

V.F.W. NEWS

Published Four Times a Year by Marion C. Cranefield Post 1318
Veterans of Foreign Wars
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Happy Spring, Comrades!

Changes! Changes!! CHANGES!!!! After such a long-standing state of flux, it's finally official: the new home of VFW Post 1318 is open! Technically, it is unofficially official. While the "Official Grand Opening" has not yet occurred, things are already rolling and the doors are open for business. What perfect timing as it seems like Mother Nature has finally wrapped up the Winter in true Wisconsin style; with a few last minute wintry blasts placed right in the early Spring. Now we can look forward to the classic "week of windy weather," and then all of those April showers to start rolling through to start prepping for those buds and blossoms in May. I suppose you can't elect a meteorologist as Commander without expecting some kind of seasonal weather report. But how fitting is this weather report that our May Flowers coincide so nicely with our May 1st Official Grand Opening Date??? I'll tell you how fitting it is; VERY FITTING! Coincidental? Yes, purely. But still fitting nonetheless!

Far be it from me to avoid tying anything to the weather or seasons, but I'll spare you the unnecessary additional metaphors this time around, and dial in the focus to the short form instead. The new VFW Post looks incredible! It is SO NICE, the doors are open for business, the drinks are cold and the kitchen is turning out some great bar fare. The big official Grand Opening is on May 1st, but overall, it will be a multi-day occasion leading up to it with nights of Trivia, Karaoke, and Music on April 28th-30th. Sunday, May 1st will be the big day with a pancake breakfast, a few short speeches and the Official Grand Opening Ceremony!

It seems like it has been a very long process getting to this point and I cannot thank everyone enough who helped to complete this massive undertaking. Making a move is no small task to begin with, but to complete such a tremendous buildout, in the midst of a pandemic, AND facing the adversity of supply chain hiccups, construction setbacks and premiums is an incredible accomplishment! Thank you again to everyone! Your dedication, patience, tenacity, and "never-quit" attitudes have been paramount.

So, there it is, folks! The transition is done and it is time to start leaning forward, once again. It's time to take a deep breath, re-energize and start getting excited about our new home and our new future!

(Continued on page 3)



Commander Carlos Tucker

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

- 1st – Pancake Breakfast – 9:00 to Noon
GRAND RE-OPENING – 1:00 pm
- 2nd – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 3rd – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 4th – Badger Honor Flight – 6:00 pm
- 14th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
- 24th – House Committee – 6:00 pm
Events Committee – 7:00 pm

June

- 6th – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 7th – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 7th to 11th – State Convention-Milwaukee
- 8th – Badger Honor Flight – 6:00 pm
- 11th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
- 21st – House Committee – 6:00 pm
Events Committee – 7:00 pm

July

- 5th – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 6th – Badger Honor Flight – 6:00 pm
- 9th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
- 11th – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 15th-21st – National Convention
- 26th – House Committee – 6:00 pm
Events Committee – 7:00 pm

Post is closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday

The following groups will meet again when allowed:

Madison Veterans Council 6:00 pm

POST OFFICERS

Commander -----Carlos Tucker
 Sr. Vice Commander-----Edward Maiolo
 Jr. Vice Commander -----Steven Eisenhauer
 Quartermaster-----Gundel Metz
 Adjutant -----Joseph Hines
 Judge Advocate -----Bob Evans
 Chaplain -----Rose Doucette
 Surgeon -----Rose Doucette
 Trustee, 3yr -----Kyong Clawson
 Trustee, 2yr -----William Muether
 Trustee, 1yr -----Andrew Lochner
 Officer of the Day-----Elisabeth Harman
 Service Officer-----Will Atkinson
 Guard -----Karl Kleemann
 Americanism/Loyalty Day---Bob Evans
 Community Activities -----Bob Evans
 Legislative Officer -----Joe Hines
 Public Relations -----Joe Hines
 Newsletter Editor-----Gundel Metz
 Web Administrator-----Andy Mansfield
 Voice of Democracy -----Joe Hines
 Youth Activities -----Joe Hines
 Historian-----
 House Committee ----- Bob Evans, Carlos
 Tucker, Edward Maiolo, Steve Eisenhauer, Ray
 Trent, John Kraak, Rose Doucette, Gundel Metz,
 Bill Austin, and Joseph Hines and Permanent Guest
 - Auxiliary Representative
 House Committee and Events Committee meets on
 the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6:00pm

