFW comrade Steven Nott of Onalaska for initially alerting us to this great news. For Sgt. Hohlfeld's complete obituary



Sgt. Hohlfeld's numerous posthumous medals and commendations included the Purple Heart; the Bronze Star and the Prisoner of War Medal, as well as other citations.

and videos of his arrival at MSP airport; the Funeral Mass and the Burial, visit: <https://www.schumacher-kish.com/obituaries>. Enter

Jack Hohlfeld in the search box and click on the obituary.

Extra-special thanks to Scott T. Sturkol, Public Affairs Specialist,

U.S. Army, Fort McCoy for sharing his abundant album of wonderful photos from this very special welcome home.

Recent Events at Adams-Friendship Post 6279

In addition to their usual summer activities, including their annual July 4th "Chic-nic", Adams-Friendship VFW Post 6279 conducted two very special events on August 7. Thank you to Post 6279 Commander Scott Colburn for the photos and info.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Presenters Senator Patrick Testin (WI 24th Senate District), Congressman Derrick Van Orden, Larry McCann and Mrs. Larry McCann.

The first program came in the afternoon, when Congressman Derrick Van Orden (WI-3), presented the Bronze Star Medal to VFW Post member Larry McCann for his service in Vietnam. The medal was earned in 1972, but was not awarded until Van Orden and his staff finally obtained the medal from the Department of the Army. Thirty members of the Post and the public attended the moving and long delayed awarding of Larry's Bronze Star.

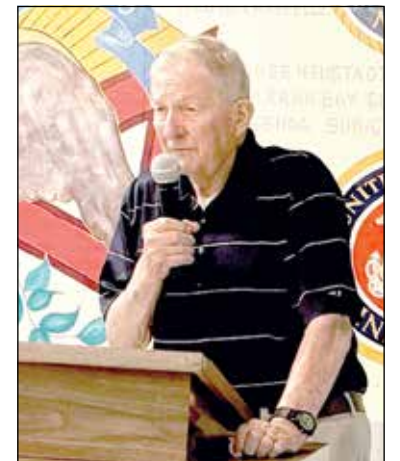
Rounding out the day was an evening presentation by former

teacher and resident of Adams County, Col. Raymond G. Boland (Ret.), author of the autobiography, *When the Bugle Calls: A Soldier's Memoir*. Boland is a 30-year Army Veteran with two

tours of duty in Vietnam. His fascinating talk on the lessons learned from life growing up in the 1940-50s in America and throughout his military career, captivated the attendees' interest for over an

hour. A Q and A session and book signing followed.

Editor's note: Many of us will also remember Boland's service as a former Garrison Commander of Fort McCoy as well as his eleven



Col. Ray Boland (Ret.) discusses his recently published memoir and many life experiences.

years as Secretary of the Wisconsin Dept. of Veterans Affairs (WDVA). He and his wife now reside in Sparta. Visit: <https://www.whenthebuglecalls.com/> for more info and to purchase the book.

Stoeber Declares for Department Jr. Vice Commander



George Stoeber

Greetings Comrades,
I am excited to announce my candidacy for Department Junior Vice Commander for 2025-2026. My time as your Department Judge Advocate and Past State Commander Cory Geisler's Chief-of-Staff, as well as the many positions in my Post and District, have given me the confidence to pursue this endeavor.

A Life Member of Pleasant Prairie Memorial Post 7308, and a United States Navy Veteran of 24 years, I earned my eligibility for the VFW in the Persian Gulf. When I was asked to become a member of the Post in 2012, I was hesitant to join. I did not feel my time in the "Gulf" warranted the right for me to be in the company of those who had endured the trials of combat!

However, my interactions with you, my fellow comrades, have helped me understand that regardless of where we were deployed, which operations we were supporting, or how small we believed our role was, we earned our right to be a member. Each of us have experienced the hardships of being separated from our families, lived in austere environments, and were exposed to things that no one, other than a comrade, can appreciate. All while we stood the watch which secured the liberties that some of our fellow Americans take for granted!

