

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 24 No. 1 January/February/March 2024



Greetings Comrades,

I hope everyone was able to enjoy the Holidays with Family and Friends. This year is already shaping up to be a busy one.

January 2025 will mark the Centennial for our Post. Lt. Marion C. Cranefield Post 1318 received its National Charter on January 23, 1925. I would like to form a Centennial Committee to start planning events and gather ideas on how to mark this significant occasion. Please contact me or QM Metz if you would like to be on the committee. Meetings will be held electronically (Zoom) to make it easier for members to attend.

Recently, the Council of Administration approved entering a partnership with SMB/Globallife AO/AIL to offer a free will and burial kit to all Wisconsin VFW Members. If you do not wish to get additional information or participate, notify SMB that you are not interested and do not want to be contacted. All Wisconsin VFW Members also recently received a letter informing them that they have a free \$2,500 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Policy. The card received with the letter only needs to be sent back if you wish to update your beneficiary information. If you have any questions or concerns with these two benefits, please do not hesitate to call, text, or email me.

A few months ago, the VFW Department of Wisconsin launched the **Voter Voice System** so the Legislative Committee can send everyone regular updates on VFW Legislative activity and encourage members to reach out to their State Representatives and State Senators. If you didn't see the Legislative email, please go to the VFW Department of Wisconsin Landing Page <https://votervoice.net/VFVWI/home> to sign up for alerts and stay informed. This landing page can also be used to sign up any **friends or family** to help us urge lawmakers to support our causes.

Gundel "Gundy" Metz has been our Post Quartermaster since 2009. She has informed me of her intent to step down as Quartermaster by 2025. As such, we need someone to step up and take over the duties and responsibilities of Post Quartermaster. A stipend will be available to compensate one's time. Please contact me if you would like more information regarding the duties, responsibilities, and expectations.

In Comradeship,

Steven Eisenhauer
Post Commander
402.239.3737

s.eisenhauer22@gmail.com



Commander Steven Eisenhauer

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

- 5th – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 6th – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 10th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am.
- 17th – Meat Raffle – 3:00 pm
- 25th – Pancake Breakfast – 8:00-11:00 am
- 27nd – House Committee – 6:00 pm
- Events Committee – 6:30pm

March

- 4th – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 5th – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 9th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am.
- 16th – Meat Raffle – 3:00 pm
- 24th – Pancake Breakfast – 8:00-11:00 am
- 26nd – House Committee – 6:00 pm
- Events Committee – 6:30pm

April

- 1st – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 2nd – Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 13th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am
- 23rd – House Committee – 6:00 pm
- Events Committee – 7:00pm
- 27th – Meat Raffle – 3:00 pm
- 28th – Pancake Breakfast – 8:00-11:00 am

Wednesday Night Live Music 6:00-9:00 pm

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-----Carlos Tucker
 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-----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, 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 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
 Wrap Wednesday
 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, Kristie, 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 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.

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



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.

POST QUARTERMASTER

BY GUNDEL METZ

Greetings,

Since Commander Steve informed you that I want to step down as Quartermaster, I thought that I would give you a little bit of information of what it takes. At this time, I spend a full day on Tuesdays at the Post. Thursday's I'm normally there for half a day and Saturday's I just switch out the bags for the bartenders to use. On Post meeting nights, I am there several hours during the day - doing reconciliation of four bank accounts and getting the reports ready for the Post meeting. If I have time, then I will also reset bags from the weekend. Tuesday's is when I also pay the bills. Sunday's, I send the payroll hours of our employees to our Accountant who makes up the pay statements.

I am not leaving and I will take the time to train whoever is willing to step up. Plus, if the individual wishes, I will be the Assistant QM and help out when needed. This is a good position for a younger retiree (under 70) or someone who is service-connected disabled and looking for something to do. The biggest challenge is to be available during the day as you have to make runs to the bank, our outside accountant, and VFW State Headquarters, etc.

After spending the last 25 years serving the Post, District, State, and National, it is time for me to spend more time traveling, spending time with my siblings, and their children and grandchildren, and heaven forbid – great-grandchildren. And here is the biggest shocker, I'm not getting any younger either. I had a knee replacement last October and will be having my second one end of March of this year. Hopefully, that will be my extent of medical issues for a long time to come yet.

