

Paul Fredericksen – Commander
Tom Fredericksen – Sr. Vice Commander
Herb “Skip” Mann – Jr. Vice Commander
John McCoy – Quartermaster/Adjutant
James Millar – Chaplain



Randy Strickland – Chief of Staff
Phil Allen – Judge Advocate
George Stoeber – Surgeon
Randy Marchant – Trustee 1
Bill Eager – Trustee 2
Merle Patterson – Trustee 3

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Pleasant Prairie Memorial Post 7308
7515 125th Ave
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53142

Next Staff & Regular Monthly Meeting:

The next Staff and Regular Monthly Meeting of VFW Post 7308 is a very important meeting as we will be electing Post Officers for the 2014 – 2015 year. Staff Officers meet @ 1800 on 17 April 2014; immediately followed by the Regular Monthly Meeting @ 1900, at Birchwood Grill – 7515 125th Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53142.

Commander's Corner:

I want to thank everyone for your participation in keeping Post 7308 the top recruiting Post in Wisconsin and the Top Post in Division 7 Nationally. There is much for which we can be proud and thankful.

We must continue to recruit and grow and strive to be the best post in the nation. I encourage everyone who is not a life member to consider the Life installment option. If you cannot, then please make sure you keep your dues current as there are many benefits to membership including scholarships for our members and family, VA advocacy, professional, social, and countless resources to support our current serving military, veterans, as well as families through difficult times.

Please feel free to contact me with any needs, ideas or problems. I am here to help and serve everyone in the post. If you cannot participate much in post events now, please do not get discouraged or feel the need to drop out. I have been a member of the VFW for 27 years and have only been very active in the last 5-7 years. I understand the commitments to employment and family. Continuing membership also serves the post.

We have some very interesting and exciting events coming up later this Spring and Summer. Hope you can be a continuing part of what we do to help our Veterans and their families.

Respectfully,

Paul Fredericksen – Commander VFW Post 7308

Upcoming Events in 2nd Quarter 2014

Harborside Academy Presentation – 03 April 2014 @ 0930 hrs
Bristol School Arts & Crafts Fair – 05 April 2014
National Police, Firefighter Award Presentation – Kenosha Police and Fire Commission on 17 April 2014 @ 0800 hrs
National Police, Firefighter, and EMT Award Presentation – Pleasant Prairie Village Board on 21 April 2014
Loyalty Day - Viroqua, WI on 26 April 2014.
Vietnam War Presentation – Harborside Academy on 01 May 2014 @ 0930 hrs
Hosting Heros Café – Festival Foods for the month of May 2014
District 1 Spring Meeting – the VFW Dept of WI District 1 Spring Meeting, is to be held at the VFW Post 8375 Brandes Memorial Post in Wilmot WI, on 10 May 2014.
2014-2015 Post Officer Installation – VFW Post 7308 (2014-2015) Post Officers will be installed at the 15 May 2014 Post Meeting.
Annual Garage Sale/Fundraiser – Post Commander's house on weekend of 16 to 17 May 2014 in conjunction with **Armed Forces Day**
Iraq/Afghanistan Presentation – Harborside Academy on 20 May 2014 @ 0930 hrs
JROTC Outstanding Cadet Medal Presentation – Indian Trails HS on 22 May 2014
Memorial Day Ceremony – Old St. Mark's Cemetery @ 1100 hrs on 26 May 2014
Harborside Academy "Thank You" to Vets – Harborside
VFW Dept of WI State Convention – will be held in Eau Claire WI from 04 June to 08 June 2014
National Flag Day – will be held in Waubeka, WI on 14 June 2014
VFW Post 7308 Regular Monthly Meeting – 19 June 2014

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VFW Post 7308 attends the National VFW Legislative Conference

VFW Post 7308 Commander Paul Fredericksen and Post Quartermaster John McCoy were invited by VFW National Commander Bill Thien to attend the National VFW Legislative Conference. We should all be very proud of these two outstanding Comrades, their dedication and leadership, and the way they represent us as a Post.



