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. 3 July/August/September 2024

Greetings Comrades

I hope everyone is doing well. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Post Commander for another year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions. I would like to congratulate the Post on achieving All-State and All-American status for the 2023-2024 Program Year.

At our May Post meeting, State Senior Vice Commander Mary Ann Christopherson honored us with attending our Post Meeting. She presented the Post with its 102% Membership Streamer and conducted the Installation of Officers. Unfortunately, this was her last public official act. On May 21st, she lost her battle with cancer and passed away. She will be greatly missed but the positive impact she had on so many will forever be present. Rest easy Mary Ann, we now have the watch.

We finished the Program year at 103.62% (257 members) in membership. The National Goal was 102%. It is going to be a challenge to repeat that achievement this year. To achieve 102% membership this year, we need to reach 263 members. Unfortunately, we have had 13 members pass away this past year. If all our annual members renew, we need to recruit or reinstate 13 members to achieve 100%. To achieve 102%, we need a total of 19. We can achieve this.

Here is an outline of the incentives available this year:

- Free Life Membership upgrade to the first Comrade that contacts Gundel Metz to convert their membership and will commit to supporting one Community event in the coming year. Email: vfw1318@hotmail.com
- \$100 rebate to any Annual Member that upgrades to Life Membership. This is in addition to a \$50 rebate offered by the State for the first 70 members who convert from Annual to Life Membership.
- \$100 rebate to the first five (5) members who convert from Life Membership to Legacy Life Membership.
- 1st Member recruited/reinstated: Name entered into a drawing to be held at the end of the year.
- 3 Members recruited/reinstated: \$50.
- 10 Members recruited/reinstated: \$100.
- Gundy and I are not eligible for these incentives.

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Commander Steven Eisenhauer

UPCOMING EVENTS

July

1st - Post Meeting - 6:00 pm

 2^{nd} -Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm

13th – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am

23rd – House Committee – 6:00 pm Events Committee – 6:30pm

27th - Meat Raffle - 3:00 pm

28th - Pancake Breakfast - 8:00-11:00 am

August

5th – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm

6th –Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm

 10^{th} – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am.

24th – Meat Raffle – 3:00-5:00 pm

 $25^{th}-Pancake\ Breakfast-8:00\text{-}11:00\ am$

27th – House Committee – 6:00 pm Events Committee – 6:30pm

September

3rd - Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm

9th – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm

 14^{th} - Rolling Thunder $-\,10.00$ am

49th - House Committee – 6:00 pm Events Committee – 7:00pm

 28^{th} – Meat Raffle - 3:00-5:00 pm

28rd - 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 Eisenhauer 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. 2vr ------William Muether Trustee, 1yr ------Andrew Lochner Officer of the Day-----Ray Trent Service Officer-----Steve Eisenhauer 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 Eisenhauer, 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

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

1709 Aberg Avenue – Suite 2 Madison, WI 53704 Phone: 608-266-4158 TDD 608-266-4157 Legislative HOT-LINE 800-362-9696

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President	Ellen Evans
Sr. Vice	Rose Doucette
Jr. Vice	Elizabeth Moore
Treasurer	Melissa Crary
Conductor	Michael Rowland
Secretary	Adajo Forester
Trustee, 1 yr	Rose Doucette
Trustee, 2 yr	Elizabeth Moore
Trustee, 3 yr	Michael Rowland
Chaplain	
Guard	Mike Rowland
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 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.



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, 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.

If you want information for the on-line Post meetings, please contact the Post Quartermaster at wfw1318@hotmail.com. All Post meetings are hybrid, some members at the Post and the others via internet.

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I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer.

In Comradship,

Steve Eisenhauer Commander, VFW Post 1318 s.eisenhauer22@gmail.com

Cell: 402.239.3737

MEMORIAM FOR PAST STATE SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER MARY ANN CHRISTOPHERSON

The world bids farewell to Mary Ann Christopherson of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, departing on May 21, 2024 at the age of 71. Mary Ann leaves behind memories cherished by the community. Leave a sympathy message to the family in the guestbook on this memorial page of Mary Ann Christopherson to show support.

In the quiet moments of reflection, amidst the gentle rustle of leaves and the whispered song of the stars, we shall carry Mary Ann's memory with us, a guiding light illuminating the path ahead. May Mary Ann's journey be filled with peace and serenity, as her find rest in the embrace of eternity.

Keep Mary's legacy alive by donating to a charity in need.

