

ISSUE #42 | JUNE 2019

VETERANS VOICE

OF NEW RICHMOND / ST. CROIX COUNTY VFW MEMORIAL POST 10818



**VFW POST 10818
NAMED AN ALL-STATE POST!**

**AMERICAN LEGION
PARTNERS WITH VFW
FOR JOINT HONOR GUARD
TO CELEBRATE MEMORIAL DAY**

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

OUR MISSION

TO FOSTER CAMARADERIE AMONG UNITED STATES VETERANS OF OVERSEAS CONFLICTS. TO SERVE OUR VETERANS, THE MILITARY AND OUR COMMUNITIES. TO ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF ALL VETERANS.

OUR VISION

ENSURE THAT VETERANS ARE RESPECTED FOR THEIR SERVICE, ALWAYS RECEIVE THEIR EARNED ENTITLEMENTS, AND ARE RECOGNIZED FOR THE SACRIFICES THEY AND THEIR LOVED ONES HAVE MADE ON BEHALF OF THIS GREAT COUNTRY.

The VFW is a dynamic United States combat veterans organization that serves, advocates and fosters camaraderie for ALL veterans, service members, their families and our community. The VFW harnesses its recognized authority, experience and resources to deliver comprehensive financial, educational, health and well-being programs and services at every stage of the veteran's military and civilian life.

ADDRESS

310 W N SHORE DRIVE

NEW RICHMOND, WI 54017

PHONE: 715-246-0226

EMAIL: ADMIN@VFWPOST10818.ORG

HOURS

MONDAY 9:00AM - 12:00PM

FRIDAY 9:00AM - 12:00PM

PUBLICATION AWARDS

| | |
|---|--|
| -1 st Place Grand Award 2019 National VFW Publications Contest | Contest |
| -1 st Place 2018 Wisconsin VFW Publications Contest | -1 st Place 2017 Wisconsin VFW Publications Contest |
| -3 rd Place 2018 National VFW Publications Contest | -2 nd Place 2017 National VFW Publications Contest |

ALL-STATE POST

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 2018-2019 | 2011-2012 |
| 2017-2018 | 2007-2008 |
| 2015-2016 | 2004-2005 |
| 2014-2015 | 2002-2003 |
| 2013-2014 | 2000-2001 |
| 2012-2013 | 1998-1999 |

ALL-AMERICAN POST

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 2015-2016 | 2012-2013 |
| 2014-2015 | 2011-2012 |
| 2013-2014 | 1998-1999 |

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Every month our Post has a monthly membership meeting. This meeting is for **YOU**, our members, to find out the latest and greatest of what your officers are doing, volunteer opportunities, voice your concern about veterans issues, vote on new projects and ideas, and to tell us what you want out of your membership and the VFW. Share your ideas on how to improve your Post and get the most out of your membership. It is also a great opportunity to connect with friends and meet other veterans with similar goals.

When: 3rd Tuesday of every month

Time: 6 PM - Social Hour 7 PM - Meeting starts

Location: New Richmond Civic Center - 156 East 1st St, New Richmond, WI 54017
(located in the downstairs of the Civic Center)



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Post 10818

VFW Veterans Voice magazine is the official publication of the VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES POST 10818

OUR OFFICERS

| | |
|---|---|
| Commander Ron Ramos 715-928-3606 | Chaplain Mel Zehm 715-796-2915 |
|---|---|

| | |
|--|---|
| Sr Vice Cmdr Russ Donaghue 715-222-2659 | Judge Advocate Dave Green 651-247-1801 |
|--|---|

| | |
|---|--|
| Jr Vice Cmdr Jasen Pomroy 715-377-6307 | Surgeon Bruce Taylor 651-253-4160 |
|---|--|

| | |
|---|--|
| Quartermaster Mitch Cline 651-492-9634 | Adjutant Ron Ramos 715-928-3606 |
|---|--|

Service Officer
Bruce Taylor
651-253-4160

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the VFW Veterans Voice may be submitted by email to: admin@vfwpost10818.org no later than the 25th of the month. If pictures are included, please provide names of all in the photo.

CONTACT THE COMMANDER

You can contact me by email at: commander@vfwpost10818.org or by cell phone at: 715-928-3606. If calling during the day, you may have to leave a voicemail as I do not have my phone while working. You can also text. I will try to answer as soon as I can after work.

VFW OBJECTIVES

To ensure national security through maximum military strength.
To speed the rehabilitation of the nation's disabled and needy veterans.
To assist the widows and orphans and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans.
To promote Americanism through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Whenever you move or have a change of address, please drop us a line at 715.246.0226 or shoot us an email at admin@vfwpost10818.org. Every time we get a Post magazine returned by the U.S. Postal Service because NO change of address was filed, the Post gets charged for the return postage. If you would prefer to receive your magazine by e-mail, let us know and we can get you on our e-mail distribution list. Please help us - we don't want to waste money.



COMMAND POST ★ FROM THE ALL-STATE COMMANDER



**COMMANDER
RON RAMOS**

Comrades, as this VFW year draws to a close, I want to take this time to thank everyone for your support and for keeping the mission of the VFW alive in St. Croix County. It has been an honor to serve as Commander of the most exceptional Post in Wisconsin, and I am honored to serve you for another year. As Commander, I am proud to call you all comrades in arms. There have been many changes this year, and we are proud of our accomplishments. We're continuing to build on a legacy of greatness and exceptional service to the veterans and service members of St. Croix County.

To date, our Post has received the following awards & recognition for our 2017-2018 year:

- Mid-Winter Red Carpet Award
- Two (2) National Aide-de-Camp Appointments
- Veterans Day Display Contest for Associated Bank
- National Outstanding Community Award
- Color Guard Award for 2019 Loyalty Day
- Over 100% Membership Streamer
- Grand Award (1st Place) 2019 National VFW Publications Contest
- All-State Post

These achievements are just a small inkling of what you all have accomplished as a Post. As you read through the list of awards, you may have noticed that the last award on the list is the "All-State Post" award. In our May Membership meeting, our Post was informed that we are once again an All-State Post for the 2018-2019 year! Comrades, THANK YOU for your hard work and dedication. We could not achieve such recognition without your passion and commitment.