Pictured above (from left to right) is VFW Post 7308 Quartermaster John McCoy, VFW Post 7308 Commander Paul Fredericksen and VFW Dept. of WI State Junior Vice Commander John Giese, awaiting the CIC's testimony before Congress.

As part of the Legislative Conference, our Wisconsin contingent visited with many of our Congressional representatives, both in the House and Senate. Something very few of us ever get to do. Commander Fredericksen and Quartermaster McCoy presented ideas and asked questions of each member of Congress they met with, driving home the importance of maintaining a strong Military and in keeping the faith with America's Veterans.

First Annual Veteran's Chili Cook- Off/Fundraiser

VFW Post 7308 and American Legion Post 21 worked together to hold the 1st Annual Veteran's Chili Cook-Off and Fundraiser on 01 March 2014. We enjoyed a very successful and exciting competition and raised monies for both organizations to continue doing what they do best, provide assistance to other Veterans and their families who are in need.

While the festivities went on, our Post took advantage of the opportunity and not only took part in the Cook-Off but sold VFW Dept of WI car raffle tickets and used this time as a "Boots on the Ground recruiting effort. Two new members were added to our growing number who will be a very welcome addition to our Post.



Pictured here (from left to right) are VFW Post 7308 member Gary Wieliczka, VFW Post 7308 Judge Advocate and District 1 Commander Phil Allen, and VFW Post 7308 Jr Vice Commander Herbert (Skip) Mann assisted with the fund raiser, raffles and recruiting efforts.

We welcome the chance to recruit at any and all events. From this one event, we added Lynell Constantine (US Navy Retired) and David Marifern (US Army) to our ranks. Welcome aboard Comrades!

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Troop 544 Blue and Gold Banquet/Father and Son Cake Bake Competition

VFW Post 7308's Judge Advocate Phil Allen, Quartermaster John McCoy, and Chief of Staff Randy Strickland attended the Boy/Cub Scout Troop 544 Blue and Gold Banquet and Father and Son Cake Baking Competition on 18 February 2014. We, along with our wives, served as Judges to decide Best Tasting, Best Theme, and Best Overall cakes. This great and fun event was held at Prairie Lane Elementary School in Pleasant Prairie, WI.



Pictured above (from left to right) are VFW Post 7308 Judge Advocate and District 1 Commander Phil Allen, along with VFW Post 7308 Quartermaster John McCoy “force” themselves to taste each and every cake. That way they could make a fair and good decision!

We continue to be very active within our community, taking part in events all over the Village of Pleasant Prairie, the city of Kenosha, and in the county. It is a pleasure to represent our National organization, our Department of WI, our District 1 and our Post as emissaries for all of our Comrades.

VFW Dept of WI Mid-Winter Conference Red Carpet Award

VFW Post 7308 continues to make giant strides in all facets of the VFW. Recently the Post was recognized for meeting all of the requirements in all VFW programs necessary for ALL State and All American recognition. An accomplishment that we have now repeated for four (4) consecutive years (All State) and two years for All American.

At the 2014 Mid-Winter Conference, VFW Post 7308 was once again recognized and received the coveted “Red Carpet” award for obtaining 100% plus in membership!



Pictured above are VFW Post 7308 Commander Paul Fredericksen and his bride Arlene as they are escorted into the Red Carpet award ceremony by State Honor Guard member and State Quartermaster Steve Peper.

Buddy Poppy Drive

VFW Post 7308 held a Buddy Poppy Drive at Woodmans – Kenosha at 7145 120th Avenue Kenosha, WI on Saturday 15 March 2014 from 08:00 AM until 4:00 PM. We had a very brisk and wonderful turn out by the community and there generosity was very giving.

