

V.F.W. NEWS

Published Four Times a Year by Marion C. Cranefield Post 1318
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vol 24 No. October/November/December 2024



Greetings Comrade,

I hope everyone was able to enjoy their summer and spend quality time with their families and friends. There were a lot of events that took place at the Post over the last 3 months and a lot more events scheduled through the end of year. Please take a moment to review the Events Calendar that is periodically sent out. Many of these events at the Post are family friendly events. I encourage Post Members, along with their family and friends, to attend and checkout some of these events.

Speaking of events, we are trying to get involved in Community Events in the Fitchburg area. The challenge we have is the lack of volunteers to help with these Community Events. Why is it important for us to be visible in the Community? Community Service and involvement in the Community is one of the ways we fulfill our purpose as outlined in our Congressional Charter. This a way for us to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their surviving spouses and children and foster true patriotism. It is also an opportunity for us to educate people what a Veteran is, who the VFW is, and what we do. Recently some Post members helped with the Fitchburg Night Out hosted by the Fitchburg Police, Fire, and EMT. You may be surprised at how many kids and young adults did not know or knew very little about Veterans and the VFW.

In the coming months we are going to try to schedule activities in the Community. Please try to find the time to volunteer and support one of these events. As we head into the fall and winter months, we are once again faced with the cold, flu and covid season. Please consider getting vaccinated and taking the necessary precautions.

Please feel free to call or email me if you have any questions, suggestions, concerns, or complaints. I am always open to feedback.

In honor of Veterans Day, "To our men and women in uniform, past, present, and future, God Bless you and thank you." – unknown

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Yours in comradeship,

Steve Eisenhauer
s.eisenhauer22@gmail.com
Cell: 402.239.3737



Commander Steven Eisenhauer

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

- 1st – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30pm
- 7th – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 12th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
Operation Ruck 22 Fundraiser –
3:00-7:00 pm
- 22nd – House Committee – 6:00 pm
Events Committee – 6:30pm
- 27th – Meat Raffle – 3:00 pm
- 28th – Pancake Breakfast – 8:00-11:00 am

November

- 4th – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 5th – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 9th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
Fundraiser Shop with a Cop –
3:00-7:00 pm
- 23rd – Meat Raffle – 3:00-5:00 pm
- 24th – Pancake Breakfast – 8:00-11:00 am
- 26th – House Committee – 6:00 pm
Events Committee – 6:30pm

December

- 2nd – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 3rd – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 14th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
- 17th – House Committee – 6:00 pm
Events Committee – 7:00pm
- 28th – Meat Raffle – 3:00-5:00 pm
- 29th – Pancake Breakfast – 8:00-11:00 am

- Thursday Night Trivia 7:00 – 9:00 pm
- Friday Fish Fry all day and
Karaoke 6:30 – 10:30 pm
- Sunday fun with Wacko at 3:00 - 5:00 pm

POST OFFICERS

Commander -----Steve Eisenhower
 Sr. Vice Commander-----Venus Hilgart
 Jr. Vice Commander -----Rose Doucette
 Quartermaster-----Gundel Metz
 Adjutant -----Joseph Hines
 Judge Advocate -----Bob Evans
 Chaplain -----Sharon Warsaw
 Surgeon -----Rose Doucette
 Trustee, 3yr -----Tim Hilsenhoff
 Trustee, 2yr -----William Muether
 Trustee, 1yr -----Andrew Lochner
 Officer of the Day-----Ray Trent
 Service Officer-----Steve Eisenhower
 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/PP-----Joe Hines
 Youth Activities-----Jason Homer
 Historian----- William Muether
 House Committee ----- Bob Evans, Steve
 Eisenhower, Venus Hilgart, Ray Trent, Sharon
 Warsaw, Rose Doucette, Gundel Metz, Bill Austin,
 Joseph Hines, Kyon Clawson 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 Cray
 Conductor-----Michael Rowland
 Secretary -----Adajo Forester
 Trustee, 1 yr----- Rose Doucette
 Trustee, 2 yr-----Elizabeth Moore
 Trustee, 3 yr-----Michael Rowland
 Chaplain-----Rose Doucette
 Guard-----Mike Rowland
 Historian----- Rose Doucette

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
 Trivia Thursday
 Friday Fish fry

Happy Hour Specials:

Tequila Tuesday
 Top Shelf Whiskey Wednesday
 Thirsty Thursday
 The Boyle Fridays

Live music every Wednesday, 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, AP, Michael,
 Anna Marie, Lee, Janelly, 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.