I am extremely PROUD to be a member of the VFW, PROUD of my service in the United States Navy, PROUD to call each of you my Comrade, and excited to continue my service to the Veterans of Wisconsin. I know that I still have much to learn, and if elected, I will do everything I can to represent this Department to the best of my abilities.

For these reasons, I believe that I am very qualified to be your next Department of Wisconsin Junior Vice Commander, and I ask for your support and vote at the 2025 State Convention in Madison in June.

FROM THE EDITOR

"Once again, thank you for your unwavering commitment to our cause. Together, we can continue to make a positive impact and serve those who have sacrificed so much for our country. Let's work hand in hand to make this year even more remarkable than the last. Here's to a successful and fulfilling year ahead!"
~ State SVC Mary Ann Christopherson
September 2023

Marla Morgan
Editor



715-384-2500
wivfweditor@gmail.com



Once again, we are nearly done with the first quarter of our program year in just a blink of the eye. As seen in the events in this issue, it was another high-energy summer, with lots of activities supporting our Veterans, communities and active-duty military too. Kudos to all those who are working our programs and making a difference. Keep up the great work!

Speaking of differences, you may have noticed some in this publication. First and foremost, it has not been printed and mailed in our usual fashion, but is only available as a full-color .pdf on the VFW State website. Second, in most cases, you will find any links noted as active hyperlinks, meaning that you can "control-click" to access the info and material described. This is new territory, so please be patient as we try to make the best of the situation.

Note: if you do want to print the .pdf, it

turns out nicely on legal size paper (8-1/2" x 14"). Be sure to "fit" it to the paper size.

Looking ahead to upcoming events, it's shaping up to be a very busy fall, with several special events all packed into October! By the time you see this (hopefully!), several registration deadlines will be upon us, including the National Auxiliary President's visit to Wisconsin; the Big Ten Conference in Indiana and the Bus Trip to the VFW National Home Fall Fest. Check out page 10 and the Events listing for those links.

And of course, the October 31 deadline looms large for our premier student essay contests and teacher recognition program. Just a few short weeks left to make sure that your Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year entries are in order. Good luck!

Stay safe and well and continue to "make a positive impact". See you in *PRINT* in early December!

Hero of the Game



Congrats to Master Sergeant, U.S. Army (ret) Thomas Fischer, (left), Service Officer for VFW Post 8834 in Hartford. Tom was recognized for his 30+ years of service as the Hero of the Game at the July 30 Brewers game. He also threw out the first pitch. Sharing the photo "spotlight" is Post Adjutant Jessie Cornelius who submitted the photo and info.

Upcoming Patriotic Observances

- 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!
- October 13 U.S. Navy established in 1775.
- October 14 Columbus Day (observed)
- November 5 Election Day
- November 10 U.S. Marine Corps established in 1775.
- November 11 Veterans Day – signing of the WWI Armistice in 1918.
- November 28 Thanksgiving Day
- December 7 National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Recruit, engage, inspire, retain!

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.

Cootie Corner

Attention Cooties:

As this paper is posted online, we are gathering for Tomah Days. It was a fun time for everyone at the Supreme Convention. I did have an attack of sciatica there and had to struggle through the day. Special thanks to Ken Patterson for the use of his cane to keep me from falling flat on my face, but otherwise it was fine. If you haven't been to a Supreme Convention you should try it sometime.

Congratulations to Tracy Woodman, our NEW Supreme Jr. Vice Commander. If you haven't already, please send her a great big Cootie Congratulations. Also don't forget to vote for Michele Rathke for 7th District Trustee if you're a Life Member of the VFW National Home.

Don't forget to order your wreaths for the 89th Tomb Trek. See lotcs.org. Our hospital visits started with a late August trip to Zablocki in Milwaukee. Let's "Keep 'em Smilin' in Beds of White".

