

# VFW POST 7692

Freedom, Wisconsin

December 2016



**Visit Our New Website  
for all the latest Post News,  
a Calendar of Events and over  
100 Post/Auxiliary pictures**

**[www.vfw7692.org](http://www.vfw7692.org)**

If you have a change in address, phone number, email or would like to receive electronic newsletters, please contact Judy Smits at [j.smits15@yahoo.com](mailto:j.smits15@yahoo.com). If you have opted to receive electronic newsletters & emails and are not receiving them, please let us know so that we may correct the issue.

## In This Issue

Commanders Greeting  
Auxiliary President Greeting  
Patriots Pen Winners  
Recap of Post /Auxiliary Meeting  
Military Funeral Honors  
Patriots Pen Winners  
Community Service Award Information  
Vietnam War Commemoration Commemorative Partner  
Award Recipients  
Veterans Day Activities  
Golden Agers Dinner  
Calendar of Events  
And much more....

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

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

## **GREETINGS FROM THE COMMANDER**

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our country will be inaugurating a new President in a couple of weeks and as Americans we all need to unite behind our new President for the good of our great nation. I would like to thank Rob Bonack for his work on the VFW website at <http://www.vfw7692.org>. I encourage you to take a look at it, there is a lot of information about our Post activities. I missed the Christmas Parade and Christmas meal and I understand we had a good turnout for both. Thanks to all who participated. Thanks to Clyde Baumgart and Denny Peters for providing the meat and to Barb Van Wychen and the Auxiliary for the meal. Also thanks to Henry McKenna for his work on the Patriots Pen and those who help review all of the applicants' papers.

Our Post will have a busy year in 2017 along with our Memorial Day events, our raffle fundraiser, we will be marching in the Oshkosh Defense 100th year anniversary parade on July 15th. Our Post is a partner/sponsor of the Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War and will be part of the program at the Oshkosh Defense celebration at the main review stand. We will be presenting Vietnam Veteran Lapel pins to veterans at this event. It should be an awesome event.

I would like to share a visit I had with a fellow veteran I served with in Vietnam, It was a very rewarding experience to find out how he was doing and his stories while he was there and after he came home and the struggles and joys he endured. It also helped me a great deal in getting answers to questions that I had regarding things that happened that I have been playing over and over in my mind for years and couldn't figure out what really happened. I got my answers and it gives you the peace and satisfaction of knowing the facts. That is why I would always encourage veterans to go to your unit's reunions and make it a point to visit those you served with. If there is a veteran who needs help or assistance please let me know so that we can help in any way.

Thanks for all your support.

/s/ 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

"Happy 2017" The decorations are put away, holiday parties are all over, but the memories they bring will be in our hearts for years to come.

"2016" was a busy year for our auxiliary. The Post and Auxiliary hosted the 8th District Winter Meeting in February. We participated in the spring town wide rummage sale with fantastic results for our veterans. We assisted the Post with their annual fund raiser by providing lunch for "Raffle Sunday." We participated with the Post in the Memorial Day observance including attending mass at St Nicholas, serving breakfast to our post comrades and participating in services at five local cemeteries. We attended two local parades in Appleton and Seymour, took part in the flag disposal observance at the clubhouse and took part in the Veterans Day presentation by the Freedom Middle School. The Auxiliary cooked a delicious Christmas dinner for the Golden Agers of the Freedom School District and participated in the Freedom Christmas Parade. The post and auxiliary rounded out the year with a delicious Christmas dinner that included center cut pork, ham, baked potatoes and salad bar. The meal was complete with delicious vegetables, salads and desserts. One word comes to mind as I read the list of activities...TEAMWORK! I am so proud of our auxiliary and the things we have accomplished for our post and community.

Since the last newsletter...WELCOME to our new members of the auxiliary, Judy Vande Wetering, and Lori (Van Wychen) Dallmann. We welcome your enthusiasm and your membership. Our hearts ache over the recent passing of our auxiliary sister Lorraine Uitenbroek. We will miss her guidance, kind words, and enthusiasm. She was such a huge part of our auxiliary and her absence will be felt by us all. God Bless You, Lorraine.