I want to congratulate our incoming Officers who were sworn in at our last meeting. Your Officers and I have already hit the ground running on planning the rest of our year and finalizing our membership goals. New changes will be made to assist with accountability within the Post in regards to assets & inventory. Those changes will be announced and implemented in the upcoming months. I want to say thank you to Past State Commander John "Trapper" Schultz and his wonderful wife Barbara for coming out from Milwaukee to New Richmond to act as our Installing Officer. It was a pleasant surprise. Trapper John installed us last year while he was the State Commander and it was great to have him out again. You always have a home at 10818 Trapper!

Another award our Post has recently won is the 2019 VFW Publications Contest. This year our Veterans Voice took the Grand Award (1st Place) in Post Large Frequency category. Also winning was Marla Morgan and the VFW Dept. of Wisconsin Newspaper winning the Grand Award for Department Large Frequency (5th year in a row!) and VFW Post 10406 and their editor Al Kochenderfer for winning the Silver Award in Post Small Frequency.

May was a hectic month for us and was the official start of our summer season. Congratulations to our outstanding Auxiliary for celebrating 15 years of service to St. Croix County last month. I was honored to attend their celebration, and it most certainly was a great time. We also held a Family Picnic for our adopted unit: 128th Infantry Battalion, Bravo Company. Commanding Officer Stoffa and the units FRG Katherine Fossler invited us and our Post supported the unit by cooking hamburgers and hot dogs. Thank you for allowing us to speak to the troops on how we can support them and their families as a VFW and thank you to our CVSO Phil Landgraf for attending and informing the soldiers about additional help & resources.

Our summer events still need volunteers to help out, so don't be surprised if you get contacted by an event Chairman to put in some volunteer time. We all promise to give 10 hours of volunteering to the Post annually. We have about ten events this summer that can satisfy those hours very quickly, and all of the events are family friendly! We are also starting to prep for events at the end of the year such as Pancake Breakfast, Veterans Day, & VFW Christmas Party. As we get information on them, you will be made aware of volunteer opportunities.

Buddy Poppy distribution was also another great and smooth event, and we're thankful to all the members who donated time to help distribute them and to those who donated for a Poppy. We were a massive hit in Hudson once again. We only did one day this year due to the inclement weather and downpour of rain. We'll be scheduling more Poppy Drives later during the summer around August to make up for this. Keep a lookout as more details will follow.

Memorial Day was very successful in honoring our fallen despite the downpour of rain. Butler-Harmon American Legion Post 80 partnered with our VFW for a Joint Honor Guard and conducted services throughout the city. Thank you to Commander Barnes for including us in the service and thank you to all of the community members who braved the weather to join us in the services. When you see members of our Honor Guard, shake their hand and give them thanks for an outstanding year of service honoring our comrades. This year they have provided services outside in below freezing temperatures, snow storms, rain storms, and all of the inclement weather we've had this year. Great job team and great job to our Honor/Color Guard Sgt. Jerry Simon. If you are interested in joining the Honor Guard, Color Guard, or both, please attend one of the two monthly practices listed on the Schedule of Events page.

Our Membership Campaign this year has been wildly successful. We are currently sitting at 111.76% and are just two members away from 112%. We've had 40 new members this year which makes up over 70% of total new members for our entire District. The goal of 110% for the year was met and exceeded thanks to your hard work. Thank you to Dave Green, Chairman of our Membership Committee and State Recruiter, for assisting and guiding us on our Membership Campaign this year. Reporting does not stop until June 30th, so our campaign will continue to push. Wisconsin is VERY close to being 100% in membership. The Department is currently sitting at 99.69% and only 85 members away from 100%. Let's assist where we can! Remember, membership is what gives our organization the power and ability to testify about legislative issues at Congress and to advocate on behalf of all veterans. There are powers in numbers. The National VFW hit 100% for the first time in 27 years! Commander-in-Chief B.J. Lawrence has done a fantastic job this year and has helped to inspire and motivate a multitude of VFW Posts and its leadership. Great job to our Department Commander Gundel Metz and our Commander-in-Chief B.J. Lawrence!

I would also like to extend my sincerest thanks to our membership and our Auxiliary for the number of volunteer hours you all have put in for the good of the Post. This year was a record-breaking year in that you have logged over 12,000 hours of community service. Great job, everyone! That's quite the impressive feat for an all-volunteer organization.

This month is also Fathers Day. Please make sure to call your father if you can and wish him a Happy Fathers Day. To all of the dads out there, we hope that you have a great day surrounded by your kids and family. To those dads overseas, you are in our thoughts and prayers for a safe trip home to be reunited with your family, and we're hoping you can even make a few video chats when able. Happy Fathers Day!

Once again, thank you for an outstanding year, and we're looking forward to an even bigger and better year!