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



Hello everyone,
Hope you all had a great summer. We had fun at Cooties Across Borders. Hope you were able to get to Tomah Days. Don't forget to submit your Audits and Hospital Reports. 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

Woodman Elected Supreme Jr. Vice Cdr.



Newly-elected and installed Military Order of the Cootie Supreme (National) Officers pause for a photo at the recent MOC Convention in Louisville. From left are: Tracy Woodman of Wisconsin, Supreme Hide Gimlet (Jr. Vice Cdr.); Robbie Normand of California, Supreme Seam Squirrel (Commander); and Eric Bell of Michigan, Supreme Blanket Bum (Sr. Vice Cdr.). Tracy just concluded three terms as Supreme Adjutant. She also served as Wisconsin Grand Commander (All-Star) in 2020-21 and Pup Tent 21 Commander (All-Star) in 2022-23, as well as many other offices, elected and appointed. Congratulations! Photo courtesy of Rob "Shadow" Caudill of North Carolina, MOC Supreme Historian.

FROM THE NEW SUPREME "HIDE GIMLET":

WOW! Who knew when I first saw a Cootie at the Department Convention back in 2007 that I would be on this journey. At the 2024 Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, Cooties from around the globe elected this crazy chick as the Supreme Hide Gimlet. Pretty sure that PGC Richard Fear didn't know when he explained to us what the Military Order of the Cootie entailed way back then.

I would like to thank the Grand of Wisconsin for all their support throughout the years and especially this year during my candidacy for this position. Together with the Grand of Minnesota and the Grand of Michigan, we had one phenomenal Hospitality Room. It was tag-lined as "The Feast

Room". Thank you to all who contributed financially and with your elbow grease.

To the Grand of Wisconsin Delegation that attended the Supreme Convention: your support and strength were definitely felt throughout the week leading up to the election. I cannot express to you how much it meant to have you there.

I am deeply honored to be on this journey, previously traveled by Past Supreme Commanders Dr. Vernon Olson (1962-63); Arthur Selbo (1982-83); and Don "T-Bone" Lynch (2015-16) from Wisconsin. I look forward to taking my turn to carry the Cootie torch forward. If you have read this far or even skipped to the end, let me leave you with these three words... mentorship and families!

In LOTCS,

Tracy Woodman (PGC)
Supreme Hide Gimlet

COOTIE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 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 7** Cootie Christmas at the VFW National Home – Eaton Rapids, MI (Visit lotcs.org for 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.)

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

11/21

GROSS-YAKSH POST 6498

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

11/21

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!

