

# V.F.W. NEWS

Published Four Times a Year by Marion C. Cranefield Post 1318  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars  
 Vol 24 No. 2 April/May/June 2024



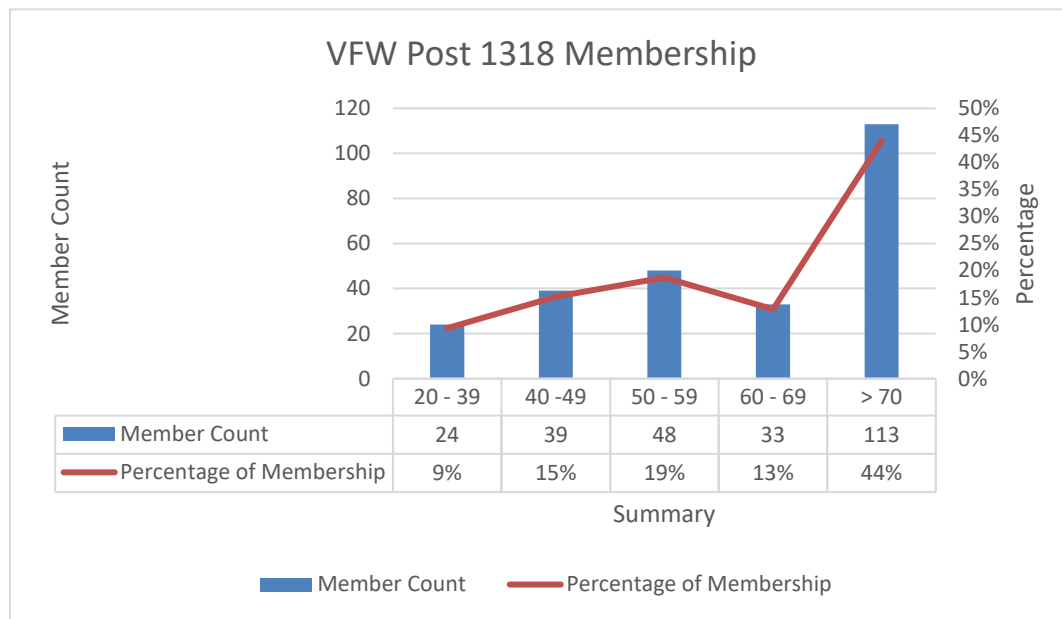
Greetings Comrades, Greetings Comrades,

I hope you and your families are doing well. There have been a lot of events at the Post over the past several months. It is my hope, in the coming months and with help from membership, to get some events scheduled in the community. If you have any ideas, please contact me.

Speaking of membership, the strength of our numbers enables us to advocate at the State and Federal level for Veterans benefits. To be able to continue to do this, we need to continue to grow as an organization. This is why the membership goal this year at the Post, District, and Department level is 102%. Recently, we achieved 102% in membership. To further illustrate the importance of continuing to recruit new members and remaining viable, here is a snapshot of our current membership.



Commander Steven Eisenhauer



As you can see, most of our members are 70 years old or older. We need to engage veterans when the opportunity arises, ensure they are aware of the benefits they have earned and are taking advantage of them. If they are eligible to join the VFW, we need to explain the benefits of joining the VFW and encourage them to join.

There are a couple of upcoming events I would like to encourage you to attend, if able. District 2 Spring Meeting on April 20, 2024, at VFW Post 9511 in Mount Horeb. District 2 elections will take place at this meeting. The annual Waubeka

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**May**  
 6<sup>th</sup> – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm  
 7<sup>th</sup> –Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm  
 11<sup>th</sup> – Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am.  
 26<sup>th</sup> – Pancake Breakfast – 8:00-11:00 am  
 28<sup>th</sup> – House Committee – 6:00 pm  
 Events Committee – 6:30pm

**June**  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – Post Meeting – 6:00 pm  
 4<sup>th</sup> - Auxiliary Meeting – 6:30 pm  
 8<sup>th</sup> - Rolling Thunder – 10:00 am  
 23<sup>rd</sup> - Pancake Breakfast – 8:00-11:00 am  
 25<sup>th</sup> - House Committee – 6:00 pm  
 Events Committee – 7:00pm

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 -----William Muether  
 Trustee, 1yr -----Kyong Clauson  
 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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, 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](http://www.facebook.com/vfw1318)**

**TWITTER@VFWPOST1318**

**WEB ADDRESS**

**VFW1318.ORG**

**Telephone: 608-255-5955**

**Email: [vfw1318@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:vfw1318@hotmail.com). All Post meetings are hybrid, some members at the Post and the others via internet.**

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Flag Day celebration is on June 9, 2024. For those not aware, Waubeka is considered the birthplace of Flag Day. The State Convention this year is June 12 - 15, 2024 at the Tundra Lodge in Green Bay. Please contact Gundel or me if you would like more information or need help with transportation to these events.

