

# VFW POST 7692

Freedom, Wisconsin

May 2017



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AND A CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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Meetings are held the  
3rd Monday of every  
month at 7:00pm

Address:  
WI-55 N3920  
Freedom, Wisconsin  
54130-7520

## **GREETINGS FROM THE COMMANDER**

Well, spring is here and the grass is turning, flowers are starting to bloom, and the trees are starting to bud out...it's like new life being born again. As we begin this new season one of our duties as a VFW Post is to honor those men and woman who have sacrificed much for our country on Memorial Day. They are the reason for the freedom's we have today in our great country and we owe them a great debt of gratitude. We will have on display, this year banners with pictures of all those killed in Vietnam per each county in the state of Wisconsin.

I would like to thank Judy Smits for all of her work putting the program and awards together for our Loyalty Day Banquet and the Ladies Auxiliary for all of their work this program. As you may already know Dennis Peters is the recipient of the Community Service Award. I can't think of a more deserving individual for all the things he does for the community and especially for the VFW n Freedom.

I would like to congratulate John Van Rossum for winning teacher of the year award at District 8 level, State level and moving on to National VFW level. Great job!

I also like to thank Clyde Baumgart for taking the lead on the buddy poppy hand out at the Mackville Tractor pull and the Color Guard Presentation at the Timber Rattler Games. I encourage all members to help Clyde in any way they can. The date for the buddy poppy hand out at Lambeau Field will be on Sept. 24 for the Packers v. Bengals game. Game time is 3:15pm so we will hand out buddy poppies from noon to 3:00pm. This should be a great fund raiser.

As a VFW Post we will be very busy this summer with the Appleton Flag Day Parade, Oshkosh Truck Parade, Hamburger Fest Parade, July cook out, and all the unexpected duties we may have to perform. All I can ask is for our members to join in where ever possible.

Thanks again for all your support and hope you have a fun filled and enjoyable summer.

James Van Den Heuvel, Commander



### **VFW Post**

### **Officers**

#### **Commander**

James Van Den  
Heuvel

#### **Sr. Vice Commander**

Rob Bonack

#### **Jr. Vice Commander**

Dan Halase

#### **Quartermaster**

Kim Rouleau

#### **Adjutant**

Pete Van Wychen

#### **Chaplain**

Dan Swiecichowski

#### **Officer of the Day**

Dennis Peters

#### **Service Officer**

Vernon Court

#### **8<sup>th</sup> District/Post Scouting Chairman**

Henry McKenna

#### **Event Coordinator**

Clyde Baumgart



## VFW AUXILIARY PRESIDENT GREETINGS

*Dear Auxiliary Sisters,*

Auxiliary  
Officers

**President**

Barb Van  
Wychen

**Sr. Vice  
President**

Joyce Konkel

**Jr. Vice  
President**

Mary Van  
Handel

**Treasurer**

Judy Smits

**Secretary**

Cathy Vander  
Logt

**Chaplain**

Shirley  
Swiecichowski

**Patriotic  
Instructor**

Nancy Court

*Spring is in the air, if it ever gets here...it's 47 degrees as I write this note! As I prepare to once again serve as your auxiliary president my thoughts are with all of you and how we have worked together, played together, laughed together and even cried together this past year. Our "auxiliary team" consists of individuals with unique talents and strengths. Ask yourself...are you a team player? Are you along for the ride? Do you sit and watch on the sidelines? Do you want to be part of a team that is inspired by vision and fueled by enthusiasm and purpose? Each and every one of you have contributed to the success of our auxiliary. Be proud of what we have accomplished and what we can accomplish for our veterans and our community.*

*Since our last newsletter...Welcome to our new member Jill (Van Wychen) Dawson.*

*Also Happy 99th Birthday wishes goes to charter member Helen Schommer!!!*

*The auxiliary will also have a 55th Anniversary on May 14, 2017.*

*Barbara Van Wychen, President*

## **RECAPPING FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL AUXILIARY MEETINGS**

With 17 sisters in attendance, President Van Wychen brought the February meeting to order and our newest member Judy Vande Wetering was initiated. Chaplain Swiecichowski completed the draping of the charter for Lorraine Uitenbroek and Lone Powell. Treasurer Smits reported that a \$2500 check was received from the Lorraine Uitenbroek family. The February door prize was won by Sister Vander Logt and Sister Marg Van Rossum won the attendance prize.