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President -----Ellen Evans
 Sr. Vice -----Rose Doucette
 Jr. Vice -----Elizabeth Moore
 Treasurer -----Melissa Crary
 Conductress-----Gundel Metz
 Secretary -----Adajo Forester
 Trustee, 1 yr-----Nina Smithback
 Trustee, 2 yr-----Rose Doucette
 Trustee, 3 yr-----Elizabeth Moore
 Chaplain-----Sharon Crary
 Guard-----Nina Smithback
 Historian-----Rose Doucette

Find us on FACEBOOK and TWITTER

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/vfw1318

TWITTER@VFWPOST1318

WEB ADDRESS

VFW1318.ORG

Telephone: 608-255-5955

Email: vfw1318@hotmail.com

V.F.W. NEWS DEADLINE IS
 July 4th. IF YOU HAVE A STORY,
 AN IDEA, A WEBSITE TO SHARE,
 PLEASE SEND THE INFORMATION
 IN AN EMAIL OR THROUGH THE
 POST OFFICE TO THE
 NEWSLETTER EDITOR.



CANTEEN

CANTEEN HOURS

Mondays – Tuesdays closed
 Wednesday: Closed
 Thursday: 11 am to 11 pm
 Friday & Saturday: 11 am to 11 pm
 Sunday: 11 am to 8 pm

Canteen Information:

Friday is Cod Fish Sandwich

Trivia every Thursday at 7:00 pm and
 Karaoke every Friday at 7:00 pm

Plus we have the weekly draw on
 Fridays.

WACKO – Every Sunday

Stop on by and meet our staff, Kate,
 Vicki, Erica, Allison, Nicole, Brent, Nate
 W., Flip and others.

As Always call the Post if you want to
 know what is going on that day.

As we prepare to open the new location,
 we will update the menu and any specials
 that we may have.

V.F.W. NEWS OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

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V.F.W. Post 1318
2740 Ski Lane
Madison, WI 53711

Questions or comments about the Newsletter?
 E-mail: VFW1318@hotmail.com

POST MEETINGS:

First Monday of each month @ 6 p.m.

AUXILIARY MEETINGS:

First Tuesday of each month @ 6:30 p.m.

DANE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

210 Marting Luther King Jr. Blvd Rm 108
 Madison, WI 53703
 Phone: 608-266-4158 TDD 608-266-4157
 Legislative HOT-LINE 800-362-9696

**If you want information for the
 on-line Post meetings, please
 contact the Post Quartermaster
 at vfw1318@hotmail.com. All
 Post meetings are hybrid, some
 members at the Post and the
 others via internet.**

(Commander's column continued)

As always, it is a pleasure and a privilege to call you all comrades, and to continue to serve veterans and the community with you, shoulder to shoulder. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on May 1st! Let's make it a great celebration as we start an incredible new chapter in the history of VFW Post 1318!

Warmest Regards,
CARLOS D TUCKER
Commander

STATE COMMANDER AND AUXILIARY PRESIDENT SPECIAL PROJECT

"Let's Bring Them Home"

The Commander and President SECOND Special Project for the year is off to a tremendous start. All donations will go to the UW-Madison Missing in Action Recovery and Identification Project (UW MIA-RIP). The sky's the limit! The more we raise, the more we can donate to this effort to recover some of the 1,500 Wisconsin MIA, dating back to 1941.

The Auxiliary "Fudge Pot" is back in action and the VFW has put a large water jug into service so the competition is heating up! Send donations to:

VFW Donations:

Payable to: WI VFW Foundation

Note CSP on Memo Line

Mail to: VFW of WI

PO Box 6158

Monona, WI 53716-0128

Auxiliary Donations:

Payable to: VFWA-WI

Earmark "Fudge" on Memo Line

Mail to: VFWA Treasurer Lenore Otto

1383 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Oconomowoc, WI 53066

The DEADLINE is May 15, 2022!

"Let's Bring Them Home"



Editor's Note: The Post has already donated to this project. Please send your individual donations to address stated.



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Everyone,

As this Newsletter is reaching you there have certainly been some changes! The “V” is now open and everyone is happy, happy, happy! It has been a long and arduous process, but so worth it. We hope you will take the time to come in and enjoy the regular events now in full swing. Trivia, karaoke and Wacko are back and they are all rolling full force. Jesse Garon is back at it for Trivia on Thursday and we are thrilled.

