

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 125<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53142

## **Next Staff & Regular Monthly Meeting** **16 January 2014**

The next Staff and Regular Monthly Meeting of VFW Post 7308 will be held on 16 January 2014.

**Staff Officers** meet @ 1800 hrs; immediately followed by the **Regular Monthly Meeting @ 1900 hrs.**

**Meeting Location:** Birchwood Grill –  
7515 125<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53142

## **Upcoming Events in 1st Quarter 2014**

**District 1 Winter Meeting** – On 18 January 2014, District 1 Commander Phil Allen is calling all VFW Post Commanders and/or delegates to the VFW Dept. of WI District 1 Winter Meeting.

*Meeting Location:* VFW Post 6375 Memorial Post – Elkhorn WI. Registration begins at 0800 hrs. with the meeting commencing at 0900 hrs.

**VFW Post 7308 Social** – On 08 February 2014, we will once again gather for a lunch/dinner with our Post members, their spouses and honored guests. Event time and menu to follow.

*Event Location:* Birchwood Grill –  
7515 125<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53142

**Mid-Winter Conference** – On 14 to 15 February 2014, VFW Dept. of WI State Commander Renee Simpson is calling all Post Commanders and/or delegates to the VFW Dept. of WI Mid-Winter Conference.

*Event Location:* Olympia Resort –  
1350 Royale Mile Rd, Oconomowoc, WI.

## **Commander's Corner**

Congratulations to the top Post in Division 7. I am proud to announce that every set VFW goal has already been met and surpassed this year. One of these goals was new membership. Our membership has been met and well over 150%. Once again, we have recruited people with excellent leadership abilities that will continue to strengthen our foundation that allows our Post to remain active and successful for years to come.

I would also like to express my gratitude and thanks to everyone for their contribution towards meeting the needs of our Veterans and their families. Every contribution has made this effort successful. I am proud of every one of you for your contributions and support.

In the coming New Year, one of our new goals is to encourage our annual members to sign up for the Life Installment Plan. With the upcoming increase of the annual dues to \$40.00, a Life Installment Plan will save our members money over time.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to share all fresh ideas and innovative projects that may help improve our post operations and extend our outreach to needy Veterans and their families. We cannot sit on our past successes but continue moving forward and strive to towards helping those around us. We should continue to work in the community, seek out needy vets with unmet needs, mentor new potential leaders and continue team building. Please feel free to your thoughts with me at any time.

Have a happy and wonderful New Year!

Respectfully,

Paul Fredericksen  
Post 7308 Commander

## Veteran in Need September 2013

On 29 September 2013, VFW Post 7308 took part in assisting a Veteran in Need. Lance Young, a disabled Veteran, was living in a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor apartment in Bristol, WI. After yet another surgery, he was still unable to traverse the stairs and needed to move to an available 1<sup>st</sup> floor apartment. The call went out to the Veteran Service Organizations in the area and the response was overwhelming. Representatives from several VFW posts (including Post 7308) and other service organizations met at the apartment early on a Saturday morning and got the job done quickly.



*Pictured above, gathered around disabled Veteran Lance Young (seated in center) are a few of the group of Veterans and volunteers who came to help when the call was given.*

The group of Veterans and volunteers who came to help when the call was given were:

- From VFW Post 1865 - Kyle Milas and Lynn Smith;
- From VFW Post 2751 – Julius Miannecki;
- From VFW Post 7308 – Paul Fredericksen, Randy Strickland, Dave Suminski and Christopher Kapsala;
- From VFW Post 10441 – Marc Balkovich and Phil Tojek;
- From Kenosha VERG – Mary Chopp, Steve LaMotte and Bob Parr (also American Legion Post 21); and
- From the Paddock Lake Lions Club – Marcia Cook, Mike Taylor, Ralph Taylor and Mike Taylor.

## Hero's Café October 2013

VFW Post 7308 hosted the Hero's Café at the Festival Foods store (ne. Super Valu) for the month of October 2013. We always enjoy this time as we spend each Friday morning from 0800 to 1200 hrs with fellow Veterans of all ages and description. Conversation, coffee and donuts are enjoyed by all.

We also use this time as a “Boots on the Ground” recruiting effort and often find new members who are looking to join a Post like ours.



*Pictured above (from left to right) are VFW Post 7308 Commander Paul Fredericksen and Past Post Commander (now District 1 Commander) Phil Allen, displaying the Post colors at the Hero's Café.*



*Pictured above is VFW Post 7308 Senior Vice Commander Tom Fredericksen talking with several Veterans at the café.*

## New Members Sworn In during our 18 October 2013 Meeting

VFW Post 7308 continues to work on its membership by seeking to recruit a wide diversity of members from all walks of life and experiences. At our meeting on 18 October 2013, we swore in WWII Veterans, a Lebanon Veteran and an Iraq Veteran.



*Pictured above (left to right) are Donald Guibeault, Albert Salerno, Rick Dale and Benjamin Stevens being sworn in by VFW Post 7308 Post Commander Paul Fredericksen. Also pictured here are Life Members John Surman (foreground) and Post Jr. Vice Commander Herbert (Skip) Mann (background).*

We are very proud of our Post's concerted efforts in recruiting very talented individuals, ensuring our longevity both as a VFW Post and one that will lead our organization well into the next few decades. It is very important that we find not only new members, but members that are willing to step up and be very active in our Post. We need to continue to do what we do best....help other Veterans that are less fortunate than ourselves.

Recently, we were recognized by the VFW Dept. of WI. as a leader in membership, being given a monetary award of \$1,000.00. The money will be used to fund our ongoing efforts in helping those in need. Each of you should be proud of this accomplishment.