If you are interested in the position, give me a call or email me and I will be glad to discuss the position for you.



Left to right: Colonel June Dykstra, WI Air Guard; MG (USA, RET) Marcia Anderson, Gundy and BG (USA, RET) Joane Mathews. I have had the honor to know these women and call them my friends for over 15 years.



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Everyone,

The New Year is upon us and we can look back being grateful for a wonderful calendar year.

Our favorite event was held in December. Shop With a Cop returned to 1318 once again. It is an event that is sponsored by Shop With A Cop in Dane County. The county wide Police and Sheriff's Departments in coordination with local schools, choose children that would benefit from a shopping experience that would provide gifts for their entire family, and themselves. Our Post location hosts, and all children and Officers arrive with gifts in bags, then proceed to wrap and wrap and wrap approximately 1,000 gifts. They arrive in shifts and are then treated to a wonderful lunch of pizza, fruit and vegetables. Thanks to Domino's Pizza for once again providing box after box of hot pizza, and Target for arranging the shopping and supplying wrapping paper, tape, tags, gift bags and boxes. It is a beautiful chaos.

The Auxiliary is always ready to help wrap, serve lunch and provide the fresh baked and frosted Christmas cookies! This is a very rewarding experience and it just keeps getting better every year.

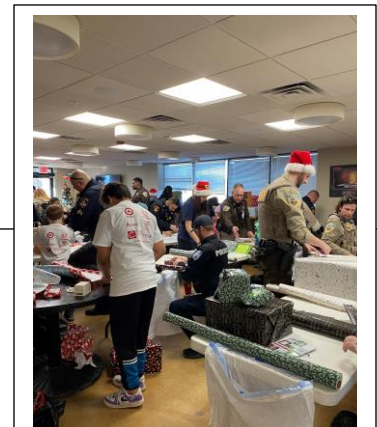
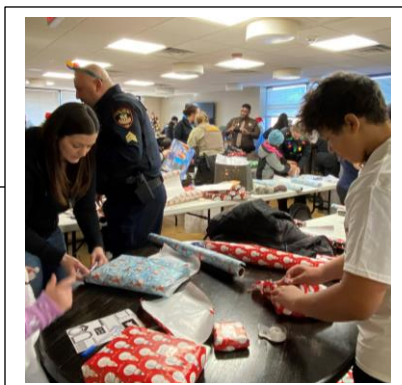
We are also continuing our program of making warm blankets for the Officers to give children in emergency situations.

It would be so great if we could get new members to help with our fantastic events to help Veterans and their families and our community.

If you are interested, please give the Post a call. They will direct you in the right direction.

Thank you for everything and all of the blessings we have all had this past year.

Ellen Evans
President
VFW Post 1318 Auxiliary



115TH FIGHTER WING UPDATE

115th Fighter Wing welcomes new Senior Enlisted Leader

By Staff Sgt. Anya Hanson 115th Fighter Wing

Nov. 20, 2023 – The Wisconsin Air National Guard’s 115th Fighter Wing formally welcomed Chief Master Sgt. Michael Alvarez as the unit’s eighth command chief master sergeant during a change of authority ceremony at Truax Field Nov. 4.

The change of authority preceded the retirement of outgoing Command Chief Master Sgt. Brian Carroll, who served as the unit’s senior enlisted leader since December 2020.

“Over the past years, Chief Carroll was entrusted with the critical task of helping to inspire, enhance and ensure the legacy of the F-35 conversion at our wing,” said Col. Bart Van Roo, the 115th Fighter Wing commander. “While Chief Carroll’s unique leadership and credibility was the perfect balance for the challenges that time presented, we wish him the best in retirement and believe Chief Alvarez is the right senior enlisted leader to lead us into the significant worldwide challenges we face today.”

Prior to assuming the command chief role, Alvarez spent nearly 20 years at the 115th Fighter Wing as a traditional guardsman assigned to the 115th Security Forces Squadron where he served as fire team member and security forces chief before transitioning to the role of 115th Mission Support Group chief.

Outside of his National Guard duties, Alvarez obtained a master’s degree in education, spent nine years as an English teacher and became a police officer for the city of Madison where he was the sergeant of police and SWAT sniper team lead.