We also took advantage of this time to hold a “Boots on the Ground” recruiting effort and gained four (4) new members for the Post as well as four additional prospective members. We will be following up in the near future with them and verify their eligibility and desire to be part of such a meaningful organization such as ours. We shared time and conversation with many Veterans and the camaraderie and brotherhood was very evident, no matter the generation or experiences.



Pictured above (from left to right) are VFW Post 7308 Chaplain J.D. Millar and our Post Junior Vice Commander and Buddy Poppy Chairman Herbert (Skip) Mann.

This year we are anticipating another great venue for our Buddy Poppy drives as we have reserved two dates at Miller Park, in July and again in September. We will be needing at least 10 volunteers for each of these events and hope that many of our members will turn out to assist us in this endeavor. Please see our Commander Paul Fredericksen or Buddy Poppy Chairman and Jr Vice Commander Skip Mann and let them know if you can take part in this great and necessary event.

Veteran's Home at Union Grove

On 01 February 2014, our Post got together with the members of Navy Club Ship 40 – Kenosha, the Kenosha Area Vietnam Veterans (KAVV), and our adopted Girl Scout Troop 7293 and delivered Girl Scout cookies to the Cottage 16 veterans at the Southern WI Veterans Center in Union Grove.

These young ladies spent three (3) hours with us and delivered these cookies to each of the Veterans living there, personally. Each of them shook the hands of the Veterans and thanked each of them for their service. It was amazing to watch the faces of these Vets as these young people showed that they remember their sacrifices and are proud to know men and women like these.

All three of the Veteran Service Organizations involved pitched together to purchase all of these cookies and escorted these young ladies to make their delivery.



Pictured above (from left to right in the back row) are VFW Post 7308 Quartermaster John McCoy, Navy Club Ship 40 – Kenosha Commander Steve Tindall and VFW Post Commander Paul Fredericksen (Paul is also a member of the KAVV) Standing in the front row are our very good friends, members of Girl Scout Troop 7293 of Prairie Lane Elementary School, Pleasant Prairie, WI.

VFW Post 7308 Scout of the Year Program

On 16 January 2014, VFW Post 7308 recognized two scouts we are nominating for the VFW Dept of WI Scout of the Year program.

Joel Robert Williams, III of Boy Scout Troop 502 is our Eagle Scout of the Year for 2013 – 2014. This year we are doing something a little different, as we also have a Girl Scout nomination, Ellen Miller of Girl Scout Troop 5635. These two fine young people have done much work to complete their requirements for their level in the Scouts and deserve our appreciation and recognition for such wonderful work and deeds.



Pictured above (from left to right) are Joel Williams, Ellen Miller and VFW Post 7308 Commander Paul Fredericksen as he recognizes these two young people for their efforts.

We have also been working with another Scout, Dominic Gemignani, helping him to complete his Eagle Scout Project. As part of his project, he installed park benches with the emblems of all five services around the walking paths at Ingram Park in Pleasant Prairie and near the 35 trees that were planted there representing the 35 Kenosha county service members who paid the ultimate price in Vietnam. A special park bench was installed near them, making this the only Vietnam War memorial in Kenosha County.

VFW Post 7308 Life Membership Award

VFW Post 7308 is very proud to have awarded a Life Membership to our comrade Dan McKee. This program has been in place for three years and we have awarded this prestigious recognition to only four members, Don Brevitz and Thomas Socha in 2012, Ted Lucier in 2013 and now Dan McKee for 2014.

The program requirements for this award are that the nominee has continued to be a member in good standing, attended at least 8 of the 12 Regular Monthly Meetings throughout the year, and be a dedicated and willing participant in the majority of the Post's major events.



Pictured above is our comrade Dan McKee a retired United States Navy Chief Petty Officer and this year's Life Membership Award winner.

Not only is Comrade McKee very active in our Post... he is also very active in the community, as a coach and mentor for the Pleasant Prairie Predators (U15) baseball team.

