



NEWS 2025



VOL. 42 NO. 4

JOURNEY TO HEALING TOGETHER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025

West, McWilliams Reps for Mid-Winter

As 2025 settles in and we turn our attention to the second half of the command year, it's time to gear up for the Department Mid-Winter Conference scheduled for February 14-15, 2025 at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center in Oshkosh.

This year's National Representatives are VFW Adjutant General Dan West of Texas and VFW Auxiliary National District Council Member #11 Kim McWilliams of Salem, Wisconsin.

Tentative schedules for both groups as well as info about training sessions and other special activities may be found on **page 4** in this online issue. Note that the VFW Past Commanders Luncheon and the Auxiliary Dutch Treat Luncheon will again be held midday on Friday. Past – and current – VFW Commanders at ANY level are welcome at the Past Commanders Luncheon and the Auxiliary Luncheon is open to any and all Auxiliary members who would like to attend.

There is still time to submit your registration and meal reservations online



Dan West
VFW Adjutant General



Kim McWilliams
Auxiliary NDCM #11

Dan West has served as VFW Adjutant General since July of 2022. Serving in the United States Marine Corps from 1983 to 1994, in Operation Desert Storm, he joined the VFW in 1996 at Post 3413 in San Marcos, Texas, where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership. He has served on the National Council of Administration and in numerous National appointments, as well as Dept. of Texas VFW for 15 years, the last three of which were as the State Adjutant/Quartermaster. Dan and his wife, Beth, reside in Texas.

Kim McWilliams of Salem, Wisconsin, was elected in September 2024, to serve the remainder of Laurel Ann Wiese's term on the Auxiliary National Council, representing Iowa and Wisconsin.

A Life Member of VFW Auxiliary 2260 in Oconomowoc, she joined on the eligibility of her husband, Mark B. McWilliams, who served in the U.S. Army in Korea during 1989 and Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. In addition to serving as Auxiliary and District President previously, she is currently our Dept. Sr. Vice President. Employed with the Froedtert South Health System, Kim is also working on an Associate Degree in Business from Gateway Technical College in Racine.

See you in Oshkosh, b'gosh!

– but hurry! **The deadline (to avoid additional fees) is January 17, 2025.** Visit vfwwi.org or wivfwaux.org for the links. Hotel reservations may still be

made directly with Marriott Waterfront at 888-236-2427. **Deadline for the special rate room block is January 12, 2025 or when sold out.**

Supporting UW MIA-RIP

The Dept. of Wisconsin VFW and many of our Posts and Auxiliaries continue to support the work of the UW Missing in Action Recovery and Identification Project (UW MIA-RIP), following the very successful "second" Commander and President Joint Project in 2022. SVC Ty Letto (left) and State Commander Ron Ramos visited the Project in early December to receive an update on the team's work and to present a donation of \$3,600 to Team Lead Charles Konsitzke. *Thank you to SVC Ty Letto for info and photo.*



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THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE

2025 Mid-Winter Conference

FEBRUARY 14-15, OSHKOSH WATERFRONT MARRIOTT

See page 4 in this issue for details,
and visit vfwwi.org to reserve your place - *by January 17!*

SEE YOU THERE!

Comrades,

As we approach the halfway point of this VFW year, I'm proud to report that we have had an incredible start! Together, we've accomplished so much already, and it's clear that our dedication to the mission is as strong as ever.

In the first half of the year, we've made tremendous strides. From extensive training on VFW functions to impactful Community Service projects, your hard work is shining through. I'm especially excited to share that our membership currently sits at 95.16%, and we are on track to hit 96%+ by the end of the month. That's a full percentage point ahead of our benchmarks and puts us ahead of where we typically are at this time of year. This momentum is a testament to your efforts and commitment—let's keep it going!

Looking ahead, we have some exciting events on the horizon. The Department Mid-Winter Conference and National Legislative Conference are fast approaching, and I'm eager to see many of you there. These gatherings are not only vital to our mission but also provide a chance to connect and enjoy the camaraderie that makes the VFW family so special. A special shout-out to our National Legislative Chairman Jason Johns, who is busy finalizing our schedule for the Legislative Conference. I'm looking forward to heading to Washington, D.C.

Ron Ramos
State Commander



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to advocate for Veterans and work on your behalf.

Another key date to mark on your calendars is May 3, 2025 — the **VFW Day of Service**. Last year, many of you went above and beyond to serve your communities, and I encourage you to build on that success. Be sure to register your Post's activities at vfw.org and invite your State Officers to join in. We're eager to assist and stand shoulder to shoulder with you as we make a difference in our communities.

We've had an outstanding start to the year, but the work is far from over. Let's keep pushing toward our goal of 102% membership and continuing to expand our Community Service efforts. If there's anything we can do to support you, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for all that you do. Together, we're making a lasting impact, and I'm proud to serve alongside each of you.

THE POWER OF CAMARADERIE

Camaraderie is the lifeblood of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary, offering a profound sense of belonging and mutual support that is essential for those who have served and supported. We provide a unique sanctuary where Veterans can connect, share experiences, and uplift one another, fostering a community built on shared values and trust.

Veterans and their families have faced challenges and made sacrifices that are often beyond the comprehension of civilians. Within the walls of the VFW and Auxiliary we find others who have walked similar paths, creating a bond and a safe space to share our stories. This shared understanding is not just comforting; it is empowering. It reminds us that we are not alone in our struggles and triumphs, and that our experiences are valued and respected.

Transitioning from military to civilian life can be a daunting journey, fraught with unique mental health challenges such as PTSD and depression. As members of two outstanding organizations, we play a crucial role in providing a supportive community where members can openly discuss their struggles and access resources. This environment should reduce isolation and promote well-being, offering a lifeline to those who might otherwise feel adrift. Camaraderie can be a powerful antidote to the loneliness and anxiety that many Veterans face, fostering resilience and hope.

The friendships formed often extend far beyond meetings and events. These bonds, built on trust, respect, and shared experiences, provide unwavering support through life's ups and downs. Whether celebrating successes or offering comfort during tough times, these friendships are a testament to the enduring power of camaraderie. We are the network of allies who will stand by each other, no matter what challenges arise.

Take the opportunity to become or stay involved in community service and advocacy in your Post and Auxiliary. Give members a chance to continue serving their country and communities while supporting each other. This sense of purpose and engagement is vital, helping Veterans stay active and connected. By participating in these activities, we can channel our skills and dedication into meaningful causes, further strengthening bonds with fellow members.

Camaraderie is more than friendship; it is a lifeline. It offers belonging, emotional support, and opportunities for continued service. A place to find understanding, build lasting relationships, and continue making a difference. The power of camaraderie is immense, playing a crucial role in well-being and resilience. Take the time to learn something new about your members and what they are passionate about, and create a vibrant and supportive community that uplifts and inspires its members.

Renee L. Simpson
State Jr. Vice
Commander



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STATE OFFICERS

Comrades,

I hope your Holiday Season was everything that you hoped it to be and that your new year has started off on a positive note. I want to remind all of you that this time of year can be very stressful and discouraging for our brothers and sisters in arms, and I encourage you to do your Post and Auxiliary buddy checks to ensure our fellow Comrades are not alone coming out of the holidays into the blustery Wisconsin winter.

As you can imagine, I continue to travel throughout this great State and see all of the incredible work being done by the Posts and Auxiliaries. Those trips also included VA hospital visits to Madison and Tomah and a stop at the Veterans Home in Union Grove. At both hospitals, I had the opportunity to discuss Veterans' care with the Executive Directors and we discussed areas that could be improved. At Union Grove, I had the opportunity to visit with the residents and observe firsthand the care they are getting.

Veterans Day was an incredibly busy day for me. My day started with an interview on WBEV Radio in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, where we discussed the role of the VFW at the local, state, and national levels. It was then on to Edgerton where JVC Renee Lockington Simpson and I toured the Veteran Housing & Community Center Project, hosted by the Edgerton VFW Post 2708. This project will provide a Veterans Community Center for the community and housing for homeless Veterans. What an amazing collaboration between the Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs), local government, and the community!

It was then on to the Executive Mansion where I joined Adam Wallace, Jordan Tilleson, and Gundel Metz for a Veterans Day celebration, sponsored by Governor Tony Evers and WDVA Secretary James Bond. This celebration presented a unique opportunity for us to discuss the upcoming agenda for the Legislative Committee with the Governor and Secretary, and to enjoy the venue, food, and camaraderie with other VSOs. What an incredible day!

Next, I traveled to Wisconsin Rapids Buckley-Baldwin VFW Post 2534 to commemorate Pearl Harbor Day. The Post did an outstanding job honoring the fallen from that infamous day and I thank them for taking the time out of their busy weekend to conduct the ceremony. Afterwards, there was a delicious luncheon at the local Elks Club.

I am excited about seeing all of you at the 2025 Department Mid-Winter Conference in Oshkosh in February. Until next time, remember to make it count in everything that you do, because you make a difference in the life of a Veteran every day!

Ty Letto
State Sr. Vice
Commander



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Greetings VFW family!

Happy New Year! The holiday season flew by in a flash! Hope everyone had a blessed holiday and that everyone is healthy and safe. We now enter the winter season, where we are checking our readiness for our Mid-Winter Conference that is just around the corner, February 14–15, 2025. Did you make your hotel reservations and registration/meal choices? Remember, you can still attend without qualifying for the Red Carpet Award. This is a great way to connect and network with your VFW family! Looking forward to seeing you all there. Keep on going forward because before you know it, our VFW State Convention will be here.

Now to look forward to All-State and All-American. Take another look at the 2024–2025 Commander's book, starting on page 26 for qualifications. I believe there are many Posts and Districts that could make their goal as an All-State/or All-American Post/or District, either it be for the first time or several times award winner. We love to see the "repeaters", but we would love to see the newbies too! So, get out there and keep on pressing forward by completing the mandatory requirements:

- Core Programs (i.e. Membership, Community Service Reports, Donations, VOD, PP, "Buddy"® Poppy drive, and Social Media)
- Critical Programs (Life/Legacy Membership program, Adopt-a-Unit, Student Veterans, Public Service recognition, National Home membership, and Teacher of the Year)
- Additional programs (attend/host/or participate in different events). Speaking of events, be sure to invite a VFW Dept.