THANK YOU!
DAIRY QUEEN
NEW RICHMOND

**FOR DONATION OF
250 DILLY BARS TO THE
128TH INFANTRY, B CO.**

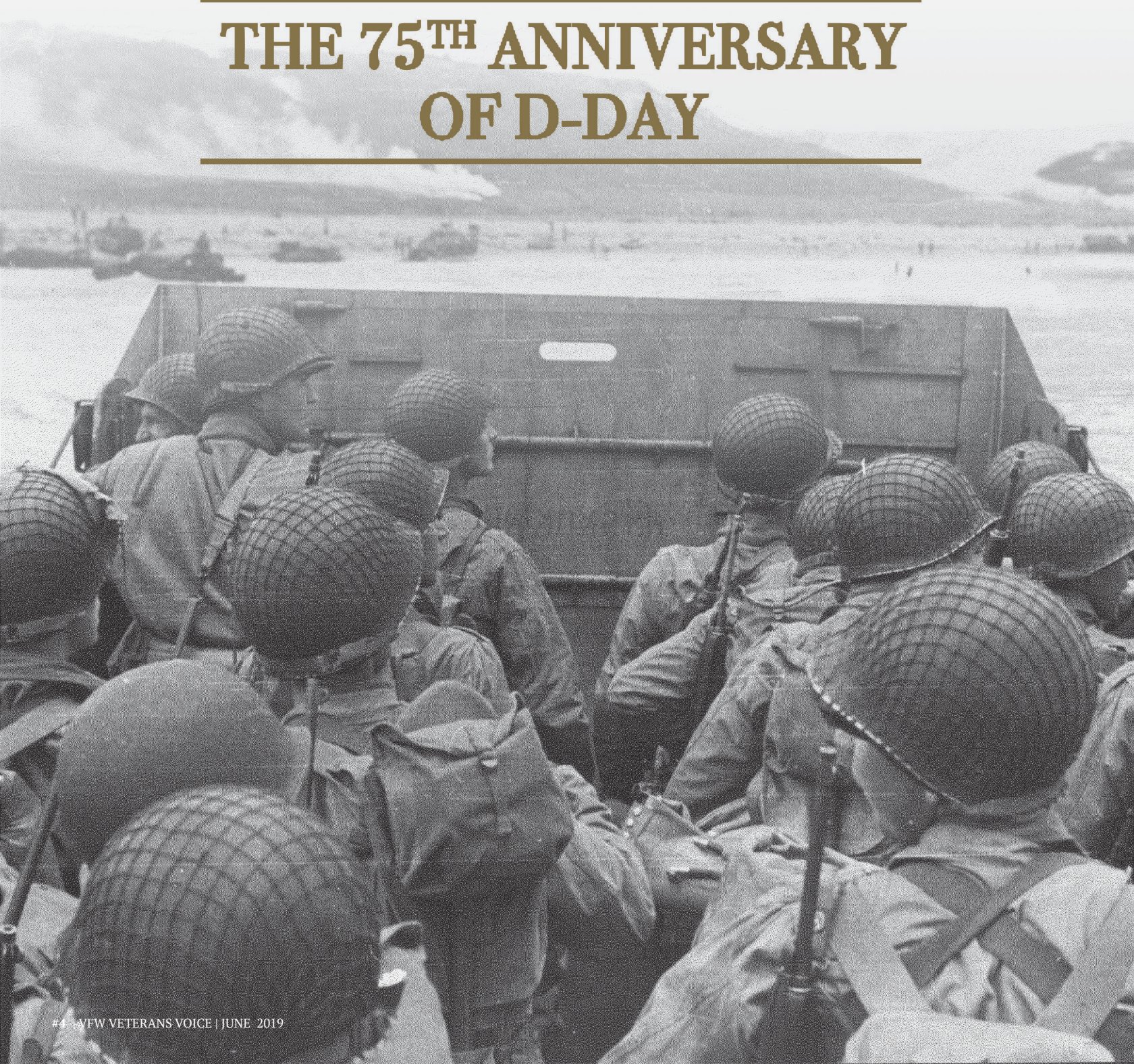


1944



2019

**THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF D-DAY**



Tick Bites, Diseases, and Prevention

There are many diseases that can be spread by ticks. Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis, Lyme disease, Powassan virus infection, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever are among the diseases that can be spread by ticks. All can be very serious, difficult to diagnose and treat, and can be extremely debilitating and possibly life threatening. Most tick-borne diseases in Wisconsin and the midwest are spread by the black-legged tick (also known as the deer tick). Preventing tick bites is the key to



reducing your risk of tick-borne disease. The risk of Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases in Wisconsin is increasing as the state is seeing more months of the year when ticks are active. May through September are the most common months to see ticks. Longer tick seasons increase the chance of someone coming into contact with a tick. Ticks remain most active when temperatures are above 45 degrees Fahrenheit; but they do not go away in the winter, nor do they die because of the cold. Depending on the species, and stage of life of the tick, they become dormant or latch on to their host - like a warm-blooded human, deer, elk, or moose, wolves or coyotes, or rodents. In Wisconsin it is important to remember that ticks are present in all counties. People living in any county in Wisconsin can contract Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases. Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, and Babesiosis account for the majority of tick-borne disease cases in Wisconsin. Tick-borne diseases can happen throughout the United States though most prevalent in the Midwest and north eastern states, but also can be found throughout African, Asian, and European regions.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM BITES. Wear insect repellent with 20%-30% DEET or 30 - 40% oil of lemon eucalyptus. Apply permethrin (a pesticide that kills ticks) to clothes, shoes, and gear to prevent tick bites. Permethrin kills ticks when they crawl on your clothes. It lasts through several washes after it is applied. Do not apply directly to skin. Wear a long-sleeve shirt and pants while outdoors in a grassy or brushy area. Tuck shirts into pants and pants into shoes or socks to keep ticks on the outside of clothing. Wear light-colors to make ticks easier to spot.

PERFORM DAILY TICK CHECKS. Check your entire body after being outside, even if you were only in your yard. Shower as soon as possible after coming in from the outdoors.

TUMBLE DRY CLOTHES AFTER BEING OUTDOORS. Tumble dry your clothes on high heat for 10 minutes to kill any ticks that may have come in on your clothes.

PREVENT TICKS ON ANIMALS. Try to prevent pets from bringing ticks into your home by not allowing them in tick-infested areas, and by using veterinarian-prescribed tick collars or spot treatment. These are very effective for your pets.

AVOID TICK-HEAVY AREAS. Ticks like to live in tall bushes and other vegetation. When walking on trails, stay in the center and do not go off into the brush if possible.

CREATE TICK FREE ZONES. Clear tall grass, brush, and leaf litter from the yard or trails. Place a 3-ft wide barrier of wood chips or gravel between lawns and wooded areas and around patios and play equipment. This will restrict tick migration into recreational areas. Keep playground equipment, decks, and patios away from yard edges and trees and place them in a sunny location, if possible. Stack wood neatly and in a dry area (discourages rodents that ticks feed on). Avoid feeding deer near your yard or house as deer are one of the primary transporters of ticks. Mow the lawn frequently and keep leaves raked.