(Editors Note: I knew Mary Ann for over 22 years and she was a no-nonsense individual who is greatly missed by the VFW members. She would have been a great State Commander and the State VFW is carrying out her vision for the 24-25 year. All her appointments stay the same and this is her program year. I had the honor to represent the Post along with Post Commander, Steve Eisenhauer, to attend her memorial service.)



Left: Wisconsin VFW State Senior Vice-Commander Mary Ann Christopherson. Right: Mary Ann's last official act as the Senior Vice Commander was attending Post 1318 meeting and installing the officers on May 6, 2024





AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Everyone,

The heat is on and it feels great!

We've had pancake breakfasts every month and they are wonderful! The next one is Sunday July 28th. This one is hosted by the Auxiliary. We love doing it and are anxious to see everyone there. The food is so delicious, and it is AYCE pancakes, (all you can eat pancakes). What a way to start your week, get to the V for a beautiful breakfast.

The convention is now over. Convention is always a fantastic way to network and see what is working for other Auxiliaries all over the great state of Wisconsin.

We don't have a lot of activities planned as an Auxiliary this summer, but please check the Facebook page for the V and see everything you have to choose from at the Post! Never ending activities to choose from.

We are welcoming new members all the time. Please check to see if you are eligible to join us. We would love it.

Thank you for your time, and I will see you at the Pancake Breakfast Sunday July 28 from 8:00 to 11:00.

See you soon,

Ellen Evans Auxiliary President VFW Post 1318



115[™] FIGHTER WING UPDATE

COMMAND CHIEF MICHAEL ALVAREZ

As the spring and summer months have come upon us, so has the exercise season, and the 115th Fighter Wing has been fully engaged. In the last article I talked a little bit about the changes coming for the Air Force and Air National Guard (and for the entire DOD for that matter) as it pertains to Great Power Competition and the need to be capable of facing threats from near peer adversaries. In particular, I noted that many of the changes affect how we deploy and fight, and the Air Force is transforming dramatically in that regard. The exercises that we have been participating in the last few months reflect that change. One of the methods we are practicing is termed ACE or Agile Combat Employment. This method of combat allows us to move into an undeveloped or less than ideal area quickly and effectively, bringing everything that we will need for combat as well as what we will need to receive, refuel, and relaunch aircraft. Upon arrival, Airmen are expected to defend that patch of dirt until our jets can land there, get replenished, and then get back up in the air and into the fight. Once the jets are back up, the airmen have what they need to be able to extract themselves quickly from that location. As you can imagine, this kind of operation requires a certain skillset and mindset that needs to be sharpened in our folks, and it also requires some new equipment that our airmen need to become expert at using.

In May, the 115th FW conducted an ACE exercise at the Eau Claire airport, landing there in a C-130 and receiving and launching F-35s without the usual support of a fully equipped airbase. Not only did this event allow us to practice our capabilities, but it was a chance for the public to see our people in action and get a chance to interact with our airmen. Additionally, in the past month, several of our squadrons participated in exercises in the Volk Field and Ft. McCoy area, training specifically on ground combat tasks at a scale we haven't been able to before. These opportunities have been exceptional and are giving our airmen exposure to vital experiences we will need should we have to conduct near peer engagements.

Our airmen are also developing their leadership abilities through professional development of late to include a Chief's seminar and a two-day course on the topic of leading teams from an organization with trainers from the special operations community. Next up on that vein is a seminar for Senior Master Sergeants coming up this month. We continue to see the benefit of this leadership development in the high-level performance of our teams. The 115th Security Forces Squadron just won the top squadron award for the large-scale exercise they were a part of, recognized out of several other squadrons from around the nation, and the 115th Fire Department just won the Air National Guard Fire Chief's Association Large Fire Department of the Year! These are just the latest of the accomplishments of our outstanding units. As I write this, our Operations Group and Maintenance Group professionals are preparing to send up our F-35s to fly over the state for the 4th of July to help us all celebrate the independence of this great country. We are tremendously proud and honored to do what we do and are incredibly thankful for all the support from the VFW and Post 1318. We know we wouldn't have the freedom to make the booms and roars while we celebrate without the sacrifices of veterans like you all! Long may wave the red, white, and blue. Fly, Fight, Win!

