

Home Front Newsletter



What a Volunteer Means to Me

According to Merriam Webster's dictionary, a volunteer is "a person who expresses a willingness to undertake a service." Being a volunteer means that you're offering something – something that is not required nor an obligation.

You do not volunteer for the money or recognition. You volunteer for the hope of making a difference. By helping you can see that your time is worth it. No matter how small or big the task, it shows that you are capable of doing good.

The benefits of volunteering is a two way street. Not only do the Members get to build this wonderful relationship with you but you get to make new friends. Friends that care and worry about you when you're not there; friends that are anxious for your return.

Your selflessness does not go unnoticed by the Members and staff. You have made a positive impact with the sharing of your skills and talents. Every one of you are valued and appreciated, though we may not say it all the time. We all have one purpose and that is to make the lives of our Veterans the best possible. All of you have made a difference and for that we are truly grateful. What an honor it is to have you in our building and being a part of the Veterans lives. Whatever your reason for volunteering thank you for choosing us.

Happy Volunteer Month from all the Members and Staff.

When asked what our volunteers mean to our Members, this is what they have to say:

Buzz: I would give everything to her-talking about Rhonda in the Deli.

Buzz's mother Dorothy: Helping others with a grateful heart.

Mike L: Helpful. They go out of their way. They bring humor-life to an activity. They bring us up when we are down. It is a joy to have them around.

Randy: Lots of help. Friendly people. They do a lot of work.

Bob R: They get us on and off the bus-makes sure we are safe. I enjoyed the museum with Bill.

Linda R: They are willing to help with anything; they go out of their way for me.

Jerome D: Those Deli ladies are alright. Going to the deli gets you more involved.

Al C: I spend time in the woodshop and leather making room. The volunteers in there are good. They help me make clocks.

Walter E: They are very good.

Walter H: They are wonderful. You can talk to them.

Nancy S: They are marvelous. If you want to go somewhere ask the volunteers they will get you there fast.

Betty J: They are wonderful. To take their time and to help old people-they are the best.

Tom T: I yell at them. I bet with them. Sometimes they screw up but not often. I really appreciate them.

Maurice: I am very fond of them. I appreciate the library ladies who keep the area neat and clean. They do a lot for us.

Richard C: They are very helpful. They make things more fun. Someone to talk to.

Richard F: Volunteers complete the formula.

Richard L: They fill all our wants. I ask and it is there.

QAPI:

What's new with QAPI?

(Quality Assurance Performance Improvement)

QA is a process of meeting quality standards and assuring that care is acceptable. Often quality assurance goals are generated from negative outcomes during survey.

PI is a pro-active and continuous process to help prevent or decrease problems. It identifies areas for improvement and ways to fix it and involves all team members and to get their input for improvement.

We have a **QAPI Plan** in place that can be reviewed by you. A copy is located in a binder across the elevators in Boland Hall. The Plan is systematic, comprehensive and data-driven. It engages everyone in the Nursing Home to continuously identify problems and opportunities for improvement.

We have installed next to the QAPI Plan binder a book outlining the Performance Improvement Plan what various departments are working on in the building and with updates on their progress. Please take the time to review.

We encourage you to become involved with the program. If there is a particular concern or area in need of improvement please either let someone in management know or fill out a slip by the suggestion box at the front desk.

We will continue to work and identify problematic areas so that we can provide better standards of living for the Members. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,
Laura Bruce
Deputy Commandant

MEMBER Spotlight

Fairchild Hall Member of the Month Tony Brewster



Tony Brewster was born in Foochow, China while his grandparents were missionaries there. He lived there until he was 18 mos. old, then he and his family moved to Madison, WI, then to Manahasset, NY and finally moved to Rio, WI where he spent most of his childhood on a family farm. In 1946, he attended UW Madison and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Corporate Finance. While attending UW Madison and studying there, he also entered the Navy Scholar program, then the US Marines during the Korean War, then after being discharged from the Marines on active duty he stayed in and served in the Marines Reserves until 1961 when he retired from the program with a rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After returning home from the US Marines, he returned back to school at UW Madison and received a graduate degree in law and practiced law for 56 years as a Trial Attorney. He married his present wife, Susan, "Sadie", and has enjoyed 44 years together. They are proud to have seven daughters who have all graduated from various colleges. Tony enjoys keeping himself busy reading documentaries, working on the computer; internet and emails, along with assisting other Members learn the computer, watching history programs, and conversing with other Members. He enjoys talking about his past experiences and will share any knowledge he may have about the topic at hand. We are privileged to have such an honorable and intelligent man living at the Wisconsin Veterans Home.

Fairchild Hall Member of the Month Richard "Dick" Biederwolf



This month we celebrate our Air Force Veteran Dick Biederwolf. Mr. Biederwolf was born and raised in Brillion, Wisconsin. Dick grew up with his 6 siblings and the occasional pet. During Dick's childhood he shoveled snow and cut grass to help with family expenses. Dick served in the Air Force for 4 years and the Korean War. After the Air Force Richard attend the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to become a great elementary school teacher in the City of Racine, Wisconsin. Richard served the students of Racine, Wisconsin for 38 years. Mr. Biederwolf and his wife of 59 years raised two wonderful children and now have 5 grandchildren. We are honored to have Mr. Richard Biederwolf as a part of our Veterans Home family.