REMOVAL OF TICKS. Although your grandmother may advise you to smother a tick with Vaseline or oils, the only thing that may do is to create a slippery pet. Once a tick attaches to an animal, it buries its head under the surface of the skin. In essence, the tick has already suffocated itself, so covering it with any type of oil won't help. Here are a few tips on how to remove a tick, completely and safely. Dab the tick and close-surrounding areas with rubbing alcohol. Use fine-tipped tweezers or a notched tick extractor, and protect your fingers with a tissue, paper towel, or latex gloves. To remove the tick, use narrow-tipped tweezers and grasp it as close to the skin as possible; then pull upward slowly and steadily.

BE ALERT FOR FEVER OR RASH. Even if you do not remember being bitten by a tick, a fever or rash may be the first sign of Lyme disease. Symptoms of tick-borne diseases may include fever, chills, muscle aches, fatigue, headache, and rash (not in all tick-borne diseases). Contact your doctor right away if you have any of these symptoms. It is possible to test for disease, but the tests aren't very reliable in the early stages. A circular rash, bullseye, or reddened circle around a bite site is usually a sign of tick bite but may not always be present. If any question in your mind see your doctor.

SERVICE OFFICER



ROLLING THUNDER:

The last Rolling Thunder event in history will highlight the medical marijuana hypocrisy before its final Memorial Day run this coming weekend after 32 years.

Artie Muller, the founder of Rolling Thunder, Inc, said his group will no longer hold the annual Memorial Day ride. Why? Because, according to Muller, the Pentagon, and metro police are not cooperating as in the past with organizing the event. And, there is much more red tape than in the past. So, going out with a bang, the Rolling Thunder crew plans to highlight the consistent refusal of Washington DC bureaucrats to move the needle toward a common sense approach to medical marijuana. Veterans are growing weary of Washington DC bureaucratic gridlock holding up veterans access to medical marijuana. So much so, veterans of the Rolling Thunder ride this Memorial Day will be highlighting the issue. Veterans Cannabis Project is partnering with Harley-Davidson to sponsor the event in Washington DC - a day of Harleys, free BBQ, and a concert to show support for what is being called marijuana advocacy.

The whole goal of the movement is to change how marijuana is currently classified to allow access for medical reasons by veterans. Presently, the plant is on the list of Schedule 1 drugs, which is reserved for the most severe drugs like cocaine or heroin. As a consequence of the classification, the Department of Veterans Affairs refuses to recommend or prescribe the use of medical marijuana to veterans.

"We know that chronic pain and [post-traumatic stress disorder] are two major contributing factors to veteran suicides, and we know that medical cannabis can be a much safer and even more effective treatment than the cocktail of pills the VA often prescribes us." Doug Distaso, director of Veterans Cannabis Project, said in a news release.

Rolling Thunder is an organization focused on honoring prisoners of war and military members who went missing in action. A tradition of Veteran Awareness for the last 32 years will end with a statement.

VFW AUXILIARY ★ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

As I sit and write this I am a bit emotional as this will be my last newsletter that I write. From the day I transferred Auxiliaries to now, it has been a great honor to work with such an amazing group. We have had our struggles but I truly believe they were only for the best. This past year has been a busy one for me and I know I did not 100% complete everything I stated I would, not that I didn't try but obstacles can sometimes steer us in a different direction. I do see, however, that all of the members have maybe got a bit closer and have accepted some of the changes. Minor some may seem but in reality it sometimes does not take much. I am proud of each of you for what you do for our Veteran's, the community, our members within our Auxiliary and others. If you truly reflect back at the last two years and what everyone has done you can clearly see this Auxiliary has grown in many ways. I am honored to be able to be a member of such a caring and supportive team!

I wanted to recognize individuals for what has been accomplished but have realized I simply cannot. Why? Well, I cannot zero any one member out for any one thing because it never just takes one. From a simple kind word to attributing to an event the members of this organization has shown their dedication and unwavering support even in rough times!

THANK YOU AUXILIARY SISTERS AND BROTHERS FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO!

Congratulations to VFW Post 10818 Commander, Ron Ramos and his organization for all of your achievements this year!

- Mid-Winter Conference Red Carpet Award
- 100% Membership
- Two (2) National Aide-de-Camp Appointments
- Veterans Day Display for Associated Bank
- 2019 Loyalty Day Color Guard Award
- Grand Award for 2019 VFW Publications Contest
- All-State Post

Here are a couple pictures from events held in May.



Auxiliary celebrating its 15 Year Anniversary!



New Auxiliary Officers being sworn in!

As I pass the Gavel to your new President, Jen Donaghue, it is with great confidence that she will bring outstanding leadership to this organization. She is an honest and caring individual that always thinks of others needs and acts to assist where needed.

Let's continue to grow by providing our knowledge, support and volunteerism to our community, our Veterans and their families.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

President Kelly Pomroy



**PRESIDENT
KELLY POMROY**



**UNWAVERING SUPPORT
FOR UNCOMMON HEROES**

OUR OFFICERS

President Secretary
Kelly Pomroy Gayle House
715-377-6308 651-770-6429

Sr Vice Chaplain
Rhonda Rimarcik Kathy Berends
715-246-4334 715-246-4843

Jr Vice Guard
Jen Donaghue Pat Cunningham
715-222-9868 715-246-3598

Treasurer Conductor
Karen Cline Denny Handrahan
715-381-6567 715-265-7664

Patriotic Ins.
To Be Appointed

CONTACT US

You can contact us by email at:
auxiliaryvfw10818@gmail.com

WHAT IS THE VFW AUXILIARY?

Established 1914, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary set out to serve the veterans of this country and our communities in honor of the sacrifices and commitment of every man and woman who has served in uniform.

Through our National Programs, we assist the VFW pass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families, provide nearly a million volunteer hours in the VA medical system, conduct patriotic programs with thousands of students and offer hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships for our nation's youth.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Every month our Auxiliary holds a monthly membership meeting to inform our members what is going on with their Auxiliary. This is your time to vote on projects and make this Auxiliary your own.