## VFW Post 7308 Holds its Annual Veterans Day Observance

On 11 November 2013 @ 1100 hrs, our Post held a ceremony was held at Old St. Mark's Cemetery in Kenosha, WI in observance of Veterans Day. Nine Veterans from earlier American wars (War of 1812 and the American Civil War) are interred in this location. It is responsibility to ensure that these brave Veterans are remembered for their service and sacrifice.



*Pictured here (from left to right) Jr. Vice Commander Herbert (Skip) Mann, Post Commander Paul Fredericksen and Miss Racine Elise Elmblad (singing the National Anthem).*

This was only the beginning of a very busy day for us. In addition to the ceremony, we also visited the Veterans living at the Wynwood Nursing Home on 74<sup>th</sup> Street in Kenosha. We lead them in a Veterans Day ceremony.

From there we went on to Prairie Lane Elementary School for another ceremony. The students put on a great program and recognized all of the Veterans in attendance. Each Veteran was asked to stand and be recognized by conflict they served. As each Veteran stood, they were met by a heartfelt standing ovation by entire student body and faculty member. It was quite a Veterans Day for us to remember.

## VFW Post 7308 Numbers continue to Grow - Doubling Our Numbers Since 2012

On 21 November 2013, VFW Post 7308 increased its numbers by yet another six new members. The recruiting efforts by the members of this Post are without peer, as we recruit at every opportunity. It is our goal to ensure the longevity of our Post while focusing on quality recruits. Recruits that can take the reins in the future and continue our work as an active and noteworthy Post.



*Pictured above (from left to right) are new members Blake Buchanan, Brandon Bertz, Rory Burns, Tyrone Johnson, Stephanie Schulte, and Jack Snider. All being sworn in by VFW Post 7308 Commander Paul Fredericksen.*

Our Post numbers are outgrowing our meeting place as seen in the picture below. During this business meeting, we counted forty-four attendees and guests. No matter what organization you are a part of, this is a large number of attendees.



*Pictured above are members and a few guests as they look on during the swearing in ceremony at the Posts Meeting on 21 November 2013.*

## Adopt-a-Unit Thanksgiving Day Meal

VFW Post 7308 is very proud of our association with the men and women of our Adopted Unit, the United States Coast Guard Station - Kenosha. Each Thanksgiving, we visit with the duty section at the station and provide them with a wonderful and full Thanksgiving meal. The meal provided ensured that all on duty members and their families (those that could attend) did not go away hungry.

Each of us remembers what it is like to be away from loved ones on special holidays. Our serving this meal helps to bring a little bit of home to the men and women of the Duty Section. As you can see in the picture below, the smiles and appreciation are our rewards.



*Pictured above are the men and women of the Duty Section at the U.S. Coast Guard Station - Kenosha. Behind them (from left to right) are VFW Post 7308 Service Officer Dave Suminski, Jr. Vice Commander Herbert (Skip) Mann, and Post Commander Paul Fredericksen.*

## Welcome Home Wounded Warrior USMC Lance Corporal Matthew Grashen

On 30 November 2013, VFW Post 7308 was proud to be a part of the large turnout to welcome home LCPL Matthew Grashen. LCPL Grashen was severely wounded by an IED in the Helmand Province, Afghanistan on 01 August 2013.

He was able to return to Kenosha for a short visit over Thanksgiving before returning to Walter Reed Hospital where he will continue with recovery and rehabilitation.



*Pictured above: speaking is VFW Post 7308 Commander Paul Fredericksen. Seated in the foreground in the wheel chair is Lance Corporal Matthew Grashen with his wife.*

After welcoming him home, Post Commander Paul Fredericksen presented Lance Corporal Grashen with a VFW Post 7308 Challenge Coin and then saluted this Wounded Warrior, showing him the love and respect that all of us have for those who are willing to serve and sacrifice for this country.



## VFW Post 7308 Donates Flags to Two Area Nursing Homes in November and December 2013

On 23 November 2013, VFW Post 7308 responded to a request from the Wynwood Nursing Home – Kenosha, located at 10108 74<sup>th</sup> Street, Kenosha, WI. as we donated and replaced their tattered and badly worn flag. Many of the Veterans and other patients of Wynwood observed the flag raising from the front windows.



*Pictured above are VFW Post 7308 Chief of Staff Randy Strickland and Post member Dan McKee as they hoist the new flag up to the top of the flag pole.*

On 06 December 2013, we gathered at the Kindred Healthcare Nursing Rehabilitation and Care Center located at 8400 Sheridan Rd., Kenosha, WI. as we donated and replaced their tattered and badly worn flag, as well.



*Pictured above is the VFW Post 7308 Commander Paul Fredericksen and Life member Dan Ouimet as they raise the flag at the Kindred Healthcare Nursing Rehabilitation and Care Center.*

## VFW Post 7308 Brings Christmas Gifts to the Veteran patients at Grand Prairie

VFW Post 7308 made its Annual Christmas Gift Giving visit to the Grand Prairie Nursing and Rehabilitation Center located at 10330 Prairie Ridge Blvd, Pleasant Prairie, WI.



*Pictured above (from left to right) is VFW Post 7308 Commander Paul Fredericksen, Charter/Life Member Dan Ouimet, Charter/Life Member Phil Allen, Post Chaplain J.D. Millar, Post Jr Vice Commander Herbert (Skip) Mann and Adrian Cooper.*

## VFW Post 7308 Participates in Promoting Breast Cancer Awareness

VFW Post 7308 Commander Paul Fredericksen has been working with the Kids Castle at 4211 Green Bay Road, Kenosha and joined in with the children on their Breast Cancer Awareness March around the Grevenow School on 14 October 2013.



## Other Pictures from the 4th Quarter