“Your background in education comes at a time when all Airmen are being required to learn a new airframe, change their behaviors and take on new tasks,” said Carroll. “Your ability to motivate and encourage our Airmen to overcome these challenges will be essential in the way we fight future conflicts.”

According to Alvarez, that’s now more pertinent than ever given the constantly changing worldwide threats and resulting need for all Airmen to adapt and learn quickly.

“We must build Airmen that are technologically skilled, analogically capable, aggressively innovative and warrior minded,” said Alvarez. “We are the right people, in the right time, at the right place; and when the time comes for the premier fifth-generation fighter wing to stand at the edge of the fight, may we all be ripping at our holds, toes digging into the ground, eager to engage.”

(see photo page 12)

QUILT OF VALOR

BY SHARON WARSAW

On November 12, 2023, VFW Post 1318 hosted a Quilt of Valor ceremony. Quilts were awarded to Venus Hilgart, Lieutenant Colonel (USA, RET), Sharon Warsaw, Commander (USN, RET), Rose Doucette, Captain (USA), and Judy Emerson, Sergeant First Class (USA, RET). Donna Thomas, President of the Mauston Valor Quilt group, presented each of the quilts to the proud women. Each one of the quilts was specially sewed for each person by Sharon Warsaw. Over 70 people were present to see this amazing ceremony. The comrades not only served together in the military, but have been friends for over 30 years and travel frequently together. All four are members of the VFW. Venus, Rose, and Sharon of Post 1318 and Judy is a member of Post 11346, Amherst



Left: Sharon receiving her quilt.
Top: Left to right: Sharon Warsaw, Venus Hilgart, Rose Doucette, Judy Emerson.
Right: Venus wrapped in her quilt.



Left: Rose with her brother Cliff Doucette and Ray Doucette (past Post Commander) who wrapped Rose in her quilt and Donna Thomas
Right: Judy standing in front of her quilt



EVENTS

JAMIE HERRMANN

Happy New Year! In 2023, the Post held many successful events to serve the interests of Post Members, Veterans and the local community members.

Here is the recap of the events during the final quarter of 2023:

- The second Great Game Night many people came out to play board games, card games and virtual games. This was attended by families, friends and people looking to meet new people interested in playing board games.
- Our 3rd Designer Purse WACKO was a success. The participants played 8 WACKO games for the chance to win the Designer Purses. This was a fundraiser for the Post.
- The Post hosted their first quarter auction with local businesses and vendors. Local Vendors auctioned off their products where the participants had the chance to win each product for a quarter!
- October started back up with Meat Raffles! This year, we added basket and 50/50 raffles for participants to have a chance to win. Meat raffles will be held the 4th Saturday of the month from 3 - 5 pm
- Monthly Pancake Breakfasts in October, which now includes “All You Can Eat Pancakes”.
- Kevin Hampton, Curator of History at Wisconsin Veterans Museum shared the riveting stories of the over 122,000 Wisconsin men and women who served on land, sea and in the air during World War I. Kevin’s presentation was very engaging and interesting for the virtual and in person participants.
- Post and Auxiliary members, along with volunteers served brats, hotdogs, and beverages at the UW Madison Badger Football Game WDVA Tailgate on Veterans Day.
- Poultrygeist BBQ and Operation BBQ Relief provided free meals to all Veterans and their immediate family members on Veterans Day
- Quilt of Valor presentation for 4 female Veterans. Three of the members are VFW Post 1318 Auxiliary members.
- Veterans on the Fly taught Veterans, their family and friends how to tie flies on Wednesday nights and hosted a movie night “Mending the Line” for their final get together in 2023
- Thanksgiving Themed Meat Raffle with two extra basket raffles with all the fixings for a Thanksgiving Day meal. Holiday Extravaganza fundraiser for the Post. Participants joined us for a fun day with a Quarter Auction, Meat Raffle and basket raffles. All of the vendors graciously donated the money raised from their final round of quarter auction to the Post.
- The post hosted their first Kids WACKO, where kids had the opportunity to win many prizes/toys that were donated to the event.
- Holiday Meat Raffle and final meat raffle of 2023! The participants dressed up in their ugly sweaters and holiday costumes, including meat raffle volunteers dressing as the Grinch and Cindy Lou Who.

(Continued on page 8)

(Events continued)

- Taylor Swift Birthday Celebration week for special Trivia and Karaoke nights.
- We have hosted many bands on Wednesday, Thursday Night Trivia, Friday Night Karaoke and Sunday Wacko!