11/23

Raffle Calendar Winners

Date	Ticket	Name	City	Prize	Date	Ticket	Name	City	Prize
July 5	5740	B. Kluesner	Farley, IA	\$1,000	Aug. 9	6045	B. Muchow	Galena, IL	\$500
	3626	P. Rach	Mt. Horeb	\$50		713	B. Sisel	Manitowoc	\$50
	6519	M. Knoll	Cudahy	\$50		1375	M. Maloney	Oconto	\$50
	9684	T. Reiter	Chippewa Falls	\$50		1141	D. Van Dinter	Appleton	\$50
	10652	K. Kluge	Baraboo	\$50		1855	J. Treder	Brookfield	\$50
	1430	G. Paul	Whitelaw	\$50		9418	J. Thomas	Barron	\$50
	9399	M. Johnson	Ridgeland	\$50		5713	B. Lawrence	Benton	\$50
July 12	2826	J. Gehrkos	Burlington	\$50	Aug. 16	12420	S. Bliss	Delavan	\$50
	5000	VFW Post 6377	Sussex	\$50		8063	T. Francel	Augusta	\$50
	7585	J. Sprague	Berlin	\$50		2825	W. Brumer	Big Bend	\$50
	9996	B. Guenther	Strum	\$50		12187	M. Adell	West Bend	\$50
	1867	R. De Godt	Weyauwega	\$50		2391	B. Stahl	Two Rivers	\$50
	11949	R. Meives	Phillips	\$50		10935	M. Schloesser	Lake Mills	\$50
	12683	J. Thompson	Amery	\$50		7860	J. Philipps	Saukville	\$50
July 19	7461	D. Kuligowski	Milwaukee	\$50	Aug. 23	10273	B. Olson	Rockton, IL	\$50
	5625	S. Jacob	Fall River	\$50		8184	T. Patterson	Kohler	\$50
	13174	L. Slater	Silver Lake	\$50		10925	K. Kopplin	Camp Douglas	\$50
	1492	C. Pirlot	Sheboygan	\$50		11068	VFW Post 10911	Camp Douglas	\$50
	3246	T. Puskarich	Madison	\$50		9288	J. Schmitt	Elk Mound	\$50
	7124	K. Dahms	Waukesha	\$50		9516	M. Hamilton	Chetek	\$50
	9298	T. Kopp	Elk Mound	\$50		1847	K. Treder	Weyauwega	\$50
July 26	5325	E. Foster	Waukesha	\$50	Aug. 30	8963	J. Gassell	Athens	\$50
	8105	P. Brodzeller	Beaver Dam	\$50		5582	W. Sprout	Waunakee	\$50
	3713	T. Smithback	Cambridge	\$50		2737	D. Woods	Kaukauna	\$50
	6218	D. Theis	Hillsboro	\$50		12474	A. McKay	Brodhead	\$50
	11496	D. Hahn	Knapp	\$50		5199	W. Billington	Mayville	\$50
	5073	E. Salamanca	Milwaukee	\$50		1509	R. Olson	Green Bay	\$50
	12643	J. Longfellow	Clear Lake	\$50		5647	S. Morhardt	Scales Mound, IL	\$50
Aug. 2	61403	T. Ghiringhelli	Gwinn, MI	\$500					
	5940	D. Finkelmeyer	Mineral Point	\$50					
	8700	A. Hberneke	Edgar	\$50					
	9027	K. Jeske	Colby	\$50					
	1543	J. Belanger	New Franken	\$50					
	9390	T. Kobernick	Barron	\$50					
	5886	R. Hochhausen	Cassville	\$50					

Raffle Winners are also posted on the VFW State Website – vfw.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

- 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 – VFW 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
- September 25 **Deadline** for registration for 2024 Big Ten Conference in Indianapolis, IN (October 18-20)
CTRL-CLICK: [WI VFW Auxiliary website - Big Ten Conference](#)
- September 27 **Deadline** for registration for the 2024 Bus Trip to the VFW National Home (October 25-27)
CTRL-CLICK: [WI VFW Website - National Home Bus Trip](#)
- September 28 **District 2 Meeting – VFW ONLY** – 9:30 am – Post 1163 (Veterans Center), 300 Beichl Ave., Beaver Dam, WI 53916
- October 2-3 & 5 **Online Training** – watch [vfwwi.org](#) under NEWS>Events for details.
- October 5 **District 2 Meeting – Auxiliary ONLY** – 9:30 am (Regis. 8:30 am) – VFW Post 8483, 5737 Cty. Hwy. CV, Madison, WI 53704 – **lunch registration needed by September 25** – contact Carol Welch at 608-216-6680.
- 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
- October 12 **District 10 Meeting – VFW ONLY** – 9:00 am – VFW Post 3143, 120 S. Park St., Rhinelander, WI 54501
- October 13 **District 3 Meeting – VFW ONLY** – 10:00 am – hosted by VFW Post 7629 at the American Legion Building, 3669 9th St., Mineral Point, WI 53565
- October 18-20 **2024 Big Ten Conference** – Marriott Indianapolis East, Indianapolis, IN – see September 25 deadline listing for link.
- October 25-27 **Bus Trip to the VFW National Home** – see September 27 deadline listing for link.
- October 31 **Deadline** for Post Audits to State Headquarters
- November 1 **Deadline** for November/December 2024 Wisconsin VFW News (printed and mailed)
- November 2 **VFW Dept. Council of Administration Meeting** – 9:00 am – SureStay Plus by Best Western, 600 Oasis Rd., Black River Falls, WI 54615. PHONE: 715-284-9471. VFW Group Rates start at \$109+ for Fri./Sat. Nights. **Please note:** Any member may attend, but the training, discussions and activities will be geared towards Council members and not the general membership like other Conferences/Training provided throughout the year.
- November 15 **Deadline** for 990 filing for July-June tax period.
- November 16 **Auxiliary Dept. Council of Administration Meeting** – 10:00 am – VFW Post 1707, 215 W. Collins St., Portage, WI 53901 – *Open to all. Watch Auxiliary mailings and website for details.*

