

VFW POST 10406 AND AUXILIARY

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

January-March 2018 - Issue #0118



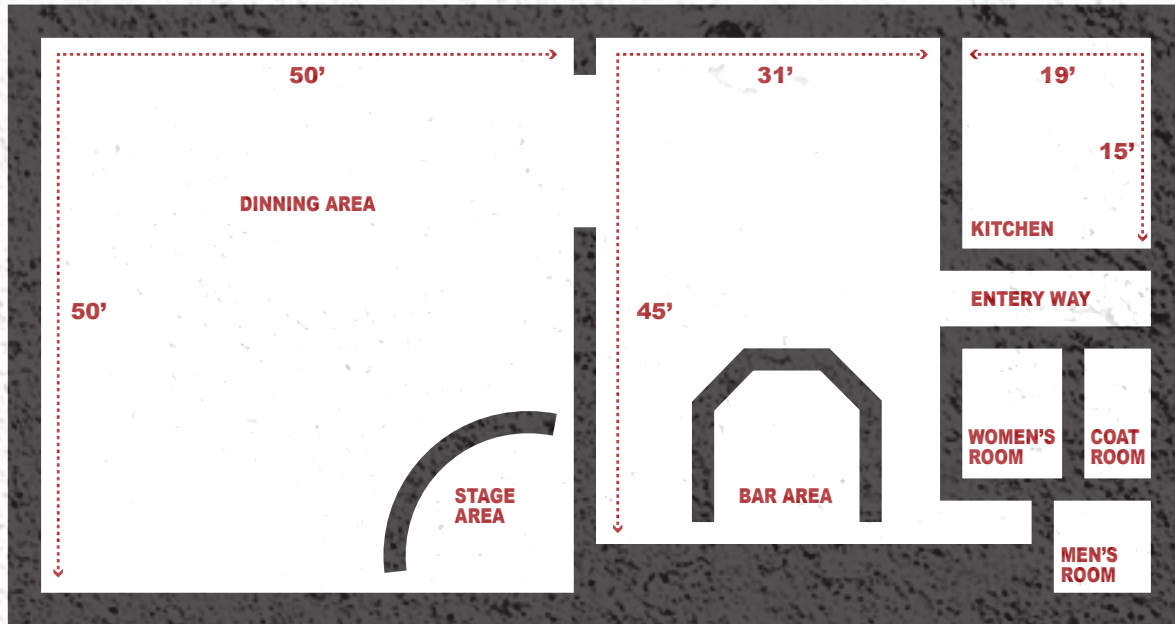
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The Auxiliary will cater for an additional fee depending on the desired menu.

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\$75 Refundable Cleaning Deposit | Bartender Included For Both Rates
Cash Bar Pricing - \$2 beer, \$1 pop & water, 1/2 barrel - \$150, 1/4 barrel - \$100

Comrades & Sisters

Comrades and Sisters, welcome to 2018! Our Posts Annual Appreciation and Recognition Dinner is approaching fast (February 17th). Currently I am unable to attend on time due to work, but I'm trying to pull some strings. This year we would like to recognize the quilt makers from Quilts of Valor of Alma, and V.F.W Post 10406 Member Kyle Bushman for their extraordinary volunteer efforts. Both have touched many Veterans in a positive way.

Whether it be a Patriotic quilt to honor their service, or a muzzleloader hunt in Buffalo County for some who may have thought they would never get an opportunity to hunt again. The efforts and countless hours of hard work and determination has really shown in the final product they have produced.

Also being presented will be the Teacher of the Year: Steve Lyga. Voice of Democracy: Isabelle

Ostrem, Austin Klein, Andrew Mehus. Patriot Pen: Zoey Slaby, Mikayla Stiel, Tristau Ostrem. I urge everyone to come out to show their support to our local volunteers and to our future. This is not only a night to show appreciation towards them, but to show appreciation towards you the Veteran and family. Come have a free meal and enjoy each others company.

The 2018 yearly events have already started with the first Chicken Q already in the books as of January 13th. It wasn't a sell-out of food, but March will hopefully bring a better showing. Besides our regular events I would like our Post to participate in more Veteran Oriented events/fund raising. One is the Unmet Needs Program. This program is a financial grant that helps thousands of Veterans in need across the Nation with money that has been donated. This grant can be up to \$1,500 to assist a family in basic life needs.

One last note. I would like to welcome all our new members. We are one of the few Posts in the district that are at 100%. Please continue with your efforts to keep us head and shoulders above the rest.

I look forward to seeing everyone soon. With the snow flying and the roads becoming that wintery slop, remember to give yourself time to get to your destination. Drive safe everyone.

