



## Waunakee Rotary Club

June 3, 2010  
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Brian Ziegler, organizer of the Badger Honor Flight, knows first hand the challenges involved in flying more than 97 World War II veterans to Washington, D.C.

Brian was the speaker at the May 27 Waunakee Rotary Club meeting. In April, he helped organize this region's first Badger Honor Flight and transport the veterans to see Arlington Cemetery, the Iwo Jima Memorial and other sites in the nation's capital.

Part of the trip involved a mail call, where family members were invited to write letters to the soldiers, along with a huge welcome home at the Dane County Airport. Many soldiers did not receive a reception when they returned home from the war over 60 years ago.

The Honor Flights are a national group with more than 90 hubs throughout the United States. Appleton recently organized a flight last fall and Wausau had one two weeks ago.

The veterans who traveled with the Badger Honor Flight – an 11-county organization – had been on a waiting list since the fall of 2009. Brian said veterans are selected by application date. Preference is also given to those who are terminally ill.

While the flights are free to the veterans, there is a cost involved. The last Badger Honor flight was about \$375,000. Veterans organizations helped to cover the cost, and a Sun Prairie school group also raised money. Kwik Trip also had pledge cards.

Right now, the Badger Flight organization is trying to raise \$100,000 for a flight in October.

A fundraiser will be held at the Capital Brewery July 24. July 25 is Mallards Day. All veterans on the April flight will receive free

Mallards tickets for that game. Then on July 31, there will be a benefit hangar dance at the Wisconsin Aviation hangar.

For more information about the Badger Honor Flight, see the Web site, [www.badgerhonorflight.org](http://www.badgerhonorflight.org) or call (608) 835-8604.

Also at the May 27 meeting, the club heard from three of its scholarship recipients. Each recipient will receive \$1,000 to defray the cost of college tuition.

Elizabeth "Beth" Zauner plans to attend UW-Platteville. She has been involved teaching at her church and at a day camp. Beth also attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Association camp, and thanked the club for that experience.

Luke Thering has been involved in playing music both at middle and high school and at St. John's, he said. He plans to attend UW-La Crosse and major in piano performance.

Alex Kuehn plans to attend DePaul University. He has been involved with community service and said he is considering a career in civil rights law.

All three expressed their gratitude to the club for the generous scholarship and support of their education.

#### Other news:

•Phil Willems announced that the club had received the Presidents Award from the District Governor at the District Conference. He presented the award to Tom Reis. The club met six criteria to earn the award.

•Jean Elvekrog, co-chair of Wauktoberfest, said this year's event is planned for Sept. 25-26. New this year will be Euchre, along with new competitions. Last year's event raised over \$2,000 each for the Lions and Rotary clubs and the Waunakee

### OFFICERS

TOM REIS, PRESIDENT • BRENT ZIEGLER, PRESIDENT ELECT  
PHIL WILLEMS, CLUB SECRETARY  
BOB PULVERMACHER, RECORDING SECRETARY • AL DASSOW, TREASURER

### DIRECTORS

ELLEN SCHAAF • JOHN CULLEN • LINDA OLSON

### Calendar of Events:

- June 24, *changing of officers.*
- July 13, *pontoon cruise on Lake Wisconsin.*
- July 14, *senior citizens picnic*

Community Foundation.

Guests: Linda Marty Schmitz, guest of Jim Schmitz; Linda Ziegler, Bob Ziegler and Sharon Kruschek, guests of Neil Kruschek; Elizabeth Zauner, Luke Thering and Alex Kuehn, guests of the club; Jean Elvekrog and Ben Ballweg, guests of Ken Ballweg.

Visiting Rotarians: None.

Birthdays: June 5, Ed Niebuhr.

Anniversaries: June 7, Craig and Judy Larson.

Prayers: June 3, Leonard Allen; June 10, Pat Durden. June 17, Susan Vergeront.

Programs: June 3, Club Assembly.

Greeters: June 3, Bill Tygum and Susan Vergeront; June 10, Sean Wayne and Phil Willems; June 17, Rich Wipperfurth and Rob Wolfe; June 24, Brent Ziegler and Mike Ableidinger.

### Make up meetings online

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is [www.rotaryclubone.org](http://www.rotaryclubone.org). Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.