

Serving the Community Since 1925

V.F.W. NEWS

Published Four Times a Year by Marion C. Cranefield Post 1318
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vol 23 No. 1 January/February/March 2023



Greetings, Comrades!

First and foremost, I hope everyone had a most excellent Holiday Season! Secondly, Happy New Year!! While we've completely wrapped up 2022, it is hard to believe that we are also already halfway through the command year! I couldn't be more thrilled with the many great successes we have to be proud of over the entirety of 2022 and many more great opportunities in the year ahead. I feel like this is going to be a banner year for us. Post members have been doing an excellent job in forecasting our needs to get the mission accomplished for 2023. Let's get to the good stuff!

We were chosen by State VFW Commander, Michele Rathke, to host State Training back on October 29, 2022. We had VFW members hailing from posts in both the southern AND eastern Wisconsin in-house for the training event. This was a convenient opportunity to show off our great new Post location and excellent design buildout. I personally received many compliments on our beautiful new facilities and a few subtle hints of jealousy regarding our super-awesome patio. There were even questions regarding our bar top construction materials. Don't quote me on this, but I am almost certain someone gasped when I let them know it was natural stone. They were, at a minimum, impressed... or they just needed some air... I'm going with impressed, though.

I received a phone call from our State Commander, on January 4th, notifying me that Post 1318 has achieved Red Carpet status! This is awarded for maintaining above 90% membership plus recruiting 7 new members, 2 of which must be recruited by the Commander. It's great to be recognized and I cannot thank the members enough for all the hard work they did to earn this! The actual award will be... awarded at the Mid-Winter Conference this February.

Thank you to our Adjutant, Joe Hines, for getting the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen entries into the District Chairman. While our Patriots Pen winners did not place at the District level, our Voice of Democracy entry, McKenna Vandivier, certainly did, taking first place in the District! Unfortunately, competition was very strong at the state level, so she didn't break into the top 3 there. McKenna came by the Post last month and gave her speech to the members (picture is on page 10 of this Newsletter). Great job McKenna and keep up the good work! You can do this again next year and shoot for a top finish at the state level.

(Continued on Page 3)



Commander Carlos Tucker

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

6th – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
7th – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
11th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
28nd – House Committee – 6:00 pm
Events Committee – 7:00 pm

March

6th – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
7th – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
11th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
28nd – House Committee – 6:00 pm
Events Committee – 7:00 pm

April

3rd – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
4th – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
8th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
25th – House Committee – 6:00 pm
Events Committee – 7:00pm
29th – Loyalty Day-Merrill, WI

Post is closed on Mondays

The following also meet at the Post:

Madison Veterans Council
VFW 1318 Band for Rehearsal
Madison Navy League
Riders United

POST OFFICERS

Commander -----Carlos Tucker
 Sr. Vice Commander-----Steve Eisenhower
 Jr. Vice Commander -----Venus Hilgart
 Quartermaster-----Gundel Metz
 Adjutant -----Joseph Hines
 Judge Advocate -----Bob Evans
 Chaplain -----Rose Doucette
 Surgeon -----Rose Doucette
 Trustee, 3yr -----Andrew Lochner
 Trustee, 2yr -----Kyong Clawson
 Trustee, 1yr -----William Muether
 Officer of the Day-----Ray Trent
 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-----William Muether
 House Committee -----Bob Evans, Carlos
 Tucker, Steve Eisenhower, Venus Hilgart, Ray Trent,
 Sharon Warsaw, 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-----Michael Rowland
 Secretary -----Adajo Forester
 Trustee, 1 yr-----Rose Doucette
 Trustee, 2 yr-----Elizabeth Moore
 Trustee, 3 yr-----Michael Rowland
 Chaplain-----Rose Doucette
 Guard-----
 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
 April 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.

V.F.W. NEWS OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

V.F.W. NEWS is the official publication of
 CraneField VFW Post 1318. V.F.W. NEWS is
 published quarterly by V.F.W. Post 1318,

Annual membership in VFW Post 1318 includes
 subscription to the V.F.W. NEWS through email
 or postal mail.

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



CANTEEN

CANTEEN HOURS

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

Canteen Information:

Food Specials:

Taco Tuesday's
 Wrap Wednesday
 Trivia Thursday Nachos
 Friday Fish fry

Happy Hour Specials:

Tequila Tuesday
 Top Shelf Whiskey Wednesday
 Thirsty Thursday
 The Boyle Fridays

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,
 Erica, Allison, Nicole, Brent, Scott, Flip,
 Michael, Anna, and others.

Saturday evenings we may have a band,
 singer or paint night.