Mike Stanton
VFW Post 10406
Commander
507-458-9424
michael.stanton@co.goodhue.mn.us

**Appreciation Dinner for all Members and the Auxiliary to the VFW
Saturday, February 17, 2018**

**Social hour, with cash bar, will begin at 5:00pm.
A complimentary dinner will be served at 6:00pm.**

2018 Editor's Comments - Programs

I must say Commander Stanton, Quartermaster Goss and Auxiliary Treasurer Deb Kujak have been way to modest in their accounts of Post activities! Post 10406 has done a fantastic job this past year in supporting countless activities that support veterans AND OUR COMMUNITY—this is precisely what a post should do!

Another core value of the VFW organization is supporting youth activities and specifically to promote patriotism with them. Two national programs, Voice of Democracy (VOD) and Patriots Pen (PP) are essay writing/speaking programs for senior high and junior high students respectively. Post 10406 puts a lot of effort and money into conducting these programs at C-FC.

2017 WINNERS VOICE OF DEMOCRACY (VOD)

1st Isabelle Ostrem
2nd Austin Klein
3rd Andrew Mehus

2017 WINNERS PATRIOTS PEN (PP)

1st Zoey Slaby
2nd Mikayla Stiehl
3rd Tristau Ostrem

Our post participated in another VFW national program this year, Teacher of the Year. This program recognizes a teacher at the elementary, the junior high, and at the senior high level for their efforts to incorporate/teach patriotism as part of their teaching activities. This year the Post selected a senior high teacher, Mr. Steve Lyga from C-FC for his long-time efforts at C-FC—Steve is the teacher who has masterminded the “Veterans Night” these past years at a home football game that recognizes local Veterans and their service. THANKS STEVE.

2017 WINNERS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. Steve Lyga
Cochrane - Fountian City

**These winners and their immediate families will be recognized/awarded at our
Annual Appreciation Dinner in February 17, 2018.**

EDITORS COMMENTS: Al Kochenderfer - VFW Post 10406

2018 Appreciation & Recognition Dinner

All post and auxilary members and spouses are invited to our annual appreciation and recognition dinner at our clubroom on February 17, 2018. Social hour at 5:00pm and dinner at 6:00pm. You must call Gary at 248-2017 by February 9th to make reservations for correct catering numbers.

For those of you who have not attended this event before I'll explain it. The appreciation part is simply that—it is an expression from your post saying, "THANK YOU" for being a member. This event is NOT just for those that are active volunteers but for ALL members because you are a member!!! Just that simple.

The recognition part is where your post recognizes/honors our C-FC Teacher of The Year, the student Voice of Democracy (VOD) winners, Patriot Pen (PP) winners, AND members of our community and post that were selected.

2018 Appreciation & Recognition Dinner VFW POST 10406 Cochrane, WI

February 17, 2018
5:00pm - Social Hour
6:00pm - Dinner

You must call Gary at 248-2017 by February 9th to make reservations for correct catering numbers.

Hunts For Heroes

If you have been a VFW or Auxiliary member for many years or just starting your long membership, I will attempt to tell an account of one of the many good things we do collectively and individually. This is about activities of the VFW, the Auxiliary, community members and mainly about a young warrior from Operation Iraqi Freedom, a member of our Post, and an extraordinarily good human being.

This story starts in 2008 when Kyle was returning from the U S Army Walter Reed Hospital and passing through Fort Indiantown Gap Pennsylvania, a U S Army National guard training base when he came upon the idea of somehow getting seriously wounded veterans of all ages into the outdoors and hunting again or even hunting for the first time. We are talking about multiple amputees, traumatic brain injuries, severe emotional trauma, those things combat vets experience, things that have previously ended their ability to venture into the outdoors and hunt game of all types like they once did before war changed their lives forever.

By 2010 Kyle had organized an informal organization he calls "Hunts for Heroes", a name probably used by other people/organizations. He started by bringing seriously disabled veterans to Cochrane WI, putting them up in his home and deer hunting on family and friends land. From these basic beginnings he has formed friendships and partnerships with like thinking people throughout the United States. It would take pages to list all these arrangements/deals he has "MADE HAPPEN". First, appropriate veterans must be located, screened and selected for the type of hunt they are interested in and can participate in AND then transported from every corner of the U S. Hunting/fishing licenses must be purchased for the state of the hunt. Appropriate clothing, hunting gear, firearms, bows, handicap mobility devices obtained, lodging, meals, land to hunt on, meat processing, trophy mounting, etc., etc. Just think about the coordination, logistics, and financing that goes into making each of these a "successful hunt"! The "hunts" have expanded from local deer hunts to bird hunts in the Dakota's to wild hog and gator hunts in Louisiana to cougar hunts in Montana and zillions of activities between. Kyle has purchased a small school bus, renovated it and regularly transports veterans and tons of gear cross country---no small feat or expense.