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

BY JOSEPH HINES

This is an appeal to all post members to assist the post leadership to promote the 2024-2025 Voice of Democracy Youth Scholarship Program. Submitting a Voice of Democracy post level winner to our District 2 competition is a requirement for the post to achieve All-State and All-American award status. The Voice of Democracy is the VFW premier scholarship program. Each year nearly 27,000 students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students in grades 9-12 compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?" We currently only have one high school that has submitted entrants during the last two years. If you know of an eligible student that you feel would like to participate in this competition, please inform him/her of the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program. You can find eligibility and entry information at the national VFW website. Go to vfw.org, then click on Community, then click on Youth and Education, then click on Youth Scholarship then look at Voice of Democracy. You will find detailed information on eligibility, rules, and other program information. If you have any trouble finding this information, or have any other questions please contact Joe Hines at 443-655-8457 or at joebyronhines@gmail.com. Please note we must have all submissions to the post by October 31st, 2024,







Post Voice of Democracy winner McKenna D. reading her entry. Middle: Commander Steve and VOD Chair Joe presenting her with the check and certificate. Post Members listening to her speech.



Left: Patriot Pens First
Place winner Ellen K. and
her family with
Commander Steve and
Adjutant Joe.
Right: Patriot Pens
Second Place winner
Candy G. with her family





JAMIE HERRMANN

The second quarter of 2024 has been full of events happening at the Post, including many new opportunities:

- Designer Purse WACKO and Meat Raffle event in April brought a lot of new faces into the post. Each person played 8 WACKO games for the chance to win Designer Purses. After Purse WACKO, we had our monthly Meat Raffle. Both events were fundraisers for the Post.
- The second Puzzle, Pizza and Beer Challenge in May was well attended. Around 20 teams of two people raced to complete a 300-piece puzzle. The quickest three teams received a prize.
- Monthly Paint Night allowed Painters to go home with their own beautiful painting, created by following the local artist step-by-step.
- Monthly Meat Raffles will continue through the summer and hosted by local organizations helping Veterans. In June, Rolling Thunder Wisconsin Chapter 5 hosted the monthly Meat Raffle. In addition to the meat raffles, there were basket and 50/50 raffles available.
- VFW Post 1318, VFW Post 1318 Auxiliary members, 115th Fighter Wing members and volunteers hosted Pancake Breakfasts on the 4th Sunday of each month.
- We have hosted many bands on Wednesday, Thursday Night Trivia, Friday Night Karaoke and Sunday Wacko!

With summer in full swing, the patio is open and full of beautiful flowers donated from local greenhouses. We hope you come join us and relax on the patio with friends admiring the beautiful evening skies.

Join us each week for Wednesday night live music, Thursday night Trivia, Friday night Karaoke with Host Jesse Garon or Sunday afternoon WACKO!

July

7/13 – Live Music with Donny & Trish from 6 pm – 9 pm

7/20 – 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 Monthly Black Rock Beach painting. All supplies included. No experience necessary. Pre-register for the class: https://www.paintnite.com/venue-owners/the-v,-vfw-post-1318/

7/27 – Meat Raffle Hosted by Custom Canines, 3pm- 5 pm. Come out and see all the Custom Canine puppies and raise money for this amazing cause. Custom Canines is a non-profit organization, powered by wonderful volunteers, and dedicated to raising, training, and gifting service dogs to military veterans and first responders living with disabilities.

7/28 – Post Auxiliary hosts the All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast from 8 am – 11 am. Breakfast includes all you can eat pancakes, 2 eggs, 2 sausages, 1 mimosa (must be 21), milk, juice, and coffee for \$10 (kids under 6, \$5)

(Continued on Page 8)

(Events continued)

Purchase your 2024 Thunder Run Books from the Post, for your chance to win money and prizes and help Veteran organizations. Stop in the post for more information.

August

8/10 – Live Music with Three Hours from 6pm -9 pm

8/17 – 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 Monthly Misty Mountain Hot Springs painting. All supplies included. No experience necessary. Pre-register for the class: https://www.paintnite.com/venue-owners/the-v,-vfw-post-1318/

8/24 - Meat Raffle Hosted by Operation Ruck 22 of Wisconsin, 3pm- 5 pm. Come out and help raise money for this amazing local organization. Operation Ruck 22 of Wisconsin raises awareness of the 18 Veteran and Service members that die by suicide every day. Each year they put together a local ruck event (October 13) where money raised from the event is donated to local organizations helping Veterans and their families in their times of need.

8/25 – 115th Fighter Wing Members host All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast. Breakfast includes all you can eat pancakes, 2 eggs, 2 sausages, 1 mimosa (must be 21), milk, juice, and coffee for \$10 (kids under 6, \$5)

September

9/7 - Live Music with Three Hours, 6pm - 9pm.

9/14 - 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 Monthly Pine Silhouette painting. All supplies included. No experience necessary. Pre-register for the class: https://www.paintnite.com/venue-owners/the-v,-vfw-post-1318/

9/28 - Post Monthly Meat Raffle, 3pm- 5 pm. Come out for your chance to win meat! There will also be basket and 50/50 raffles. Stay for live music with Donny & Trish starting at 6 pm!

