



Badger Honor Flight Volunteer Meeting
Wednesday, March 4, 2026 7:00PM
VFW Post #7591 301 Cottage Grove Rd.
Madison, WI 53716

Chairperson Report – Ziegler

- 1. Meeting called to order at 7:05PM**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Nine new volunteers**
- 4. Board and Flight Team Introductions**

Chairperson Report – Brian Ziegler

- 1. Overview**
 - Honor Flight Network Summit
 - Honor Flight Network Highlights
 - New Hub Assistance Initiatives for 2026
 - We will be helping new hubs so they can get their first flight off the ground. We need to invest in our hubs so they get to the point where more Veterans can fly. We will be spending more money to help hubs. They need to be flying charter flights to get more Veterans to Washington, D.C.. I will be meeting with a new hub that has asked for money in my new role as Treasurer
 - 6 New Hubs flew in 2025
 - 9 New Hubs are in process
 - 133 Hubs at the end of 2025
 - Session Speaker
 - Keeping the Mission Strong - Jody McClain
 - New Hub Mentor
 - Brian Ziegler - Rocket City Honor Flight – Huntsville, AL
 - 2026 Stats
 - Veterans to DC – 22,098
 - ❖ World War II – 378
 - ❖ Korean – 1,373
 - ❖ Vietnam – 19,108
 - ❖ Other – 1,239
 - Total number of trips taken – 358
 - Number of Hubs that made trips – 128
 - Wait List = 37,728. 90% of the waitlist are Vietnam Veterans and 1,000 are World War II Veterans.



- Board Members Attended
 - Brian Ziegler
 - Becky Clark
 - Jody McClain
 - Brad Babler
- Saturday Night Dinner
 - DC based volunteers attended with us
 - Missing Man table set up
 - Dinner Speaker
 - ❖ SSG Bobby Henline (Ret. Army). Bobby is a Desert Storm and Iraq War Veteran. Injured by an IED on his fourth tour in 2007. Started a non-for profit to assist other Veterans. He used comedy to help get through his recovery. A nurse suggested he try standup comedy as he was helping so many at the hospital with his jokes and humor. He now travels the country as a comedian.
 - Special Guests
 - ❖ Iwo Jima Association of America -Executive Director - Art Sifuentes who presented an award to the Honor Flight Network
 - ❖ Everett Alvarez Jr. – United States Navy Veteran
 - He was first pilot shot down in Vietnam. POW for over 8 years. Second longest POW held in captivity.
- BREAKING NEWS!!!
 - Honor Flight Veteran Eligibility UPDATE. The new eligibility dates have been set: December 7, 1941 – July 31, 1991. The new Desert Storm/Desert Shield Memorial will be opening in October 2026. We will begin taking applications now. We will begin the process of updating all our materials with the new dates. HFN Hubs can start flying these Veterans in 2027.



2. Speaking Engagements

- Upcoming
 - none
- Past Month
 - none
- Contact chairperson@badgerhonorflight.org for speaking engagements

3. Check Presentations

- Chico's Villa Tap \$2,200

Treasurer Report – Ziegler for Brown

1. Updates

- Revenue is up from last year. We are doing good with the Clay Shoot and Golf Outing Sponsorships. Expenses are lower than last year at this time. We are flying on three different airlines this spring. Payments were all due at different times.

Secretary Report – Becky Clark

1. Thank you

- Thank you very much for attending the services of our fallen heroes. Your presence means so much to our Veteran's families.

2. We Remember the Fallen – January 2026:

- Thomas Gitter - Army World War II - Mission 15
- George Johnson - Navy World War II - Mission 26
- Dean Denson - Army Korea - Mission 30
- Nick Evanchik - Navy Vietnam - Mission 52
- Daniel Klossner - Army Vietnam - Mission 50
- Richard Fassbender - Army Korea - Mission 26
- Lynn Poole - Army Vietnam - Mission 56
- Kenneth Veith - Army Vietnam - Mission 45
- John Ong - Army, Air Force World War II - Mission 1
- Gail Surrem - Army Vietnam - Waitlist
- Richard Hankins - Army Vietnam - Mission 35
- Eugene Dzikowski - Army Korea - Mission 14
- Roger Horner - Vietnam Navy - Mission 55

3. Honor Flight Summit 2026 – Arlington, VA

- Becky shared stories and photos from the Honor Flight Summit.



Volunteer Events and Fundraising Report – Tobias

1. Look Ahead

- March 7th: Spring GT Training – AmFam
 - The Army National Guard will be helping with set up on Friday along with AmFam employees and BHF volunteers. We will have lunch for volunteers. Volunteer meeting at 7:15AM
- March 12th & 13th – McFarlane’s Implement Brat Fry
- April 11th: Stoughton VFW Veterans Resource Fair
- April 11th: Barstool Open
 - Please see Cheryl Kelter if you are interested.
- April 18th: Flight Day Send Off & Welcome Home
- April 18th: VFW 8483 BHF Fundraiser – (Jane B)
- May 9th: Flight Day Send Off & Welcome Home
- May 18th: BHF 16th Annual Golf Outing @ Bergamont
- May 30th: Flight Day Send Off & Welcome Home
- June 2026: Women's Veteran Recognition Booth Ceremony, Cook-Out Resource Fair thru VA
- June 7th: Monroe Moose Lodge Breakfast 8-12pm
- July 25th: Baraboo Car Show/Gun Raffle
- July 31st: Mallards 50/50 - non-profit spotlight
- August 8th: Fall Guardian Training - AmFam
- October 12th: Larry Satterlee Memorial Clay Shoot

2. Volunteering Changes to Welcome Home for April 18th Flight

- The SUG for April 18th will be sent out after Guardian Training. There will be 15 wheelchair positions to sign up for. For all other volunteer positions, we will assign volunteers to those roles that night. The Welcome Home Team wants to try this for the April flight. If we need to make changes, we will for the May flights.