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. We hope to see you at the events coming up this quarter:

JANUARY:

- **1/13** – Family Game Night, starts at 3 pm. Come play board games, card games and virtual games with others who love to play games. Bring any games you would like to play or play games available.
- **1/13** – Paint Night, starts at 6 pm. Our talented local artist will take you step-by-simple-step through all you need to know to create the January "Deep Winter" painting. All supplies included. No experience necessary
- **1/23** – Join us for Designer Purse WACKO. Pre-Register at the Post, \$25. First 30 people registered receive an extra WACKO card. Proceeds raised from this event go to the Post.
- **1/27** – Our First Meat Raffle of 2024! There will be extra basket raffles you won't want to miss out on. Meat raffles will be held the 4th Saturday of the month from 3 - 5 pm.
- **1/28**– Join members from the 115th Fighter Wing for All you can eat Pancake Breakfast 8 am – 11 am.

FEBRUARY:

- **2/7** – Veterans On The Fly will meet from 6 pm – 8 pm and all Wednesdays through March 27th. Veterans, their family and friends welcome to come learn how to make fishing flies at no cost. No experience necessary and supplies provided.
- **2/13** – Operation Ruck 22 of Wisconsin check presentation, starts at 6 pm. Operation Ruck 22 invites everybody to hear from the organizations who will be receiving donations from the 2023 Operation Ruck 22 event.
- **2/17** – Paint Night, starts at 6 pm. February painting is "Hanging with my Gnomies". All supplies included. No experience necessary.
- **2/20** – Chunky Blanket Class, 5 pm – 8pm. Space limited to first 20 people. No experience necessary. Learn how to make a chunky blanket and go home with your blanket you make that night. Cost \$90. This is a fundraiser for the Post.
- **2/24** – Meat Raffle with extra basket and 50/50 raffles.
- **2/25** – Join Post Members for an All you can eat Pancake Breakfast 8 am – 11 am.

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(Events continued)

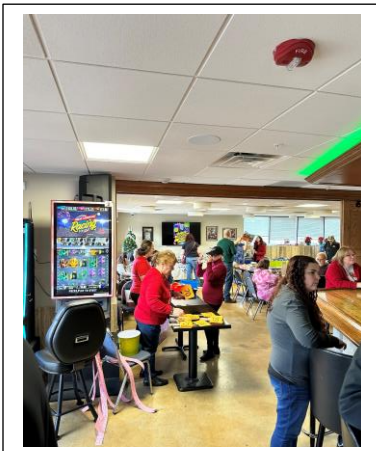
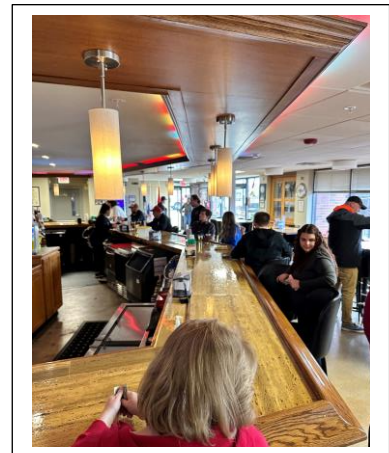
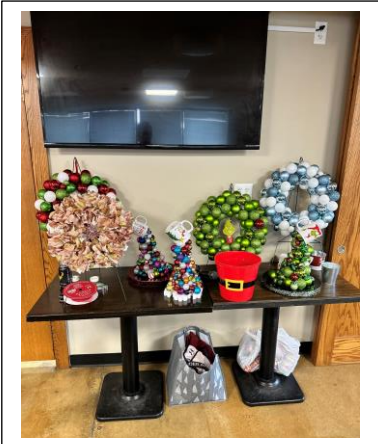
MARCH:

- **3/16** – Paint Night, starts at 6 pm. March painting is "Wine O’Clock". All supplies included. No experience necessary.
- **3/23** – Meat Raffle with extra basket and 50/50 raffles 3 pm – 5 pm.
- **3/24** - Join Auxiliary Members for an All you can eat Pancake Breakfast 8 am – 11 am.
- Join us each week for Thursday night Trivia and Friday night Karaoke with Host Jesse Garon or Sunday afternoon WACKO!

