



VFW Post 2113
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Post and Auxiliary meeting times and dates

We're moving back to our Spring = Summer - Fall meeting times. Please join us when you can:

- Location: De Pere Community Center, 600 Grant St., De Pere – enter the Community Center's top floor by the flag poles. Our meeting rooms are at the end of the hall on the right side.
 - Times: **6:00 pm** (2024 = April 4th; May 2nd; June 6th; July 4th; August 1st; September 5th)
 - ****Starting in October 2024 we once again move back to our 3 pm meeting start time for the winter.**
- Dates: Always the 1st Thursday of the month.

----- POST AND AUXILIARY MEMBER ALERT -----

The VFW Post 2113 and Auxiliary Post 2113 web page has a new home

www.vfwpost2113.org

This past year (2023) Post and Auxiliary members have been working with our new web host designer "Green Bay Websites". We hope you will like the new look.

Please feel free to let either Pat Moran or Linda Moran know if you have any recommendations for further improvements to the new Post website or if you have any questions regarding what's in the new web page.

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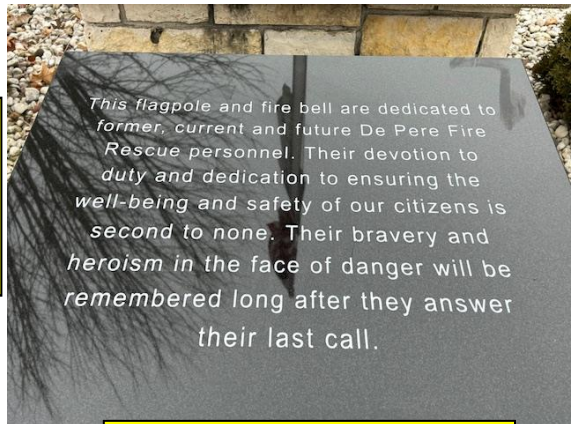


In December 2023 the Post and Auxiliary completed another HUGE community service project. In December 2022 the Post and Auxiliary was contacted by De Pere Fire Rescue Chief Alan Matzke asking if we would be interested in donating a flag pole to the main fire station (#1, east side of De Pere). After surveying the desired location for the flagpole – directly behind the displayed fire bell – it was noted that there were no markings on or near the fire bell that discussed it – that directly lead into discussion of a monument to rectify that issue. And that directly lead to discussions about placing an identical monument at the west side fire station (#2). After approval by Post and Auxiliary member’s, we proceeded with the project and the flag pole and monuments were ordered. Due to ongoing overseas COVID related shipping delays, the monuments were finally delivered in November 2023 and installed in December 2023. The key to the wording on the monuments is that we did not want the monuments to be a memorial, rather a living tribute to the former, current, and future City of De Pere firefighters, EMS and rescue personnel who put their lives on the line every day. A big thank you to Post 2113 QM Randy Hansen who went out into the De Pere community and raised enough donations to fully pay for the two monuments and the flag pole (\$18,000 in donations) – way to go Randy !!!!!

We fully expect to have a dedication ceremony later in the spring (2024) when the weather improves.



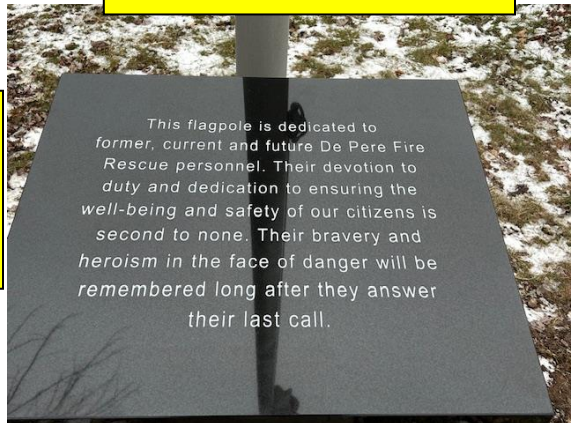
**Fire Station #1
 East side**



Top view of both monuments



**Fire Station #2
 West side**





A HUGE thank you goes to all the community small businesses and individuals who supported this project with their very generous donations.

