

WOW Newsletter

Our Mission: Offering friendship to those who have lost a spouse
www.milwowclub.info

President's Message

We all made great memories during this year and look forward to another fresh year of offering friendship to those who have lost a spouse.

Our club is definitely growing! Membership Chair, Mary Piekarski, reported that we had 55 NEW members sign up in calendar year 2024. A special "thanks" goes out to those who invited friends and acquaintances to check us out.

Just another short reminder that our Social Gatherings will be at 1:00 pm at the VFW in New Berlin for January, February and March of 2025.

Our December Social Gathering was exceptionally fun! We had 77 members attending (4 of which were brand new members) and 1 repeat guest. Dancing Santa Claus (our own Tony Madrigal) made a well-received appearance, along with some entertaining elves! During the band's break the whole Membership joined in on a lively rendition of "The 12 Days of Christmas." Hopefully everyone got a chance to make good use of the lovely Christmas Photo Booth. We were treated to root beer floats (YUM!), a casino wheel to spin for prizes, and then we ended the evening with a fun snowball fight! Exceptional creativity and many hands make all of our gatherings incredibly enjoyable for everyone. This one was no exception.

That being said, we want to ex-

tend a heartfelt "THANK YOU" to Dave Hoag and the whole Entertainment Committee (Phyllis Vaglica & Tim Mellema) for always giving us amazing, quality entertainment and extra special touches at all of our Social Gatherings.

We also want to take a moment to extend our deepest gratitude to Joy Imms. (Social Coordinator) for all she has done over the years to keep ALL events organized and for guiding new hosts as they plan fish fries and other events.

Both Dave & Joy will be completing their Board terms at the end of March. The Nominating Committee has interviewed and will be making suggestions for the next Entertainment Chair and Social Coordinator position at the January Board meeting. Our entire Membership will then have the opportunity to vote at the March Social Gathering.

Betty Liebau (Secretary) and I (President) have chosen to serve for second 2-year terms,

The WOW Club is dedicated to its members - so during the month of February we will focus on celebrating YOU (our members) for "Member Appreciation Month." I will be working with event hosts to make our members feel special. February can be a lonely month for those who have lost a spouse. Our Membership is very special, so we want everyone in the Club to feel special!

Bundle up, stay warm and safe!

~Diana Yegge
 WOW President



See more Christmas Party pics on pages 4 & 7

WOW Board of Directors & Committees

- President**
 Diana Yegge 951-452-9087
- Vice President**
 Kim Korth 608-220-1536
- Secretary**
 Betty Liebau 262-229-5286
 liebaubetty@gmail.com
- Treasurer**
 Jim McMahon 414-429-3917
- Entertainment Committee**
 Dave Hoag 262-622-2448
 Tim Mellema 262-722-0295
 Phyllis Vaglica 262-894-9619
- Historian**
 Bob Hayd 262-442-3176
- Membership Committee**
 Mary Piekarski 414-828-9222
 Pamela Roy 414-520-8897
 JoAnn Stabenfeldt 414-412-3542
- Sergeants at Arms Committee**
 Mike Hyland 262-649-5360
 Corky Plewa 414-483-1616
 Rich Diercksmeier 262-751-4404
 Michele Boettcher 414-517-8918
- Social Coordinator**
 Joy Imms 262-391-3606
- Sunshine & Shadow**
 Lavonne Grenlie 262-617-2004
- Welcoming Committee**
 Bob Vallis 414-651-5272
 Kathleen Mueller 262-679-1145
 Lisa Clapsaddle 262-501-5575

WOW Events & Activities — January 2025



**December
Pizza
Fun at the
New Berlin
Ale House!**



Newsletter Layout & Editor

Mary Piekarski
414-828-9222
mbpiekarski@gmail.com

Event and Article Submissions

Please submit all Event details via the website submission form by the 20th of the month in order to appear on the website and be included in that next month's newsletter. Newsletters will be emailed by (or on) the first of every month.

**Please remember to
share your photos
of WOW events by
emailing them to
Clubpicswow@gmail.com**

**NOTE: Newsletters are
now available ONLINE!**

Game Day

Thursday, January 2 | 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Highlands at Aero Park W197N4950 Hickory St, Menomonee Falls

Join your WOW friends for an afternoon of board games, cards, and great fellowship. We'll provide some games. You are also welcome to bring your favorites. Bring your own beverage (alcohol is OK). Optional – bring a snack to share. Meet in the Apartment Lobby 12:30-1:00. No registration needed—join us if you can! Contact Phyllis Vaglica with questions (262-894-9619 or phylvaglica@gmail.com). (Happens the first Thursday of every month)

Friday Movies

Friday, January 3 | Time TBD

Movie Tavern Brookfield Square 175 S Moorland Rd, Brookfield

A movie will be chosen the Tuesday before the first Friday of each month, along with a time between noon and 5pm. A group email will be sent out to all. Cost is \$7.35 for most movies. Contact Dave (262-622-2448) or Juli (414-339-1107) with questions. (Happens the first Friday of every month November thru April).