Carla McAndrew
Chief-of-Staff



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Representative to attend your events.

A couple of months ago, I traveled to VFW Post 10393 in Boscobel, to present their Golden Anniversary Award. The members of the Post were very welcoming and hospitable. I'm also looking forward to traveling to District 1 for their winter meeting this month. I have visited and had some great comradeship with many Veterans these past couple months. When traveling around Wisconsin, I remind Veterans of our many outstanding programs and what the VFW has to offer.

One of the highly important projects this year is the Joint VFW & Auxiliary Project – the *Mary Ann Christopherson Journey to Healing Together Grant*. This grant is to provide financial assistance to individuals who may forego mental health therapy due to them being unable to afford the co-payments. Let's make a positive impact by donating to the Joint VFW & Auxiliary Project. Mary Ann held suicide prevention very dear to her heart, so let's keep this going in her honor to help those that need the help. The time is now!

Let's keep going strong with Mary Ann's vision, as she is smiling down on us!

Stay on top of the issues!
Register for the

**Wisconsin VFW
VoterVoice**
updates.

And tell your friends too!

Visit:

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

OR

Scan the QR Code to the right.



SCAN ME

“The HQ Dispatch”

Greetings Comrades,

We hope that you all had a great holiday. We look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming Mid-Winter Conference.

We'd like to remind all Posts to continue to stay up on their administrative duties such as Quarterly Audits, 990s, Bonds, and Delegate dues. If you are unsure of what your Post's current status is, you can login to the **members only** section of the WI VFW website – vfwwi.org - and go to the **Checklist Dashboard** to view your status.

Also ensure you are entering in your program activity reports so your Post gets credit for all the great things you are doing for Veterans and your community.

As always, reach out to HQ if you need assistance, we are here for you!

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STATE OFFICERS

As I travel around and meet with fellow Veterans, I often get asked the question, "Why would a Veteran want to join the VFW?" A Veteran should consider joining the VFW for several compelling reasons. All of this is rooted in the desire to provide meaningful support, build community, and enhance their post-service life. The VFW is dedicated to advocating for Veterans' rights, ensuring they receive the benefits and resources they deserve, and offering a supportive community where they can connect with others who share similar experiences.

First and foremost, the VFW plays a critical role in assisting Veterans with navigating the complex system of benefits, healthcare, and services available to them. The process of accessing VA benefits, disability claims, healthcare, and other forms of support can be daunting. The VFW Service Office employs trained professionals who specialize in helping Veterans understand their eligibility, filing claims, and ensuring they receive all entitled benefits. By joining the VFW, or any Veteran Service Organization, Veterans can increase the likelihood of getting the full range of services they deserve.

Moreover, the VFW serves as powerful advocates for Veterans on a local, state, and national level. We lobby for changes in laws, policies, and funding that directly affect all Veterans to ensure that their voices are heard and their needs addressed by lawmakers. This advocacy extends beyond the individual and helps shape the national dialogue on Veterans' issues, making the VFW a conduit for systemic change.

Joining the VFW also offers Veterans a sense of community and camaraderie. The transition from military to civilian life can be isolating, especially for those who struggle with the invisible wounds of war such as PTSD or

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other mental health challenges. By becoming part of a local VFW Post, Veterans gain access to a network of like-minded individuals who understand their experiences and can offer both emotional support and practical advice. Many VFW Posts organize social events, mental health support groups, and opportunities for Veterans to engage in volunteer activities, further promoting a sense of belonging.

Veterans may also find that their involvement in the VFW gives them the opportunity to give back. Our organization encourages Veterans to participate in volunteer efforts that support other Veterans or community initiatives. This sense of purpose, while contributing to others, can be especially fulfilling for Veterans who may seek ways to continue serving their country in a new capacity.

In conclusion, joining a VFW Post offers Veterans the tools, resources, and community support necessary for a successful transition to civilian life. It provides access to critical benefits, fosters connections with fellow Veterans, and offers an opportunity for advocacy and service. For Veterans seeking a fulfilling post-service experience, the VFW is an invaluable resource. This is the story that we need to spread, for all eligible Veterans to fully understand why joining the VFW is important. **Tell the story!**

**Wisconsin Veterans
of Foreign Wars News**



Page 3

JAN/FEB 2025

Happy New Year!

I promised our Editor that my article would be a short one, and as a belated Christmas present to you all, it will be.

Section 202 of our National Bylaws was revised a few years ago to require that all Posts adopt Bylaws to govern Post business. For many years most Posts simply followed both the Department and National Bylaws. However, there are a number of "policies" that Posts follow that should be upgraded to a Bylaw. One example is the committees necessary to promote Post and VFW programs. A second is to establish a time and place to conduct Post business.

At any rate, every Post needs to adopt their own Bylaws, and the National organization has developed a template for doing so. A copy of the template is available on the National website. Go to vfw.org and login with your username and password. Then click on My VFW, scroll down to Member/Post Resources and click on Bylaws: Training, Forms & Templates.

When using the Post Bylaws template, it is perfectly acceptable to modify it to fit your specific needs. However, modifications cannot conflict with the National or Department Bylaws. One modification might be to add or delete some of the listed standing committees. Another might be to add a section that allows the Post to develop an SOP (Standard Operating Policy or Procedure) that can be modified, without changing the Bylaws. If the Post runs a business, the Post Bylaws would likely establish a House Committee to formalize all kinds of business procedures and policies.

So, your 2025 New Year's resolution should be to carefully read Section 202 and to get your Post Bylaws approved, or if you have existing Bylaws, to review and revise them as necessary and forward them to the Department for review. After the Department's review, they will forward them to National HQ for final review and approval.

Hope to see you at the Mid-Winter Conference in February.

Leroy Jansky
State Inspector



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DONATIONS TO A 501c19 VETERANS ORGANIZATION

You may have heard about the recent passage of H.R.1432 "VSO Equal Tax Treatment Act", or the "VETT Act" concerning donations to Veterans' organizations. Prior to the passage of the VETT Act, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary (501c19), were eligible for charitable tax-deductible donations because we met the criteria under previous law. The basis was that at least 90 percent of the membership are people who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces during a period of war.

Donations made to a Post or Auxiliary are tax deductible. For tax purposes, all donations for \$250 or more must have written acknowledgment to substantiate a charitable contribution that must contain the following information:

- Name of the organization;
- Amount of cash contribution;
- Description (but not value) of non-cash contribution;
- Statement that no goods or services were provided by the organization, if that is the case;
- Description and good faith estimate of the value of goods or services, if any, that organization provided in return for the contribution; and
- Statement that goods or services, if any,

**Renee L.
Simpson**
State Jr. Vice
Commander



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that the organization provided in return for the contribution consisted entirely of intangible religious benefits, if that was the case.

In addition, a donor may claim a deduction for contributions of cash, check, or other monetary gifts only if the donor maintains certain written records that can be clarified on the IRS website or by a tax professional.

For more information on the requirements for exemption review:

- Publication 3386 - Tax Guide for Veterans' Organizations
 - Publication 557 - Tax Exempt Status for your Organization
- Additional information regarding the business activities of Veterans' organizations may be found in:
- Publication 598 - Tax on Unrelated Business Income of Exempt Organizations
 - Publication 3079 - Tax Exempt Organizations and Gaming

IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME!

Frank N. Brown Scholarship

Open to High School Seniors or College Freshmen
Application period: February 1 – April 30, 2025
~ See page 6 ~

[CLICK HERE FOR INFO AND APPLICATION](#)

Lillian Campbell Medical Scholarship

Open to second-year College Students studying
in a variety of Medical programs.
Application deadline: April 30, 2025
~ See page 9 ~

[CLICK HERE FOR INFO AND APPLICATION](#)

Wisconsin VFW News Production Schedule

Mid-Winter Conference • February 14-15, 2025

March 2025 Issue Vol. 42, No. 5 Deadline to Editor: February 7, 2025

May 2025 Issue Vol. 42, No. 6 Deadline to Editor: April 4, 2025

Department Convention • June 11-14, 2025

Wisconsin VFW News

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Wisconsin Veterans of Foreign Wars

Planning for Upcoming Meetings

- **2025 Department Mid-Winter Conference**
Fri.-Sat., February 14-15, 2025
Oshkosh Marriott Waterfront Hotel (formerly Best Western) • \$125 + taxes
1 N. Main St., Oshkosh, WI 54901 • 888-236-2427
- **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.

Department of Wisconsin VFW and Auxiliary
2025 Mid-Winter Conference

Friday, Feb. 14
— Saturday, Feb. 15
Oshkosh

Marriott Waterfront Hotel
& Convention Center, 1 N. Main St.
Oshkosh, WI 54901

VFW AGENDA
(Schedule of Events subject to change)

Friday, February 14, 2025

(Attire for C of A members: Business Casual)

- 9:30 am – 5:00 pmRegistration (Atrium Lobby)
- 8:00 am – 4:00 pmVendor Tables (Concourse)
- 9:00 am – 12:00 pmCommittee Meetings (Leander Choate)
All Committee Members must be present at 9:00 am
Finance; Foundation; Service; Women Veterans; NEWS
- 12:00 – 1:30 pmVFW Past Commanders Club Lunch (John Lynch Room)
Preregistration required
- 1:45 – 2:45 pmTraining/Workshop Session 1
State Unmet Needs – PSC Jason Johns (Evelyn Room)
OMS/MEMSTAT/Website – ADJ Adam Wallace (B.F. Carter Room)
- 3:00 – 4:00 pmTraining/Workshop Session 2
Post Service Officer – DSO Tim Neary (Evelyn Room)
VFW Programs – AAQM Steve Eisenhower (B.F. Carter Room)
- 6:00 – 10:00 pmPost 1908 Open House – (109 Rosalia St., Oshkosh, WI 54901)
Cash Bar. No meals served.