If you stop by any of these businesses, please thank them for supporting our VFW Post 2113.

Doug's Take 5 Bar and Restaurant has fantastic homemade soups, salads and other items – so stop by for lunch one day – you won't be disappointed. (3600 Riverside Dr, De Pere)



As you know at the 2023 VFW Department of Wisconsin convention Post 2113 was awarded – the first of its kind – Post-level Honor Guard team of the Year award that Post Commander Pat Moran is holding

This award is now permanently on display in the *Salute to Veterans* area at Ryan Funeral Home.

If you visit Ryan's for any reason please stop by their display and see this trophy

The City of De Pere also broke ground in September 2023 on the new Nelson Family Pavilion – a new outdoor entertainment venue in the city's Voyageur Park.

Your Post 2113 and Auxiliary was there for the ground breaking ceremony as we are Silver-level donors to this new and exciting project. Construction should be finished this summer (2024)





2023 Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Essay Competition and Awards

On January 27, 2024 the 8th VFW District of Wisconsin held their annual Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year award lunch ceremony. Many thanks to the Post 2113 Auxiliary for their outstanding support of these programs – as their efforts to work with local-area schools, teachers and students is second to none – GREAT JOB to all the Post Auxiliary for their dedication.

At the lunch ceremony it was finally announced that the Patriot's Pen essay entry from our Post/Auxiliary, Kyla Kriewaldt (pictured right) from De Pere Middle School, won 1st Place and her entry now moves onto the VFW Department of Wisconsin competition. The winner of the Department competition will be announced at the VFW State Convention in June 2024.



The highest any Post/Auxiliary Voice of Democracy essay entry finished was 8th place at the 8th District competition and therefore will not be moving on to the State-level competition, same with our Post/Auxiliary Teacher of the Year entry. A big congratulations to all who participated !!

Christmas 2023 – With the Auxiliary taking the lead, the Post joined them in decorating a tree up for the Annual City of De Pere Christmas Community Drive in Voyageur Park - which was seen by over 6000 people this year. Mayor Boyd issued a special Thank You to the Auxiliary and the Post, plus to all the other non-profit organizations that decorated trees – *“Without all the community support this special Christmas program could not and would not happen, so Thank You all.*



Also, a HUGE thank you to all the Auxiliary members who helped make up special Christmas Baskets for the Veterans living in the Rennes Nursing Home (De Pere) and delivered 60 Christmas cards to them to pass out to the veterans and all the individuals living there.



8th VFW District of Wisconsin Commander Aaron Volling and the 8th District Chief of Staff Bruce Sorensen personally thanked Post 2113 QM Randy Hansen for his outstanding efforts in leading the 8th VFW District of Wisconsin through the requesting process to make 8th District history at the 8th District Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Tracher of the Year awards lunch on January 27, 2024. For the 1st time EVER 2 things happened:

- 1st – The awards ceremony was covered by a local TV station. WBAY, Channel 2, was at the lunch awards ceremony for over 90 minutes filming and interviewing the winners. See their coverage at: <https://www.wbay.com/2024/01/28/vfw-awards-honor-americas-future-those-who-guide-them/>
- 2nd – The Patriot's Pen, the Voice of Democracy and the Teacher of the Year awards program was covered by the local Green Bay newspaper – The Press Times. In a story you'll only see in their newspaper (and pictured here) the joint effort between Post 2113 QM Randy Hansen and 8th District Chief of Staff Bruce Sorensen produced a first-class article in their January 26, 2024 edition.