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

**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)

I'd like to add a special thanks to Post Senior Vice Commander Steve Eisenhower for stepping up and filling in for me on the occasions that I've been unable to attend Post events. It's been a rough few month due to personal health, family commitments and responsibilities. Thanks so much for carrying the torch and having my back in the times I've been away. In fact, everyone at the Post has been amazing! I talk a lot about being flexible with the changing times and fine tuning our efforts for the future. I genuinely feel like we are taking the right steps in ensuring that we are doing the right kind of work of the VFW. Keep looking ahead! We are all volunteers and doing WHAT we can for the Post WHEN we can, as well as bringing fresh ideas to evolve in lock step with the future. And speaking of fresh ideas... the Events Committee is kicking around ideas for fundraisers, community engagement and any new opportunities. I've got my own dream of someday hosting a Hipster Olympic Games event and fundraiser, but I am sure many of you have some TRULY great (and much more likely achievable) ideas! If you've got some ideas to share or are interested in becoming a member of the committee, please reach out to me, Steve, Joe, or Gundy and let us know. We can always use more ideas, workers, helpers and super-supportive high-fivers.

I can't wrap up this first Newsletter of 2023 without specifically extending my gratitude to the staff in the Canteen. They are doing an excellent job in keeping the canteen running and are always leaning forward to ensure continued growth and success. Ray Trent - House Committee Chair and the staff consistently work hard and long hours to keep the doors open and the customers coming in. Be sure to reach out with a pat on the back any time you see them!

Finally, to remain true to form as your Resident Meteorologist Commander, we are entering the coldest months of the year for Wisconsin. I know, I know. Please don't shoot the messenger. While our January average temperatures are 28 degrees for the high and the average low is just 14, I am forecasting a sunny outlook for all of 2023 in all that we can accomplish!! In fact, THE SKY IS literally, figuratively and metaphorically, THE LIMIT! We have adopted the 115th Fighter Wing at Truax Field and are off to a great start in fostering a strong relationship. We are exploring opportunities to get involved with some future events they will be hosting and they have begun scheduling parties at the Post as well as stopping in for lunch or drinks. This partnership is ours to define and grow. I personally feel great about maintaining solid camaraderie with our local service members and strengthening mutual support between those presently serving in the Air Guard and those of us continuing our service and support in VFW Post 1318. Be on the lookout for Fighter Wing events and volunteer opportunities!

Thanks again to everyone for your membership, dedication, and continued commitment and support to Veterans.

As always, if you want to volunteer for a project or have an idea, please let us know.

Very Respectfully,

Carlos D Tucker
COMMANDER



Did you know that if you attend a Post meeting, you have a chance of winning some money? At every meeting all members put \$1.00 into the pot. That evening one person wins half the pot, and the other half goes into a second pot to see which member on our roster is the winner. The second pot is over \$200 right now. You have to be present in person to win.



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Everyone,

I hope the new year finds you all healthy and well! Do not have a lot of activity since the last newsletter, but we did have our biggest and most exciting activity of our year so far. Shop With A Cop was a huge success as it was the first year since the pandemic that we were able to have the children and the officers on site. There was a flurry of activity for a number of hours and it was a true test of our new facility! With the help of the dance studio on the second floor, we were able to make it the huge success we were hoping for.

It's a wonderful thing when we can work side-by-side with law-enforcement as they reach out to help Dane counties children. We are always more than willing to help. We always welcome new members as we can use an extra set of hands at any of our activities. Please feel free to contact VFW or myself if you have any questions.

We look forward to seeing you at the V, and look forward to you possibly becoming a new member of our auxiliary.

Ellen Evans
President
Post 1318 Auxiliary



Pictures from Shop with a Cop that was held in December at the Post

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

STEVE EISENHAUER

Greeting Comrades,

I hope everyone was able to enjoy the Holiday's with family and friends. First off, I would like to congratulate CDR Carlos Tucker and Post 1318 on achieving Red Carpet Status at the Mid-Winter conference in Oshkosh the first weekend in February. Well done and well-deserved Commander. To use a Naval term, Bravo Zulu.

Last year ushered in significant changes for our Post. We were finally able to re-open our Post at our new home at the end of March. There were a lot of key people involved in this project. Since re-opening, I would like to commend Ray Trent for his dedication to the Post, Veterans and First Responders. Ray has a vision for our Post. His vision is starting to materialize, and the future looks bright. But he cannot do it by himself. We need to do what we can to support him, our mission, and goals.

He has assembled a fantastic staff. A staff that cares about our Post and our mission of supporting Veterans. I have had the opportunity to get to know most of them and consider them part of our family. If you have not had the opportunity to visit the Post, I strongly encourage you to do so.

On to the New Year. Last fall Post members unanimously voted to adopt the 155th Fighter Tactical Air Wing. Once the adoption of the Wing was formalized by National Headquarters it has been one heck of a ride, so far. To date we have hosted three lunches at the Post. Two with Wing Leadership and one with Group Leadership. We have also hosted two Squadron holiday parties.