Building	Where To	Date/Time	Volunteers/Needed
Boland Hall-1 st Floor	Lunch TBD Walmart	Wednesday, April 11 th 10:30am	2+
		Thursday, April 26 th 1:00pm	2-3
Boland Hall – 2 nd Floor	Walmart Lunch TBD	Monday, April 23 rd 1:00pm	2-3
		Wednesday, April 25 th 10:30am	1-2
Boland Hall-3 rd Floor	Walmart Lunch Outing	Friday, April 6 th 9:30am	1-2
		Tuesday, April 24 th 10:30am	1-2
Fairchild Hall	Walmart Lunch Outing Church Lunch Walmart	Monday, April 9 th 1:00pm	2-3
		Friday, April 13 th 10:30am	1-2
		Thursday, April 26 th 11:30am	1
		Monday, April 30 th 1:00pm	2-3
Gates	Lunch TBD Walmart	Friday, April 20 th 10:30am	1
		Monday, April 30 th 1:00pm	2-3

Welcome New Volunteers

Todd Montgomery – Outings and one-to-one visits

Nancy Brey-Gates Hall calendar pass, one-to-one visits, and Outings



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH:

Volunteer of the Month

Louise Stack



She started volunteering at the Wisconsin Veterans Home in November 2006 so this year will mark her 12th anniversary. My first event was the Veterans Day Ceremony held at the cemetery that year followed by a beef stew dinner in Kansasville. I don't remember too much about that particular event except that it was pretty chilly as Veterans Day can be.

When Louise first started she did want to concentrate on women veterans. Louise spent time in both Gates and Shemanske Halls because there were women in those buildings. A member of her American Legion post, Ms. Kent, lived in Gates so she always visited with her, but did participate in a number of other ladies only events such as lunch at the Cotton Picker restaurant and Mother's Day tea; she has many fond memories of Ms. Kent and a couple other ladies.

Louise spent 6 years in the US Army Military Police so has always been partial to helping her fellow veterans. Prior to finding the volunteer opportunity at Union Grove she had volunteered for 11 years at the Milwaukee Survive Alive House teaching children how to escape a burning building. She's not sure how she heard about Union Grove, although it might have been in the American Legion Wisconsin newsletter. Zablocki Medical Center would be closer but she thought Union Grove would be a good fit for her. For several years Louise was the American Legion Hospital Representative for Union Grove as well as on the Recreation Committee. Because she was the hospital representative, Louise managed to get her Legion post (Milwaukee Women's Post 448) to contribute time and/or money for various events. Her group did bingo parties several times over the years and sponsored a floor for the Christmas party one year. When she needed money for crafts or other events they were there to help. My favorite event was a Legion sponsored "Steak Night" dinner at Fairchild for Veterans Day on 11-10-13. It was really rewarding to see how much the veterans enjoyed it. Louise thinks her niche though has been in arts and crafts. Lots of different projects over the years – some good, some not, but always a lot of fun.

Louise stays busy with hobbies such as; traveling, gardening, and bicycling (in good weather), reading, doing genealogy research, cooking, hosting theme parties and writing. In fact, she writes newsletters for 3 different groups.

Louise has been a member of a book club since 2005, a member of the American Legion for 19 years, a member of a genealogy group for 6 years and a member of the 709th MP BN Assn (Army) for 12 years.

We, at the Wisconsin Veterans Home, appreciate all Louise has done for our veterans. She is truly a dedicated person and enjoys being with the Members. Thank you Louise for all you have done.



Volunteers Needed....

Volunteer Opportunities – If you are interested in the following volunteer opportunities, please contact the Activity and Volunteer Director, Terri Presser at 262-878-6725 or email at Teresa.Presser@dva.wisconsin.gov

- ❖ Provide a movie night on 2nd & 3rd floor Boland Hall.
- ❖ We are in need of a volunteer to assist Members with simple computer tasks on a one-to-one basis.
- ❖ Maintain organization of the Fairchild Hall library.
- ❖ Assist with Leather Shop projects on Wednesdays from 1:00-3:00pm.
- ❖ Play Mexican Dominoes with Members.
- ❖ Provide one-to-one assistance on walks with Members.
- ❖ Assist activity staff with Member outings.
- ❖ Escort Members to Happy Hour on Fridays at 2:00pm.
- ❖ Escort Members to bingo on Tuesdays at 2:00pm.
- ❖ Switch out seasonal bulletin boards.
- ❖ Assist with writing Member's stories for their Memories in the Making art projects.
- ❖ Facilitate Happy Hour in FH.
- ❖ Pass Member monthly activity calendars in Gates Hall.
- ❖ Play Monopoly, poker, or UNO with 2nd floor Members.
- ❖ Water plants during gardening season.

Thank You – The Union Grove Veterans Home Volunteer Department would like to thank everyone for your contributions. As a reminder, contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Please contact your accountant or tax professional for advice if needed.

Donations – Your continued monetary support for our Members is greatly appreciated.

Just a Reminder... We do not accept cash donations. All monetary donations **MUST** be made payable to **WVH-UG**.

Veteran Honor Wall – “Remember Those Who Gave All”. All funds generated by the sales of tiles at Union Grove will be used to continue support for the Member Veterans with various special events. Contact Terri Presser at (262)878-6725 if you wish to purchase a tile or for additional information.

Newsletter – If you wish to receive this and any future newsletters via email please let Michelle Adamek know at Michelle.Adamek@dva.wisconsin.gov so that she may place you on the email mailing list for newsletters only.

Dates To
Remember
2018

- 4/18 – Volunteer Banquet
- 5/11 – Mother's Day Tea
- 7/21 – Family Picnic
- 12/15 – Christmas Party