VFW Post 2113 supporting our adopted units deployed soldiers with care packages

In April and May 2023 soldiers from our adopted military unit – the 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion (CA BN) based out of the US Army Reserve Center in Green Bay – were deployed overseas to provide support to our NATO partners with the on-going Ukraine conflict. Upon arrival overseas, they were broken down into seven (7) support detachments. The Post and Auxiliary worked in partnership with other community businesses/organizations and mailed care packages to the soldiers at each of those 7 locations.

- **COMPLETED** – August 12, 2023 - partnered with the 432nd Soldier and Family Readiness Group (SFRG) for collection and packing of care package items, then mailed the 14 care packages on Monday, August 14, 2023
- **COMPLETED** – September 16, 2023 - partnering with the 8th VFW District for collection and packing of care package items, then mailing the packages on Monday, September 18, 2023
- **COMPLETED** – October 2, 2023 - partnering with the Green Bay Country Club and their annual Veterans Golf Outing for collection and packing of care package items, then mailing the packages on Tuesday, October 3, 2023
- **COMPLETED** – November 16, 2023 - partnering with the Wrightstown American Legion Post 436 and the Wrightstown School District's annual Veterans Day celebrations for collecting and packing care package items, then mailing the packages on Saturday, November 18, 2023.
- **COMPLETED** – December 9, 2023 - Christmas care packages - partnering with the 432nd Soldier and Family Readiness Group (SFRG) for the collecting and packing care package items and Christmas cards from the soldier's families, then mailing the packages on Monday, December 11, 2023.



Pictured is the completed sorting and packing of the 432nd CA BN care packages by the 8th VFW District of Wisconsin at their Saturday, September 16, 2023 meeting. Standing next to Post QM Randy Hansen is the leader of the Soldier and Family Readiness Group (SFRG) of the 432nd CA BN – SFC Jennifer Thetreau. We're proud to say that Jen is a member of our VFW Post and was recently promoted to 1SG (on February 3, 2024) – CONGRATS Jen – a well deserved promotion !!



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Post and Auxiliary Membership

Post and Auxiliary membership is critical to the success we have in supporting our fellow veterans in need, our own members and our community as a whole. YOUR VOICE DOES MATTER!! JOIN TODAY!

VFW Post 2113 Membership Information

If you know a Veteran who qualifies to join the VFW please call Pat Moran and he'll call that Veteran to get the membership application processed

Annual Post membership fee is only \$35.00.

**The Post has a very special program whereas if you purchase a 1-year membership, then a 2nd year membership is paid by the Post. Simply mail your 1-year membership application and payment check to Pat Moran to the Post's post office box listed on the front page of this newsletter.

Life Post membership fee is based on your age – see the attached application for these costs.

**The Post has a special Life membership rebate program of \$150.00 to help cover a portion of you becoming a Life VFW member. To take advantage of this special offer, simply mail your Life membership application and payment check to Pat Moran to the Post's post office box listed on the front page of this newsletter.

Download the membership application from our new Post web site and mail it along with your check to Pat

<https://www.vfwpost2113.org/vfwpost2113membership.html>

Auxiliary VFW Post 2113 Membership Information

If you know a Veterans family members who qualifies and would like to join our Auxiliary please call Linda Moran and she'll get the membership application processed

Annual Auxiliary membership fee is only \$35.00 for the first year, then \$30.00 every year after.

New Member Application – The completed application with payment check (made out to "Auxiliary VFW Post 2113) should be mailed directly to Linda Moran at the address listed on the front of this newsletter.

Renew existing membership dues – Simply mail Linda Moran your annual or Life membership renewal dues payment check and on the memo line write either "annual dues payment" or "life membership upgrade."

Download the membership application from our new Post web site and mail it along with your check to Pat

<https://www.vfwpost2113.org/auxiliarypost2113application.html>

Completed applications along with your membership option check should be mailed or emailed to either Pat or Linda, as appropriate.



Instead of having another *VFW Post 2113 and Auxiliary Member Spotlight* in this newsletter, we thought this space would be better served if we presented the Post 2113 and 8th District 1st place Patriot's Pen essay by Kyla Kriewaldt (De Pere Middle School student). We are sure you'll be inspired by it, so enjoy reading it.