Thank you everyone for all you do for the auxiliary. Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

/s/ Barbara Van Wychen, President

### Auxiliary

### Officers

### President

Barb Van  
Wychen

### Sr. Vice President

Joyce Konkkel

### Jr. Vice President

Mary Van  
Handel

### Treasurer

Judy Smits

### Secretary

Cathy Vander  
Logt

### Chaplain

Shirley  
Swiecichowski

### Patriotic Instructor

Nancy Court



## **RECAPPING SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER POST MEETINGS**

Commander Van Den Heuvel brought the September meeting to order with 36 comrades in attendance along with veterans Jack Van Hoof and Mike Farrell visiting. Minutes were read, reports were given and old and new business was discussed. An assisted living home visit in November to Renaissance was also discussed. Comrade Brockman was not in attendance to take home the door prize but Comrade Bonack went home with the \$10. Colonial House certificate and Comrade Bartels took home the Rico Gift card – compliments of Verkuilen-Van Deurzen Funeral Home.

37 comrades were attendance as Commander Van Den Heuvel brought the October meeting to order. Again minutes were read and reports were given and stood approved with no additions or corrections. We will again be posting the veterans pictures on the walls at Rico's Family Restaurant for the month of November. Veterans and Auxiliary sisters will be visiting residents at Country Villa during the month.

StoryCorps (Freedom Middle School students interviewing veterans about their experiences during their time in service) is being made ready for computer viewing. Comrade Steve Voss reported the celebrating of the 100<sup>th</sup> Oshkosh Defense observance in July 2017 – veterans to march in parade . . . we will keep you informed. It was voted on to send a \$100 check to Oscar G. Johnson Children's Christmas Party in Michigan. Attendees were also reminded of the special mass to be held for veterans at Immaculate Conception on November 13 and Comrade Haberland will again be driving the trolley bus in the Freedom Christmas Parade on December 3. Comrade Siporski was not present to receive the door prize, but Comrade Jerry Weyers and Jack Van Hoof took home the Colonial House and Rico's "Verkuilen-Van Deurzen Funeral Home" gift cards respectively.

With 32 comrades present, Commander Van Den Heuvel brought the November meeting to order. Minutes were read and committee reports were given – including discussion the Freedom Christmas Parade, assisting the Auxiliary in presenting the Golden Agers Christmas dinner, and the veterans' Christmas dinner. Sr. Vice Commander Rob Bonack also reporting on the setting up of the Post 7692 web site. The Post will be purchasing the VFW veteran calendars for our comrades that presently reside in assisted living/ nursing homes. We will also be participating in the "Oshkosh Defense" parade in July – details will follow in the May newsletter. Comrade Jake Van Camp was not present to accept the door prize of \$50.00, Comrade Jack Van Eperen accepted the gift card from Colonial House and Comrade Bill Farrell took home the Verkuilen-Van Deursen Funeral Home gift card to Rico's.

## **RECAPPING SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER AUXILIARY MEETINGS**

With 18 sisters in attendance, President Van Wychen brought the September meeting to order reminding us that we will be reviewing our standing rules, budget and donations in the coming months. Treasurer Smits reported that proceeds from our previous rummage sales (in the amount of \$1,000.00) were forward to the Old Glory Honor Flight program – financing the trips for Post Comrades Russell Gerritts and Gene Randerson to Washington D.C. The September door prized was won by Jenny Rice but "Tootie" Wittmann was not present for the attendance prize.

President Van Wychen brought the October meeting to order with 15 sisters present. Upon reviewing the treasurer's report on available funds, donations were approved for the Lillian

Campbell and Frank Brown scholarships along with the Emergency Disaster Fund. The door prize was awarded to Cathy Vander Logt and Sister Evie Hug lost out on the attendance prize.

District 8 President Linda Moran and 12 sisters were in attendance when President Van Wychen's gavel brought the November meeting to order. Not only did Judy Vande Wattering (wife of Wimp Vande Wattering) attend as a guest but left as our newest auxiliary sister. President Van Wychen reminded us that President Moran was there to conduct our annual inspection and we "are good to go" for another year. Patriotic Instructor Court reported that along with her husband Vern and our own Jennifer Bonack, visits were made to the second-graders at St. Peter and St. Nicholas schools. Sister Planert collected the door prize, but Sister Rohm was not present to collect the attendance prize.