Saturday, February 15, 2025

(Attire for C of A members: Business)

- 9:30 am – 5:30 pmRegistration (Atrium Lobby)
- 8:00 am – 4:00 pmVendor Tables (Concourse)
- 8:30 – 9:00 amVFW Opening Ceremonies (Leander Choate)
- 9:00 am – 12:00 pmVFW Business Session by Commander Ron Ramos
- Unfinished and New Business
- Reports:
Finance; Foundation; Service; Women Veterans; NEWS;
State Legislative; National Legislative; Unmet Needs;
Voice/Pen/Teacher; Membership; Poppy; Hospital
- Candidate Announcements
- Line Officer Comments
- Remarks by Adjutant General Dan West
- 12:00 – 1:30 pmLunch (on your own)
- 1:30 – 2:30 pmParliamentary Jeopardy Interactive Session (Leander Choate)
Conducted by Minnesota VFW State Commander David Staehlin
- 3:00 – 4:00 pmVFW Member Town Hall with State Leadership
- 4:00 – 4:30 pmClosing Remarks by the Commander and Closing Ceremonies
- 5:30 – 6:30 pmCocktail Hour (cash bar) for all attendees. (Convention Ctr. Ballroom)
- 6:30 pmBanquet (Convention Ctr. Ballroom)
- Recognition of Red Carpet Posts
- Recognition of District Voice of Democracy Winners
- Recognition of Top Placing Patriot's Pen Winners
- Recognition of Teachers of the Year

AUXILIARY AGENDA
(Schedule of Events subject to change)

Friday, February 14, 2025

(Dress is Black & Yellow shirt or Business Casual)

- 9:30 am – 5:00 pmRegistration (Atrium Lobby)
- 8:00 am – 4:00 pmVendor Tables (Concourse)
- 10:00 amDept. Line Officers' Meeting (by invitation)
- 12 NoonVFW Auxiliary Luncheon – (Dixie Room)
Open to All Auxiliary Members – Advance reservation required
- 1:30 pmCouncil of Administration Meeting (Paul L Room)
Call to Order & Opening Ceremonies President Cheryl Woodards & Officers
Minutes of Previous Council Meeting Secretary Faith Elford, PDP
and Official & Other Communications
Financial Report Treasurer Lenore Otto, PDP
Audit Report Audit Chairman Sherrie Rosenau, PDP
2024-2025 Budget Committee Report Budget Chairman Judy Borg, PDP
Unfinished Business, New Business, Guests Speak
Announcements Secretary Elford & Treasurer Otto
Closing Remarks and Ceremonies President Woodards & Officers
- 5:00 pmDinner and Evening on your own
All are welcome at the Post 1908 Open House – 109 Rosalia St., Oshkosh, WI 54901
Cash Bar. No meals served.

Saturday, February 15, 2025

(Dress is Business Casual)

- 9:30 am – 5:30 pmRegistration (Atrium Lobby)
- 8:00 am – 4:00 pmVendor Tables (Concourse)
- 8:30 amCall to Order & Opening Ceremonies (Paul L Room)
President Cheryl Woodards & Officers
Program Reports: (Chairmen should be ready to report at any time)
Veterans & Family Support; Ways & Means; Achievement Awards;
Americanism; Auxiliary Outreach; Awards; "Buddy" @ Poppy/Nat'l. Home;
Chief-of-Staff/Extension; Dept. Scholarships; Historian/Media Relations;
— MORNING BREAK —
Hospital; Legislative; Membership; Nat'l. Scholarships; WI Veterans Assistance;
VFW NEWS; Web Services; Youth Activities
- 11:45 amLunch (on your own)
- 1:30 pmSchool of Instruction – for All Auxiliary members
"How we can be the best advocate for our Veterans during the disability process"
with VFW Service Officer Timothy Neary – Come prepared with questions.
New On-Line Year-End Report Process
– presented by Dept. Secy/Webmaster Faith Elford
President Woodards & Officers
- 3:30 pmClosing Announcements & Ceremonies
- 5:30 pmCocktail Hour (cash bar) for all attendees. (Convention Ctr. Ballroom)
- 6:30 pmBanquet (Convention Ctr. Ballroom)
- Recognition of Red Carpet Posts
- Recognition of District Voice of Democracy Winners
- Recognition of Top Placing Patriot's Pen Winners
- Recognition of Teachers of the Year

Thank you for your continued support
as our Mid-Winter Conference...

SILVER
SPONSOR

festival
foods

REMAINING SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE ON A "FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED" BASIS.
DONORS MAY COMBINE FOR A SPONSORSHIP. LESSER AMOUNTS ALSO WELCOME FOR
RECOGNITION AS A SUPPORTER IN THE MID-WINTER CONFERENCE PROGRAM BOOK.
CONTACT STATE ADJUTANT ADAM WALLACE BY PHONE – 608-221-5276 ASAP!

2025 MID-WINTER AWARDS
BANQUET SPONSORS

- « Patriot's Pen 1st Place – Dept. of WI Auxiliary
- « Patriot's Pen 2nd Place – Post & Aux. 1621
- « Patriot's Pen 3rd Place – Post & Aux. 328
- « Voice of Democracy 1st Place – Dept. of WI Auxiliary
- « Voice of Democracy 2nd Place – Post & Aux. 1621
- « Voice of Democracy 3rd Place – Available (\$1,000)
- « Voice of Democracy 4th Place – Dist. 9 VFW Riders Group
- « Voice of Democracy 5th Place – Post 1318
- « Voice of Democracy Runner-Up – Post 1879
- « Voice of Democracy Runner-Up – VFW HQ Team
- « Voice of Democracy Runner-Up – MOC Pup Tent 21
- « Voice of Democracy Runner-Up – Randy & Louise Engness
- « Voice of Democracy Runner-Up – Post & Aux. 2204

MEMBERSHIP

Current Membership Totals By District

Dist.	Life	New	Reinstate	Continuous	Total	Adj. Prior Year	Percentage
1	2263	92	48	202	2605	2665	97.74%
2	3115	31	13	213	3372	3537	95.33%
3	728	4	5	70	807	850	94.94%
4	1154	11	5	90	1260	1283	98.20%
6	1701	11	6	109	1827	1881	97.12%
7	2106	27	7	164	2304	2456	93.81%
8	1811	35	5	133	1984	2047	96.92%
9	2518	55	11	83	2667	2772	96.21%
10	1306	23	4	148	1481	1565	94.63%
11	1603	10	11	113	1737	1896	91.61%
99	1461	61	9	136	1667	1861	89.57%
Totals	19766	360	124	1461	21711	22813	95.16%

Totals as of December 30, 2024
367 Legacy Life Members

2024 – 2025 MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

This challenge is between our Posts. The Point System has been designed to encourage Life and Legacy Life memberships, which will enable the Wisconsin VFW to have a stronger future.

The Point System

- Every new Annual member or Annual reinstate — 1 Point
- Every Annual member that converts to Life Member — 5 Points
- Every new or reinstated Life Member — 10 Points
- Every Life Member upgraded to Bronze Legacy Life — 15 Points
- Every Life Member upgraded to Silver Legacy Life — 20 Points
- Every Life Member upgraded to Gold Legacy Life — 25 Points

Each month, October 2024 through May 2025, the top Post in each Division will be entered into a drawing for a Grand Prize of \$1,000 to be awarded at the 2025 State Convention. One (1) Grand Prize winning Post will be drawn from the entries of ALL Divisions. **Note: These are DIFFERENT/SEPARATE from the usual National Post Divisions and are for this Challenge only.**

The Post Divisions

Division	Post Membership
	(As of July 1, 2024)
1	201 & above
2	101 – 200
3	71 - 100
4	41 – 70
5	10 - 40

Reporting

Each month, the Post will fill out the **online** 2024-2025 Membership Challenge Monthly Report with their totals for that month. **This report is only available online.** Reports mailed or emailed will not be accepted. Monthly reports must be received as follows to be eligible for the given month:

October	Due by 6 November 2024
November	Due by 6 December 2024
December	Due by 6 January 2025
January	Due by 6 February 2025
February	Due by 6 March 2025
March	Due by 4 April 2025
April	Due by 5 May 2025
May	Due by 5 June 2025

Complete 2024-2025 Membership Challenge info and the link to **report** may be found in the **MEMBERS ONLY** section at vfwwi.org. Good luck!

Membership Challenge Monthly Winners

	November 2024	December 2024
Division 1	Post 10262, Plover	Post 2778, Appleton
Division 2	Post 2115, Hudson	Post 7232, Town of Union
Division 3	Post 2204, Rice Lake	Post 8021, Westby
Division 4	Post 8092, Oakfield	Posts 5276 and 10911
Division 5	None qualified	Post 7444, Armstrong Creek

Each Monthly Division Winner will receive an entry into the Grand Prize Drawing for \$1,000 for their Post.

Congratulations!

Greetings Comrades,
Christmas has passed and we are now in the New Year, 2025! With this new year starting, we need to hit the ground running for the last half of this command year. It is important that each and every one of us get out and recruit at least one member. At the time of this writing, our Department sits at 95.16%! We still have much work to do to reach our goal by recruiting, renewing or reinstating another 1,559 members to reach 102% in Membership in the VFW Department of Wisconsin.

This goal is within our grasp! We can do this! Set your sights on new members, as well as reinstating those that have lapsed in their membership dues. Get out there and find them, talk to them and get them back! This is imperative to our survival as a Service Organization. During the winter months, most Posts could boost their membership renewals by conducting a telephone calling campaign to annual members whose memberships may be expiring before July 1, 2025.

When you do make contact with unpaid members, and get renewals completed, also make sure that you have the most current contact information for them and update it on the VFW Online Membership System (OMS) if necessary. Make sure you invite the member to your next meeting or special event. A little encouragement may lead to a member becoming interested in attending meetings and getting involved.