"How are you inspired by America"

By: Kyla Kriewaldt

"To be honest, I didn't originally think America was that inspiring, so I thought about it. A lot. I realized that I was looking at the glass like it was half empty, not half full. I finally understood that though it's young, America thrives with new inventions, gorgeous landscapes, efforts to make the world a better place, but most of all incredible people.



Kyla receiving her 8th VFW District of Wisconsin awards for placing in 1st place.

There are so many great Americans who have lived, and there are so many yet to come. To start, Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Susan B. Anthony, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg are all extraordinary examples of activists. They fought for what they believed in in front of so many people, and that's extremely difficult. Even doing a small thing like speaking in front of a group of people or standing up to a mean kid can be challenging, but to tell that many people what you know is right is just plain dumbfounding. And that's just the tip of the iceberg. These are some examples of heroic people who we still honor today, but the astonishing acts and people do not end there.

Besides activists, America has so many heroes hidden in plain sight – doctors, teachers, firefighters, police officers, political workers, scientists, and parents. That's just some of the many incredible people working to make the world a better place. Hundreds of millions of people trying to build a better future for themselves and others, all working hard to achieve a goal, big or small. Some things as small as a bake sale as a fundraiser, but some as big as getting water to an underprivileged village.

One of my favorite things here is that there is such a large diversity with people who are all beautiful on the inside. Everyone has their own story, their own winding path to journey down. Some are just starting their great adventure and some have been going for a long time. Also, there are so many people with hidden talents or stories that you have no idea about.

Sure, America has lots of natural beauty – waterfalls, forests, lakes and rivers, mountains – and so many more stunning things, but I'm most inspired by the hardworking, change-making, courageous people that impact everyone. That is why America inspires me." -----**End of essay**-----



Message from the President of the Auxiliary, VFW Post 2113

It's hard to believe that "*Bee the Change*" year will be ending in three months. Our Auxiliary has been very active this year and accomplished many things to help our Veterans. THANK YOU all for everything that you have done, you're amazing.

First of all, we again made 100% in membership –THANK YOU for making this happen!

We were able to make the following donations in 2023 resulting from Poppy Drive and No Bake Sale 2023 contributions - Hospital Program and Projects \$364; Tomah VA Hospital \$100; Oscar G Johnson VA Hospital (Iron Mountain) \$200 towards Christmas Party which helped 60 families; National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan \$200 for Christmas presents and also sent 4 Prom Dresses and Books valued at \$180; Green Bay Community Shelter \$100; Green Bay Red Cross \$57; \$175 De Pere Police and Fire First Responder Annual Awards Program (the awards dinner will be on February 27, 2024 – call Linda if you'd like to attend with the Auxiliary); \$75 to the deployed 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion (our Post and Auxiliary adopted military unit) to help with care packages – we also helped one of its unit members with Christmas this year whose husband is deployed in Poland \$485 for presents, gift certificates for food, etc.; \$210 for funerals and memorials for deceased members; \$50 to Veterans Unmet needs program; \$500 to Department President's Special Project ("Sierra Delta" – a life buddy (dogs) support program based in Madison, WI serving Veterans in need); Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy programs – In 2023 we also made the following program donations: \$200 to 8th District and Department of Wisconsin for Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen Awards; and locally we gave out \$350 to our student winners and \$100 for Teacher of the year.



Again, we helped with the De Pere Community Veterans Day Program by putting up a POW/MIA table and Deb Nackers gave a presentation on the meaning of the table. She then took the display and set up at the west side Associated Bank in De Pere to be on display the month of November. Out of 150 branches with Veteran-related displays, this branch was one of the winners of their display contest

for Veterans Day and they awarded the Post with a donation of \$250 for helping them achieve this special honor.





We made up several ghouly baskets of goodies for Halloween and delivered to the Rennes Nursing home residents and received a neat thank you letter from them.