The new home of the V is something to behold. We want you to come in and take a look around and enjoy the fantastic atmosphere. It is such a welcoming new place for all of you to settle into. The bar is like nothing you have ever seen before at any other VFW, probably in the entire country. That is no exaggeration. The Sunset Patio is unbelievable, and I doubt you will see a more gorgeous sunset at any VFW in the area. They are ready for you to book your next get together. Please come in and see what you think.

The Grand Re-Opening will be at the end of the month of April and culminate on Sunday May 1st. There will be something for everyone to enjoy. Thursday thru Sunday, ending with a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday to start the day, then presentations, cook out and more at 1:00.

Our Auxiliary welcomes all new members, men and women to come join us at our new home. We will have applications available, and will be here to answer your questions. Thank you for your patience, but it was worth the wait!

See you at the Grand Opening!

Ellen Evans
President
Post 1318 Auxiliary

THANK YOU ELLEN

We want to thank Ellen for agreeing to be the Project Manager overseeing the construction process at our new location. Ellen did a fantastic job and worked hard and long. She jumped in and did help on those projects that she could, ie: running errands, painting, staining of the wood, sealing the bar with epoxy, mudding, cleaning, and even tried her hand at putting up base boards and other projects. Plus, she had to do all the coordination with the sub-contractors and of course our contractor, Mike Lamont. She did all this work selflessly and without pay.

ROLLING THUNDER

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Wisconsin Chapter 5 is working hard to put together the first ever Thunder Run: To Prevent Veteran Suicide. The goal is to raise awareness of the seriousness of the Veteran suicides that happen every single day and to work with Wisconsin VFWs, American Legions and other businesses to bring patronage to the establishments on the 2022 Thunder Run.

The Thunder Run Ticket Booklets will be for sale at VFW Post 1318 for \$25 and 50% of the money raised will go towards cash/prizes and the other 50% will go towards Operation Ruck 22 and Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Wisconsin Chapter 5. Purchase your ticket booklets starting April 30th.

July 15th at 6:35 pm, Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Wisconsin Chapter 5 will be the non-for-profit spotlight at the Mallards Game. If you would like to Join Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Wisconsin Chapter 5, tickets are available at: <https://tinyurl.com/RTWISMallards> Tickets includes food and beverages one hour before the game starts.

If you would like to participate in any of these events or have questions about current events or Rolling Thunder®, Inc., please contact Jamie Herrmann directly at: jamieherrmann3@gmail.com



Left: Rolling Thunder members attend Mallard's game in 2019.

Right: Tickets for the Thunder Run.



POST JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades,

This spring has shaped up to be a very busy time for our Post. We have finally been able to move into our new Post home and open the Canteen. If you have not yet had the opportunity to stop by, please do so. I would like to thank Gundel Metz, Ellen Evens and Ray Trent for their leadership and all the time and effort they spent to make this happen.

We are also coming into the busy time of the year for some noteworthy VFW events statewide. I strongly encourage you to attend if possible. Especially the State Convention as we will be celebrating the Departments 100th Anniversary.

April 30th – Loyalty Day in Denmark WI

May 1st – Post Grand Re-opening

June 7th – June 11th – State Convention

June 12th – National Play Day in Waubeka WI

National has started a new campaign as part of the ongoing #STILLSERVING campaign called Day of Service. The VFW Day of Service will bring together VFW Posts, VFW members, community advocates and veterans of every stripe to host community service events in cities and towns across the nation and around the world. Please feel free to contact me if you have any ideas or suggestions. For more information regarding Day of Service please visit <https://todaysvfw.org/vfw-day-of-service/>.

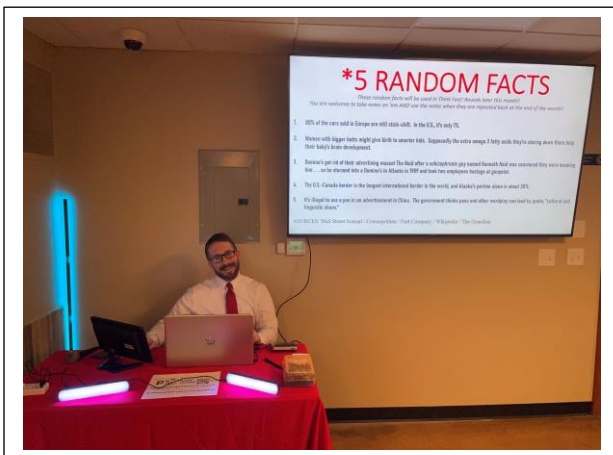
Hope to see as many of you as possible on May 1st.

