

VFW POST 10406 & AUXILIARY

# OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

January-March 2023 - Issue #0123



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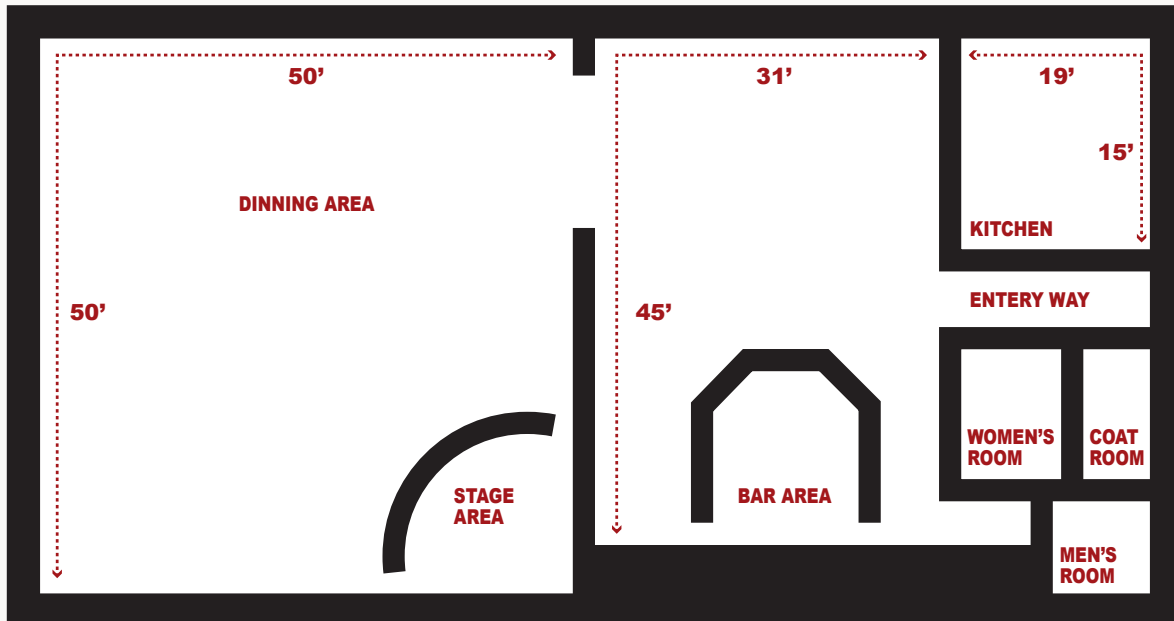
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VFW Post 10406 Cochrane, Wisconsin U.S.A.

# Schedule Your Event Today!

We offer a reasonably priced rental hall great for weddings, receptions, sweet sixteens, birthdays, anniversaries, reunions, fundraisers, auctions, arts & craft shows, funeral memorials, company/employee events, and other special occasions.



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The function hall features 2640 SF of space (47 feet wide by 56 feet long), can host groups up to 178 seated people, handicap accessible, fully equipped kitchen, dance floor and a private bar. Other amenities include a wall mounted flat screen, wireless internet, coat rack area and ample parking.

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\$75 Refundable Cleaning Deposit | Bartender - \$100 For Both Rates  
Cash Bar Pricing - \$2 beer, \$1 pop & water, 1/2 barrel - \$200, 1/4 barrel - \$125, Bartender - \$100

## COMMANDERS COMMENTS: John Dehnke \ VFW Post 10406

# Comrades & Sisters

I just wanted to invite you all to the Appreciation Dinner on February 18, 2023 starting at 5:00pm. It is a dinner that is for you to show our appreciation for all you do.

If you can make it please contact Les Kamrowski at (608) 406-0925 or email [bmcles@aol.com](mailto:bmcles@aol.com).

We have had a very successful year this past year and it is all thanks to this extraordinary VFW & the people that do the hard work. We have an Auxiliary that is bar none.

They are the best and always do a great job!

Our first Charcoal Chicken & Brat Fundraiser Event was on Saturday, January 14, 2023 at 4:00pm. This was a successful events with selling out once again. That is a great accomplishment and says a lot for the product we put out to the Community and also says a lot about our Community for supporting us.

I am also wanting to update our email roster so if you could be so

kind to send me an email with your info that would be great send it to [j\\_dehnke@yahoo.com](mailto:j_dehnke@yahoo.com). I hope to see you at the Appreciation Dinner and if not maybe sometime time through out the year. Thank you all.

God Bless. Happy New Year.

No One Does More For Veterans.