President Van Wychen brought the March meeting to order with 19 sisters present. The Treasurer's report was read by Treasurer Smits. The \$2500 check from the Lorraine Uitenbroek will be distributed to the Old Glory Honor Flight, VFW Post 7692 and VFW Auxiliary Post 7692. Upcoming events (District 8 Spring meeting, Loyalty Day Banquet, and Rummage Sale) were discussed. The door prize was awarded to Sister Konkol and Sister Springstroh won the attendance prize.

16 sisters were in attendance when Sr. Vice President Joyce Konkol brought the April meeting to order. Updates were given on upcoming events. Election of Officers was held. Sister Vander Logt received a call from the Smile-A-While 4-H group asking if there is anything they can provide for the Auxiliary. Sister Court collected the door prize, but Sister Van Handel was not present to collect the attendance prize.

## **ELECTION OF AUXILIARY OFFICERS**

Sisters attending the April monthly meeting elected the following to serve in the offices indicated. They will be installed during the May monthly meeting and take office effective July 1, 2017. Any questions you may have can be directed to any one of them.

2017-2018 VFW AUXILIARY OFFICERS/COMMITTEES		
PRESIDENT – BARBARA VAN WYCHEN	676-1727	pete.vanwychen@yahoo.com
SR. VICE PRESIDENT – JOYCE KONKLE	857-3722	jkonkle29@hotmail.com
JR. VICE PRESIDENT/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR– JENNIFER BONACK	309-530-1555	jsbonac@gmail.com
SECRETARY – CATHY VANDER LOGT	788-4191	cathyvanderlogt@new.rr.com
TREASURER/HISTORIAN – JUDY SMITS	788-6815	j.smits15@yahoo.com
CHAPLAIN – SHIRLEY SWIECICHOWSKI	920-494-7758	donald2006@aol.com
3 -YEAR TRUSTEE – JEANNE FORBECK	788-9365	djforbeck68@new.rr.com
2-YEAR TRUSTEE -BARB ROHM	739-2567	brohm@appivon.com
1-YEAR TRUSTEE – DIANE WIEGAND	779-8860	rwiegand2@neww.rr.com

## **VFW AND AUXILIARY DISTRICT 8 WINTER AND SPRING MEETINGS-**

The VFW and Auxiliary District 8 Winter Meeting was held on Saturday, January 28, 2017 in Egg Harbor, WI. VFW Post 7692 was represented by Commander James Van Den Heuvel, Sr. Vice Commander Rob Bonack, and 8th District/Post Scouting Chairman Henry McKenna along with Auxiliary Sister Jen Bonack.

The VFW and Auxiliary District 8 Spring Meeting was held on Saturday, April 8, 2017 in Gillett, WI. VFW Post 7692 was represented by Commander James Van Den Heuvel, Sr. Vice Commander Rob Bonack, and 8th District/Post Scouting Chairman Henry McKenna along with Auxiliary Sisters President Barb Van Wychen, Sr. Vice Joyce Konkol, Treasurer Judy Smits, Secretary Cathy Vander Logt, Sisters Barb Haas and Jen Bonack.

## **MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS**

The Post and Auxiliary provided Military Funeral Honors to area veterans upon their passing. Included in these Honors were Daniel Giessel and Daniel Lampert. Post Comrade La Vern Surman received these honors in March. Joint honors with the Post were extended to Post Comrade/Auxiliary Sister Ethel (Lone) Powell. Lone was able to receive joint honors as she was a WWII veteran – serving in the U.S. Coast Guard (AND PROUD OF IT!) and was able to have joint membership in both the VFW and the Auxiliary. (She had transferred her post membership in 2015 from Woodruff WI). Again, our condolences to the families – to these comrades – Rest in peace good and faithful servants!

## **LOYALTY DAY**

**Celebrating AMERICANISM** – an unflinching love of country; loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity. It was again observed by the Post and Auxiliary with our annual banquet held at The

Colonial House and the recognizing of students from Freedom High School for good citizenship awards and badger boy/girl participation. The six (6) seniors included Alexis Liles, Kara Maass, Faith Vosters, Cole Evers, Dwight Green and Nick Paustian. The five (5) juniors representing Freedom at Badger Boys/Girls will include Dakota Brockman, Garrett Jarmolowicz, Nathan Willer, Samantha Merkel and Taylor Witthuhn. Post Comrade Dennis Peters received the Community Service Award. Comrade Peters certainly models what volunteerism is all about.