When: 3rd Tuesday of every month

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: New Richmond Civic Center
156 East 1st St
New Richmond, WI 54017
(located in the downstairs of the Civic Center)

House Passes Blue Water Navy Act:

By a vote of 410-0, the House unanimously passed H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. "The VFW salutes the united support of the House," said VFW National Commander B. J. Lawrence. "Your vote will positively impact thousands of lives, and it once again proves that taking care of veterans and their families is a nonpartisan issue." Once signed into law, H.R. 299 will restore VA benefits to thousands of so-called Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans who had their disability eligibility taken away after regulatory changes. Veterans exposed to Agent Orange while serving along the Korean DMZ will have an earlier start date to encompass the time frame when various defoliants were tested — from April 1, 1968, to Sept. 1, 1967. Benefits will expand to include children born with spina bifida due to a parent's exposure in Thailand, as well as require VA to report on research being conducted on a broad range of conditions possibly related to service in Southwest Asia. The bill now moves to the Senate, which "failed to pass H.R. 299 in the previous Congress," said Lawrence. "We cannot allow this to happen again, which is why I am urging every veteran, family member and advocate to contact their US senators to get this bill passed and signed into law now!"

VFW Attends Army Leadership Roundtable:

VFW Director of National Security and Foreign Affairs John Towles joined the incoming Chief of Army Public Affairs Brigadier General Amy Hannah and other senior Army officials to discuss the department's budget priorities for FY 2020. They discussed how to improve benefits and care for our nation's service members and their families, updates regarding privatized housing, retention and accessions, and the recently released Department of Defense Sexual Assault report. Additional topics of discussion included the need for a robust and strategically driven FY 2020 budget, an update on the "21 cities" recruiting campaign, and an overview of current Army operations occurring worldwide, including an update regarding the recent troop buildup on the U.S./Mexico border.

VFW Calls for Return of War Memorabilia:

The VFW is asking Vietnam veterans to search their war memorabilia for any artifacts that might help Vietnam to determine the fate of its estimated 300,000 MIAs, or may at least bring some comfort to their families. The call to action, which will be repeated at the upcoming 120th VFW National Convention in Orlando, Fla., is the result of requests for help from Vietnamese veterans organizations directly to VFW Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch, who recently returned from a POW/MIA fact-finding trip to Vietnam, Thailand and Laos. Being requested are photos and detailed maps of battle sites or burial locations, as well as personal artifacts that may contain names, family photos and personal letters. No weapons, please! Veteran-to-veteran initiatives generate goodwill and further assist the US government's efforts to recover Americans missing from the war, where a total of 1,589 Americans remain missing; a number that includes 1,246 in Vietnam (North-452, South-794), 288 in Laos, 48 in Cambodia, and 7 in Chinese territorial waters. Please mail your memorabilia to Joe Davis, VFW Washington Office, 200 Maryland Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002. Everything collected will be turned over to the Vietnamese Embassy in Washington through the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

VFW Testifies on Medicinal Cannabis Research:



The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a hearing to discuss medicinal cannabis and suicide prevention legislation. Committee members urged VA to work with Congress to research and expand access to complementary and integrative alternatives to opioids when treating veterans with chronic pain and other comorbid conditions. VFW National Legislative Service Director Carlos Fuentes testified in support of legislation to commission a VA study of veteran patients on the effectiveness of medicinal cannabis for treating chronic pain. The VFW also supported other bills to reduce overmedication and improve suicide prevention efforts.

Congress Advances Legislation to Fix the Kiddie Tax:

The Senate and the House both passed legislation to end the Kiddie Tax. The Senate passed S. 1370, the Gold Star Family Tax Relief Act. The House passed H.R. 1994, the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019, which includes a fix for the Kiddie Tax. On Wednesday the VFW participated in a press conference to urge immediate congressional action to fix the unintended consequence of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, which doubled the taxes for military surviving children who receive their parent's retirement pay.

Thailand Agent Orange Bill Introduced:

Senators John Boozman (R-Ark.) and Jon Tester (D-Mont.) introduced VFW-supported legislation to expand benefits for all veterans who were stationed in military bases in Thailand during the Vietnam War. Currently, presumptive disability compensation benefits for Agent Orange-related health conditions are only afforded to veterans who served in Thailand who had certain military occupations or were required to work along the parameter of the base.



VFW Storms the Hill to #AxeWidowsTax:

The VFW joined veteran and survivor organizations, surviving spouses, and dependents to storm Capitol Hill to urge lawmakers to end the disgraceful Widow's Tax. More than 65,000 surviving military spouses and dependents are unjustly penalized because their loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. America must honor military survivors, NOT tax them!

Bill to Repeal Feres Doctrine Introduced:

Congresswoman Jackie Speier (D-Calif.) introduced H.R. 2422, the Sergeant First Class Richard Stayskal Military Medical Accountability Act of 2019. The bill would allow military service members to sue DOD for instances of medical malpractice that are not related to combat activities.

The VFW Calls for Increased Oversight of Service Member Protections:

The VFW and other veterans organizations, called for increased oversight of the Military Lending Act (MLA). The MLA protects service members and their families from predatory lenders. The MLA is overseen by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and the VFW is calling upon the CFPB to renew proactive investigations into potential violators of the MLA. The MLA is a vital protection for service members, especially while they are deployed. It is the VFW's job to fight for our men and women who are fighting for us every day.

House Armed Services Hearing on Military Suicide:

The House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel and House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health held a joint hearing on Military and Veteran Suicide. Ranking member Trent Kelly (R-MS) expressed that with approximately 20 veterans who die by suicide each day, "we must take decisive action to disrupt the status quo and reverse this epidemic." This summer, DOD will be releasing its first annual suicide report to address military suicides and has started leveraging scientific evidence and learned practices to generate an effective initiative to help service members and their families.

Barriers Impacting Women Veterans' Access to Health Care:

Following the launch of the Women Veterans Task Force, the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health held a hearing to discuss the barriers women veterans face when accessing VA health care services. The VFW submitted a statement urging Congress and VA to improve the gender-specific competency of VA health care providers; require VA to continue to improve privacy at women clinics; give women veterans the ability to choose the gender of their health care provider; extend the number of days newborn care is covered by VA; expand the successful VA childcare pilot program; and conduct targeted outreach to women, so no veteran is left to wonder what benefits she is eligible to receive.