Our Post Membership Challenge is in full swing! We've included the details again so your Post can get on board for the remaining five months. This Challenge is your Post's chance to win \$1,000 and get the traveling trophy at the State Convention in June. See our November and December Monthly Winners below the Challenge details.

Remember this is a points-based contest that puts an emphasis on Life Membership and Legacy Life. Just upgrading members to Life or Legacy Life can help put your Post on top.

We are halfway through a good membership year, and I would be remiss if I did not congratulate the **23 Posts that have already reached or exceeded 102% in membership:**

- Post 11038, Rochester – 155.55%
- Post 8482, Oak Creek – 136.84%
- Post 3635, Florence – 127.77%
- Post 2115, Hudson – 116.44%
- Post 2336, Baraboo – 113.63%
- Post 2063, Crivitz – 111.66%
- Post 7817, Westboro – 110.00%
- Post 7898, Woodruff – 110.00%
- Post 8770, Big Falls – 109.09%
- Post 7444, Armstrong Creek – 108.33%
- Post 10533, Shullsburg – 108.10%
- Post 7534, Howard – 107.35%
- Post 7692, Freedom – 105.12%
- Post 10263, Pardeeville – 104.16%
- Post 8527, Athens – 104.10%
- Post 10170, Mayville – 104.00%
- Post 3434, Hillpoint – 103.22%
- Post 5470, Whitewater – 102.70%

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



TOP RECRUITING
UPDATE
through 12/29/2024

Recruiter	Post	Dist.	Recruits
James A. Cairo	11038	1	41
Robert E. Haisler	11038	1	18
Jason T. Coffey	11038	1	16
Nate J. Haumschild	2115	9	16
David G. Green	10818	9	10
Dena M. McCormick	11038	1	9
Thomas E. Heath	1621	1	5
Michael F. Fischer	11038	1	5
Peter A. Pemrich	1621	1	4
John D. McCoy	7308	1	4
Phillip D. Allen	7308	1	4
Robin L. Drogsvold	328	2	4
Tami Zaleski	2260	2	4
Kerry E. McAllen	7591	2	4
Christopher T. Ankele	6003	7	4
Jack C. Voight	2778	8	4
James E. Weadge	1621	1	3
Ed A. Robbins	2306	1	3
Daniel E. Mckee	7308	1	3
Curtis R. Gruenewald	1163	2	3
Tyrone L. Letto	1163	2	3
Gundel M. E. Metz	1318	2	3
Gary L. Friske	9511	2	3
Bradley L. Smith	2895	4	3
Aaron Volling	3635	8	3
John P. Wierer	7534	8	3
David A. Zien	305	9	3
Mark T. Schiltgen	2115	9	3
Richard W. Byers	2115	9	3
De Witt H. Woodworth	1530	11	3

PLUS another 173 signed
by 139 additional Recruiters
and 113 with no named Recruiter.
Total of 480 to date.

- Post 3143, Rhinelander – 102.50%
- Post 2241, Neillsville – 102.43%
- Post 8375, Silver Lake – 102.22%
- Post 8512, Almena – 102.22%
- Post 8329, Barnes Twnsp. – 102.00%

And a hearty **YOU CAN DO IT** to the **37 Posts** that have reached at least 100% and are just a couple of new members away from 102%+. Let's help Commander Ramos make it a great year to honor the memory of Mary Ann Christopherson.

Recruit, Engage, Inspire, Retain!



It's not the price you pay
to become a member.

It's the price you paid
to become eligible.

Recruit, engage,
inspire, retain!

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	Melvin Alme	Stoughton	1865	Wayne Tabbert	Kenosha	5970	Tim Delmore	Mauston	9440	Logan Swinehart	Avoca
328	David Cuff	Stoughton	1879	Roger Provenzano	Whitewater	6179	Paul Hutterer, Jr.	Whitelaw	10197	Fred Baue	Saint Paul, MN
328	Charles Lyke	Stoughton	1904	George Kaprelian	Fond du Lac	6377	Stanley Kasprzak	Menomonee Falls	10197	James Jirku	Iron River
664	Roger Paul	New London	2037	David Junion	Green Bay	6498	Lynn Browning	Milwaukee	10262	Roy Churchill	Plover
664	Stanley Steenbock	Clintonville	2037	Jerry Olson	Suamico	6498	Adrian Ste. Marie	Milwaukee	10262	Dennis Lepper	Plover
690	Joseph Nelson	Phoenix, AZ	2063	Robert Ugowski	Crivitz	6707	Leslie Klauck	Kiel	10262	Roger Wangen	Nekoosa
721	Reggie Drott	Butternut	2115	James Roe	Star Prairie	6856	Stanley Paulson	Minneapolis, MN	10331	Harley Jasperson	Chetek
987	Robert Williams	Hartland	2126	Michael Woods	Oshkosh	7345	Donald Bruncker	Ridgeway	10394	James Glenn, Jr.	Hudson, MI
1038	Charles Kuepfer	Chippewa Falls	2260	Howard Fischer	Oconomowoc	7692	Thomas Rickert	De Pere	10394	Walter Pfeiffer	New Berlin
1039	James Stai	Colfax	2306	Kenneth Servin	Beloit	7784	Wendell McLester	De Pere	10394	Roland Potts	Hales Corners
1163	Robert Reifsnider	Beaver Dam	2312	Ronald Hanson	Brodhead	7929	Virginia Morris	Waldport, OR	10818	Howard Lecander	Saint Paul, MN
1530	Richard Wright	Sparta	2312	Hans McGrath	Monroe	8337	David Seaquist	Sister Bay	10818	Martin Schwan	Star Prairie
1580	John Bunjevaca	Ironwood, MI	2336	Boyd Potter	La Valle	8343	Robert Lindner, Jr.	Oak Creek	10911	Rafael Rodriguez	Tomah
1621	Virgil Crook	Janesville	2711	Fred Wisniewski	Stanley	8584	Fred Summerfield	Cashton	15051	Sherman Clay, III	Land O' Lakes
1621	Claude Eakins	Jefferson	2778	Andrew Weyker	Appleton	8813	Earl Jerzyk	Wallace, MI	15051	Donald Kinsey	Three Lakes
1621	William Huschka	Janesville	2925	James Resop	Berlin	9362	Donald Kershner	Sun Prairie	15051	Mathew Lewandowski	Campbellsport
1621	George Kern	Beloit	5158	Paul Jorgenson	Oconomowoc	9362	James Kueffer	Sun Prairie	15051	Lawrence Sedlock	Sussex
1638	Paul Kudick	Merrill	5274	Joseph Klein	Livingston	9392	Terry Christensen	Endeavor	15051	Robert Spencer	Milwaukee
1865	Virgil Comstock	Kenosha	5780	John Coey	Rice Lake	9392	James Taylor	Reeseville	15051	Gary Tidquist	Blair

Deadline for the March 2025 issue is February 7.

Wreaths Across America for 2024



LEFT: The Plover VFW Rifle Squad braces against the wind during the ceremony at the Korean War Memorial. The Squad also presented military honors for a second ceremony at the Plover Cemetery, conducted by the Nay-osh-ing Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), where volunteers placed 140 wreaths on Veteran graves. RIGHT: A combined Color Guard including the Plover VFW Post 10262 Rifle Squad, Plover American Legion Post 543 and the Civil Air Patrol - Stevens Point Composite Squadron braved a bitter chill and biting wind to present military honors for the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Korean War Memorial in Plover.

Thirty-two years after its founding, Wreaths Across America has grown to more than 3 million sponsored wreaths, placed on Veterans' graves at 4,904 locations nationwide in 2024. The wreath-laying fulfills their mission to REMEMBER the fallen; HONOR those who serve; TEACH the next generation the value of freedom. Plover and Marshfield were two of the 104 registered locations in Wisconsin. Thank you to Auxiliary 10262 members Debbie Manthey for info and Peggy Klitgaard-Mancel for photos. Deb also serves on the Plover Post Rifle Squad. For more information about sponsoring wreaths and registering locations, visit: WREATHSACROSSAMERICA.com.



AT LEFT: While the wreath total in Marshfield fell a bit short of this year's goal of 2,200, the nearly quadruple increase from last year's 544 wreaths bodes well for the future. ABOVE LEFT: Scores of volunteers braved the mid-December cold to place wreaths and of course, clean up the wreath cartons at Hillside Cemetery in Marshfield. ABOVE RIGHT: An unnamed volunteer salutes a Veteran grave after placing a wreath at Hillside Cemetery in Marshfield. AT RIGHT: Rest in peace Sailor. You are remembered and honored. Editor photos.



FROM THE HEART

Welcome to 2025. I hope you were all able to enjoy the holidays with family and friends. We have many changes and quite possibly some challenges coming up for this new year. Hopefully, you have all made your arrangements to attend Mid-Winter in Oshkosh – February 14–15, 2025. We will have training on the 15th from Timothy Neary, the WI VFW Department Service Officer. I have asked him to speak on “How we can be the best advocate for your Veteran during the disability process.” We all know our Veterans have difficulty asking for help. Bring your questions with you as we will make time for this.

It will soon be time to nominate and elect new Officers in your Auxiliaries. Have you considered an office before? Is it time to rethink your “Why”? Maybe now is the time to consider stepping up and forward. New Officers in any Auxiliary can be a wonderful change and boost where things have become a bit mundane or stagnate. Don’t be afraid to ask questions about what may be expected of you taking an office. Hopefully, your Auxiliary has some wonderful mentors to assist in this process. Remember, our Veterans continue to need our help and support and that cannot happen without continued membership and participation in your Auxiliary, District and Department.

Cheryl Woodards
Department President
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wivfwacheryl55@gmail.com



Has your Auxiliary made all their donations for the year? Have you been keeping track of all your activities to assist in your Year End Reports? By the time you read this message, you will have received the email with the paper versions of the Year End Reports attached. Stay tuned for the instructions that will be coming, letting you know how you can enter your Year-End Reports online. It will make the reporting process much easier. (There will be a class at the Mid-Winter Conference to help you learn the process.)