### **MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS**

Military funeral honors were extended to Veterans Edward Semmerling and Ron Miller. Our condolences are also extended to the family of Post Comrade Robert Uelman. To these veterans – "Rest in peace good and faithful servants – and thank you for your years of service".

The honor and privilege of bestowing our auxiliary funeral honors were extended to Auxiliary Past President Lorraine Uitenbroek this past December. During her years as a sister in the auxiliary, I don't think there was an officer position (as some several times) that she had not been elected to or an office she had not been appointed to serve. For year and years, Lorraine, Ardene Weyenberg and Joyce Vander Logt (deceased) would be found in the kitchen, responsible for all the dinners that were held in those years. A beautiful lady who became a SPECIAL friend to many of us. Farewell dear sister – Rest in peace dear friend.

To these families...absences were especially noticed during your holiday get-togethers. May each of you find peace in the thoughts and prayers that were extended to you by family and friends.

Get well wishes are again extended to our comrades and sisters who 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 safely to their loved ones.

A special thank you to Commander Van Den Heuvel, President Van Wychen and Cathy Vander Logt for their contributions. A HUGE thank you to Sr. Vice Commander Rob and his wife, Auxiliary Sister Jen Bonack for doing much of the writing and the publishing (and printing) of the January issue. I would not have been able to do it. They are willing to assist-but I think the time has come for them to take charge and I'll assist. I hope they will enjoy "the ride" as much as I have.

Happy New Year everybody...see you in May. /s/ Judy

### **VFW AND AUXILIARY DISTRICT 8 FALL MEETING-**

The VFW and Auxiliary District 8 Fall Meeting was held on Saturday, September 24, 2016 at Legends in DePere, 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 8<sup>th</sup> District Historian & Trustee Judy Smits, Diane Wiegand and Jen Bonack.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

If the Freedom School District classes have been cancelled due to inclement weather for the day, our monthly scheduled VFW/AUX meeting will be cancelled for that evening and will not be re-scheduled for that month. Please use good personal judgment in coming to monthly meetings based on weather conditions all year long.

### **FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAMES & TIMBER RATTLERS GAMES**

The Post was asked to present the colors at the home games for the 2016 Freedom High School football season and at select Timber Rattlers baseball games. Thank you to all of our Post Comrades who participated in these events.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PATRIOTS PEN WINNERS**

Over 75 students from three area Freedom schools: Freedom Middle School, St. Peter Lutheran, and St. Nicholas Catholic Church participated in Patriot's Pen. Patriot's Pen is a National VFW essay contest with the theme for this year: "The America I Believe In." Members of Freedom VFW Post 7692 and the Auxiliary judged the essays and sent five forward to compete at the 8th District. Patriots Pen winners from St. Nicholas were Ella Peters, Emilee Peters & Meghan Meulemans. Patriots Pen Winner from Freedom Middle School was Hollie Wheeler, and Patriots Pen winner from St. Peter was Maya Vosters. All five Freedom area winners received a \$50 check from Freedom VFW Post 7692.

Presentations were made by Commander Van Den Heuvel and Comrade Henry McKenna, Post 7692 Patriot Pen Liaison. We are proud to announce Maya Vosters from St. Peter Lutheran placed second place at the 8th District. Maya will be formally recognized for her essay at the 8th District meeting, January 28th in Ellison Bay, WI. Congratulations!!

### **PAST COMMANDERS DINNER**

To all past commanders, past quartermasters and past auxiliary presidents – your invitation will be in the mail from Commander Van Den Heuvel to attend your annual dinner at Colonial House. The date of Saturday, March 11, 2017 has been selected and further information will be included on your invitation.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

The Loyalty Day Banquet will be held the last Monday of April (the 24<sup>th</sup>) 2017. Nominations for the award recipient must be forwarded to Commander Van Den Heuvel or Aux. President Van Wychen by Tuesday, February 28, 2017. Anyone in the community can make a nomination (accompanied with their reason for the recommendation) to a VFW Post/Auxiliary member – but the actual final nomination MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE COMMANDER OR AUX. PRESIDENT by a VFW/Auxiliary member. Applications can be obtained from the Commander or the President.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

The 2017 \$10,000 raffle tickets will go on sale at the VFW clubhouse on Saturday, March 11, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact Commander Van Den Heuvel (920-615-5834) or Comrade Dennis Peters (920-788-9028) to make other arrangements to receive your ticket.