State Adjutant Adam Wallace, our beloved Gundy and I had the privilege and honor of attending the Wings Annual Award ceremony on January 7th. We presented the Wing Commander with the certificate of adoption and a letter from the VFW National Program Director. Throughout all these initial events, I have lost track of how many current Service Members I have talked to have expressed their sincere appreciation for seeing members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars present at their Command, getting involved, and discussing how we can collaborate to achieve a common goal. These are exciting times Comrades.

I am in routine communication with the Wing to see what lies ahead. As far as I'm concerned, the sky is the limit. I would ask everyone to view this as what we can do for each other, not just what we can do for them. This is a two-way street. In the future, we will be reaching out to see if members have the time to help support events, as they get scheduled, to benefit our current Service Members, their families, and Veterans.

Comrades, we have the potential to have a great and very rewarding year, but we will need help. We are starting to schedule fund raising events to benefit Veterans, the Wing, community, and our Post. Please do what you can, when can, to support our mission and goals.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

Best Regards Comrades,
Steven J. Eisenhower
Senior Vice-Commander

ADOPT-A-UNIT

115TH FIGHTER WING

The **115th Fighter Wing (FW)** is located at Truax Field, Dane County Regional Airport in Madison, WI. The unit was equipped with 23 F-16C Block 30 aircraft as the primary aircraft assigned and a single RC-26B Metroliner as a secondary aircraft.

The 115th Fighter Wing was recently selected by the Air Force to receive a new fleet of F-35A Lightning II aircraft and to host the F-35A mission. The F-35 is one of the world's premiere fighter aircraft that has the ability to perform air-to-air, air-to-ground and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions. The unit expects to receive the first F-35A aircraft sometime in 2023.

Additionally, the 115th Fighter Wing supports many domestic operations missions. These missions include a world class fatality search and rescue, explosive ordinance disposal, firefighting and emergency response for the Dane County Regional Airport, debris clearance removal, and other domestic and local missions as assigned and requested by the Governor of Wisconsin.



COL Van Roo, Commander 115th Fighter Wing presents the Post a picture at the Post meeting



Left: Official Certificate of Adoption.

Right: COL Van Roo and CMSGT Carroll



115th Fighter Wing (continued)



115th Fighter Wing awards ceremony 7 January 23. A few members showed up.



QUARTERMASTER REPORT

GUNDEL METZ

Every year our Post donates money in December to various organizations. We receive \$5000 from an anonymous company and the Post members present at the December Meeting decide were to donate that money to. This year it was voted to give:

\$1000 for Shop with a Cop

\$1000 for UW MIA Project (of that is \$500 we were going to give to Rolling Thunder)

\$1000 For Toys for Tots

\$600 for VETS CAN

\$500 for Second Harvest Food Pantry

\$500 for River Food Pantry

\$400 for Dane County Sheriff's Office-Infants

Plus, we donated \$1000 to 115th Fighter Wing Family Support Group – This helped three guard members for Christmas.



Left: Post Service Officer Will Atkinson Presenting Check to VetsCan, Natalie Isensee, JD Enghardt, and Connie Walker

Right: Post Service Officer Will Atkinson and Natalie Isensee presenting check to Riyadh Alabbasi, Operations Specialist River Food Bank.



ROLLING THUNDER® INC.

WISCONSIN CHAPTER 5

BY JAMIE HERMANN

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Wisconsin Chapter 5 had a busy 2022. Below is a recap of the major events we participated in. Please watch our Facebook page: Rolling Thunder Wisconsin Ch 5, for events coming up in 2023.

Thunder Run: To Prevent Veteran Suicide: In March of 2022, we teamed up with 31 Bars and Wisconsin VFW's to raise money and awareness of Veteran Suicide. The event raised \$18,850. Half of all the money raised went to cash and prizes for the participants, with the other half of the money going donated to Operation Ruck 22 of Wisconsin, Custom Canines, and the Rolling Thunder general fund to help Veterans.

VFW Gala: In June Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Wisconsin Chapter 5 members purchased a table and attended the Wisconsin VFW Centennial Roarin' 20's Celebration.

Mallards: Non-for-profit Spotlight In July, Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Wisconsin Chapter 5 was the non-for-profit spotlight at the Mallards Game. The non-for-profit spotlight includes members selling 50/50 raffle tickets, a commercial telling more about Rolling Thunder®, Inc. and our junior member, Henry, threw out the first pitch.

Operation Ruck 22 Sponsorship and event: Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Wisconsin Chapter 5 set up a water and snack table along the September 2022 Ruck event. A couple of members walked the 18 k Ruck, others helped by handing out snacks and water, then set up an information table at the end of the event back at VFW Post 7591. Rolling Thunder®, Inc. donated \$6,000 to Operation Ruck 22 of Wisconsin in 2022.