Walking Club

Saturday, January 4 | 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Brookfield Square 95 N Moorland Rd, Brookfield

We will meet at the east entrance next to Barnes & Noble for our one-hour walk. Brunch afterwards at Maxim's Family Restaurant, 18025 W Capitol Dr., Brookfield, WI. Please RSVP to the organizer as the restaurant requires a count. Mary Ann (262-844-0414 or mworgull@sbcglobal.net).

"The Chosen" Drama Watch Party

Saturday, January 4 | 6:00 PM

Highlands at Aero Park W197N4950 Hickory St, Menomonee Falls

The Chosen is the first ever multi-season, historical Christian drama series about the most revolutionary person in history, Jesus Christ, and those who knew him. Set against the backdrop of the Roman oppression of first-century Israel, the series shares an authentic and intimate look at Jesus' life and teachings. This night we will view Season 1, Episode 4. Come for the fellowship, stay for the show! Bring a snack to share and, if desired, a beverage of your choice. The main lobby (large building) is locked, so please arrive between 5:45pm and 6:15pm. Contact Mary Piekarski with questions (mbpiekarski@gmail.com or 414-828-9222). (Happens the first Saturday of every month).

Breakfast Together

Monday, January 6 | 10:00 AM

Maxim's Family Restaurant, 18025 W Capitol Dr, Brookfield

Hosted by Joy Imms and Lisa Clapsaddle. Please let Joy (262-391-3606) or Lisa (262-501-5575) know in advance if you are planning to participate. (Happens the first Monday of every month).

Pizza Night - North**Wednesday, January 8 | 4:30 PM**

Maxim's Family Restaurant 18025 W Capitol Dr, Brookfield

Join your WOW friends for PIZZA! Registration starts at 4:30 pm. Pizza is served approximately 5:15-5:30 pm. Choose from seven different toppings served buffet style. Come for the PIZZA, stay for the FELLOWSHIP! Please sign up on the "Pizza Clipboard" at the monthly Social Gathering or by texting, emailing or calling Phyllis or Dave. Registration deadline is the Monday before Pizza Night. Payment of \$10 (cash only) is collected at the door (payment includes tax and tip).*** **If you register but cannot attend, please contact Phyllis or Dave by the Monday before Pizza Night to cancel your registration.** *** (Pizza nights happen on the 2nd Wednesday of every month)

Bowling**Monday, January 13 | 12:30 PM**

New Berlin Ale House, 16000 W Cleveland Ave, New Berlin

Meet at 12:30 PM. Bowling begins at 1:00 PM. The cost is \$9.00 for three games or \$3.00 per game. If you plan to participate, please contact Tim Mellema in advance at 262-722-0295. (Happens the second and fourth Mondays of the month, October through April).

Breakfast Together**Tuesday, January 14 | 10:00 AM - Noon**

Meyer's Restaurant and Bar, 4260 S 76th St, Greenfield

Please let Tim Mellema know in advance if you are planning to attend as the restaurant requires a count (tim.mellema@icloud.com or 262-722-0295). (Happens the third Tuesday of every month).

WOW Board Meeting**Wednesday, January 15 | 10:00 AM**

Brookfield Public Library, 1900 N Calhoun Rd, Brookfield

(Happens the third Wednesday of every month)

Sip 'n Dip**Wednesday, January 15 | 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM**

Double D's Pub and Eatery, 5171 S 108th Street, Hales Corners

Come and enjoy an afternoon of sipping and snacking with the fellowship of WOW friends. It's Wing Wednesday, at 75 cents/wing (in increments of 6). Or order off the menu. Great food with great servings!! Call Diana Yegge with questions (951-452-9087). (Happens the third Wednesday of every month).

Games & Crafts**Thursday, January 16 | Noon to 3:00 PM**

HA Todd Jr. American Legion Post 537 9159 W Beloit Rd, Milwaukee

If you have a craft (knitting, coloring, etc) and want to do it in a group setting join us. Would you like to teach a craft? Let us know. Board games, cards like poker, sheepshead, or hand, foot & toe, or any game you would like to share. \$4 at the door to pay the rent. Bring a snack to share (optional). Ice water or drinks from the bar are available. Contact Sandy Gast (262-349-0388) or Mary Ann Alberti Kopps (414-405-5147) with any questions. (Happens every third Thursday of the month).