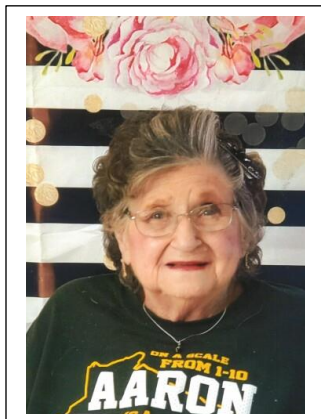
We are in the process of standing up a Centennial Committee. Please contact me if you would like to be on the committee and help plan for our Centennial celebration next year.

I hope you and your families have a great spring and hope to see you all at a future event.

in Comradeship,

Steven Eisenhauer  
Post Commander  
402.239.3737  
[s.eisenhauer22@gmail.com](mailto:s.eisenhauer22@gmail.com)

# MEMORIAM FOR PAST 1318 AUXILIARY PRESIDENT



**Myrty Lou Brazee**

**July 22, 1936 – March 11, 2024**

Myrty Lou Brazee passed away on March 11, 2024. Myrty was born in Dodgeville, WI on July 22, 1936, the daughter of Virgil and Mauriel (Erickson) Hill. She lived in Iowa County and graduated from Mineral Point High School in 1954. She was a graduate of the Wisconsin School of Cosmetology in June of 1955.

Myrty married her husband Eugene (Gene) Brazee on September 16, 1957, and they lived in South Madison near Monona Bay for all their years. She owned her own beauty shop for many years and retired from St. Mary's Care Center where she worked in the beauty shop. Myrty was a member of Bethel Lutheran Church and was a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary of VFW post 1318 where she was a past President. She enjoyed playing many different games of cards and travelling with Gene to horse and dog tracks. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Myrty is survived by her husband Gene; daughter Lucinda (John) Bannon; son Daniel (Julie) Brazee; seven grandchildren; and 4 great children. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother John; sister Dorothy Ann; and her daughter Sheri Lynn and her husband Henry Yates. As per Myrt's request a private graveside service will be held.



## AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Everyone,

Another quarter has gone by at the V and this fiscal year is almost over with.

We just completed the Post Pancake Breakfast hosted by the Auxiliary. We had a fantastic turnout this time. They are always fun to do and we meet so many new people. We encourage everyone to come to the Post for a pancake breakfast every fourth Sunday of the month. The breakfast is now all you can eat pancakes! It doesn't get any better than that! We take turns doing the breakfast with the Post, and the 115<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Family Support group. All are fund raiser to support the efforts of these organizations.

We are now looking to elections and getting our officers in place for the upcoming year. We always welcome new members to our Auxiliary. We have a number of projects that we work on year-round, including the pancake breakfast. Please come join us.

If you or you know of anyone who would like to join our Auxiliary, please contact the Post. They can forward all information to you or give me a call 608-217-2957.

Thank you for your support of veterans and their families.

Ellen Evans  
President  
VFW Post 1318 Auxiliary

Auxiliary members working Pancake Breakfast. L-R Mike Rowland, Rose Doucette, Elizabeth Moore, Melissa Crary and President Ellen Evans. Missing is Adajo Forester who arrived later to help out.





# 115<sup>TH</sup> FIGHTER WING UPDATE

**COMMAND CHIEF MICHAEL ALVAREZ**

It is hard to believe that I've been in the position now for a little bit over three months. What a whirlwind it has been! The 115<sup>th</sup> continues to thrive and I have been working to carry on the great initiatives that Chief Carroll put in place before me. As for the Chief, he has been enjoying his retirement so far and, no surprise, golf has been a part of it. From time to time, I do tap his expertise, so, while retired, he is still connected.

As for what we've all been up to, the 115<sup>th</sup> recently completed a training event down in Florida at the Weapons System Evaluation Program at Tyndall Air Force Base. This program is a formal evaluation of the ability to conduct air-to-air live fire missions, and no surprise, our folks performed exceptionally well across the board. This was an opportunity for several of our shops to conduct activities they had not yet been able to at home station and get a strong sense of where we are with our programs. Additionally, the F-35 unit at Tyndall conducted a follow-on training with our F-35s, coming up to Madison to train with us two weeks ago and providing us an opportunity to conduct some large-scale exercises in our region. Again, our Airmen performed exceptionally well!

As many of you may be aware, Secretary Kendall recently spoke at the AFA Warfare Symposium and laid out the plan for the Air Force to reoptimize for great power competition given the events going on globally. While this need to prepare for great power competition has been a theme over the last several years, and the 115<sup>th</sup> has been leaning forward on that need, this event formalized many changes coming to the Air Force as a total force that will include large scale restructuring in both how we function in garrison as well as how we deploy. Of course, change is difficult, but we look forward to meeting the challenges ahead.