D-Day 75th Anniversary Commemorations:



Two events will be held at the National World War II Memorial to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landing on the Normandy coast of France. The first, at 5 p.m., June 5, 2019, will be a Remembrance Ceremony and Candlelit Vigil to honor all who died during Operation Overlord (June 6-Aug. 30, 1944). As part of the ceremony, the names of 9,380 Americans who died and are buried at the Normandy American Cemetery in France will be read aloud. Click here to volunteer to read names. The second event starts at 10 a.m., June 6, 2019, and it will include a tribute to all WWII veterans, as well as the allied nations who also took part in the landing. If you are a World War II veteran or know of one who would like to

participate in the 75th Anniversary Commemoration, please email hrotondi@wwiimemorialfriends.org. Visitors to Washington DC, should know the World War II Memorial has no public parking and very limited handicap parking. The closest two Metro stops (Federal Triangle and Smithsonian) are about a half mile walk, and taxis and other hired conveyances are plentiful.

Two Services to Reimburse Military Spouse Relicensing Costs:

The Army and Air Force announced new programs that will reimburse military spouse relicensing and recertification costs if a permanent change of station requires them to move across state lines. Both services will reimburse qualifying fees of up to \$500 if authenticated on or after Dec. 12, 2017. "This is a tremendous quality of life initiative," said VFW National Commander B. J. Lawrence. Citing Defense Department data that puts the military spouse unemployment rate at 24 percent and underemployed rate at 31 percent, Lawrence said that any initiative that helps ease the stress of rotating assignments every few years is going to have a tremendous impact not only on military recruiting but on retention, as well. "The old adage that you recruit individuals but retain families is entirely true," he said. "Our military has been actively engaged since the beginning of Operation Desert Shield in 1990, and with still no end in sight. The services must explore all avenues to keep the troops and their families happy, and this great initiative is something I hope the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard will quickly emulate."

House Passes Nine Veteran Bills:

The U.S. House of Representatives passed nine VFW supported veteran bills with an overwhelming voice vote. Five of the nine bills focused on the veteran suicide crisis, and others tackle transition, access to VA care, and cost of living increases. The passage of these nine bills on to the Senate come right before our nation pauses to observe Memorial Day. The VFW applauds all the members of the House who showed their support for veterans and their families by overwhelmingly passing these bipartisan bills. Now it is time for the Senate to do the same and send them to the president's desk.



FOR MORE INFORMATION about specific legislation or VA benefits, contact VFW's Washington Office at vfw@vfw.org. A member of VFW's National Veterans Service staff will respond as soon as possible.

OUR SPONSORS

July 2018 - June 2019

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Sponsorship helps our VFW pay for our award winning magazine as well as our website.

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VFW Auxiliary Celebrates 15th Anniversary

Article by Tom Lindfors / RiverTown Multimedia

Members past and present attended the 15th anniversary celebration for the VFW Auxiliary to Post 10818 on Saturday, May 18, at Prairieview Covenant Church. Auxiliary Senior Vice President Rhonda Rimarcik filled in as emcee for President Kelly Pomroy, who could not attend.

"I appreciate the role that each of you has played in supporting this auxiliary," said Rimarcik.

Don Schwan, who was the VFW Commander in 2004, was approached by District 9 about starting up an Auxiliary. Schwab brought the idea before the local VFW membership who voted to establish an Auxiliary to the Post.

Schwan's daughter, Stacey Schwan, held the position of Auxiliary President for the first eight years.

"After much discussion, the Post agreed to allow us to form. The Post comrades signed up their wives and daughters and we held our first informational meeting to elect officers," recalled Stacey.

The Auxiliary's inaugural meeting took place June 19, 2004, and included 20 charter members. Past District 9 Auxiliary President Jeanette Stabenow was in attendance when the Auxiliary was introduced to VFW Post 10818 at their July 29, 2004 meeting.

"I met a lot of these girls at the District meeting and you are all working very, very hard and doing a good job. So keep it up! I know all the old-timers really did a good job back then. I enjoyed my two years as District President and told them I wouldn't take it again because I'm getting too old!" said Stabenow.

The initial Auxiliary quickly engaged in supporting veterans in local nursing homes, the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis, Company "B" and other veterans' family support programs. In addition to supporting veterans medical care, members supported VFW community events including parades, Buddy Poppy distribution and partnered with Relay for Life and the Salvation Army. They sponsored flag education presentations in the schools and eventually funded Patriotic Art scholarships and New Richmond High School scholarships. Auxiliary members log in over a thousand community service hours annually. They financially support many organizations and help veterans and their families with unmet needs.

Current VFW Post Commander Ron Ramos was in attendance and addressed the audience.

"15 years is something to be proud of, especially so when you consider yours is the only Auxiliary to VFW in the entirety of St. Croix County. That's a big deal when you consider that there are over 6,000 veterans that you are able to assist and provide help to. The Auxiliary has grown exponentially since I've been Post Commander to the point where you now accept male as well as female members as long as they meet the qualifications including being an immediate family member of a veteran. To put what the Auxiliary does for this community into perspective, this year alone, the VFW with the assistance of the Auxiliary together, we have put in nearly 12,000 hours of community service between May 1, 2018 and April 30, 2019. That was a record for our Post," said Ramos.

The Auxiliary's current membership stands at 68 including five teens and six male members. Congratulations on 15 years of service!

Upper middle: Rhonda Rimarcik, Sr Vice President; Middle left: Virginia Schwan; Middle right: Jeanette Stabenow, Past District 9 President; Bottom Left: Nancy Kleinschmidt; Bottom right: Nancy Kleinschmidt, Virginia Swan, and Delphine Aufderhar receiving their 15 year pin!; Bottom: VFW Post 10818 Commander Ron Ramos, Nancy Kleinschmidt, Virginia Swan, and Delphine Aufderhar



Members past and present attended the 15th anniversary celebration for the VFW Auxiliary to Post 10818 on Saturday, May 18, at Prairieview Covenant Church. (Front, from left): Dorothy P., Jeanette Stabenow, Rhonda Rimarcik, VFW Commander Ron Ramos, Pat Cunningham, Virginia Schwan, Karen Cline, Dorothy Griesbach and Gayle House; (back) Wanda Viellieux, Karen Green, Nancy Kleinschmidt, Wendy Burnett, Stacey Schwan, Delphine Aufderhar, Mary Simonds and Marjorie Metzdorf. Photo courtesy of Tom Lindfors/Rivertowns Multimedia





Family Picnic for Troops of 128th Infantry Battalion Bravo Company

Our VFW had the honor of hosting a Family Picnic for the troops and families of the 1st Battalion 128th Infantry Regiment Bravo Company.