John Dehnke  
VFW Post 10406  
Commander  
(608) 386-9919  
[j\\_dehnke@yahoo.com](mailto:j_dehnke@yahoo.com)



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# Annual VFW Post 10406 \ Cochrane-Buffalo City **APPRECIATION & RECOGNITION DINNER**

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## Invitation From The Senior Vice Commander

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VFW Post 10406, Auxiliary Members, Veterans and Guests:

Comrades, it is my pleasure to invite you and your guest to this years Veterans Appreciation Dinner. This year's event will be held on Saturday February 18, 2023. We will have a social hour at 5:00pm, dinner at 6:00pm and a program that will start shortly after. We should be complete with our program around 8:00pm or shortly after when we will retire. We have again retained Roger's Country Catering to provide us a homestyle meal with a menu to be determined. We have much to celebrate in the past year as we have maintained our All-State Team status and even made All-American Team a second time as a post and more. Our program this year will look back at some of our accomplishments as well as forward with some program award announcements.

Commander Dehnke will be hosting this year's program along with myself and others. Guest Speakers will be State Sr. Vice Ron Ramos, and Retired Buffalo County Sheriff Mike Schmidtknecht. I hope to see and talk to you all at our dinner this year. As always, the meal and event are completely paid for and provided by VFW Post 10406 as a thank you to everyone who attends. If you or any of your guest plan to attend, please call Club Manager, Les Kamrowski at (608) 406-0925 or email at [bmcles@aol.com](mailto:bmcles@aol.com), with your name and how many will be attending. Let us all enjoy a night together where we can all celebrate, enjoy our comradeship and see each other in person. -- Krist Beseler \ Senior Vice Commander

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| ✕ 5:00pm Social Hour              | ✕ Introduction of Head Table             |
| ✕ 6:00pm Dinner                   | ✕ Introduction of Guests                 |
| ✕ Opening Prayer (Chaplain)       | ✕ Recognition of Friends and Benefactors |
| ✕ Serving Line Opens After Prayer | ✕ Patriot Pen wards                      |
| ✕ Program 6:45pm-8:30pm           | ✕ VOD Awards                             |
| ✕ Program Begins with Dessert     | ✕ Closing Remarks                        |
| ✕ Opening Remarks by Commander    | ✕ Closing Prayer                         |
- 

## Appreciation & Recognition Highlights

### **Saturday, February 18, 2023**

## VFW IN THE CLASSROOM: VFW Post 10406

# Voice of Democracy (VOD)

Established in 1947, our Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 25,000 9-12 grade students from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$2 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

**Hale E. Madsen**

Oral Essay Program  
Awarded \$500.00  
Local Area Winner

**Breilynn Mary Halverson**

Oral Essay Program  
Awarded \$400.00  
Local Area Winner

**Addyson R. Lacey**

Oral Essay Program  
Awarded \$300.00  
Local Area Winner

**Reese A. Bossert**

Oral Essay Program  
Awarded \$200.00  
Local Area Winner

**Geneva J. Breza**

Oral Essay Program  
Awarded \$100.00  
Local Area Winner

**Kaili R Hager**

Oral Essay Program  
Awarded \$50.00  
Local Area Winner

# Patriot's Pen (PP)

Each year, nearly 68,800 students in grades 6-8 enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of more than \$1.4 million in state and national awards. Each first place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first place winner wins \$5,000! The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences.

**Jack A. Wilson**

Essay Writing Contest  
Awarded \$300.00  
Local Area Winner

**Avery Bambenek**

Essay Writing Contest  
Awarded \$200.00  
Local Area Winner

**Ava E. Goetting**

Essay Writing Contest  
Awarded \$50.00  
Local Area Winner

## QUARTERMASTER COMMENTS: Steve Schiffli \ VFW Post 10406

# Quartermaster Message

Let me just start with this, WELL-DONE POST 10406 and AUXILLARY, WELL-DONE!!! 2022 was a very active year and brought with it new members, capital improvements and challenges for the future. The post is extremely solvent and stable and preparing for the future due solely to the commitment of our membership, past and present.

Commander Dehnke, and Senior Vice Beseler along with the membership worked very hard at recruiting new members. This herculean effort resulting in an incredible 114% membership status for the year. More than just the numbers, our goal is involvement, please continue influence the membership to attend meetings either virtually or in person. Our ability to sustain the post into the next generation absolutely relies on active membership, please continue to invite members to participate.

Financially we faced some challenges with some reduced revenues due to the effects of inflation and increased product costs; however, this is important, our patronage did not fall off. The loyalty of the community and their support in 2022 cannot be overlooked, even in trying times they showed up to not only our charcoal chicken, but the ham and turkey raffle as well. Please continue to thank them! The Ham and Turkey was again a complete success! I would like to thank Stan Swenson, Gary Krause, and Jim and Kim Goss for perfecting and streamlining the organization of the raffle, it has made the job of managing that event super easy and with Laura looking over my shoulder how can it go wrong!