The good thing is that those changes on the horizon don't appear to affect our core mission at the 115<sup>th</sup>, and we will have the F-35 for the foreseeable future and remain both solvent and essential to the Air Force. One item in particular that might be of interest is that the Air Force is about to bring Warrant Officers back in certain career fields (Cyber and IT). Those of you who have seen the benefits of having the WO in your branch may have some thoughts on this and we are very interested to see how this works out. Our first WOs could be starting to appear in our ranks as early as next year. This, along with several other initiatives, should make for interesting next few years.

Looking ahead to the coming months, we will continue to run full throttle with our training, professional development and large-scale exercises. We recently had several of our Airmen return from Papua New Guinea after working with our State Partnership program, and we will be sending some of our Airmen out the door in the coming year on other deployments. We continue to depend on the support of our VFW and with such a high operations tempo look forward to working with you all throughout the year to take care of our troops!



Members of 115<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Family Support Group working the pancake breakfast in January



# ROLLING THUNDER® INC. WISCONSIN CHAPTER 5

BY JAMIE HERRMANN

## 2024 Thunder Run:

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Wisconsin Chapter 5 is hosting their Third Annual Thunder Run: To Prevent Veteran Suicide and Help Veterans with PTSD. The goal is to raise awareness of the seriousness of the Veteran suicides and help Veterans with PTSD by teaming up with Wisconsin VFWs, American Legions and other businesses on the 2024 Thunder Run.

The Thunder Run Ticket Booklets will be for sale at VFW Post 1318 (or any of the businesses on the 2024 Thunder Run) for \$25. Half of the money raised will go towards cash/prizes and the other half will go towards local organizations helping Veterans in need. Only 1200 books sold. The business on the 2024 Thunder Run that sells the most books will be the final drawing party location for the following year.

For more information please go to our Facebook Group: Thunder Run Wisconsin

## Other events coming up:

- Memorial Weekend High Ground Memorial Honor Ride
- 5/28 Escort the wall that heals to Nixon Park in Hartland Wisconsin

## 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 us at: [rtmadison5@gmail.com](mailto:rtmadison5@gmail.com)



Rolling Thunder Members:  
Luke Herrmann & Charlie  
Breuning helping out Post  
member Chuck Kneebone



Charlie Breuning helping Post  
members Tim Hilsenhoff and  
Lauren Tamura



Rolling Thunder Member  
Jamie Herrmann and  
friends, Kelli Susee and  
Annette Fieber

# EVENTS

JAMIE HERRMANN

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

- Madison Peer Support Team Game Night hosted by The Post. This was a remarkable opportunity for Veterans, Community-based Veteran Service Organizations, and the Peer Support Team at the Madison VAMC to meet in-person for valuable information sharing and relationship building.
- Every Wednesday in February and March, Veterans On The Fly invited Veterans, their family, and friends to learn how to make fishing flies at no cost to the attendees.
- Designer Purse WACKO event in January was a success. Each person played 8 WACKO games for the chance to win Designer Purses. This was a fundraiser for the Post.
- Operation Ruck 22 of Wisconsin held their check presentation at the Post. Money raised in the 2023 Operation Ruck Annual March was donated to local organizations. The organizations shared how they help local veterans and their families.
- The Post hosted a Chunky Blanket Class where each student learned how to make a chunky blanket and went home with their own completed blanket. This was a fundraiser for the Post.
- The first Puzzle, Pizza and Beer Challenge in March was a huge success. Thirty-Three teams of two people raced to complete a 300-piece puzzle. The quickest three teams received a prize.
- The Game Nights this quarter offered a variety of games for all ages and included board games, card games and electronic games.
- Monthly Paint Night allowed Painters to go home with their own beautiful painting, created by following out local artist step-by-step.
- Each month there was a themed meat raffle, where patrons, staff and volunteers dressed up for each theme. In addition to the meat raffles, there were basket and 50/50 raffles available.
- VFW Post 1318, VFW Post 1318 Auxiliary members, 115<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing members and volunteers hosted Pancake Breakfasts on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month.
- 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:

4/13 – 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 April " Rainbow Daisy III" painting. All supplies included. No experience necessary.

4/27 – Designer Purse Wacko 11:30 pm – 2:30 pm. Sign up to save your spot for Designer Purse Wacko. Pre-register at the Post \$25 includes 8 games of wacko for your chance to WIN Designer

(Continued on page 8)

(Events continued)

Purses. First 30 people registered receive an extra WACKO card. Proceeds raised from this event go to the Post.