**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
 SEPTEMBER 30th. 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
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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**

1709 Aberg Avenue – Suite 2
 Madison, WI 53704
 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.**

ROLLING THUNDER® INC.

WISCONSIN CHAPTER 5

BY WILLIAM MUETHER

Rolling Thunder Activities This Quarter:

- Escort ride on May 28 to Nixon Park in Hartland, WI. for the Wall That Heals.
- Meat raffle at the post on June 22.
- 3rd annual Thunder Run on September 21 at Home-A-Gins in Mount Hope, WI. This event raised \$22,480 with half of the proceeds going towards cash prizes and the other half reserved for support of local/national veteran organizations including the UW MIA Recovery and Identification Project, Custom Canine Services and Ruck 22.



Chapter members with service dogs from Custom Canine Services at the Thunder Run

- Pancake breakfast on September 22.
- Elections conducted in September for the offices of Vice President, Secretary and one Board of Directors position.

Upcoming events:

- Annual participation in the Operation Ruck 22 march on October 13 where the chapter will be providing refreshments to the participants.
- Two of our members will be attending the annual Rolling Thunder Conference in DC scheduled for November 1-2.
- A second Rolling Thunder meat raffle is scheduled for November 23 at the post.

Please contact the chapter at rtmadison5@gmail.com if you would like to join us or participate in future events, or if you have questions about Rolling Thunder®, Inc. You do not need to be a veteran or own a motorcycle. All we require is an earnest desire to help raise POW/MIA awareness and assist our local veterans in need.



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Everyone,

The past couple of months have gone by with few events concerning the Auxiliary. We are looking forward to a fall with a couple of our favorite events coming up. On October 13th we will be setting up on the route for Operation RUCK 22. Come by and say hi. We will be near the Holiday Inn on John Nolan Drive. We are able to provide water, fresh fruit and healthy snacks for the walkers. It is just a small way we can contribute to the efforts of RUCK in the prevention of suicide. The Post and Auxiliary are having an Operation Ruck 22 fundraiser on 12 October from 3:00-7:00 pm. The Post will be selling pulled pork with fixings. Come and enjoy a great sandwich.

On October 9th some members of our Auxiliary will be attending a dinner in honor of National President Brenda Bryant. November 9th we are holding a fundraiser for Shop with a Cop. Please come out and support this very worthwhile event and have a great spaghetti dinner.

Lastly is our very favorite, Shop with a Cop. We team up with local law enforcement and host an extreme gift wrapping, food filled extravaganza for area children in need. It is so rewarding to be able to do even a little bit to help.

Next will be hosting the Pancake breakfast in January. The fourth Sunday of the month. All you can eat pancakes. Who can resist!

We are always looking for new members for our group to help and participate as you can. Contact me or the Post if you are interested.

Thank you for your time.

Happy Fall!

Ellen Evans
VFW Post 1318
Auxiliary President

Auxiliary Member Gundel Metz with Past National Auxiliary President's Cortina Barnes and Janet Owens



115TH FIGHTER WING UPDATE

COMMAND CHIEF MICHAEL ALVAREZ

As the Fighter Wing moves into the fall and winter, we are transitioning from a spring and summer filled with training and exercises to a period of deployment and transition. We currently have about 100 members heading out the door to various parts of the Middle East and Africa. The missions vary widely from firefighting to explosive ordinance disposal, contracting support and foreign embassy support. Our incredibly talented airmen are bringing their Wisconsin pride and high work ethic out to the field and we look forward to seeing what they accomplish overseas.

While those airmen head out to support the federal mission, we who remain back here are continuing to wrap up the transition to the F-35. We have a few construction projects being finished that were related to the conversion, and of note, have a new small arms range now being built on base. Many of our folks who have been working out of trailers for nearly three years are now settled into their new buildings and are finally able to stretch their legs a bit! Additionally, we have received the majority of our F-35s and are planning to accept the last few over the winter. We are looking forward to putting the final touches on the transition and looking to the future.

In terms of looking into the future, we have had a major announcement at the 115th. Our current Wing Commander, Col. Bart Van Roo will be departing and heading over to Joint Force Headquarters, and Col. Ben Gerds will be moving up from the Operations Group Commander to become our new Wing Commander. Col. Van Roo leaves behind a strong legacy and big shoes to fill, and Col. Gerds is certainly the person to fill them. Col. Gerds grew up in Minnesota and graduated from UW-Madison. He is a command pilot, USAF Weapons School graduate and has deployed 8 times flying the F-16. He has previously been the 176 Fighter Squadron Weapons Officer, Director of Operations, Squadron Commander, F-35 Conversion Officer and Operations Group Commander. The change of command will take place in November.