Best Regards,

Steven J. Eisenhauer

s.eisenhauer22@gmail.com

(402) 239-3737



Come and join Jesse every Thursday evening for Trivia and every Friday evening for Karaoke. A good time is had by all.

VFW LEGISLATIVE

Jason Johns, State Legislative Chair

The 2021-2022 Wisconsin State Legislature concluded its business in early March. At the beginning of the session in January 2021, the VFW of Wisconsin State Legislative Committee stressed to the legislature how important two issues were to us, and if they only passed two veteran bills, it be these two: Expansion of the Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit (SB 243/AB 245) and Appropriation of Funds for the UW's MIA Recovery and Identification Project (SB 602/AB 639).

The property tax credit bill would have expanded eligibility for a property tax credit to 70, 80, and 90% service-connected veterans at a percentage reflecting their rating. We started out with great momentum by having hearings in the Senate and Assembly, and a unanimous vote out of the Assembly committee. However, in the Senate committee, Senators Rob Stafsholt (R)- New Richmond, and John Jagler (R)-Watertown, held up the bill due to costs concerns. We addressed this with an amendment delaying implementation of 70 & 80%. We felt the costs became very manageable due to our amendment and a huge state fiscal surplus. We were back on track for passage. However, at the last hour, the Wisconsin chapter of "Concerned Veterans for America" expressed opposition to the bill. This created an obstacle we did not have time to overcome as legislators who opposed the bill seized upon CVA's position to provide cover in saying that "not all veterans groups support the bill." (Insert rolling of eyes here).

Our other priority legislation was to pass a bill that would provide \$180,000 annually to the UW's MIA Identification Project. Governor Evers put funding into his biennium state budget, but the legislature's GOP controlled Joint Finance Committee removed it yet indicated it would take up stand-alone legislation later and pass it. They did not, and it died at the end of session. This was boggling and frustrating to say the least.

Comrades, I have been involved in veterans legislative advocacy in Madison for 17 years now (14 of that in service to the VFW state legislative committee). In all this time I have never seen a situation where legislators had such a lack of interest, or worse, were proactively opposed, to passage of substantial and truly impactful veterans legislation. These bills were supported by the VFW, DAV, and Legion, who collectively have over 100,000 members in Wisconsin, yet our pleas for passage were ignored. But I tell ya what, the legislature did not hear from these 100,000 veterans. They heard from the state legislative committee chairs and commanders of the VFW, DAV, and Legion. This used to be enough, it's not anymore. Not with how politicized the legislature is, and not with the downtick in VSO membership. The fact of the matter is our collective voice is NOT being heard, period. If we are to be successful in the future, each one of us needs to amplify our voices to account for lower overall membership numbers. After legislative action alerts on social media, emails sent, articles in this paper, and speeches at our meetings around the state, it is safe to say that only 1 % of the collective state VSO membership sent emails or made phone calls to their legislators. Of this, "maybe" 200-300 of the VFW's 25,000 members contacted their legislators. In the end, the mirror shows who ultimately is responsible for convincing legislators to listen. **Twelve one/hundredth of our members passed the mirror test.** This is unacceptable. We must SPEAK UP because IT MATTERS!

Editor's Note: Jason Johns recently transferred to our Post. Jason is a Past State Commander and also currently the State Legislative Chair. When you see Jason, please say Hi and introduce yourself.

EVENTS

BY JAMIE HERRMANN

We are open and are excited to welcome back Jesse Garon with Thursday night Trivia and Friday night Karaoke. Join us on Thursdays and Fridays starting at 7 pm.

VFW Post 1318 is teaming up with other Wisconsin VFWs, American Legions and businesses for the 2022 Thunder Run: To Prevent Veteran Suicide presented by Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Wisconsin Chapter 5. Starting April 30th you can purchase your 2022 Thunder Run ticket booklet from Post 1318, then visit the locations for chances to win cash and prizes at the final drawing on September 30th.

We are looking forward to adding more events and activities at the Post as we head into the Spring and Summer seasons. Follow the website (vfw1318.org) and Facebook @vfw1318 for upcoming events.

The objectives of the activities committee are to support Veterans and the broader community, raise funds for VFW support initiatives and engage VFW membership and internal VFW community building, and communicate to potential new members the value-added to their lives of being a VFW member.