Kyle continues to serve as an E-7 Platoon Sergeant in the Army Reserve. Somewhere in his life he has developed an uncanny ability to coordinate all these activities and finances---no, he is not a con artist but a person of incredible ability and dedication to this cause. He simply does whatever it takes to give these American heroes opportunities they never dreamed possible in their post war condition. Hunts for Heroes goes far beyond just the "hunt", it provides a setting in nature where veterans of all age and generations can sit together and communicate about their experiences and yes, talk about the demons that may be haunting their lives. No hospital can do better.

Kyle is a farmer, a large one, but the expenses amount to many thousands of dollars and weeks and weeks of time each year, more each year as the number of veterans and hunts increases.

EDITORS COMMENTS: Al Kochenderfer - VFW Post 10406

Hunts For Heroes (Continued)

I won't attempt to name the dozens of people and other organizations that have contributed in some way to make all this possible but am proud to say that VFW Post 10406, YOUR post has been a contributor financially from day one as well as providing post home facilities for lodging. Many meals etc. have been provided by our Auxiliary. We can do more!

Shower facilities are in short supply for the groups of hunters he provides lodging for locally. I think we, VFW Post 10406 can assist in solving this problem.

The significance of this program can hardly be realized until one sees it in operation. The thrill, the sheer joy of our American Heroes doing what they never thought possible is indeed moving. The hunt and the "healing" provided is beyond belief.

THANK YOU, COMRADE KYLE BUSHMAN

Obviously, this is a program that deserves unlimited support from our post and needs to be publicized throughout our nation, so others may do the same. I will attempt to do this. To learn more about this program go to Facebook and search for Hunts for Heroes. About 5 years of postings are there—they are very moving.

Al Kochenderfer
Editor, VFW Post 10406 Newsletter

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CLUB MANAGER: Gary Krause - VFW Post 10406

Post Activities 2018

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
January 7th Scout Meeting	February 8th VFW/AUX Meeting 7:00pm	March 6th Scout Meeting	April 7th Hofer Racing Chicken Fry
January 9th Belvidere Town Mtg	February 10th Hope Church Pizza	March 8th VFW/AUX Meeting 7:00pm	April 12th VFW/AUX Meeting 7:00pm
January 11th VFW/AUX Meeting 7:00pm	February 11th Hope Church Pizza Pickup	March 10th VFW Chicken Fry	April 14th VFW Chicken Fry
January 13th VFW Chicken Fry	February 13th Belvidere Town Mtg	March 13th Belvidere Town Mtg	April 17th Belvidere Town Mtg
January 27th Belvidere Town Taxes	February 15th Scout Meeting	March 18th Legion Baseball Chicken Fry	April 18th CCT Annual Meeting
	February 17th Post Appreciation/ Recognition Dinner 5:00pm Social 6:00pm Dinner	March 25th Firemen's Dinner	April 21st Duck's Unlimited
	February 25th Scout Meeting		

All calendar events are also online on the VFW Post 10406 website
www.vfwpost10406.org/calendar.html

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COMMANDERS COMMENTS: Mike Stanton - VFW Post 10406

2018 Post Officers

Comrades, I would first like to thank Krist Beseler on the job he's done over the past years as our Post Commander. There have been many changes in the club during his tenure as Post Commander and he leaves some big shoes to fill. With that being said, my intentions for the Post are not to remain stagnant and continue to bring in new ideas.

I look forward to this new experience as Post Commander. I have high expectations of myself not only because of the job that Krist had done, but for what this Post meant to my Grandfather. Thank You all for your dedication.



Krist Beseler
Post Officer



Steve Schiffli
Post Officer



Tom Lorenz
Post Officer



Jim Goss
Post Officer



Gary Krause
Post Officer



Mike Stanton
Post Officer



Richard True
Post Officer



Al Kochenderfer
Post Officer



Richard Mueller
Post Officer



Allen Farner
Post Officer



Edward Robelski
Post Officer



Lavern Eikamp
Post Officer



Burt Schafner
Post Officer

All officers and their positions are on the VFW Post 10406 website
www.vfwpost10406.org/currentofficers.html



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|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ✖ History and Core Values | ✖ How to Donate | ✖ Interactive Calendar |
| ✖ Membership Information | ✖ Local News | ✖ Hall Rental Signup |
| ✖ Membership Benefits | ✖ Checkpoint Brochure | ✖ Staff |
| ✖ Current Sponsors | ✖ Official Newsletter | ✖ Directions |
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