## **POST BECOMES A VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION COMMEMORATIVE PARTNER**

VFW Freedom Post 7692 is a proud member of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Commemorative Partner Program and is authorized to conduct commemoration ceremonies and award the Vietnam Veteran Lapel pin to Vietnam Veterans.

## **DENNY PETERS AND CLYDE BAUMGART RECIEVE AWARDS**

Commander Dennis Techlin presented awards to Denny Peters, Officer of the Day and Clyde Baumgart, Event Coordinator for outstanding service to VFW Freedom Post 7692. The presentations were made during the annual Post cook out July 21, 2016.

## **RENAISSANCE VISIT**

Post and Auxiliary members visited the Veterans at the Renaissance Assisted Living Community. Sara Paitel of the Renaissance staff sent a warm thank you note that said "We are sending a huge thank you to all of you who came to visit with our Veterans! We are honored to have you all come and visit. And the treats you brought were a special bonus as well. It amazes me every year how very warm and inviting your group is, and how any of the Veterans that come are welcomed and made to feel special. I cannot thank you enough for taking time out of your day to stop in by us. Our Veterans sure sit a little taller after you come and visit."

## **FLAG DISPOSAL**

Hundreds of flags were disposed of, with representation from our Post and Auxiliary, the fire department, first responders, 4-H clubs, scout groups, and community members. Hot chocolate, coffee and cookies were provided by the Auxiliary in the clubhouse following the ceremony. A special thank you to sisters Barb Van Wychen, Mary Van Handel and Karen Planert for supplying the cookies.

## **VISITING 2ND GRADE CLASSES**

Second graders at St. Nicholas and St. Peters schools were visited by Auxiliary Patriotic Instructor Nancy Court, VFW Service Officer Vernon Court, and Auxiliary sister Jen Bonack. The children were presented with the meaning of the Star Spangled Banner and its origins. They asked many pointed questions and also enjoyed seeing our flag folding presentation.

## **VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE – FREEDOM MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Another fantastic program, presented under the guidance of Donna Langner, was enjoyed by veterans and guests at the November observance. Moving speeches and presentations were made but the foot-tapping, hand-clapping rendition of "Stars and Stripes Forever" brought EVERYONE to their feet – making everybody proud of the Freedom High School Band. AWESOME!! The band's tribute to all branches was "Marches of the Armed Forces" always fills your chest with pride as the veterans stand up when their "march" is played. If you have never attended this program – please mark your calendar as a reminder for November 2017.

## **VETERANS DAY DINNER**

The Post held a Veteran's Day dinner in November. VFW and Auxiliary members brought a dish to pass and enjoyed the chicken dinner prepared by the Colonial Hours. It was a great turnout and a wonderful way to honor all those who have served.

## **RICO'S THANK YOU**

Special Thank You to Rico's for remembering all of our veteran's during the month of November by displaying their service pictures. Thanks to all those who helped display the pictures. If your picture is not in this group please contact Denny Peters or Judy Smits for details.

## **GOLDEN AGERS CHRISTMAS PARTY**

With the extremely low attendance this past 2 years, the auxiliary has been discussing the re-scheduling this traditionally "winter" observance to maybe a picnic like atmosphere during the summer. We brought this up to those attending our dinner and the consensus was that they would really like to eat at noon rather than at 4:30 p.m. but would rather have hot beef in December than a brat or burger in summer. We will keep you informed. A couple of years ago we had to turn residents away because we just plain couldn't set up "another plate and chair". (Remember several of those came with wheelchairs and walkers.) But a fun-time was had by those who attended- they certainly like the participating post members serving the food! (Without their assistance we would be unable to put this dinner together. Again...Post 7692 – THANK YOU...YOU ARE THE GREATEST!

## **Christmas Party**

56 VFW and Auxiliary members and guests attended the Annual Veterans Christmas Dinner. It was a lovely dinner with good food and great people!