### **RUMMAGE SALE**

As this newsletter is being prepared, our auxiliary sisters are busy preparing the VFW Park Pavilion for Freedom's town-wide rummage sale – we'll let you know in September the results –these sisters donated **HOURS AND HOURS** preparing for this event – all proceeds assisting those in our veteran community. **THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

### **RAFFLE SUNDAY**

May 21 – the lucky day for one (1) out of 300 ticket-holders to win that \$10,000 prize. Don't forget the clubhouse doors open for lunch and refreshments at 1:00 p.m. - the lucky ticket envelope will be opened shortly after 2:00 p.m. Good luck everybody – if you haven't heard who the lucky winner is by September . . . we'll have it in the September newsletter.

### **MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE**

Flags will be distributed on all assigned veteran graves the week of May 22 – 26. Commander Van Den Heuvel will be in charge of Immaculate Conception – Oneida, Post Comrade Ron Springstroh and his nephew Scott Springstroh will take care of St. Peter/Community, Veteran Dan McClintock and his wife Connie will take care of St. Edwards-Mackville, Jim and Debbie Bernetzke will follow thru on the Freedom Moravian site and Post Comrade Wimp Vande Wettering and his fellow comrades will place flags on St. Nicholas Cemetery and Town of Freedom. Approximately 375 flags will be placed.

Friday, May 26 - Freedom Middle School will again be making a visit to King Veterans Home to visit residents. Post members and auxiliary sisters are again invited to accompany the students (via coach – not school bus), leaving at 8:a.m. and returning by 3 p.m. Remember to pack a lunch and please contact Judy Smits at 788-6815 if you are interested in accompanying the students.

Friday evening, May 26 – be at Freedom High School by 7:00 p.m. to ride the Veterans' Wagon or walk/march to St. Nicholas Cemetery for our Memorial Day tribute to our deceased comrades. Guest speaker is Sue Haack, a veteran who served in Vietnam 1969-1970. In 1992, Sue became the first woman Commander of a Wisconsin VFW post – VFW Post 9362 Sun Prairie. Then it's back to the clubhouse for refreshments and preparing for our veterans Saturday morning breakfast.

Saturday morning, May 27 – Veterans mass at St. Nicholas Church – 8:15 a.m. – (Father Walter has invited **ALL** veterans to this ecumenical observance). Veterans – your spouse or guest are also invited to the mass and/or breakfast. Then join your comrades and their guests for the annual breakfast hosted and prepared by our Auxiliary at the clubhouse at 8:45 a.m. (You do not have to attend the mass to join us for breakfast.) Auxiliary sisters- please contact President Van Wychen (676-1727 or 766-9247) if you are willing to help or have any questions.)

Observances at the following cemeteries will follow the breakfast:

**10:00 a.m. – Freedom Town Cemetery**

**10:20 a.m. – St. Peter/Community**

**10:40 – Freedom Moravian Cemetery**

**11:00 a.m. – Immaculate Conception – Oneida**

### **APPLETON FLAG DAY PARADE**

Saturday, June 10 will have post comrades and auxiliary sisters participating in the annual parade – this year honoring the United States Coast Guard. Please contact Commander Van Den Heuvel (920-615-5834) or Comrade Dennis Peters (920-788-9028) if you are interested but unable to attend the May meeting to find out all the particulars or visit the website [www.vfw7692.org](http://www.vfw7692.org) for up-to-date information.

### **MACKVILLE TRACTOR PULL**

Comrade Clyde Baumgart will again coordinate the weekend of June 16, 17, and 18 for the tractor pull at St. Edward's. Anyone interested in joining your fellow Comrades in handing out poppies, please give Clyde a call at 920-427-9708.

### **JULY COOKOUT**

The culinary talents of our Post "cooks" will again be tested with our annual cookout, the meat (and drinks) being supplied by the post and the rest of the attendees bringing a dish to pass - supplying all of those good side dishes **AND** desserts. There goes the diet!!

### **HAMBURGER FEST PARADE**

Don't forget to mark your calendar and join us in participating at the annual Seymour parade on Saturday, August 12. The community hears about the Freedom VFW Post and Auxiliary – let's show them what we look like!!