Deb Nackers and her friend Geri along with myself and Pat ventured to the National Home for the annual Halloween Festival with the Wisconsin crew. The Department theme this year was Harry Potter, we had a great time with the families.

Thank You again for working together to help our Veterans and their families. Working together we can accomplish ANYTHING! God Bless everyone and let's continue to have a GREAT YEAR.

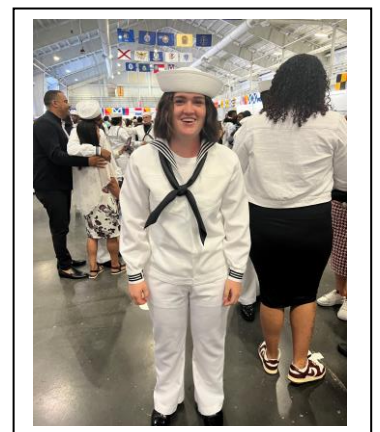


Linda Moran, President, VFW Post 2113 Auxiliary (920-639-9987; Loopylin1950@gmail.com)

Message from the Commander, VFW Post 2113

First-of-all - Linda and I are very proud grandparents – our granddaughter, Josie, just graduated from all her US Navy training and is on her way to serving on a boat (Army term) – I think in the Navy they call it a ship – and will soon be traveling around the world experiencing new lifestyles and cultures (and not to mention hurricanes and typhoon's)....

Second-of-all – The Post was the 1st VFW Post in the 8th District to make 100% membership this year. That is quite the accomplishment – thank you for making this happen! In a new 2023-2024 membership goal, the VFW Department of Wisconsin wants all VFW Posts in the state to reach 102% membership – for us that means we need to recruit 2 new members – so if you know any veterans who would like to join our De Pere VFW Post 2113, PLEASE reach out to me. Your efforts in helping us reach the 102% membership goal will be greatly appreciated.



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I would like to thank all Post 2113 members for belonging to a Veterans Organization. We, the VFW, The American Legion, the DAV, the Desert Veterans, the MOAA and all the other Veteran organizations are the guardians of the Veterans Benefits. Without members we would not have any clout in Washington, because Senators or Congressman receive thousands of emails and letters on veteran and veteran family subjects weekly and they then take notice and do something. If you are not receiving the VFW Action Corp Weekly please sign up, its free and it does tell you what's going on in the Capital. To find out more about the VFW Action Corp and to sign up please go to <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts>

Another Thank You to all new and seasoned members who have helped with the Memorial Day Services and marched in the Parade—served as Post Honor Guard members for funerals and the High School Football games---cooked or served for our two Brat Fries, helped with the Poppy Drive and finally with collecting and packaging items for our adopted unit the 432nd care packages.

Finally, for the first time since the COVID pandemic hit, the Post and Auxiliary held our annual member appreciation lunch at The Rite Place on January 6, 2024. A big thank you goes to all our Post and Auxiliary members who support our veteran and community efforts. Here are two of the VFW members who were honored at the lunch ceremony.



William Patzke being presented with his 40-year VFW membership pin by Post Commander Pat Moran

Jim Bergman being presented with his 15-year VFW membership pin by Post QM Randy Hansen



Let's close out this VFW year strong by helping our Veterans and their families anyway we can. Until next time God Bless everyone and God Bless those in harms way.

Pat Moran, Commander, De Pere VFW Post 2113 (920-639-0922; pmoran3147@gmail.com)



The VFW 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.*

The VFW 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.*

De Pere VFW Post 2113: *We are especially proud to have partnered with our adopted US Army Reserve unit – the 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion – by supporting their deployed soldiers with care packages and their families back home with the support they need. Plus, in partnership with the De Pere Fire Rescue Department and several local small businesses, we completed a special monument project that can be viewed at both the East and West side De Pere Fire Stations. See inside this newsletter for more details on both actions*