## **Highway 32-Red Arrow Highway**

South 32 throughout Wisconsin is designated the "32nd Division Memorial Highway," commemorating the 32nd Division for obvious 'numerical' reasons. The 32nd Division, formed on July 18, 1917 of National Guard troops from Wisconsin and Michigan, fought and won many difficult battles, especially in World War I. Officially it was the 32nd Division; to the people of Michigan and Wisconsin it was the Red Arrow Division, and to the French who fought alongside these mid-western Americans, they were known as 'Les Terribles'. In order to honor those men who fought as a part of the 32nd Division, thousands of whom never returned to Wisconsin, South 32 was designated in honor of them, and the division's logo, the 'Red Arrow,' is placed on each and every South 32 sign in the state, from Illinois to Michigan. The United States flag, the Wisconsin state flag, the POW/MIA flag, the United States Army flag, and the Red Arrow Division are placed at each end of the state by the VFW Auxiliary.

## **Green Light a Vet**

Greenlight A Vet is a campaign to establish visible national support for our veterans by changing one light to green. Green is the color of hope, renewal and well-being. "Greenlight" is also a term commonly used to activate forward movement. The simple gesture of changing one light to green creates a beacon of support and appreciation, and a visible symbol of our commitment to "greenlight" veterans forward as valued members of our communities. Change one light in a visible location in your home or office to green, and keep it glowing every day as a symbol of support and appreciation for our veterans.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JAN 1, 2017 - JUNE 30, 2017

Prepared by Cathy Vander Logt

JAN 16, 2017 (MONDAY)	VFW POST/AUX MONTHLY MEETING 7:00 PM @ VFW CLUBHOUSE
JAN 27, 2017 (FRIDAY)	VISITING VETERANS AT BREWSTER VILLAGE 2:00PM-3:00PM
JAN 28, 2017 (SATURDAY)	8 <sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT WINTER MEETING LANDMARK, ELLISON BAY LUNCH 10:00 AM MEETING 1:00 PM
FEB 3-4, 2017 (FRI-SAT)	DEPT MID-WINTER MEETING RADISSON (ONEIDA CASINO) GREEN BAY, WI
FEB 20, 2017 (MONDAY)	VFW POST/AUX MONTHLY MEETING 7:00 PM @ VFW CLUBHOUSE
MARCH 11, 2017 (SATURDAY)	2017 SALE OF RAFFLE TICKETS 10:00AM-2:00PM@VFW CLUBHOUSE
MARCH 11, 2017 (SATURDAY)	PAST COMMANDERS/AUX PRESIDENTS DINNER COLONIAL HOUSE FREEDOM, WI
MARCH 20, 2017 (MONDAY)	VFW POST/AUX MONTHLY MEETING 7:00 PM @ VFW CLUBHOUSE
APRIL 8, 2017 (SATURDAY)	8 <sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT SPRING MEETING GILLETT, WI
APRIL 17, 2017 (MONDAY)	VFW POST/AUX MONTHLY MEETING 7:00 PM @ VFW CLUBHOUSE
APRIL 24, 2017 (MONDAY)	LOYALTY DAY BANQUET – COLONIAL HOUSE FREEDOM 6:30 PM SOCIAL 7:00 PM DINNER 8:00 PM PROGRAM
MAY 4-6, 2017 (THURS-SAT)	FREEDOM TOWNWIDE RUMMAGE SALE
MAY 15, 2017 (MONDAY)	VFW POST/AUX MONTHLY MEETING 7:00 PM @ VFW CLUBHOUSE
MAY 21, 2017 (SUNDAY)	VFW RAFFLE 2:00 PM @ VFW CLUBHOUSE
MAY 26-27, 2017	MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE
FRIDAY 26 <sup>TH</sup>	7:00 PM MEET AT FHS PARKING LOT – WALK OR RIDE WAGON 7:30 PM PROGRAM @ ST NICHOLAS CEMETERY
SATURDAY 27 <sup>TH</sup>	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 DENNIS PETERS (209-6997)
JUNE 16-18, 2017 (FRI-SUNDAY)	MACKVILLE TRACTOR PULL CONTACT CLYDE BAUMGART - POPPY HAND OUT

**VFW Post 7692**

c/o Judy Smits

W1734 Center Valley Rd

Freedom, Wisconsin 54130