Bravo Company is based out of New Richmond and is one of our Adopted Units.

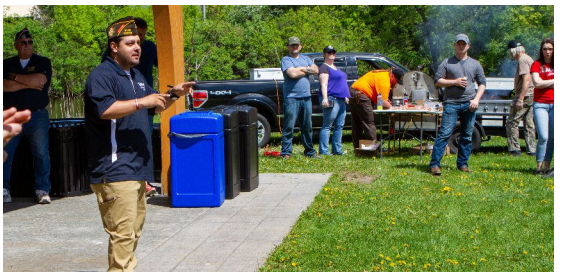
Part of our mission as a VFW is to assist and support our troops and today we did just that. We will continue to support the troops and their families in their upcoming deployment and provide any necessary assistance.

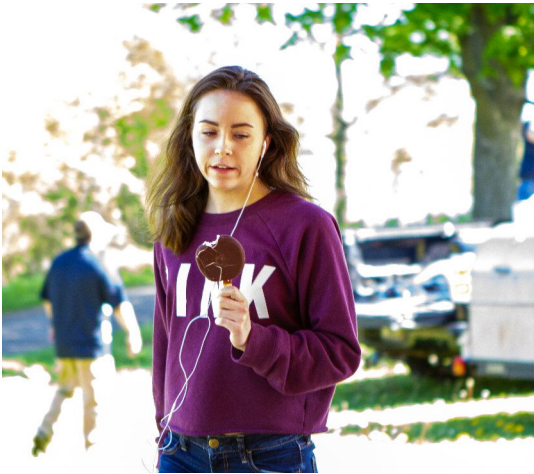
Commander Ron Ramos spoke to the unit about the VFW and how we support them as well as looking out for each other while on deployment.

Thank you to their FRG Katherine Fossler for reaching out to us, Commander Stoffa for allowing us to speak, CVSO Phil Landgraf for speaking about benefits and assistance available, Dairy Queen of New Richmond for their donation of Dilly Bars, and to our VFW members and Auxiliary who cooked and served food.

It was a wonderful day out to grill & serve food and enjoy the company of our service members!!

Past Commander Dave Green was also dubbed "The Ice Cream Man"





Memorial Day

Honor the dead by helping the living...

Each year around Memorial Day and Veterans Day, Veterans of Foreign Wars members and American Legion Auxiliary volunteers distribute millions of bright red poppies in exchange for contributions to assist disabled and hospitalized veterans. The program provides multiple benefits to the veterans and to the community. The hospitalized veterans who make the flowers are able to earn a small wage, which helps to supplement their incomes and makes them feel more self-sufficient. The physical and mental activity provides many therapeutic benefits as well. The poppy also reminds the community of the past sacrifices and continuing needs of our veterans. The poppy has become a nationally known and recognized symbol of sacrifice and is worn to honor the men and women who served and died for their country in all wars. On Memorial Day, services are held to honor those fallen and to remember them.

VFW Post 10818 participated in a Joint Honor Guard with American Legion Butler-Harmon Post 80 to help honor those fallen and remember those veterans we've lost in the past year.

It was a very wet and rainy day but that did not stop our members from rendering appropriate honors for Memorial Day.

Thank you to everyone who came out and braved the weather to join us in the Memorial Day services and thank you to the American Legion for including us in the Joint Honor Guard!









VFW & Loan Depot Hosts Chamber Coffee

VFW Post 10818 partnered with Scott Prindle of Loan Depot to sponsor the New Richmond Chamber Coffee for the month of May. Chamber Coffee is an informal opportunity for Chamber members to network and get together for complimentary coffee and a continental breakfast. Commander Ron Ramos promoted the VFW & spoke about upcoming events and Scott Prindle made everyone aware of current rates for mortgages and lending. With these two together, lots of laughs were had and it was a fantastic morning. Thank you to Moojo's Ice Cream and Coffee for the delicious coffee provided that morning and to Sweet Beet Bakery for their delicious donuts and fruits. The next Chamber Coffee will be on June 14th at 8 am at the New Richmond Chamber of Commerce.

VFW Auxiliary Meat Raffle

Our Auxiliary held a Meat Raffle on May 10th and boy was it successful. This time, the men & women of the VFW assisted the Auxiliary in selling tickets and rallying the crowd. It was a fantastic night for a meat raffle and fun was had by all. Great job to our Auxiliary for their outstanding initiative and successful fundraiser!



Officers Sworn in for New VFW Year

During our monthly membership meeting in May, the Officers elected during the April meeting were sworn in for the 2019-2020 year. A surprise guest drove all the way from Milwaukee to install our Officers. Past State Commander John "Trapper" Schultz and his amazing wife Barbara drove to New Richmond to act as the Installing Officer. PSC Schultz addressed the membership about community service hours, membership, and the great work we're doing at our Post and in our community. Thank you Trapper for making the trip to New Richmond. It's always a pleasure to have you visit us and you'll always have a home here! Congratulations to our newly installed officers. Once again, our team of OIF/OEF veterans will continue to lead the way. They are currently working on the final stages of planning for the upcoming VFW year. We look forward to another exciting and busy year for our Post.