31 Guns in 31 Days.... Thank you to all those who sold tickets especially our top sellers, Ratz, Dehnke, Beseler and Kamrowski. What a huge success! Post Adjutant Doug Ratz, in conjunction with the Post Service Officer Jim Goss and Caleb Olsen of Caleb Olsen Guns, put together a raffle that has insured our ability to fund future post capital projects.... So, there is a need for a 2023 Gun Raffle, and it is currently in progress, guns are purchased and tickets are out! This is a good segue to the future.

The roof! The club, as you are all aware has undergone a face lift over the last few years. Led by the Club Manager Les Kamrowski and his wife Sharon and a tremendous group of volunteers from the post and Auxiliary, the club room and hall has had many repairs and updates. In 2022, we had some expensive capital items that needed replacement. These expenses included our furnace in the back room and the industrial refrigerator in the kitchen, both gave out on us due to old age. With those two unbudgeted expenses we need to refill the building fund for the future and that future looks like a new roof. We are look at an approximate \$25-30K roof replacement in 2023. By completing this project, we will ensure the structural longevity of our post into the next generation and removes the burden on post members in the future to make the repair.

Continued on next page...

## QUARTERMASTER COMMENTS: Steve Schiffli \ VFW Post 10406

# Quartermaster Message

Finally, and most importantly, our community programs... Along with providing comradery and support to our fellow veterans and their families, one of our key charter missions is to support our community at large. The post donated a total \$ 7,533.00 to community programs. These programs included our Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy winners, our College/Tech School Scholarships, the Teacher of the Year Program, the Buffalo County Veterans Memorial Project, the Boy Scouts of America, the Sheriffs Dept. National Night Out, the Community Action Committee [4th of July program] and the VFW Post 10406 Auxiliary. That is all from the Quartermaster Desk. Thank you all for what you done in 2022 for the club, our fellow veterans, their families and the community at large.

Steve Schiffli  
VFW Post 10406  
Post Quartermaster  
[post10406qm@aol.com](mailto:post10406qm@aol.com)

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







## 2nd Annual VFW Post 10406 \ March Fundraising Raffle

# PATRIOT RAFFLE 31 GUNS IN 31 DAYS

## Raffle Tickets @ \$25 Each | Contact Doug Ratz

We are selling 2,000 Patriot Raffle tickets at \$25 each. Participants will receive a chance to win one gun each day in the month of March 2023. Winners will be announced each day in the month of March. This is the second year doing this raffle. Year one we were able to bring in over \$32,000.00. -- Doug Ratz \ VFW Post 10406





**PRESIDENT COMMENTS:** Kimberly Beseler \ VFW Post 10406

# Auxiliary President Message

Our Charter: Established in 1914, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary set out to serve the veterans of this country and our communities in honor of the sacrifices and commitment of every man and woman who has served in uniform.

This year has been full of many Auxiliary events and Volunteer time. As always, our amazing group of members spent many hours supporting the events of our VFW post. Chicken Q's, funeral support, 4th of July, to honoring Veterans both passed and still living, our team packed a lot of great initiatives into this year. The work of the Auxiliary goes beyond our local post. Attendance at District and State

functions is also supported by our group which allows for up-to-date information sharing. We welcome our district representatives for our annual audit and are always appreciative of the positive feedback our group receives. The recruiting efforts that we have been doing welcomed in four new members this year to our Auxiliary.

Recruiting and new membership not only help our local Auxiliary stay healthy, but also helps our state Auxiliary with their membership goals.

We added in a couple of new roles within our group this year which includes Public Relations and Communications Manager. These roles help to publish pictures of our members doing

the work of the VFW/Auxiliary and to make sure that we have a solid line of communications about upcoming staffing needs for our events. Thank you, Kimberly Goss, and Ruth Hogan, for stepping up and managing these two roles. It is extremely helpful for our group, and the VFW.

I want to thank all the VFW Auxiliary members for all their dedication, volunteerism, and engagement in keeping our Auxiliary healthy and functioning at such a high level.

Kimberly Beseler  
VFW Post 10406  
Auxiliary President  
(608) 799-6548  
[kabeseler19@gmail.com](mailto:kabeseler19@gmail.com)



103 West 5th Street  
Cochrane, WI 54622  
(608) 248.2323

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**AUXILIARY PRESIDENT:** Kimberly Beseler \ VFW Post 10406

# New Auxiliary Caps Available

VFW Auxiliary officer caps now available. Section 1001 of the 2023 Auxiliary National Bylaws has been amended to include an optional and acceptable cap of overseas type or ladies modified style for either male or female officers. Only 1 title is permitted per cap.