### **OSHKOSH DEFENSE PARADE**

The Post and Auxiliary will be representing the VFW and fellow veterans during the Oshkosh Defense 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Parade in Oshkosh July 15. The Post will march in the parade and will also have a float for Post and Auxiliary remembers to ride during the parade. After the parade the Post will conduct a Vietnam War Commemoration Recognition Ceremony at Wittman Regional Airport terminal for all Vietnam Era Veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975 regardless of location. All Vietnam Veterans will be presented with a Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin during the ceremony to formally recognize, thank and honor United States military veterans who served during the Vietnam War.

### **A BIRTHDAY MILESTONE**

On April 29, Auxiliary Sister (and charter member) Helen Schommer celebrated her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday at Renaissance Assisted Living with family. Her daughter (Mary Van Handel) writes:

"Helen Schommer was born to Catherine & Andrew Gengler on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1918. That's right, Helen just turned 99 years old in April. Helen married Merle Schommer on September 29, 1946. My dad, Merle, was one of the founders of the Post 7692. He served in WWII.

Helen and Merle had six (6) children; Richard (Dick), Mary, Margie, Barb, Jane and Bob. All four (4) girls are life members of the Auxiliary. Helen has 17 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren (great-grandchildren include a set of triplets and 2 sets of twins).

Helen lived on Highway 55 (2<sup>nd</sup> house north of the VFE clubhouse) from 1951 to 2014. She now resides at the Renaissance Assisted Living facility on Florida Avenue in Appleton. Helen drove her car just shy of being 96. Although she misses her home and car, she admits she lives in a pretty good place and doesn't know if she could drive anymore.

Helen is a charter member of our Auxiliary (and we still find her able to attend some of our monthly meetings and special events) and was an active member at St. Nicholas Church (and still misses doing the weekly bulletins). She is a very loving mother and is loved dearly by all of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.)"

### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO US**

Yes, to us. Sunday, May 14, 2017, we will be celebrating our 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Auxiliary to Freedom VFW Post 7692. We have had a very productive 5 years, adding 16 new sisters (later 1 transferring to Appleton) but 12 passing on. At present we have a very active auxiliary of 52 sisters. Again, Happy Anniversary to us!

### **UNIFORMS NEEDED**

If you are not using a uniform for the Mackville Tractor Pull poppy hand out WIR poppy hand out, parades, Memorial Day weekend observance, Veterans Day program and, most off military honor funerals plus other we are called on to present our, please help us out. We have five new comrades who desire to become active participants which will require a uniforms. We have 49 fully uniformed comrades at this time. These uniforms run close to \$400. Please help us out – don't hang them in the closet. Help another comrade out so he/she can

participate in the functions we do. Thank you! (Submitted by Comrade Dennis Peters – contact Denny or Commander Jim Van Den Heuvel with any returns.)

### **DO YOU HAVE TIME TO DO SOME SEWING?**

We hope to become involved in a sewing project – please save “gently –used “bath towels (or any type terry cloth) and material that is 100% cotton. This material can be brought to any monthly meeting (or sent along with your husband) or if it is more convenient, drop it off at Coffey Insurance and Secretary Vander Logt will take of it. We’ll keep you informed.

### **TRIVIA**

Eleven classmates from the graduating FHS class of 1966 are members of Freedom Post 7692. They include: Dennis Peters, Dennis Techlin, Jack Van Eperen, Mike Moser, Jim Reader, Bruce Planert, Jerry Weyers, John Calmes, Jack Van Hoof, James Verkuilen and Al Effa. Just thought you might like to know.

### **GETTING TO KNOW YOU**

November 2016. Judy Vande Wattering (wife of “Wimp”) joined our Auxiliary as the 114<sup>th</sup> sister under the eligibility of her father, Arthur Schroeder, a WWII veteran and presently residing at King Veterans Home. Judy and Wimp are the proud parents of two (2) daughters, Dawn and Christy and the “prouder” grandparents of four (4) grandchildren and a great-grandson. Judy now joins Wimp in retirement but fills any spare hours with spring and fall house cleaning, gardening, yard work, counted- cross stitching and many hours of quilting.

It’s a family affair for the Van Wychen family – both of Auxiliary President and Adjutant Van Wychens daughters – Lori Dallmann and Jill Dawson joined us as #115 and #116 “sisters” respectively in December and February. Lori (married to Cory) has three children, a daughter Breanna and a set of twins, Jacob and Justin. She is employed at Pitney-Bowes and helps out part-time at The Marq. Jill (married to Jared) has a daughter, Izzabella (Izzy) and a son Andrew. Jill is employed by Secura Insurance. Both Lori and Jill joined under the eligibility of their dad but could have also joined under the eligibility of their grandfather – deceased Post Comrade and WWII veteran John Van Wychen.

