



**NOW HEAR THIS!**

**FROM THE COMMANDER**

Hello again!! Is everyone sick of winter yet or is it just me? Speaking of being sick, I keep hearing of more and more people coming down with the Covid Omicron variant, including a lot of people I know. I am sure you all can say the same. Whether you are a fan of masks and shots or not a fan, just try to keep yourselves as safe as you can. The United States government is now offering 4 free at home test kits to everyone in the country. All they need is your name and shipping address. This does not require any other personal information, no credit card numbers, nothing. All you have to do is go onto [WWW.COVIDtests.com](http://WWW.COVIDtests.com) and it says the kits will ship within 7-12 days. It appears the website is being run the the postal service so it should be legitimate.

The Red Cross is also suffering their worst blood shortage in over a decade thanks to COVID. According to the Red Cross there has been a "ll decline in the number of people donating blood as well as ongoing blood drive cancellations and staffing limitations. Additionally, the pandemic has contributed to a 62% drop in blood drives at schools and colleges. In recent weeks, the Red Cross had less than a one-day supply of critical blood types and has had to limit blood product distributions to hospitals. At times, as much as one-quarter of hospital blood needs are not being met". Apparently, they are really needing

people with Type O blood so if that is you, try to give them a hand. You will even be entered into a drawing for Superbowl tickets.

I am mentioning this because our auxiliary president, Rhonda Rimarcik, is trying to organize a blood drive to be held at the New Richmond Armory sometime in April and another time in June. The exact dates are not set yet and it would be nice if we can show our support and get as many members, family, and friends to participate as possible.

On a more fun note, I found out about an ice fishing tournament on Feb 12th, from 1-4pm on Medicine Lake in Plymouth, Minnesota. It is called Holes for Heroes, and this is the 6th year it has been held. This raises money for veteran's programs and veterans can fish in one hole for free while an additional hole is \$20. The Wounded Warrior Project is assisting in this and there are prizes and things for kids to do, so if you like ice fishing there you go. For more information you can google it or go to [www.fishingforlife.org](http://www.fishingforlife.org).

At the post level things are a little slow right now, but we did get the Red Carpet Award this year. To qualify we had to be at 90% membership by December with 9 new members one of which is recruited by the commander. Quartermaster Mitch Cline and I will be going to the Mid-Winter conference in Baraboo on Feb 4th and 5th to accept this award on behalf of the post. Thank you everyone. Other than that, we have another meat raffle on Feb 11th and hope to see you there. It is a pretty fun time and lots of good people show up and I hope to see you there.

And lastly, the joke of the month. The Captain called the Sergeant in. "Sarge, I just got a telegram that Private Jones' mother died yesterday. Better go tell him and send him in to see me."

So, the Sergeant calls for his morning formation and lines up all the troops. "Listen up, men," says the Sergeant. "Johnson, report to the mess hall for KP. Smith, report to Personnel to sign some papers. The rest of you men report to the Motor Pool for maintenance. Oh by the way, Jones, your mother died, report to the commander." Later that day the Captain called the Sergeant into his office. "Hey, Sarge, that was a pretty cold way to inform Jones his mother died. Couldn't you be a bit more tactful, next time?"

"Yes, sir," answered the Sarge.

A few months later, the Captain called the Sergeant in again with, "Sarge, I just got a telegram that Private McGrath's mother died. You'd better go tell him and

send him in to see me. This time be more tactful.” So the Sergeant calls for his morning formation. “Ok, men, fall in and listen up.” “Everybody with a mother, take two steps forward.” “Not so fast, McGrath!”

## Legislative Action Alert!

VFW Department of Wisconsin is working with the American Legion and the DAV Departments of Wisconsin to support and help pass legislation that will improve property tax position for our veterans that have VA disability ratings of over 70%. Currently property tax is credited for veterans with 100% service connected VA disability ratings. The Big 3 have worked side-by-side in this effort and though it may seem like something that is easy to become law, we have some legislators in Wisconsin that need to know how our veterans feel about this. Let's make their phones ring off the hook. See the message below from our Legislative Team. Action is needed!

[2021 Assembly Bill 245 \(wisconsin.gov\)](#) [2021 Senate Bill 243 \(wisconsin.gov\)](#)

**Wisconsin Veterans, family members, and friends: WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Please call/email the following legislators and convey the message specific to them regarding SB 243 and AB 245-expanding the eligibility for the veterans and surviving spouses property tax credit. We want them to hear from ALL in our veteran community and it does not matter if you are a constituent of theirs. Do not hesitate, the legislative session is drawing to an end and we need you to make contact TODAY!!

**Senator Rob Stafsholt:** "Please support SB 243 in committee and help make a real impact in the lives of our state's most severely injured veterans and their families."

(608) 266-7745 and/or [Sen.Stafsholt@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Stafsholt@legis.wisconsin.gov)

**Senator John Jagler:** "Please support SB 243 in committee and help make a real impact in the lives of our state's most severely injured veterans and

their families."

(608) 266-5660 and/or [Sen.Jagler@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Jagler@legis.wisconsin.gov)

**Assembly Majority Leader Jim Steineke: Please schedule AB 245 for an Assembly floor vote as soon as possible and help better the lives of our state's most severely injured veterans and their families."**

(608) 266-2418 and/or [Rep.Steineke@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Steineke@legis.wisconsin.gov)

## FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Auxiliary,

Chilly outside lately. Got to agree it's been cold in January.

February is a short month so let's breeze through it. First of all we will have no auxiliary meeting this month. Which brings me looking forward to March. I have decided to open the VFW on Mondays 9-12 starting March 1. I have set up the auxiliary office so we can meet.

Please do not bring garage sale things into the office. Go up to the storage space.

Please start working on your end of year reports and then be ready to give them to me so I can get them to Sue in the District on time in April.

Elections are coming up in the not too distant future. I thank you for tolerating me through a difficult time in my life. Think through nominations and candidates.

Lastly, May is coming up and there is the annual city wide garage sale. So clean your closet and garages and donate to a veteran worthy cause.

That concludes this month's news please stop by VFW on Wednesdays in February I most likely will be there to share a cup of coffee.

Rhonda Rimarcik

VFW Auxiliary President

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **February 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.
- **February 15 - 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 at the Best Western Conference Room. The Auxiliary meetings have moved to the **American Legion building.** See Facebook page for Zoom information.
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