I am looking forward to popping up at a few more of your Auxiliary meetings before my time is up in June. If you have something special you would like me to attend, please let me know so I can try to fit it into my calendar.

I would like to thank everyone for their holiday wishes. They were greatly appreciated. Let’s make 2025 a really great year.

AUXILIARY

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

From Dept. JVP/Membership Chair Charlene Cobb:

I am so proud to be a member of the VFW Auxiliary; we have an amazing group of men and women here in Wisconsin, dedicated to “Honoring Veterans Together”. Our Membership article this month is courtesy of District 8 Membership Chair Sally Lamers, who wrote it for their Fall District Meeting. I think it is well-written and carries an important message.

Thank you Sally for permission to share your wonderful article with everyone. I look forward to seeing many of you at Mid-Winter and presenting some Membership Awards. Happy New Year!

Charlene Cobb
JVP/Membership Chairman
262-348-6547
ckcand2k9@yahoo.com



Our organization has members from all walks of life with a common connection: all are relatives of those who served overseas in a location of foreign conflict. Nearly 470,000 members in more than 3,600 Auxiliaries across the nation work to improve the lives of Veterans, service members and their families, and their communities in a variety of ways.

Reconnect with YOUR “WHY”. You might take turns at your next meeting and ask the members “what was their WHY”. Why did they join, why should others join? So many times, in our meetings we get bogged down with the “Ritual” that we forget the “heart”. I believe that membership is not only about recruiting, but also about renewing each member’s “Why” so that they are constantly reminded of what we do and who we are and WHY we joined.

We must remember who we are, why we do what we do, and what we stand for. Our basic WHY can be summed up simply with the Department President, Cheryl Woodards’ theme this year – “Honoring Veterans Together”. This message needs to be clear to anyone we are attempting to recruit. Be PROUD, be INCLUSIVE, be EXCITED, and most of all, be INFORMED.

Membership needs to increase to keep the VFWA strong, so share the passion when you are out in the community and others will notice. Spark their very own WHY. Carry VFWA Membership applications with you everywhere. Start mentoring with the first conversation and stay in touch with potential members.

Our Department Membership as of December 31, 2024: we only need 222 to reach 100% Paid!

Auxiliary	Current Total	Deceased	Paid Total	Prior Total	Current Percent	Paid Percent
Total – Non-District	469	4	473	506	92.69%	93.48%
Total – Dist. 2	1047	19	1066	1091	95.97%	97.71%
Total – Dist. 4	273	3	276	281	97.15%	98.22%
Total – Dist. 6	496	7	503	507	97.83%	99.21%
Total – Dist. 7	1234	11	1245	1272	97.01%	97.88%
Total – Dist. 8	805	13	818	857	93.93%	95.45%
Total – Dist. 9	758	11	769	789	96.07%	97.47%
Total – Dist. 10	653	19	672	682	95.75%	98.53%
Total – Dist. 11	440	4	444	455	96.70%	97.58%
WI – At Large	1332	13	1345	1393	95.62%	96.55%
Total – Dept. of WI	7507	104	7611	7833	95.84%	97.17%

FROM THE CHIEF-OF-STAFF

My wish for the New Year is to have every Auxiliary healthy and strong. The start of a new year is the time when we all want to begin anew on a good note. It is the time when you want to wish for each other a year filled with happiness, joy and loads of success.

The new year is a symbol of positivity. By welcoming the new year on a positive note, it is important that we let go of all the “negativities” accumulated in the year gone by, and start fresh. Just like with the sunrise every day, a new year begins a new chapter in life, with its own set of aspirations and desires.

Now to our mentoring aspect this year. It is up to you and me to mentor our members, create a positive experience and open the door to opportunities. Until next time I leave you with this:

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



EASY WORK
Complaining
Blaming
Lying
Cheating
Pretending

HARD WORK
Inspiring
Mentoring
Helping
Learning
Giving

God Bless, stay safe and healthy during the New Year.

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY
2024-25 QUILT RAFFLE



Prizes: 1st Place: Eagle Quilt (70" x 77") (\$300 value)
2nd: Cardinal lap blanket plus \$75
3rd: Cardinal lap blanket/hanging plus \$50

TICKETS ARE 3 FOR \$10.00

Drawing 3:00 pm, Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025

Oshkosh Marriott Waterfront Convention Center

1 N. Main St., Oshkosh, WI

Supporting Badger Honor Flight



It was all hands on deck as Truax-Longmire VFW and Auxiliary in Madison spearheaded an extremely successful fundraiser for the Badger Honor Flight at the Post home last fall. Completing the day’s Meat Raffle, Basket Raffles, Silent Auction and other events with a live band in the evening, the proceeds totaled \$10,392. Here with the “big check” are (from left): Post Canteen Manager Nikki; Post Commander Ray Beutler; Auxiliary President Elaine Waraczynski; an unnamed volunteer and Badger Honor Flight Board Chair Brian Ziegler. Submitted by Aux. 8483 Conductress Marilyn Anderson.

DRAPING OF THE CHARTER

This listing reflects names as of the most recent reporting of deceased members. While every effort is made to provide accurate and timely information, depending on when the member was reported (or not), it does not necessarily reflect the year of their passing. **Treasurers:** please remember to report your deceased Sisters and Brothers in a timely fashion so we can honor them and their service with this final tribute.

Aux.	Name	City	Aux.	Name	City
305	Barbara A. Zeug*	Spooner	7896	Charlene M. Brandt*	Benton
388	Laura Sullivan*	Wausau	8216	Jeanette L. Duschak	Cross Plains
659	Hazel Zarnik	Green Bay	8216	Theresa A. Kamp*	Middleton
1038	Dolores Frederick-Larson*	Chippewa Falls	8239	Virginia A. Holcomb	Bayfield
1038	Alice M. Marshall*	Chippewa Falls	8483	Bambi McCredie*	DeForest
1866	Shirley Marie Walsh*	Marshfield	8483	Bonnie Zaemisch*	Stoughton
1879	Carol J. Hoffmann*	Fort Atkinson	9537	Antoinette Roos*	Pewaukee
1915	Catherine Scarborough*	Holmen	15051	Patricia Barrett	Belmont
2112	Jeaneta M. O'Neil	Black River Falls	15051	Annabelle O. Brunton	Evansville
2113	Suzanne Uher*	De Pere	15051	Rose M. Burkholder*	Platteville
2260	Rita Kester	Oconomowoc	15051	Alice E. Calloway	Jefferson
2778	Vergene D. Krause*	Appleton	10331	Dorothy Carpenter	Two Harbors, MN
2977	Genevieve Seeger*	Menomonie	15051	Beverly Carpenter*	Platteville
3319	Cole Keberline	Kaukauna	15051	Darlene Carpenter*	Platteville
5373	Louise E. Reed*	Montello	15051	Marie Fatzinger	Platteville
5729	Charlotte Drolshagen*	Medford	15051	Dorothy France	Livingston
6377	Betty Hottenroth	Sussex	15051	Elaine Hollenberger	Lancaster
6707	Marilyn Nielsen*	Kiel	15051	Dorothy Klein*	Platteville
7444	Phyllis A. Schaefer*	Plymouth	15051	Rosemary Kuenster*	Lancaster
7591	Sharon Bronson*	Madison	15051	Jean McPhail*	Platteville
7591	Mary L. Rismeyer*	Fitchburg	15051	Connie Ogden*	Platteville
7692	Dorothy A. Evers*	Appleton	15051	Barbara A. Splinter*	Platteville
7896	Mary Alexander*	Benton	15051	Judith A. Unertl*	Prairie du Chien

* DENOTES LIFE MEMBER
† DENOTES PAST DEPT. PRES.

2025 LILLIAN CAMPBELL SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

It's time to spread the word about our Dept. of Wisconsin Scholarship, the **Lillian Campbell Medical Scholarship**. Now supporting students in a variety of medical fields, the program was formalized and expanded in 1979 from the "Practical Nursing Scholarship" which originated in 1962. It is a wonderful, ongoing tribute to Wisconsin's 30th Dept. President (1954-55) and our Golden Jubilee National President from 1963-64.

The \$1,000 Scholarships are awarded to second-year students studying in such programs as Nursing; Radiology; Pharmacy; Veterinarian; Physician Assistants; Medical and Surgical Technician and more. A separate \$750 Scholarship is also offered to first-year students in a Paramedic Program.

The application period is now open, with a **deadline of April 1, 2025**. Detailed Guidelines and Instructions, as well as the Application form are available at: **LILLIAN CAMPBELL SCHOLARSHIP**. Info may be printed from the website for distribution to students, especially those already employed at medical facilities in your area. NOTE that the applicant or a

Jennifer Mauritz
Conductor/Dept. Scholarship Chair
715-383-8628
jmauritz922@gmail.com



member of their immediate family, **MUST HAVE SERVED IN THE MILITARY.**

How else can you and your Auxiliary get involved? By now, you have deduced that the number of Scholarships awarded is completely dependent on the amount of **donations** received. The **deadline is May 1, 2025** for your donation to be recorded in the Convention book. All donations should be earmarked "**LCMS**" and mailed to: Dept. Treasurer Lenore Otto, 1383 W. Wisconsin Ave., Oconomowoc, WI 53066.

Let's have a **record-breaking year** in this program to support our future medical professionals! Thank you in advance for your support of "Honoring Veterans Together". Please contact me if you have any questions!

Honoring Our Missing

Setting up a "Missing Man Table" in a public space is an excellent way to keep our Missing in Action and Prisoners of War in the hearts and minds of many. Here, Edwin Frohmader VFW Auxiliary 1879 President Dee Dee Carothers sets the table for a display at the Fort Atkinson Public Library for the entire month of September, including MIA/POW Recognition Day. Submitted by Kathryn Kakuschke of Auxiliary 1879.