Additionally, Col. Tim Guy, our current Deputy Wing Commander, will also be departing to take over command of the Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center in Camp Douglas, WI. He has been a tremendous asset to the Wing and we are sad to lose him, but excited for his new opportunity. A new Deputy Commander will be named soon.

As I write this article, our command teams at the squadron, group, and wing levels are at a leadership summit working through an update on our Wing mission, vision, and priorities. Our main focus structurally in the past handful of years has been to bring in the biggest and baddest fighter in the inventory to the 115th. Now that we have it settled in, we are building our readiness for the next potential fight to ensure our airmen are ready to operate and survive in theater and ensure that we can deploy and execute the F-35 mission worldwide. We are excited about the upcoming years at the 115th and continue to be ever thankful for the support of Post 1318!

LEGISLATIVE

JOSEPH HINES

With the upcoming election this November many voters have heard or will hear of a document called Project 2025. Project 2025 is a political initiative published by the conservative think tank Heritage Foundation in 2022. Conservative interpretation of this document views this initiative as an approach to dismantle what they view as a vast, unaccountable, and mostly liberal government bureaucracy. Liberal interpretation of this document views its contents as an authoritarian, nationalist plan to steer the U.S. toward autocracy. Legal experts have said it would undermine the rule of law, separation of powers, separation of church and state and civil liberties. In the coming days there will be all manner of commentary on this document and what it means for this nation as a whole and veterans in particular. I would strongly advise all members to search Project 2025 on the internet and view its contents. You can access this document by simply typing in Project 2025 on any web browser. When you review Project 2025 pay particular attention the portion of this document that addresses the reorganization of the Veterans Administration. The reorganization of the Veterans Administration is addressed in Section 20 (pages 641-661). No matter what your affiliation is, I encourage everyone to go out and vote.

The poster features the VA logo and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs seal. The main heading is "Get your free vaccines at VA". It is divided into three sections: COVID-19, Flu, and Flu Shots Outside of VA. The COVID-19 section lists the 2024-2025 Moderna version and provides instructions on where to get the vaccine. The Flu section lists instructions on where to get the vaccine. The Flu Shots Outside of VA section provides a QR code and the website www.prevention.va.gov/flu.

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Get your free vaccines at VA

COVID-19

- 2024-2025 Moderna version
- Walk in at main hospital, or
- Schedule with primary care clinic

Flu

- Walk in at main hospital, or
- Schedule with primary care clinic

Flu Shots Outside of VA

Visit www.prevention.va.gov/flu

Updated flu and COVID-19 vaccines are now available to enrolled Veterans for free. If you're in the **main hospital**, stop by our table anytime **Monday-Friday between 8:00 am and 3:30 pm**. It is safe to get them both at the same time.

You can also schedule an appointment with your **primary care clinic**.

Flu shots can also be received outside of VA by visiting www.prevention.va.gov/flu - find your nearest location and follow all directions regarding the information you'll need to take with you.

EVENTS

JAMIE HERRMANN

We had a busy summer filled with live music every Wednesday with local bands, Thursday night Trivia, and Friday night Karaoke. This summer local non-profit organizations hosted the monthly meat raffle until the Post started back up the regular monthly meat raffles in September. This allowed customers to meet these organizations and the organization to visit the VFW with their friends and family. Monthly All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast is still going strong each month (except November), each month hosted by the Post members, Auxiliary, 115th or Rolling Thunder Wisconsin Chapter 5.

In August, Post and Auxiliary Members volunteered at Fitchburg Community Night Out, where they cooked and served food and had a table to welcome the community members to learn more about the Post.

We have a lot of exciting activities planned for the remainder of the year!

Our regularly scheduled weekly events for the next quarter:

- Wednesdays: Veterans on the Fly will be teaching participants how to tie fishing lures. This is free to Veterans, their family, and friends. Join us from 6 pm – 8 pm.
- Wednesdays: Live Music from 6 pm – 9 pm
- Thursdays: Think Fast Trivia 7 pm – 9 pm
- Fridays: Karaoke starting at 6 pm – 10:30 pm
- Sundays: Wacko from 3 pm – 5 pm

October

10/5 – We are excited to host our second Chunky Blanket Class 1 pm – 5 pm, participants will learn how to hand knit a blanket and go home with a complete blanket.