**Starting at \$43.00/ea**

**Includes Right Side:**

- ✕ VFW Auxiliary Cross of Malta
- ✕ VFW AUX (In 2 Lines) in Gold At Front

<http://www.vfwstore.org/>

## Are You Eligible To Join?

You must be related to a veteran who has served in overseas combat, earning the campaign medals eligible. That veteran can be a living or deceased spouse, parent, child, sibling, grandparent or grandchild. Step- and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran. See website below or contact Kimberly Beseler today...

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/join-us/eligibility-information/>

Kimberly Beseler  
VFW Post 10406 \ Auxiliary President  
(608) 799-6548

**HUNTS FOR HEROES:** Doug Ratz \ VFW Post 10406

# Hunts For Heroes Project

The Hunts For Heroes Project is entering its 15th year. This past year the project was able to take 29 Veterans on five hunting or fishing Trips. These trips cover anything the Veterans may need in order to participate, to include hunting or fishing equipment, special equipment for disabled Vets, lodging, food, and guide services.

Over the past four years VFW Post 10406 in conjunction with The Brothel Tavern has hosted a Hunts For Heroes Fundraiser in September of each year. This event has raised over \$80,000.00 since hosting the first event in the Fall of 2019. This year the event will be in September. Please look for more details in next quarter's newsletter.

To find out more information or apply for a hunt log onto [vfwpost10406.org/huntsforheroes](http://vfwpost10406.org/huntsforheroes) and click about. To see pictures from past hunts, log onto Facebook and search HUNTS for Heroes.



**LEARN MORE HOW TO APPLY**  
**[vfwpost10406.org/huntsforheroes](http://vfwpost10406.org/huntsforheroes)**

**CLUB MANAGER:** Kimberly Beseler \ VFW Post 10406

# Post Activities 2023

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
January 12 VFW/AUX Meeting 7:00pm	February 5 Cub Scout Meeting	March 4 Cub Scout Meeting	April 4 Belvidere Elections
January 14 VFW Charcoal Chicken	February 9 VFW/AUX Meeting 7:00pm	March 9 VFW/AUX Meeting 7:00pm	April 13 VFW/AUX Meeting 7:00pm
January 17 Belvidere Town Mtg	February 18 VFW Appreciation Dinner	March 11 VFW Charcoal Chicken	April 15 VFW Charcoal Chicken



## POST 10406 -- WANTS YOU!

*"Members, you are our back bone and without you our effort would certainly fail. Your VFW is here for you whenever you choose and in whatever capacity you choose, as a active member, semi active or inactive. You greatest contribution alone is your continued membership at Post 10406"*

**John Dehnke - Commander**



# Keeping The NON-TECH Community Connected

# NO SMARTPHONE

# NO PROBLEM

## VFW Events are in the Newspaper!

Good communication with our members and the public is essential in all we do. In addition to our newsletters being posted on our website -- we also mail a hard copy to every VFW/AUX member that does NOT use electronic means. We also promote news and events throughout the year in our local newspaper.

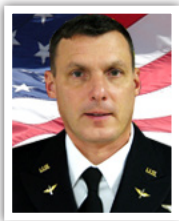


**COMMANDERS COMMENTS:** John Dehnke \ VFW Post 10406

## 2023 Post Officers



**John Dehnke**  
Commander



**Krist Beseler**  
Sr Vice Commander



**Douglas J Ratz**  
Jr Vice / Adjutant



**Steve Schiffli**  
Quartermaster



**Open Position**  
Chaplain



**Richard Treu**  
1st Year Trustee



**Gary Krause**  
2nd Year Trustee



**Kimberly Beseler**  
Club Manager



**Jim Goss**  
Service Officer



**Jim Goss**  
Judge Advocate



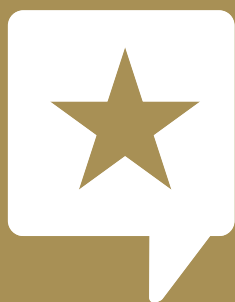
**Steve Zastrow**  
Surgeon



**Al Farner**  
Officer of the Day

All officers and their positions are on the VFW Post 10406 website

[www.vfwpost10406.org/staff.html](http://www.vfwpost10406.org/staff.html)



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- |                           |                         |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ✦ History and Core Values | ✦ How to Donate         | ✦ Interactive Calendar  |
| ✦ Membership Information  | ✦ Local News            | ✦ Hall Rental Sign-Up   |
| ✦ Membership Benefits     | ✦ Checkpoint Brochure   | ✦ Staff                 |
| ✦ Current Sponsors        | ✦ Official Newsletter   | ✦ Directions            |
| ✦ Become a Sponsor        | ✦ Special Events        | ✦ Resources Links       |
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