Walking Club**Saturday, January 18 | 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

Brookfield Square 95 N Moorland Rd, Brookfield

(See January 4th event listing for details)

WOW Events & Activities — January 2025



Please NOTE the Social Gatherings are now at:
**VFW Post 5716 -
17980 W Beloit Rd,
New Berlin**

**Meetings will now begin at
1:00 PM until the April
meeting when they will go
back to 6:30pm**

**January Meeting -
Wed, Jan 22nd 1:00pm**

**February Meeting -
Wed, Feb 26th 1:00pm**

**March Meeting -
Wed, March 26th 1:00pm**

**April Meeting -
Wed, April 23rd 6:30pm***

**YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING OLD
WHEN "FRIEND WITH BENEFITS"
MEANS HAVING SOMEONE WHO
CAN DRIVE AT NIGHT...**



General Mtng/Social Gathering Wed, January 22 | 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

VFW Post 5716 17980 W Beloit Rd, New Berlin

Following a brief meeting, the Hit-Men will have you dancing to their multi-decade hit list. Enjoy this fun five-piece band with classic covers from Old Soul to Upbeat Country. For fun - wear summer clothing or beach attire to start thinking about warmer weather. Social Gatherings are held every fourth Wednesday of the month and are open to all new and current members and 1st time guests. NOTE: Repeat guests are welcome with payment of a \$10 fee.

WOW Book Club Thursday, January 23 | 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Joney Cafe 17700 W. Capitol Ste 20, #3, Brookfield

This month we are reading *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. Inspired by the diary of Martha Ballard, a renowned 18th century midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history. Maine:1789 when the Kennebec river freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine the cause of death. She concludes murder but is undermined by a local physician who declares the death an accident. Martha doggedly pursues the truth. The book is a thrilling, tense and tender story about a remarkable woman. We always welcome new members! Join every 4th Thursday of the month or only on occasion. Food and drink can be purchased at the restaurant. There's always good fellowship. No RSVP needed. Feel free to contact Sue Siewert at sue.siewert55@gmail.com or 414-813-0091.

Karaoke Thursday, January 23 | 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

American Legion Post #449, 3245 N 124th St, Brookfield

Enjoy a night of Karaoke at the Legion. Delight us with your singing or just listen and clap for others. Singers need not be professionals, just have the courage to get up and sing! Food is offered: Brats, hot dogs, and hamburgers with fixings and a couple of sides dishes. Dessert is offered and the Post will gladly take any baked items you may want to bring to assist the Post. Libations are offered at the bar at a reasonable price. This is a comfortable evening to enjoy with friends of WOW. Text Diana Yegge at 951-452-9087 with questions. (Happens fourth Thursday of every month).

January Fish Fry Thursday, January 23 | 4:30 PM

North Star America Bistro 19115 W Capitol Drive #100, Brookfield

Choose from Beer Battered Cod (\$22); Pan Seared Cod (\$24); or Macadamia & Coconut Breaded Shrimp (\$27). Each dinner includes Coleslaw and Rolls and your choice of Mashed Potato or French Fries. Make your selections on the registration form found on page 6 of this newsletter and submit with payment via mail or at the monthly WOW Social Gathering. Register by January 13th. Maximum seating is 48. Contact Mary Sherman (608-385-6585 or msherman1182@gmail.com) or Harlan Mueller (414-791-4044 or harlan.mueller@gmail.com).

Bowling

Monday, January 27 | 12:30 PM

New Berlin Ale House, 16000 W Cleveland Ave, New Berlin

(See January 13th event listing for details)

February Fish Fry

Friday, February 21 | 4:30 PM

Alioto's 3041 N Mayfair Rd, Wauwatosa

Dinners are \$24 per person. Choose from: 3-pc Fried Cod with fries, Coleslaw & Italian Bread - OR - Baked Cod with red potatoes, Coleslaw & Italian bread (sorry, no substitutions). Make your selections on the registration form found on page 6 of this newsletter and submit with payment via mail or at the monthly WOW Social Gathering. Register by February 18th. Maximum seating is 60. Contact Lynn Marzinski (816-616-6359 or lynnski313@gmail.com) with questions.

December Social Gathering Pics



Annual Club Charity Project Results

“We are very excited to announce that our club will be donating a grand total of 2,190.00 to the Hunger Task Force. This is a very generous amount! I thank all the WOW members who donated to ensure that vulnerable families receive supplemental food and I am so proud of your willingness to help others during this Christmas season. Thank you for supporting our only club charity project.”