10/12 – Pulled Pork Dinner Fundraiser 3 pm- 7 pm. Funds raised will be donated to Operation Ruck 22 of Wisconsin. People can register or pick up their packets for the 2024 Ruck event on 10/13 during this event. VFW Post 1318 is a sponsor for Operation Ruck 22 of Wisconsin. For more details on Operation Ruck 22 please see their website: www.operationruck22.com

10/12 – Paint Night 6 pm – 9 pm. Our master artist, Tad McLain, will guide you through the process step-by-step to create your beautiful painting. This month will be Blissful Falls

10/13 – Auxiliary and Post Members will be on the Operation Ruck 22 route to hand out snacks and beverages and cheer on the marchers as they continue to the last half of the 18k ruck.

(Events continued from page 7)

10/26 – Meat Raffle **4:30 pm – 6:30 pm**. Join us for an afternoon of fun and your chance to win delicious meat.

10/27 – Pancake breakfast hosted by Post members from 8 am. – 11 am. Come in for the all-you-can-eat Pancake breakfast.

November

11/2 – Holiday Extravaganza Fundraiser for the Post. Join us for a quarter auction, winning fabulous prizes for as little as a quarter, join in our basket and 50/50 raffles

11/9 –Fundraiser for Shop with a Cop. Join us from 3 pm – 7 pm for a fundraiser raising money for the annual Shop with a Cop event.

11/16 - Our master artist, Tad McLain, will guide you through the process step-by-step to create your beautiful painting. This month will be **Astro Flower**

11/23 – Rolling Thunder Meat Raffle. Join us for an afternoon of fun and your chance to win delicious meat.

11/30 – Latin Dance Night – come dance the night away and learn new Latin Dance moves.

December

12/2 Designer Purse Wacko 6 pm – 8:30 pm. Register for our Designer Purse Wacko where you could win one of many designer purses.

12/21 Paint Nite – 6 pm – 9 pm Our master artist, Tad McLain, will guide you through the process step-by-step to create your beautiful painting. This month will be **Did Somebunny Say Christmas?**

12/28 Meat raffle 3 pm – 5 pm

Events continue to be added throughout this quarter. To keep up on the latest bands and events happening at The “V” follow our Facebook page: The VFW – Post 1318 and website calendar: <https://vfw1318.org/>.

Thank you for coming out to support our quarterly events and sharing these with your friends and family. These events help raise awareness to our community and local Veterans/their families of the amazing place VFW Post 1318 is and how the Post helps regularly in the community.

If you have questions on any of these events or have other ideas for events that you would like to see VFW Post 1318 participate in, please email us: VFW1318events@gmail.com

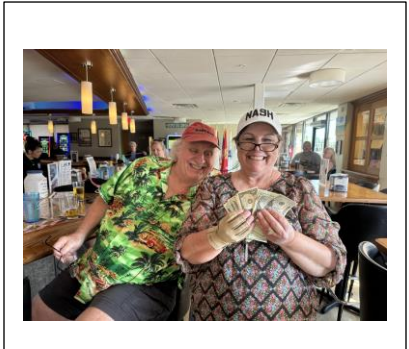
The objectives of the activities committee are to support Veterans and the broader community, raise funds for VFW support initiatives and engage VFW membership and internal VFW community building, and communicate to potential new members the value-added to their lives of being a VFW member.



Pictures from Fitchburg Night Out
Above left: Ray Trent cooking hamburgers
Above Middle: Joe Hines, Rose Doucette, Chuck Kneebone, and Tim Hilsenhoff.
Above right: Tim Hilsenhoff, Chuck Kneebone, and Auxiliary Jurnior Vice-President Elizabeth Moore
Left: John Barghusen cleaning up after the event



Customers attending an event at the Post and winning the 50/50 Raffle



Members of the 115th Fighter Family Support Group working at a pancake breakfast.



October/November/December 2024
2740 Ski Lane
Madison, WI 53711

MEMBERS CORNER



Post Commander Steve Eisenhauer, Quartermaster Gundel Metz and member John Barghusen at Fitchburg Night out



Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore and Post Quartermaster Gundel Metz at the National Commanders Homecoming in GA



At Left: Gold Star Father Kermit Hugo visiting the Post and seeing how we are honoring his daughter Rachel Hugo, KIA on October 5, 2007 serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom in Bayji, Iraq. NEVER FORGET

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