Left to Right: Sgt J. Somen, SSG D. Pringle, SFC R. Schick, J. Wendt, City Engineers

652nd En Co Surveys Trail

Members of the 652nd Engineer Company based out of Hammond, WI recently took a trip to Freedom Park to discuss the completion of the walking trail. Joining them in the planning phase was Jeremiah Wendt who is the Director of Publics Works and represents the City Engineering Department. As you can see, it was a wonderful day to be at the park.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- ✪ **June 1 - Harley Feed:** We will be doing a Harley Feed for Customer Appreciation Day at St. Croix Harley Davidson. Point of Contact: Russ Donaghue 715-222-2659
- ✪ **June 1 - Table Top Day:** The Gathering Games of New Richmond will be hosting a fundraiser with proceeds going to the VFW.
- ✪ **June 2 - Roberts Good Neighbor Days Parade** - 10AM - 12PM Color Guard for parade. Point of Contact: Jerry Simon (715) 977-2875
- ✪ **June 5 - 12 - Drill Team:** 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30PM. This will be for those in the Color Guard and Honor Guard.
- ✪ **June 7 & 8 - Park Art Fair** - Grilling and serving food. Point of Contact: Russ Donaghue 715-222-2659
- ✪ **June 8 - Baldwin June Bug Days Parade** - 12PM - 1PM Color Guard for parade. Point of Contact: Jerry Simon (715) 977-2875
- ✪ **June 8 - Pea Soup Days Parade** - Bruce Taylor will be taking flags on his SUV for the parade.
- ✪ **June 12 - 15 - Wisconsin VFW State Convention:** Department Convention will be held at the Red Lion Hotel and Conference Center - in Appleton, WI
- ✪ **June 17 - Finance Committee:** Finance meeting starts at 6PM. The management meeting will begin shortly after the closing of the finance meeting. The management meeting will **only** consist of the Post Officers unless invited by an Officer.
- ✪ **June 18 - Post & Auxiliary Meeting:** Social hour begins at 6:00PM. Auxiliary meeting starts at 6:30PM. Post meeting promptly begins at 7:00PM. Every month at our Post Meeting, we have a drawing for some very neat prizes. **Post meetings will take place in the downstairs of the New Richmond Civic Center, 156 East First Street (across from the Fire Department).**
- ✪ **June 22 - Rally in the Valley:** We will be selling food at the First Annual Rally in the Valley at St. Croix Harley Davidson. More info to follow.
- ✪ **July 3 - 10 - Drill Team:** 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30PM. This will be for those in the Color Guard and Honor Guard.
- ✪ **July 11 - 14 - New Richmond Fun Fest** - Volunteers needed for food wagon and grill. Sign up sheets will be at the post. Point of Contact: Ron Ramos 715-928-3606
- ✪ **July 14 - Fun Fest Parade** - 11:30 - 1 - Color Guard for parade. Point of Contact: Jerry Simon (715) 977-2875
- ✪ **July 15 - Finance Committee:** Finance meeting starts at 6PM. The management meeting will begin shortly after the closing of the finance meeting. The management meeting will **only** consist of the Post Officers unless invited by an Officer.
- ✪ **July 16 - Post & Auxiliary Meeting:** Social hour begins at 6:00PM. Auxiliary meeting starts at 6:30PM. Post meeting promptly begins at 7:00PM. Every month at our Post Meeting, we have a drawing for some very neat prizes. **Post meetings will take place in the downstairs of the New Richmond Civic Center, 156 East First Street (across from the Fire Department).**
- ✪ **July 17 - 21 - St. Croix County Fair:** Information & recruiting booth will be setup during the fair. More info to follow.
- ✪ **July 20 - Harley Parking Lot Party:** We will be selling food at the Parking Lot Party. Point of Contact: Russ Donaghue 715-222-2659
- ✪ **July 20 - 24 - National VFW Convention:** Officers will be attending the National VFW Convention in Orlando, FL.
- ✪ **August 1 - First National Bank 100th Anniversary:** Our Post will be selling beer during their celebration. 3PM - 10PM.
- ✪ **August 7 - 14 - Drill Team:** 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30PM. This will be for those in the Color Guard and Honor Guard.
- ✪ **August 11 - Hammond Heartland Days Parade:** Color Guard for parade. Point of Contact: Jerry Simon (715) 977-2875
- ✪ **August 11 - Commander & Quartermaster Training:** Training at VFW Post 305 Eau Claire 1PM - 4PM.
- ✪ **August 15 - Finance Committee:** Finance meeting starts at 6PM. The management meeting will begin shortly after the closing of the finance meeting. The management meeting will **only** consist of the Post Officers unless invited by an Officer.
- ✪ **August 18 - Ox Cart Days Parade:** Color Guard for parade. Point of Contact: Jerry Simon (715) 977-2875
- ✪ **August 20 - Post & Auxiliary Meeting:** Social hour begins at 6:00PM. Auxiliary meeting starts at 6:30PM. Post meeting promptly begins at 7:00PM. Every month at our Post Meeting, we have a drawing for some very neat prizes. **Post meetings will take place in the downstairs of the New Richmond Civic Center, 156 East First Street (across from the Fire Department).**
- ✪ **September 4 - 11 - Drill Team:** 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30PM. This will be for those in the Color Guard and Honor Guard.
- ✪ **September 7 - Harley Feed:** We will be doing a Harley Feed for Customer Appreciation Day at St. Croix Harley Davidson. Point of Contact: Russ Donaghue 715-222-2659
- ✪ **September 12 - Finance Committee:** Finance meeting starts at 6PM. The management meeting will begin shortly after the closing of the finance meeting. The management meeting will **only** consist of the Post Officers unless invited by an Officer.
- ✪ **September 17 - Post & Auxiliary Meeting:** Social hour begins at 6:00PM. Auxiliary meeting starts at 6:30PM. Post meeting promptly begins at 7:00PM. Every month at our Post Meeting, we have a drawing for some very neat prizes. **Post meetings will take place in the downstairs of the New Richmond Civic Center, 156 East First Street (across from the Fire Department).**
- ✪ **September 28 - District 9 Meeting:** Meeting will be at Cochrane Post 10406 starting at 9AM
- ✪ **September 29 - National VFW Birthday - 120 yrs old**
- ✪ **October 2 - 9 - Drill Team:** 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30PM. This will be for those in the Color Guard and Honor Guard.
- ✪ **October 10 - Finance Committee:** Finance meeting starts at 6PM. The management meeting will begin shortly after the closing of the finance meeting. The management meeting will **only** consist of the Post Officers unless invited by an Officer.



Post 10818

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