Holiday Cheer for Women Vets

Two of Santa's hard-working Elves, "AKA" VAVS Rep. Rita Byers (right) and Deputy Laura Coffin, made sure that our Women Veterans at the Tomah VAMC received gifts and our warmest wishes in mid-December. Jen Conzemius, Chief of the Tomah CDCE, (Center for Development and Civic Engagement) gladly accepted the gifts from the Dept. of WI VFW Auxiliary and VFW Auxiliary 8584. Submitted by Rita Byers.



DID YOU KNOW?

An **annual** Auxiliary member **MUST** pay their dues by **June 30, 2025** to maintain their continuous years of membership. The "Reinstate" category no longer exists!

- IF annual dues are not paid, the member will have to:
- **REJOIN** the organization
 - **PROVE** their eligibility again
 - Be **READMITTED** by a vote at the local Auxiliary
 - **START** continuous membership years over
 - **WAIT** a full year to be eligible for a Cancer Grant

DON'T LET YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERS GET AWAY!



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.votervoice.net/VFWWI/home

OR

Scan the QR Code to the right.

SCAN ME

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

HONORING VETERANS TOGETHER
WI VFW Auxiliary Raffle

"Pairing Up to Help Our Veterans"

Thank you to all who purchased this year's Raffle Tickets – and CONGRATULATIONS!



Date	Winner	Amount	Winner	Amount
12/02/24	Mike Otto	\$50	Sandy Morris	\$50
12/04/24	Chetek Police Dept.	\$50	Joan Raisleger	\$50
12/06/24	VFWA 3319	\$100	Patty Soward	\$100
12/10/24	Andrew Stopler	\$50	Jennifer Abraham	\$50
12/12/24	Mary Christianson	\$50	Carol Coffey	\$50
12/16/24	Jody & Jim McKinney	\$50	Ryan Welch	\$50
12/18/24	Sharon Warsaw	\$50	Crystal Flugaur	\$50
12/24/24	Jordan Peterson	\$100	Lorraine Schmutzer	\$100

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day



Frank and Michael Baran VFW Post and Auxiliary 5778 in Phillips hosted a well-received Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Dinner at their Post home in early December. About 50 attendees took part including Post and Auxiliary members, as well as members of American Legion Post 122 in Phillips and AM-VETS and their Auxiliary. About two dozen generous local businesses donated beautiful door prizes and all enjoyed the delicious meal and camaraderie.
Submitted by Post 5778 SVC Mike Frazier with thanks to Debra Metzker for photo assistance.

Christmas with the Cooties



Our favorite “Cootie with a camera”, Bruce Sorensen snapped this photo of our Wisconsin House family at the VFW National Home Cootie Christmas. Unfortunately, “Dad” had to work.

Raingutter Regatta in Denmark



Denmark VFW Post 6705 members Charlie Winnekens and Richard “Sarge” Verheyen (both in back row with Scoutmasters), assisted Denmark Cub Scout Troop 1052 with their Annual Raingutter Regatta sailboat race, serving as judges for the event. What a great group! *Thanks to “Sarge” for info and photo.*

Teaming Up in Wausau

Burns VFW Post and Auxiliary 388 teamed up with employees from Greenheck, a leading manufacturer in Schofield, to support their Ruck March last fall. The March not only provided great camaraderie for Veterans, it also raised funds for Little Lakes Memories, a nonprofit organization that provides lodging, recreation, and hunting trips for disabled Veterans and youth. The Post’s Food Trailer was on-site, as well an info booth for Veterans to learn more about the VFW and Auxiliary. Here, the Greenheck Group Veterans Network Volunteers pause for a photo op before the event. Post members Nick Crochiere and Brian Southworth, both Greenheck employees, are at the far right.
Submitted by Post 388 Newsletter Editor Curt Dahlke.



Joint Visit to WWH-Chippewa Falls

The Dept. of WI VFW and Auxiliary and MOC Grand of Wisconsin made a joint visit to the WI Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls in late September. The day’s events included a tour; donations from all three groups; and “happy hour” out in the new courtyard with refreshments and musical entertainment. From left are: Mike “Woody” Woodards; Karen Johnson, Patty Jansky (in back); Cheryl Woodards, Ron Ramos; WWH Sr. Accountant Lori Wedemeyer; Wilfred “Twiggy” Johnson; Leroy Jansky and Paul Kirsch. We’re not sure exactly what affliction the Commander has that Nurse Frazzle is checking... *Thank you to Patty Jansky for the photo and info.*

Christmas Light Parade in Adams-Friendship



Adams-Friendship VFW Post and Auxiliary 6279 continued their sponsorship of the Annual Christmas Light Parade in 2024. Many organizations, businesses and individuals teamed up for a wonderful start to the Christmas season in the area. The Adams Fire Dept. took First Place in both “Best Theme” and “Best Lights”. Very creative! Submitted by Post 6279 Cdr. Scott Colburn.

Happy Birthday Bernie!



Wineicki VFW Post 9677 in Bellevue celebrated the 99th birthday of Charter Member Bernard “Bernie” Deprey (sitting), shown here with comrade Don Hartman, in early December. It was a great turnout of family and Post and Auxiliary members. Submitted by Auxiliary 9677 Treasurer Pat Siebert.

Berlin Post 2925 Supports Pantries



Wells-Krause VFW Post 2925 presented a \$1,000 donation to the Berlin Food Pantry recently. Pictured (l-r) are: Post Cdr. Dave Klapauskas; Larry Budde; SVC Al Youngbauer; Lisa Workman and Lynn Mork. The Post also donated \$1,000 to the Green Lake County Food Pantry. Courtesy of our friends at Berlin Journal Newspapers.

Helping Veterans in Need in Milwaukee



Greendale VFW Post 10519 and American Legion Post 416 conducted a Joint Food Drive during November, to benefit the Milwaukee Homeless Veteran Initiative (MHVI). An unnamed amount of food supplies were donated as well as a \$500 check from each Post. Drive Chair Dan Crass also collected an additional \$500 from VFW members. Here (from left) are: Kiana Sanchez, Business Operations Manager; Dan Crass, representing Greendale American Legion 416; Debbie Buck Buchanan, Executive Director and John Ustruck, VFW 10519 Commander. Submitted by John Ustruck.

Marking Veterans Day in Portage



Ninety-seven year old Navy Veteran Russ Wyman (seated) was delighted to attend the 2024 Veterans Day Ceremonies at Portage High School with a number of his comrades. A Life Member of Cleary-Krech VFW Post 1707, Russ served in World War II. Three years ago at the observance, he was awarded his Portage High School Diploma, since he joined the Navy in 1943 while still a Junior, and he never finished his studies before going overseas. Thank you to Past Cdr. David Duvall of Post 1707.

Observing Pearl Harbor Day



SVC Ty Letto snapped a photo of the group awaiting the Pearl Harbor Day Program at Buckley-Baldwin VFW Post 2534 in Wisconsin Rapids. He noted that “the Post did an outstanding job honoring the fallen.”

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, 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.

CHECK THESE OUT

2025 Publication Guidelines for Candidates

Upon announcing their candidacy for VFW or Auxiliary elected office – whether new candidate or current office holder – those running for office are afforded **one “free article”** outlining their announcement and qualifications. Space is limited, so standard editing policies apply, with 450 words maximum. A “Dear Comrades” (“Dear Auxiliary Members”) announcement letter format seems to work pretty well. Candidates must also supply one good quality “head and shoulders” .jpg photo electronic file for publication. Current “file photos” may be used as well. *Publication of the “free article” is typically scheduled for the March issue, following the Mid-Winter Conference.*

Candidates are then encouraged to purchase paid advertising in the Wisconsin VFW News at the *substantially discounted* VFW member rates currently in effect. *These ads typically publish in the March and/or May papers.*

- Standard deadlines apply –
- March 2025 paper – deadline of February 7, 2025
 - May 2025 paper – deadline of April 4, 2025

Ad rates – “member and candidate discounted” with sizes shown are:

Price	Size	Width x Height
\$600	Full Page	10.25” x 15”
\$325	Half page	10.25” x 7.5”
\$200	Quarter page	5” x 7.5”
\$125	1/8 page	5” x 3.75”

Ad layout assistance is available free of charge. For more information and to place your candidate advertising, please contact Editor Marla J. Morgan at 715-384-2500 or wivfweditor@gmail.com.

Upcoming Patriotic Observances

February 1	National Freedom Day
February 3	Four Chaplains Day
February 12	Lincoln’s Birthday
February 17	President’s Day (George Washington’s Birthday observed)
February 22	Washington’s Birthday (Traditional)
March 1	Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day
March 29	National Vietnam War Veterans Day



FLEECE HOODIE Established 1899 in gray screened on front. 51/42/7 polyester/cotton/rayon. Front pouch pocket. 7648 S-3XL \$48.00

ANNIVERSARY PIN Enamel with gold plating. Rubber pin back. 1 1/8 x 3/8". Imported. 1795 \$3.00



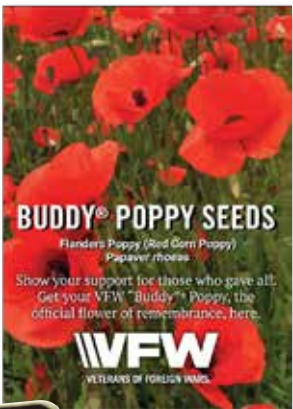
#STILLSERVING KNIT HAT Black knit with solid cuff and embroidered logo. Made in USA. 7921 \$14.95



LEATHER PATCH KNIT CAP Made of 3M Thinsulate® material. Made in the USA. 7174 \$31.95



PATRIOTIC KNIT CAP Show your patriotic side with this warm knit cap! Navy blue with white USA and red stripes plus coordinating pom. Made in the USA. 7236 \$16.95



NEW!
POPPY SEEDS Grow your own red corn poppies. This annual can grow to 12" to 30" tall. Plant in full sun. Approx. 350 seeds per packet. 1250 \$3.00

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of Wisconsin with the
USS Wisconsin
and her crews.