*~Sincerely,
Mary Sherman
past president*



January Birthdays!

- Jan 3 Lisa Clapsaddle
- Jan 4 Richard Diercksmeier
- Jan 6 Ron Tomlin
- Jan 16 Janet Bartz
- Jan 17 Nan Feurer
- Jan 19 Peggy McGinn
- Jan 19 Corky Plewa
- Jan 23 Julie Solie
- Jan 24 Jae Hartnell
- Jan 26 Tony Madrigal
- Jan 26 Karen Szabo
- Jan 31 Susan Simon

WELCOME

We are so excited to welcome the following NEW members who joined the Club last month. Look for their names at future events and social gatherings and be sure to extend a warm



- Neil Kremenauer**
- John Docter**
- John Herod**
- Dawn Niemyjski**

Registration Forms:

January Fish Fry - Thursday, January 23, 2025 | 4:30pm

North Star America Bistro 19115 W Capitol Drive #100, Brookfield

Limit ONE person per registration form, please.

Member Name: _____ Phone: _____

Check One: ___ Beer Battered Cod \$22.00

Select one: ___ French Fries ___ Mashed Potatoes

 ___ Pan Seared Cod \$24.00

Select one: ___ French Fries ___ Mashed Potatoes

 ___ Macadamia & Coconut Breaded Shrimp \$27.00

Select one: ___ French Fries ___ Mashed Potatoes

Entrée Cost Enclosed \$_____ *Price includes tax and gratuity

NOTE: Seating is limited to 48 guests.

Make check payable to: WOW Club

Please submit reservations along with payment **by January 13th to:**

Mary Sherman
N74W13737 Appleton Ave Unit 314
Menomonee Falls, WI 53052

OR Submit registration form and payment at the monthly WOW Social Gathering.
WOW policy does not provide refunds for cancellations.

February Fish Fry - Friday, February 21, 2025 | 4:30pm

Alioto's 3041 N Mayfair Rd, Wauwatosa

Limit ONE person per registration form, please.

Member Name: _____ Phone: _____

Check One: ___ Fried Cod \$24.00

 ___ Baked Cod \$24.00

Entrée Cost Enclosed \$_____ *Price includes tax and gratuity

NOTE: Seating is limited to 60 guests.

Make check payable to: WOW Club

Please submit reservations along with payment **by February 18th to:**

Lynn Marzinski
W126N7865 Riverview Ln
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

OR Submit registration form and payment at the monthly WOW Social Gathering.
WOW policy does not provide refunds for cancellations.

WOW Annual Christmas Party Recap

Prior to dinner, our hostess, Cindy Reed, shared an inspirational quote by American author, Charles Duhigg:

"There's something really powerful about groups and shared experiences. People might be skeptical about their ability to change if they're by themselves, but a group will convince them to suspend disbelief. A community creates belief."



**Milwaukee Widows or
Widowers (WOW) Club**

S66W24310 Skyline Ave
Waukesha WI 53189

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

For the most up-to-date
WOW Club
event information
visit us as:

www.milwowclub.info

NOTE: Check www.milwowclub.info for new and updated events.

******* Important Membership Dues Update *******

Due to rising printing & postage fees and in an effort to keep membership dues affordable - as of July 1, 2024 - Annual Dues will be \$80.00 for those who receive the monthly newsletter by US Mail, but will stay \$50.00 for members who opt to receive it via email. If you currently receive the newsletter via US Mail but don't wish to pay the adjusted fee please provide the club Secretary (at 262-229-5286 or liebaubetty@gmail.com) with an email address to ensure that you won't miss an issue.

January Membership Dues Renewal Notice

The following members are scheduled to renew their membership dues this month. **Annual Dues are \$50.00 for members who receive the monthly newsletter via email or \$80.00 for those who prefer to receive it by US mail.** You may pay your membership dues at the monthly Social Gathering/General Meeting or mail a check made payable to "WOW Club" to Mary Piekarski, S66W24310 Skyline Ave, Waukesha, WI 53189. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you wish to have your new membership card mailed to you, otherwise, you may pick it up at the registration table at the next Social Gathering.

Claudette Bolling

Elsie Dircks

Pamela Roy

Vivienne Botsch

Jae Hartnell

Robert Vallis

Janet Carriveau

Deborah Klement

Kevin Wesa

Phil Desmond

Arlie Marten

Diana Yegge

Suggestion Box

Do you have any ideas that you would like to see implemented towards making WOW an even better organization for its members? Drop us a note here. If you would like to receive a follow up to your suggestion, include your name and contact information as well. Thank you in advance for helping make our organization even better!