A Visit to Zablocki VA



ABOVE: Auxiliary Dept. President Cheryl Woodards led a group of Officers on a visit to the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center in late August. Here, she presents the Auxiliary's \$1,000 donation to Zablocki Assistant Director, Christina P. Orr. **BELOW:** The day of the visit, they were also having their semi-annual Baby Shower for Women Veterans. Each mother received a tub full of baby items, a portable play yard and a lovely quilt. Thanks to PDP/Dept. Secretary Faith Elford for the photos and info.



PROGRAM DEADLINES

There are a number of upcoming Program Deadlines to be aware of so your participants don't miss out! Please see the 2024-2025 State Commander's Program Book for the necessary forms and/or links. The Book is in the MEMBERS ONLY SECTION on the State Website – [vfwwi.org](#). LOGIN to MEMBERS ONLY with your member number and Last name.

- October 31 **Deadline** for Patriot's Pen entries to Posts
- October 31 **Deadline** for Voice of Democracy entries to Posts
- October 31 **Deadline** for Smart/Maher Citizenship Ed. Teacher Award nominations to Posts

Time for Children's Christmas

at Oscar G. Johnson VA in Iron Mountain, MI

Nine years ago, we took on a special project of gathering funds for Christmas gifts for the children of needy Veterans from Northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. We are doing this again this year, in conjunction with Veterans Service groups in Wisconsin and Michigan. The last three years we have gifted 90+ children of needy Veterans. The VA receives thank-you notes from those Veterans, expressing how much being able to provide Christmas for their children has meant to them.

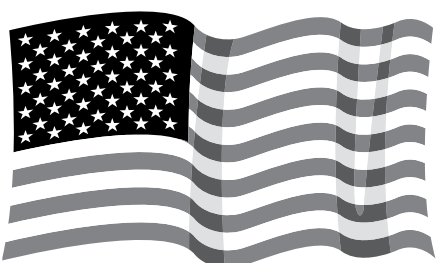
Oscar G. Johnson VA (OGJ) has requested that we purchase the Walmart gift cards since the VA does not have a purchase agreement with Walmart. The Walmart cards will be purchased and delivered to their Voluntary Services for distribution to the needy families with children.

We are asking again for help with this worthy project. OGJ has assured us that the gift cards will go to needy Veterans' children and families. Any money you can provide is very much appreciated. Funds need to be received by **November 6, 2024**. Donations will again be processed through VFW – Dept. of Wisconsin Headquarters. Please make your check payable to VFW Department of Wisconsin, earmark "OGJ Children's Christmas," and mail to:

VFW Department Headquarters
Attention: Tom Heath, QM
P.O. Box 6128
Monona, WI 53716-0128

Please direct any questions you may have to any of us at our numbers below. Thank you for all you do for our Veterans and their families!

Audrey Dotzauer Aux. Assoc. Rep. 920-857-0470	Rod Fifield VFW Rep. 414-403-3366	Pat & Linda Moran MOC & MOCA Reps 920-337-9922
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Support
Our
Troops

Greetings VFW members!