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USS WISCONSIN SSBN 827 ASSOCIATION
to support the Commissioning and crew
of the nuclear-powered ballistic missile
submarine that will carry our state’s name
ON WISCONSIN!

Ad sponsored by Randy Engness, US Navy and Submarine Veteran

Prices valid
through 8/31/2025

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

Honoring the Flag in Medford



Klossner-Dietzler VFW Auxiliary 5729 donated three flags to the Medford Area Middle School (MAMS) last fall, including POW/MIA, American, and Wisconsin flags. Shown here (from left): are Eli Nuernberger; Oliver Nuernberger; and School Principal Mrs. Jodi Butler accepting the Wisconsin flag from Auxiliary 5729 Americanism Chair Pat Jorgensen. Eli and Oliver and their pal Tony Grant raise and lower the flags at MAMS daily. Submitted by Aux. 5729 Secretary Jackie Gregory.

Flag Education in Cochrane



A dedicated Youth Group Committee from Auxiliary and Post 10406 in Cochrane-Buffalo City spent a great day with over 250 3K-6th grade students at Cochrane-Fountain City Elementary School, presenting a variety of topics about the American Flag. Each classroom also received an Auxiliary tote bag of educational materials and patriotic items. The wonderful sessions have paved the way for a return in the spring to present the story of the “Buddy”® Poppy. The team includes (from left): Auxiliary JVP Kathy Kochenderfer; Treasurer Deb Kujak; VFW member James Goss; President Kim Goss; Michelle Klinger Kosidowski, and Secretary Sharon Kamrowski. Submitted by Kim Goss.

Purses with a Purpose in Chippewa Falls

Chippewa VFW Auxiliary 1038 and the United Women of Zion Circle teamed up last fall to support women in need in the

Chippewa Valley through their “Purses with a Purpose” joint project. Auxiliary 1038 members met with the Zion Circle



After a good cleaning, the “goodies” were included.



A Busy November in Plover

Greater Plover Area Memorial VFW Post and Auxiliary in Plover are always busy, but November was especially full of activity. Post member Tim Bubla created several age appropriate Power Points to teach children about Veterans Day. Auxiliary members Ann Hazelton, Sarah Rocha and Americanism Chair Margaret Ann Klitgaard-Mancel assisted him at 12 presentations in the Stevens Point/Plover area schools, engaging with 1,202 students. Depending on the age level, most students were given Patriotic stickers, bookmarks or American Flags. Above, 440 students and 20 Staff members at Washington ES in Stevens Point enjoy the presentation. The group also honored Veterans at several area Nursing facilities, shown here below at Whispering Pines Assisted Living in Plover, with three of the five Veterans honored that day. Submitted by Margaret Ann Klitgaard-Mancel.



The smiling crew shows off their 54 filled purses.

at the Zion United Methodist Church to clean gently-used purses and fill them with personal hygiene products. The workers then enjoyed a pizza lunch, after which they gathered up the 54 purses and took them to the Career Development Outreach Center

(CDC) in Chippewa Falls to be given away to women in need. It was a service project filled with fun and camaraderie between the two groups!

Thanks to Auxiliary 1038 President Patty Jansky for the info and great photos.



LEFT: Post 10393 Jr. Vice Commander Christopher Shriver; State COS Carla McAndrew; Post 10393 Quartermaster Douglas Post. RIGHT: Post 10393 Charter Member John Hall and State COS Carla McAndrew.



**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

Happy 50th Anniversary to Post 10393

Department Chief-of-Staff Carla McAndrew presented Gilbertson-Pitzer-Radley VFW Post 10393 in Boscobel with their National Golden Anniversary Award for outstanding contributions on Veterans Day, 2024. The Post was mustered on August 4, 1974, and has served the community very well in the ensuing half-century. We wish you all the best for the next 50 years!
Info and photos submitted by State COS Carla McAndrew.

Raffle Calendar Winners

Date	Ticket	Name	City	Prize
Nov. 22	3139	M. Reinholtz	Madison	\$50
	9808	L. Andruszkiewicz	Thorp	\$50
	8817	VFW Auxiliary 388	Wausau	\$50
	11331	G. Chevrier	Clear Lake	\$50
	8358	R. Planasch	Pearson	\$50
	3339	S. Frakes	Wauwatosa	\$50
	12503	G. Cusick	Shell Lake	\$50
Nov. 29	6471	P. Berg	Milwaukee	\$50
	11405	C. Goodman	Glenwood City	\$50
	3319	D. Dreske	Elm Grove	\$50
	9700	R. Talford	Augusta	\$50
	7645	VFW Post 8092	Oakfield	\$50
	672	G. Rich	Peshtigo	\$50
	3203	E. Kulke	Milwaukee	\$50
Dec. 6	11691	H. Kingston	Cabot, AR	\$50
	9417	R. Lablanc	Rice Lake	\$50
	2873	L. Chen	Franksville	\$50
	2492	K. Peterson	Two Rivers	\$50
	61403	T. Ghiringhelli	Gwinn, MI	\$50
	10544	J. Dempsey	Onalaska	\$50
	11825	F. Kostka	Ashland	\$50

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

Date	Ticket	Name	City	Prize
Dec. 13	1841	J. Frott	Wake Forest, NC	\$500
	8244	M. Warfel	Sharon	\$50
	9970	A. Gunderson	Strum	\$50
	7854	J. Welch	Fredonia	\$50
	6714	R. Doucette	Adams	\$50
	3730	M. Ziarnik	Cambridge	\$50
	6594	VFW Post 2895	Cudahy	\$50
Dec. 20	8985	R. Wanta	Hatley	\$500
	6510	S. Smith	South Milwaukee	\$50
	9317	T. Bourset	Eau Claire	\$50
	3719	D. Costa	Ft. Atkinson	\$50
	8489	C. Sell	Peshtigo	\$50
	4011	R. McAllister	Oregon	\$50
	6708	C. Adams	Belleville	\$50
Dec. 27	2116	D. Ammerman	De Pere	\$50
	8556	A. Scheunemann	Wis. Rapids	\$50
	10753	VFW Post 7908	Holmen	\$50
	13308	P. Ryan	Kenosha	\$50
	10208	J. Lange	Oregon	\$50
	1868	L. Matuszak	Pulaski	\$50
	12206	VFW Post 1393	West Bend	\$50
	481	L. Rost	Ripon	\$50
	3069	J. McCoy	Trevor	\$50
	4825	A. Krumholz	Horicon	\$50
	10410	L. Haugh	Hillsboro	\$50

Thanks for your support in 2024! Watch the NEWS and the website for our 2025 winners. Happy New Year!

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

WANTED

**Photos of Wisconsin Veterans Memorials
for the 2026 VFW Dept. Raffle Calendar**

REQUIREMENTS: ✓ Full color photos (preferred) ✓ Resolution of AT LEAST 2 MB
✓ Electronic files ONLY (.jpg; jpeg; .png)
✓ Original photos, NOT edited or cropped (preferred)
✓ Photographer name/credit if applicable
✓ Memorials ONLY, WITHOUT people in the photos!
✓ Can be entire memorial or just a portion, such as one specific element/monument.
✓ Photos from all seasons are encouraged.
✓ Multiple views may be sent

PHOTOS MAY BE EMAILED TO [WIVFWEDITOR@GMAIL.COM](mailto:wivfweditor@gmail.com); PLEASE USE 2026 VFW RAFFLE CALENDAR PHOTO IN THE SUBJECT LINE. RECEIPT WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED BY REPLY EMAIL. PLEASE ALSO INCLUDE THIS INFO:
Complete address, city, zip code of Memorial; - Date and year the Memorial was completed; - Groups involved (VFW, municipality, other VSOs, etc.); - Any special or unique characteristics or facts about the Memorial; - Contact person if further info needed.

Deadline is March 21, 2025!



VETERANS
VA MINI FAIR

GET 1-ON-1 ASSISTANCE WITH:

VA Enrollment ★ Monroe County Veteran Service Office ★ Vet Center

Medical Foster Homes ★ Women Veterans Health ★ Mental Health

Respiratory Therapy ★ and more VA programs

 Tuesday
14 January, 2025

 9:00 a.m. -
11:30 a.m.

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JOIN US

Contact Us
608-372-3971 Ext. 64201



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Tomah VA Medical Center

Service with a Smile



SVC Ty Letto and Lisa Patterson were honored to help serve Christmas Day Dinner at American Legion Post 75 and VFW Post 1904 in Fond du Lac. He said, “It was a sincere privilege to spend time with my fellow comrades, be of service, and get a chance to know them and their stories.”

Remembering Our Troops

Heart of the Valley VFW Auxiliary in Combined Locks sends regular care packages to active duty military personnel from the Kimberly School District. Here with another mailing of personal care items and treats are: (l-r, standing) Linda Reitzner and Karen Janssen and Theresa Lamers, with Sally Lamers (not pictured) taking the photo. This box of goodies was destined for First Lieutenant Cassidy Rice, serving in Seoul, South Korea. Submitted by Auxiliary 10244 President Karen Janssen.