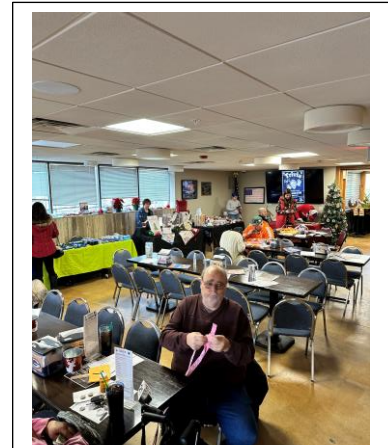
Events continue to be added throughout the first quarter. To keep up on the latest bands and events happening at The “V” follow our Facebook page: The VFW – Post 1318 and website calendar: <https://vfw1318.org/>.

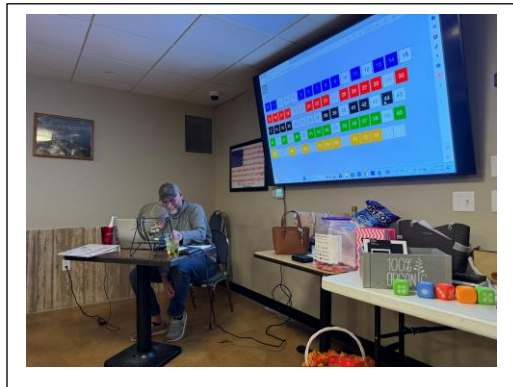
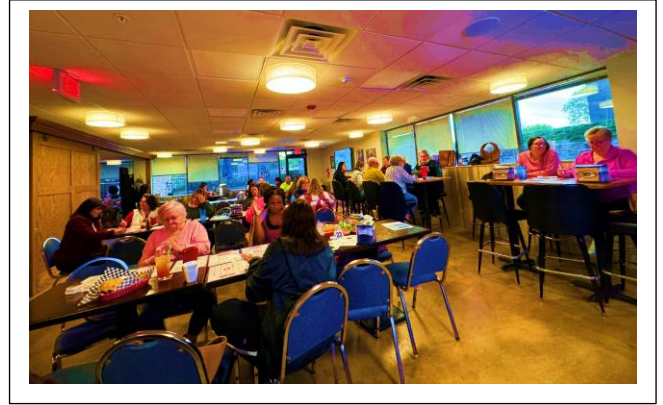
If you have questions on any of these events or have other ideas for events that you would like to see VFW Post 1318 participate in, please contact the activities committee members or Jamie Herrmann directly at: jamieherrmann3@gmail.com

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 the Holiday Extravaganza held at the Post in December.





Pictures on this page are from Purse Wacko and Kids Wacko. Fun was had by all.

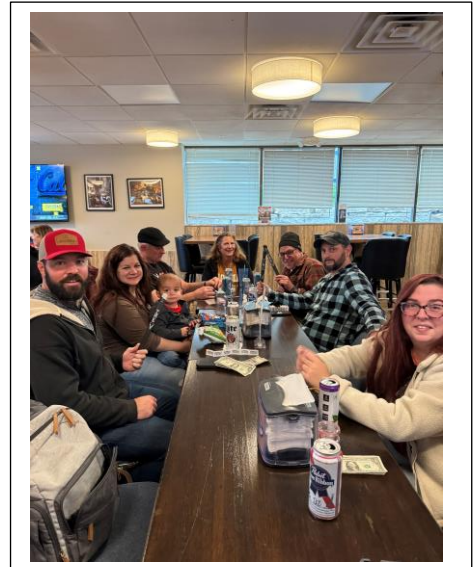




Top right: Post members and customers enjoying the presentation by Kevin Hampton, WI Veterans Museum



Customers and Post members and family enjoy the meat raffle.



Left: Poultrygeist BBQ and Operation BBQ chef, Collin Newberry, Post 10272

Right: Luke Herrmann enjoying the BBQ. Member of Rolling Thunder



MEMBERS CORNER



Left: Post Member Chief Master Sgt. Michael Alvarez, USAF.

Right: Post Commander Steve speaking about what the VFW does in the community



Left: Post, Auxiliary, and Rolling Thunder members work the tent at the UW Football game this year.

Right: Replica of the POW/MIA Chair (located at the Capitol) is by the front door into the Post.



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