We have several new comrades in the Post and we’ll introduce you to them in the September newsletter.

### **GET WELL WISHES**

We are extending get well wishes to those of you that are dealing with health issues at this time and may God bless our service men and women who are in harm’s way and may they return home safely to their loved ones.

Until September, have a happy and health summer.

**REMEMBER . . . IF IT WEREN’T FOR THE BRAVE. . THERE WOULD BE NO LAND OF THE FREE**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
(MAY 1, 2017 - September 30, 2017)

MAY 11-13, 2017  
(THURS-SAT) FREEDOM TOWNWIDE RUMMAGE SALE  
AUX AT FREEDOM PARK PAVILLION 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

MAY 15, 2017  
(MONDAY) VFW POST/AUX MONTHLY MEETING  
7:00 PM @ VFW CLUBHOUSE

MAY 16, 2017  
(TUESDAY) PRESENT COLORS @ TIMBER RATTLERS GAME  
CONTACT COMRADE CLYDE BAUMGART(427-9708)

MAY 21, 2017  
(SUNDAY) VFW RAFFLE  
2:00 PM @ VFW CLUBHOUSE

MAY 23, 2017  
(TUESDAY) 2:00 PM VISITING VETERANS @ COUNTRY VILLA ASSISTED LIVING, FREEDOM  
CONTACT COMRADE CLYDE BAUMGART(427-9708), IF ANY QUESTIONS

MAY 26-27, 2017 MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

MAY 26, 2017  
(FRIDAY) 7:00 PM MEET AT FHS PARKING LOT – WALK OR RIDE WAGON  
7:30 PM PROGRAM @ ST NICHOLAS CEMETERY

MAY 27, 2017  
(SATURDAY) 8:15 AM MASS @ ST NICHOLAS CHURCH  
9:00 AM BREAKFAST @ VFW CLUBHOUSE  
10:00 AM SERVICE AT FREEDOM CEMETERY  
10:20 AM SERVICE AT ST PETER LUTHERAN CEMETERY  
10:40 AM SERVICE AT FREEDOM MORAVIAN CEMETERY  
11:00 AM SERVICE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CEMETERY

JUNE 10, 2017  
(SATURDAY) APPLETON FLAG DAY PARADE 2:00 PM  
CONTACT VFW COMMANDER JIM VANDEN HEUVEL(833-6232)  
OR COMRADE DENNIS PETERS (209-6997)

JUNE 16-18, 2017  
(FRI-SUNDAY) MACKVILLE TRACTOR PULL  
CONTACT COMRADE CLYDE BAUMGART(427-9708) - POPPY HAND OUT

JUNE 19, 2017  
(MONDAY) VFW POST/AUX MONTHLY MEETING  
7:00 PM @ VFW CLUBHOUSE

JUNE 26, 2017  
(MONDAY) PRESENT COLORS @ TIMBER RATTLER GAME  
CONTACT COMRADE CLYDE BAUMGART(427-9708)

JULY 15, 2017  
(SATURDAY) OSHKOSH TRUCK PARADE  
CONTACT COMRADE ROB BONACK

JULY 17, 2017  
(MONDAY) NO MEETING  
COOKOUT @ VFW CLUBHOUSE 6:00 PM SOCIAL/6:30 DINNER  
BRING A DISH TO PASS

AUGUST 8, 2017  
(TUESDAY) PRESENT COLORS @ TIMBER RATTLERS GAME  
CONTACT CLYDE BAUMGART(427-9708)

AUG 12, 2017  
(SATURDAY) SEYMOUR HAMBURGER PARADE 11:00 AM  
CONTACT COMRADE DENNIS PETERS(209-6997)

AUG 21, 2017  
(MONDAY) VFW POST/AUX MONTHLY MEETING  
7:00 PM @ VFW CLUBHOUSE

AUGUST 22,2017  
(TUESDAY) PRESENT COLORS @ TIMBER RATTLER GAME  
CONTACT COMRADE CLYDE BAUMGART(427-9708)

SEPT 18, 2017  
(MONDAY) VFW POST/AUX MONTHLY MEETING  
7:00 PM @ VFW CLUBHOUSE