As I've mentioned more than once since Governor Evers asked me to serve as Secretary, my top priority has been to strengthen relationships with Veteran advocates. By working together, we can better serve the needs of Wisconsin Veterans and their families. With that in mind, I set myself a goal of making connections whenever and wherever possible. And I'm grateful for the opportunity this has provided to visit every corner of the state and talk to the people doing the boots-on-the-ground work.

In August, I reached an important milestone. In just over a year, I have traveled to every one of Wisconsin's 72 counties and 11 tribes, to personally consult with the state's 83 County and Tribal Veteran Service Offices. CVSOs and TVSOs are crucial in advocating for Veterans in their communities and connecting Veterans and their families with federal and state benefits.

During my visits, I made sure to say thank you to the men and women working in our CVSOs and TVSOs. I thanked them for welcoming me into their offices and sharing

James Bond

Secretary,
Wisconsin
Department of
Veterans Affairs



their challenges and successes in supporting Veterans. And I thanked them for all the work they do on behalf of Veterans.

Simply put, WDVA cannot do this alone, we rely on the help of all our partners. I appreciate everyone's efforts to keep these lines of communication open and look forward to even more collaboration in meeting the challenges that face our state's Veterans.

So, I will finish by saying thank you to everyone at VFW Wisconsin, for working alongside WDVA, as we make a difference in the lives of so many Veterans and families in our state!

Thoughts and a Prayer from a Comrade

Editor's note: Thank you to Comrade William P. Maki of Marquette, MI, for sharing these wonderful words with all of us. A member of VFW Post 6271 in Benson, AZ where he wintered for many years with his late wife, he became acquainted with the WI VFW NEWS on one of his visits to the VA Clinic.

We served our country and protected our freedom. We did our duty in many places in the world – the deserts, jungles, in cold places with snow – in times of war and in peace. We served on the oceans, in the air; wherever we were told to go. We honored our flag and many gave their lives. Most, in time of war, but also many in times of peace while serving their time of duty. May the people of Michigan and all over the USA remember freedom is not free. So, thank a Veteran. We are grateful when you do. God Bless the USA.

O God, Our Heavenly Father,

You have blessed us with brave men and women who are willing to defend our freedom. May Your protection and grace surround them each day. Let Your healing hand be upon those who suffer wounds and injuries. May those who have made the ultimate sacrifice rest forever in Your Holy presence. Comfort the families who mourn and are left to remember the precious lives of their loved ones. Help us to honor and support them. Let us ever be mindful of each sacrifice made on behalf of the American people by our sons, daughters, husbands, wives, mothers, fathers and friends. Amen.

William P. Maki
U.S. Air Force and
U.S. Coast Guard Veteran

NAT'L HOME BUS TRIP



ABOVE: Plenty of places to sit and relax, both inside and out.
BELOW: The Bounce House was a big hit, as were the other games.



Post 8834 Holds Appreciation Picnic

Hartford VFW Post held its third annual Appreciation Picnic this summer, inviting all National Guard, Reserve and active-duty service men and women, along with members of all Veterans Organizations as well as non-members. The family-friendly event offered a meal, snacks, beverages and plenty of activities for all ages. The Hartford Town Hall Park and Pavilion was the perfect setting,

with plenty of room for a Bounce House, climbing wall and other outdoor games.

First held in 2022, attendance has steadily increased each year. Many thanks to all who attended and special thanks to the volunteers who handled every task from planning and ordering food to the final cleanup, and everything in between. *Thanks to Post 8834 Adjutant Jessie Cornelius.*

VFW Department of Wisconsin 2024 Bus Trip to the National Home Festival Party

Each person must complete a registration form for accountability.

DATE: October 25-27, 2024

COST: \$320 for Adult Double Occupancy or \$440 for Single Adult Occupancy

- Includes Bus transportation & Hotel stay at Quality Suites, Lansing, MI. Meals not included.
- Discount if you register by August 12, 2024. \$300 for Double Adult Occupancy/\$405 Single Adult Occupancy
- Children 12 and under \$75 Bus Fee
- \$30 rebate available after trip if 40 people register for the bus trip by September 27, 2024.