3. “Uncle Sam” Gary Duerst

- Uncle Same has been hospitalized. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers. We are in need of volunteers to step up in the role of Uncle Sam. Please see me if you are interested.

4. Volunteer Opportunities

- Medical Team Members
- Admin Support
- IT Management
- Newsletter Article Writer



Inventory Report – Babler

1. Thank you!

- Thank you to everyone that helped pack up the Veteran and Guardian clothing a couple of Saturdays ago. I am happy to report that we have received the hat order on time this year.

Administration Report – Ziegler for Barman

1. Guardian Training

- Guardian Training is this Saturday! Thanks to everyone who has signed up to help.

2. Waitlist March 2026

- World War II – 1
- Korea – 7
- Vietnam – 631

3. Breakdown of Waitlist

- April 18th Flight
 - Korea – 2
 - Vietnam – 79
- May 9th Flight
 - World War II – 1
 - Korea – 2
 - Vietnam – 84
- May 30th Flight
 - Korea – 1
 - Vietnam – 71
- Standby
 - 4
- Waitlist
 - Korea – 2
 - Vietnam – 393



Medical – Greenwood

1. Medical Team update

- 100% of Spring Flight Team members have responded and confirmed.
- GT team established, mostly comprised of past Medical Team members and Spring Flight Team members
- Still receiving medical forms from Veterans and Guardians. Following G.T. I have a team of 4 Volunteers that will be following up to acquire missing forms and past medical hx concerns.

Flight Operations Report – Clark for McClain

1. Spring Flight Dates

- Mission 64
 - April 18, 2026
 - Sun Country
 - 6:30am/9:15pm
 - Flight Sponsor: American Family Dream Foundation
- Mission 65
 - May 9, 2026
 - American Airlines
 - 7am/9:15pm
 - Flight Sponsor: Badger Honor Flight Golf Outing
- Mission 66
 - May 30
 - JetBlue
 - 6:30am/8:15pm
 - Flight Sponsor:

2. Flight Day Sponsorship Opportunities, per flight

- Alpha/Flight - \$100,000 (May 30)
- Bravo/Day in DC - \$15,000 (all 3)
- Charlie/Welcome Home - \$10,000 (season) (all 3)
- Buses - \$6000 (all 3)
- USPP - \$1500 (all 3)
- Breakfast - \$750 (all 3)
- Lunch - \$2500 (all 3)
- Dinner - \$2500 (all 3)
- Contact Brian, Jody or Ed if interested in sponsoring a piece of flight day.



3. Other Ways to Help

- We need swag bags! Anyone got a lead on a business or insurance agent that may want to donate 95 bags? Great opportunity for free advertising! Contact Jody if you have a lead.

Misc.

1. Spring Flights – Mail Call / Publicity Recap

- Mail Call Team is ready for the Spring. Mail Call is to be postmarked 3 weeks prior to the flight. If you know of a group interested in writing letters to our Veterans, email us at mailcall@badgerhonorflight.org
- Working on filling VIP / Media slots
- Publicity Advisory Team has been formed
 - Professionals with Marketing, Advertising, Public Relations, and social media will assist with BHF promotional materials and social media efforts. First initiative is updating all BHF materials with our new Veteran eligibility requirements.
- Starting to review Veteran Publicity Forms
 - Still in need of volunteers to assist with Veteran stories

2. Changes at Arlington National Cemetery

- ANC is an active military installation. Because of this, ANC security will be boarding our buses and scanning everyone's IDs. If it shows you are a convicted felon, you will NOT be able to enter ANC. A flight team member will stay back with the Veteran or Guardian outside of the Visitor's Center.

3. Real ID / TSA

- TSA will charge a \$45 fee for passengers without a REAL-ID. Per the national TSA, the fee will be waived for Veterans on Honor Flight charters. The fee will apply for Guardians and BHF Volunteers that go through TSA.

Upcoming BHF Volunteer Meetings

1. BHF Meetings are held on the first Wednesday evening of each month.
 - **April 1, 2026** – VFW 7591 - 301 Cottage Grove Rd, Madison at 7:00PM
 - **May 6, 2026** – VFW 7591 - 301 Cottage Grove Rd, Madison at 7:00PM
 - **June 3, 2026** – VFW 7591– 301 Cottage Grove Rd Madison 7:00pm



Contact the Board -

- **Chairperson of the Board: Brian Ziegler** chairperson@badgerhonorflight.org
- **Secretary/Historian: Becki Clark** secretary@badgerhonorflight.org
- **Treasurer: Ed Brown** treasurer@badgerhonorflight.org
- **Administration: Miel Barman** administration@badgerhonorflight.org
- **Flight Operations: Jody McClain** flightoperations@badgerhonorflight.org
- **Inventory: Brad Babler** inventory@badgerhonorflight.org
- **Medical Support: Tyler Greenwood** medical@badgerhonorflight.org
- **Volunteer Events: Tiffany Tobias** volunteerevents@badgerhonorflight.org

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Clark
Board Secretary
Badger Honor Flight