4/27 – Meat Raffle 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, join us for your chance to win high quality meat and other raffle prizes.

4/28 – 115<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing hosts 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)

5/11 – Puzzle & Pints. Join us for our Puzzle Challenge from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm. Two-Person teams compete to complete their 300-piece puzzles first! Prizes for the first 3 teams. Food and Beverages are available for purchase.

5/11 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 April "Crisp Spring Lake" painting. All supplies included. No experience necessary

5/26 – 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)

6/8 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 April "Rainbow Dragon Flies" painting. All supplies included. No experience necessary.

6/23 – Auxiliary 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)

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.

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

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/>.

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](mailto: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.



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

BY JOSEPH HINES

National Legislative Update. A delegation of Wisconsin VFW members including our Commander Steve Eisenhauer recently participated in the VFW National Legislative conference March 3-7 in Washington D.C. Our members met with the members or their staffs of all eight (8) Wisconsin U.S. Representatives and both Wisconsin U.S. Senators. Our members discussed the following four (4) pieces of national veterans' legislation that have been designated as priorities by our VFW National Legislative office.

1. The VFW urges Congress to pass H.R. 1139/S. 740, GUARD VA Benefits Act. • Cracking Down on Predatory Claims Companies (“Claim Sharks”)
2. The VFW urges Congress to pass H.R. 4157/S. 928, Not Just a Number Act. VA Benefits Data for Suicide Prevention.
3. The VFW urges Congress to pass H.R. 3933/S. 2888, TAP Promotion Act. Transition from Service.
4. The VFW urges Congress to pass H.R. 1282/S. 344, Major Richard Star Act, either as a standalone bill or via the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025. Retirement and Military Personnel

Please read Wisconsin VFW Newspaper that many of you have received hard copy in the mail. You can also view this recent newspaper on the Wisconsin VFW website for details on each of these bills and for more details on the VFW National Legislative Conference.

## Update on a State Legislative bill:

Assembly Bill 102 Status (AB 10), referred to as the Property Tax Credit Bill to reduce the eligibility threshold to claim the veterans and surviving spouse property tax credit down to 70% was unanimously passed by the Assembly (96-0) on February 22, 2024. A report of concurrence was recommended by the Senate Committee on Universities and Revenue (Ayes 6, Noes 2) on March 3, 2024. Unfortunately, the Senate still would not allow a vote on the Disabled Veteran property tax credit bill.



Post Commander, Steve, and other WI Delegates visiting with Representative Marc Pocan, District 2 WI



Post Commander, Steve, and other WI Delegates visiting with Senator Tammy Baldwin, WI



Pictures from the Chunky blanket event. Fund was had by all



Pictures from Purse Wacko held in January.



Left: Picture from our first Puzzle Challenge  
Right: First place winner



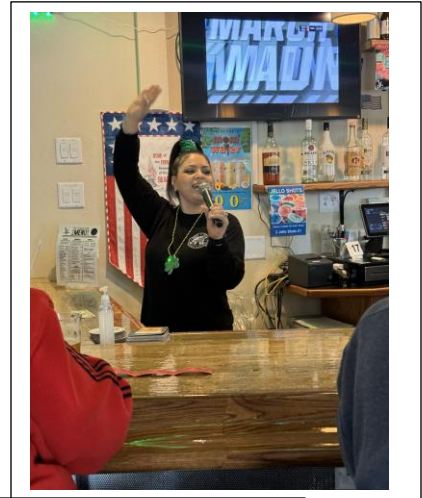
Left: Second place winner  
Right: Third place winner







Customers, Post members and family enjoy the meat raffle.



Left: Pajama Meat Raffle in Feb. Top: March meat Raffle. Right: Bartender Erica wishing her uncle a Happy Birthday



Left: Jamie and Luke Herrmann with Erik Van Goble. Jamie does the 50/50 and basket raffle during the meat raffle. Right: four of our regular meat raffle customers.

## MEMBERS CORNER



Left: Post Quartermaster, Gundy, talking to 7<sup>th</sup> graders in Monticello about her military career.  
Right: Post Commander, Steve, attending Legislative Conference in DC



## POST SCHOLARSHIPS

As spring comes around the corner, it's time to start thinking about who you know who may be attending college this fall. The post scholarship fund originally started with the generous donation by Percy H. Maw. In addition, numerous members have added to the fund each year. Qualifying educational institutions include technical colleges or technical training schools and 4-year colleges and universities. To qualify, the student must be an immediate relative of a Post or Auxiliary member. If you need an application or have any questions about qualifications, let me know. The scholarship committee will be collecting applications until June 30th. Contact me if you would like to get an application at: [andylochner@gmail.com](mailto:andylochner@gmail.com).

### 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**