Reservation Deadline: September 27, 2024

Pickup and drop off location: Pick-up starting at 6:00 AM at Cedar Creek Mall Parking Lot, Schofield, WI, TRAVELING DOWN THE Hwy 51/39 route. Other locations will be determined based on the amount of appli-

Room Type: ___ Double Occupancy ___ Single Occupancy ___ Bus Ticket for Children 12 & Under

Name: _____ VFW Post/Aux#: _____ District#: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

(You will be contacted by Phone or email if pickup time changes)

Roommate Choice: _____ (If you choose to room alone, Single Occupancy rate ap-

Total Payment Due/enclosed: _____

Emergency Contact Information (Full Name and PH#): _____

Please provide vehicle information if leaving a vehicle at a pick up point. Make: _____

Model: _____ License Plate # _____

Make all checks payable to:

VFW DEPT OF WISCONSIN
Earmark: 2024 National Home Bus Trip

Mail this form and check, if paying by check to:

VFW OF WISCONSIN
P.O. BOX 6128
MONONA, WI 53716-0128

~ OR ~

Register Online



Points of Contact:

Michele Rathke, 715-218-0400, marathke@gmail.com

Sue Carlson, 715-271-8088, susancarlsonl@gmail.com

Submitting Items to the WISCONSIN VFW NEWS

The following tips will give your item its **best** chance at getting published.

- Items may be snail-mailed, but EMAIL is **best** - wivfweditor@gmail.com

• PHOTOS:

- > **MUST** be IN FOCUS. Out of focus? Can't use. Period.
- > **MINIMUM** .jpg file size is 1 MB or larger, but the larger the file, the better.
- > **MUST** be an **ORIGINAL** image, not cropped or reduced. Downloaded or emailed (**NOT** TEXTED!) from the original digital device is the **BEST**. Those photos will usually be **2-4 MB** in size, which is **much better** for our printing purposes.
- > Well-grouped and lighted photo with **everyone looking at the same camera**.

• Take a nice **GROUP** shot of all winners – we probably don't have room for 3-6 photos from each event. And group them in a nice sitting/standing group – not spread out in one line!

• **Action** photos – doing, building, hauling, folding, saluting, etc. - create extra interest.

• Names (and titles) of those in the photo **MUST** accompany the photo submission. Period. List them left to right, by rows/seated/standing – whatever applies. Interesting details are a bonus!

Thank you to all who continue to share their news items to
INFORM, INSPIRE AND INVITE!

Questions? Contact:
Marla J. Morgan
Editor, WI VFW NEWS
wivfweditor@gmail.com
715-384-2500

★ ★ ★ ★ National Convention Scenes ★ ★ ★ ★



Wisconsin VFW and Auxiliary were very well represented in Louisville, looking sharp here on Monday morning, after the Joint Opening Session.



Dept. Jr. Vice President Charlene Cobb (left) and SVP Kim McWilliams (right) escorted President Cheryl Woodards at the start of the Thursday session – always an impressive event!



By Tuesday night, everyone was ready to don their red, white and blue and join the parade.



There is ALWAYS time to chill a bit with comrades. Ty Letto, Jordan Tilleson and Rob Drogsvold found a good place to do just that.



ABOVE: Sunday was for sightseeing – and shopping!
AT RIGHT: Just one of several full tables of Wisconsin attendees on the Department's "night out".



The Auxiliary delegation was still smiling on Wednesday, but probably starting to look forward to heading home.



PSC Michele Rathke addressed the VFW Big Ten Conference as a nominee for District 7 Trustee for the VFW National Home. PSC/NCM Cory Geisler (center) and Adjutant/Big Ten Conference Vice Chairman Adam Wallace (left) look on.

festival
foods

TURKEY TROT

17TH ANNUAL

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November 28, 2024

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