Stand Down Madison: Stand Down event invites our Veterans experiencing homelessness to a daylong event. October 2022, Rolling Thunder members signed up to be a Buddy which helps the Veteran walk through the stations to get supplies and help needed, then eats breakfast with their Veteran. Other members help with security and parking.

Medical Emergency Training: In October 2022, member Paul Fazekas held a Basic Medical Emergency Training for Rolling Thunder members. These trainings are open to the Public, please keep an eye out for future trainings

Annual Holiday Extravaganza: November 2022, Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Wisconsin Chapter 5 will be hosted their Annual Holiday Extravaganza which included meat and basket raffles and Quarter Auction at VFW Post 1318. Money raised from the raffles was put towards Hosting a Veteran family for the holidays.

Holiday Host a Veteran Family: December 2022 Rolling Thunder®, Inc members shopped, wrapped and delivered gifts to the Veteran family needed help for the holidays. Each year Rolling Thunder®, Inc. helps a Veteran family in need. If you have a Veteran family that you would like us to consider for this, please contact us.

If you would like to participate in any of these events or have questions about current events or Rolling Thunder®, Inc., please contact Rolling Thunder®, Inc. directly at: rtmadison5@gmail.com

EVENTS

JAMIE HERMANN

Happy New Year!

The VFW Post 1318 activities committee has started to discuss and plan events for the 2023 year.

Here is a glimpse into some of those events we have started discussing and planning:

- January 10th we will be hosting our first Designer Purse Wacko. Participants have the chance to win a designer purse. Registration starts at 5 pm and Wacko will start at 5:30 pm.
- January 22nd 8 am – 1 pm, Please join us at the Post for our first pancake breakfast.
- Watch for the opportunity to bring your best pot of chili for a Chili Cook Off in February
- In March the Post will be in the new location for 1 year. Please watch for information to participate in our 1 year Anniversary Celebrations
- Weekly Thursday night Trivia and Friday night Karaoke with Host Jesse Garon and Sunday Wacko has been going strong!

Please follow our Facebook page: The VFW – Post 1318 and website calendar: <https://vfw1318.org/> to keep up on the latest events at the Post.

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



VFW 1318 BAND

JAMES LATIMER, CONDUCTOR

In 1950, Mr. Music Man himself, Dr. Elmer Ziegler, moved to Madison. He was a Navy veteran; he joined Post 1318 and formed the VFW 1318 Band. At that time there were several veterans in the band and it was open to community musicians who loved to play music. Ziegler had already established bands in Muscatine, IA and Rock Island, IL. It was his philosophy there should be a community band in every city, village and town in America.

In late 1980, Ziegler took ill and asked current bandleader, Jim Latimer, to help with the band. Unfortunately, Ziegler passed on in February 1981 and the rest is history. Veterans came and went but Latimer stayed with the band at the insistence of the UW Bandleader Legend who served on the Board, the late Raymond F. Dvorak. The band rehearsed at the Club, left the club due to flooding in the basement rehearsal room at 133. E. Lakeside Street early in 2000, and took up rehearsal residence at St. Mary's Care Center. In 2021, as the community was coming out of COVID19 pandemic, the band was invited back to Post 1318's new building with a room large enough to host the band's rehearsals. Band members range in age from 20 to 90. All are volunteers and volunteers are welcome.

The band rehearses on Monday evenings at "*The V*" (Post 1318), 2740 Ski Lane, Madison. You are in good hands at *The V* and under the baton of Jim Latimer. If you have and play a band instrument and would like to join the band, contact Jim Latimer at bands.latimer@outlook.com or call 608 835-9861. HONOR OUR VETERANS through music.

where motion is fundamental and Music Matters

James H. (Jim) or MJ Latimer

PO Box 258007
Madison WI 53725-8007
Tel. 608 835-9861
Email: jhlatime@wisc.edu



Left: Jim Latimer, Gundel Metz, NCM/Quartermaster, and Gulf Company Marines at Forest Hill Cemetery Ceremony

Right: The band rehearsing at the Post.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

JANUARY 22, 2023

8:00 – 11:00 am



Buttermilk PANCAKES

Fresh SCRAMBLED EGGS

SAUSAGE

COFFEE

JUICE

Milk and Chocolate Milk

\$7.00 PER PERSON OR \$4.00 CHILDREN UNDER 6

Also available at the bar - mimosas for \$3.00

MEMBERS CORNER



Post Senior Vice
Commander Steve
Eisenhauer
presents WW II
member Karl
Kleemann with his
Gold Legacy Life
Membership



Left: Post VOD
winner McKenna D.
gave her speech to
Post and received her
certificate and check.

Right: Post Patriots
Pen 2nd Place winner,
Owen R. read his
essay and received
his certificate and
check



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