If you would like to participate in any of these events or have other ideas for events that you would like to see VFW Post 1318 participate in, please contact the activities committee members or Jamie Herrmann directly at: jamieherrmann3@gmail.com

MILITARY HUMOR

From Reader Digest Web site

Dad always bragged about the gunners on his ship. Once during target practice, an unmanned drone flew past an antiaircraft cruiser. The cruiser opened up, shells furiously flying all around the drone but not hitting it. Then came Dad's ship's turn. The gunners' very first shot sent the drone into the water! Forty years later, Dad met the man responsible, and he told him how impressed he had been. "Yeah, I got in a lot of trouble for that," the gunner said. "Turns out we were supposed to shoot around it, not hit it." —Patrick McSherry

My granddaughter's husband was complaining about how spellcheck changes the meaning of e-mails when an Air Force officer told him this story: He'd sent a message to 300 of his personnel addressed to "Dear Sirs and Ma'ams." It was received as "Dear Sirs and Mamas." —Phyllis Howard

During World War II, my father often found himself stuck with KP duty. One day, convinced he could improve things, he told the head cook, "If you give me a paring knife, I could peel these potatoes faster." The cook turned slowly to my father and said, "Son, you're in the Army. You have plenty of time." —Jack Girard

Join us April 28th - May 1st for our Grand Re-Opening. Daily drink and food specials.

Thursday 4/28:
7 pm Trivia

Friday 4/29:
7 pm Karaoke

Saturday 4/30:
7 pm Band

★ POST 1318 ★

Sunday 5/1:
9 am - 12 pm Pancake Breakfast
1 pm Grand Re-Opening Ceremony
3 pm Wacko

MADISON, WISCONSIN

POST 1318 TIME CAPSULE

On February 1st, 2022 the Post Commander, Carlos Tucker; Junior Vice-Commander, Steve Eisenhauer; House Committee Chair, Ray Trent; and Post Quartermaster, Gundel Metz, were at our old Post location (133 E. Lakeside St.) to open up the time capsule. At this time, we have not had time to inventory all the items yet, but here are some pictures of the event.



Post Commander swinging the hammer to loosen the time capsule.



Items from 1969 were placed into the time capsule. That was three years after the building was built.



Hope to have inventoried and put items on display by our Grand Re-Opening on May 1st.



SERVICE OFFICER

BY WILLIAM AKINSON

Hello Comrades,

I hope all is well with you and yours as we enter a new spring season of growth and renewal after a long, challenging winter. Many of us have good reasons to be excited, including the completion of our new facility and the upcoming Grand Opening. I am personally looking forward to getting outside more as the weather improves, and to seeing many of you face-to-face once again.

As always, I am here to assist any of you or other veterans you encounter in the community as best I can. Beginning this month, I have asked our Editor to include a list State of Wisconsin (see below) benefits for our members, as many folks may have changing needs or emergent situations arise. Please do not hesitate to contact me with input or feedback at your convenience.

In Service,
- Will

Wisconsin State Veteran Benefits

The state of Wisconsin provides several veteran benefits. For detailed information visit www.dva.wi.gov. You can also visit your County Veterans Service Officer who can assist you in apply for any of these benefits that you may be eligible for.

Wisconsin Veterans Home – King, Union Grove and Chippewa Falls

Wisconsin Veteran Financial Benefits - Income Tax – Military retirement and SBP payments are tax-free; Disabled Veterans Property Tax Credit; Assistance to Needy Veterans Grant; Aid to Military Families

Wisconsin Veteran Employment Benefits - Veterans Retraining Grants; Veterans Preference

Wisconsin Veteran Education Benefits - Wisconsin G. I. Bill; VetEd Education Grant

Wisconsin Veteran Recreation Benefits - Disabled Veterans Fishing License; Active-Duty Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing Licenses; Returning Veterans Hunting & Fishing Licenses; Purple Heart Recipients Licenses; State Parks

Wisconsin Veterans Cemeteries – King, Spooner, and Union Grove

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

POST NEW HOME UPDATE



Left: Some of our customers at the new bar.
Right: Some of our employees:
L-R: Vicki, Nichole, Brent, Erica, and Alison



Left: More customers at the bar
Right: Our new sign mounted on the building facing Highway 14



THANK YOU MIKE

A special thank you to our Contractor, Mike Lamont, for his hard work and vision of the Canteen. We appreciate everything that you did for us. A big thank you also to his number one assistant: Phip.

HAVE YOU MOVED RECENTLY

Please notify the Post if you have moved or have a new email address so that we can keep you informed and plugged into Post Activities

Please send your email address to the Quartermaster so we can send you the Newsletter electronically. Thanks.
vfw1318@hotmail.com