9/29 – Post Members host All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast. Breakfast includes all you can eat pancakes, 2 eggs, 2 sausages, 1 mimosa (must be 21), milk, juice, and coffee for \$10 (kids under 6, \$5). Please let us know if you are able to volunteer for this event.

October

10/5 – Chunky Blanket Class. We will be hosting our second Chunky Blanket class, please watch the post or our faceback page for registration details.

10/12 – Pulled Pork Dinner Fundraiser 3pm- 7pm. Funds raised will be donated to Operation Ruck 22 of Wisconsin. During this event, people will be able to register or pick up their packets for the 2024 Ruck event happening on 10/13. 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

(Continued on Page 9)

(Events Continued

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 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.



Left: Amy (Homer's fiancé, Jamie, Homer, Joe H., and Luke Hermann working the Post Pancake breakfast Right: Beautiful flowers that were donated by Greenhouses in our area adorn the patio



TEACHER OF THE YEAR

BY JOSEPH HINES

This is an appeal to all post members to assist the post leadership to nominate a teacher you may feel is deserving for the 2024-2025 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizen Education Teacher of the Year Award. Submitting a Teacher of the Year nomination is a requirement for the post to achieve All-State and All-American award status. The VFW wants to identify and recognize America's best educators who instill a sense of national pride in students. Many of you know of a teacher in your local school that has promoted citizenship by scheduling or organizing programs that stimulate interest in America's history, traditions, Americanism, civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism. We have educators out there in our local community that are making a difference, and we need to recognize these efforts. If you know of a teacher that you would like to nominate you can find eligibility and entry information at the national VFW website. Go to vfw.org, then click on Community, then click on Youth and Education, then look at Teacher of the Year. You will find detailed information on eligibility, rules, and other program information. If you have any trouble finding this information, or have any other questions please contact Joe Hines at 443-655-8457 or at joebyronhines@gmail.com. Please note we must have all submissions to the post by October 31st, 2024.



Left: Gundy, Erik, and Katie working the meat Raffle. Right: Customers enjoying the Meat Raffle





Left: Gundy won the 50/50 Raffle at the Meat Raffle Right: Meat for the Meat Raffle





Left: Picture from our Puzzle Challenge





Left: First Place Winner of the Puzzle Challenge. Right: Second Place Winner of the Puzzle Challenge.



POST QUARTERMASTER

The Post and Auxiliary need your help. We would love to do more Post/Auxiliary outreach, hold fundraisers, work within our community, and support our adopted unit. There are a few core people who seem to do all the work and that limits us on how much we can do and what we can accomplish in the community. Even if you are only available once a year to help out, that would be great. Or at least come and support the monthly Pancake Breakfasts and the Meat Raffle's. Come and listen to some great Music on Wednesdays or Saturdays. This is your Post home. Do you have time for about four hours to help distribute Buddy Poppies? We could use a great fundraiser to help pay the mortgage, or even for us to donate to various organizations.

We have sent out the Quarterly Calendar showing what is going on around the Post. Here are a few other functions that we can always use help with or come and support the event: October 12 to help with the Fundraiser for Operation Ruck 22; November 9 we will be holding a fundraiser for Shop with a Copy. All proceeds from these two fundraisers will go the respective organization.

Please let Gundy or Joe Hines know if you are able to volunteer for a function or you have an idea for a fundraiser.





Please support the VFW State Calendar Raffle - \$20.00 and you will be entered into the drawings: Prizes are: 3-\$1000, 10-\$500, 4-\$400, 5-\$300, 1-\$100 and 342-\$50. Contact Gundy if you are interested in purchasing a calendar.

Custom Canine is hosting this month Meat Raffle. Please come out and support them. All proceeds from the Meat Raffle go to Custom Canine

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2740 Ski Lane Madison, WI 53711

MEMBERS CORNER



Left: Post Commander, Steve, receiving his All-State Cover from State Commander Ron Ramos. Right: Ron, Steve, and Jeff Carroll, National Council Member from GA.





Left: Marla Morgan, Past Auxiliary State President, Jeff Carroll, Gundy, and State Commander Ron Ramos





Left: Post and Sons of the American Revolution members, William Austin and William Muether, present the colors at the Memorial Day Service at Forest Hill Cemetery. Above Right: Post and Family members, Kyong, Kyle, Charity, Gundy, Chris & Norm, William Austin and William Muether, saluting our namesake, LT Cranefield.

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