EVENTS AND DEADLINES	
January 10-12	MOC/MOCA Grand Mid-Winter Conference – Baymont Hotel, 616 Midland Rd., Janesville, WI 53546
January 12	Deadline for VFW/VFWA Mid-Winter Conference Hotel Rooms (See page 3 Planning Calendar)
January 17	Deadline for ADVANCED VFW/VFWA Mid-Winter Conference Registration and Meals.
January 18	District 1 Meeting – VFW ONLY! – 9:30 am (Regis. 8:30 am) – VFW Post 1621, 1015 Center Ave., Janesville, WI 53547 Rep: COS McAndrew
January 18	District 2 Meeting – VFW ONLY! – 9:30 am (Regis. 8:30 am) VFW Post 2260, 830 E. Wisconsin Ave., Oconomowoc, WI 53066 Rep: Dep. COS Engness
January 18	District 6 Meeting – VFW ONLY! – 10:00 am (Regis. 9:30 am) – hosted by VFW Post 1904 at the Veterans Bldg., 500 Fond du Lac Ave., Fond du Lac, WI 54935 Rep: JVC Simpson
January 18	District 11 Meeting – VFW ONLY! – 9:00 am (Regis. 8:00 am) – VFW Post 1530, 630 S. 6th St., La Crosse, WI 54601 Rep: Cdr. Ramos
January 19	District 3 Meeting – VFW ONLY! – 10:00 am (Regis. 9:00 am) – VFW Post 10393, 836 Wisconsin Ave., Boscobel, WI 53805 Rep: Cdr. Ramos
January 25	District 9 Meeting – VFW and Auxiliary! – Registration 11:00 am; 12 Noon lunch; 1:00 pm meetings. Hosted by VFW Post and Auxiliary 6550 at Viking Golf Course, 282 E. Balsam St., Strum, WI 54770 Reps: SVC Letto and Pres. Woodards
January 31	Deadline for Post Audits to State Headquarters
January 31	FINAL Deadline for VFW/VFWA Mid-Winter Conference Registration and Meals. (With additional fees.)
February 1	District 8 Meeting – VFW and Auxiliary! – 11:00 am (Regis. 10:30 am) – Comfort Suites Rock Garden, 1951 Bond St., Green Bay, WI 54303. (Advance registration for luncheon needed. Meetings follow meal.) Reps: Cdr. Ramos
February 2	District 4 Meeting – VFW and Auxiliary! - 12:00 noon (Regis. 11:30 am) – Joint Voice & Pen Program, followed by social time, then separate meetings – Clifford’s Supper Club, 10418 W. Forest Home Ave., Hales Corners, WI 53130 Reps: Cdr. Ramos
February 7	Deadline for March/April 2025 Wisconsin VFW NEWS (printed and mailed)
February 14-15	VFW/VFWA 2025 Dept. Mid-Winter Conference – Oshkosh Marriott Waterfront Hotel (formerly Best Western) 1 N. Main St., Oshkosh, WI 54901 (Register and pay online at vfwwi.org.)
March 2-6	National Legislative Conference – Washington, D.C.
March 3	Voice of Democracy Parade of Winners (from Washington, D.C.) – visit vfw.org for info on the Live Streaming of this event!
March 9	Daylight Saving Time Begins – move clocks ahead one hour!
April 22	Veterans Day at the WI Capitol – Details in March VFW NEWS!

PROGRAM DEADLINES	
Looking ahead in 2025, here are 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 VFW State Website.)	
February 1	Nominations for Distinguished Fraternal, Patriotic, Historical, Citizenship, Educational, and Service awards due to State HQ.
February 1	Application Period OPENS for the Frank N. Brown Scholarship. CLICK HERE for the program info and application.
March 30	VFW Member of the Year nominations due. Submit online in Members Only section of the State website, vfwwi.org.
April 30	DEADLINE for applications for the Frank N. Brown Scholarship. CLICK HERE for the program info and application.
May 2	All-State Packets due from Post to State HQ.
May 15	DEADLINE for applications for WI VFW Foundation Grants. CLICK HERE for info and applications.
Questions? Call State HQ at 608-221-5276!	

THE BOOK CORNER

PEA SHOOTER PILOT

by John Robert 'Jim' Donohue

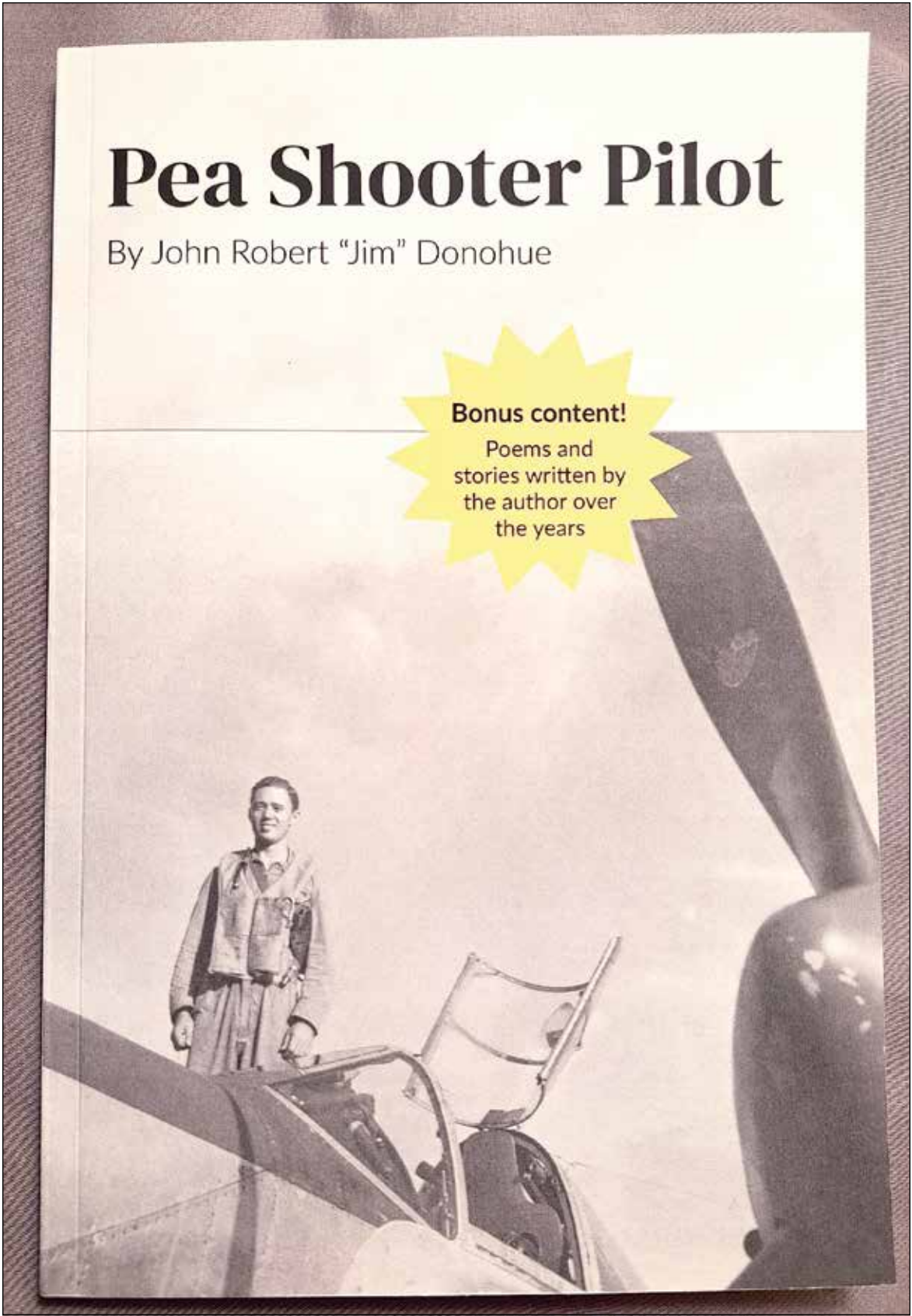
"I was a World War II fighter pilot. The bomber pilots called us "pea shooter pilots," we called them "truck drivers". But it was all in good fun, because we had a lot of respect for one another. I didn't envy them having to fly straight and level through flak and enemy fighters and they were always glad to have a fighter escort. We couldn't do anything about the flak, but we could take care of the enemy fighters."

PARK FALLS, Wisconsin — Our country's history is full of stories of everyday people doing extraordinary things. One of those stories is detailed in a newly released memoir, *Pea Shooter Pilot*. Author John Robert Donohue, "Jim" to his family and friends, details his experience in the Army Air Corps during World War II, including his efforts to enter the aviation cadet program, flight training, and flying P-38s in combat in the Pacific Theater.

Donohue was born in Oxbo, Wisconsin, on Christmas Day in 1922. He graduated from

Draper High School in 1941 and was working in a logging camp in Michigan on December 7 when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. He immediately enlisted in the Army and shipped out before the end of the year. "I didn't think about going to war," Donohue wrote. "This was a great adventure, and I was ready for whatever happened."

After basic training in Missouri, the Army sent Donohue crisscrossing the U.S., first to Ohio, then to Seattle and Alaska, and eventually to California where he attended flight school. After



completing flight training, he was assigned to fighter squadrons in Hawaii and the Pacific Islands. He returned to Northern Wisconsin in December 1945 after the war ended.

Donohue began working on *Pea Shooter Pilot* in his mid-80s and shortly after finished the book and shared it with his family and friends. He recently self-published the book on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), where it is available as a paperback and an e-book.


In addition to his World War II

memoir, Donohue has also written a collection of poems that is included in *Pea Shooter Pilot*. It includes poems inspired by his time in the military, the people in his life, and the occasion of his birthday.

"They throw the word "hero" around pretty loosely these days. There's no doubt there were some real heroes, but I never considered myself one. I had to do something so I picked out the best thing I could think of. I


turned out to be pretty good at it, and I had fun."

Editor's note: *Pea Shooter Pilot* reads like an easy conversation with a dear friend you have known for years. Veterans of any conflict or branch of service will enjoy it immensely! Many thanks to the author's granddaughter, Rebecca Wasieleski, for letting us know about this wonderful, self-published memoir. And all the best to "Jim" as he celebrates his 102nd birthday – and thank you for your service!



John Robert 'Jim' Donohue

John Robert Donohue, "Jim" to his friends and family, was born on Christmas Day in 1922. He is a retired machinist who lives in Park Falls, Wisconsin. He was married to his wife, Phyllis for nearly 60 years, and has two daughters, four grandchildren, one great-grandson, and two great-great-grandchildren. He is an avid outdoorsman with a keen sense of humor.



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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