



Commemorative Air Force Wisconsin Wing Newsletter

Chartered April 30th, 1982

Editor: Brad Ohde

December 2023, Issue #2312

From the Front Cockpit Col Gary Otto – Wing Leader



WI Wing members and friends:

I am wrapping up my 7th year as your Wing Leader and I am very pleased to endorse the election of Col Candy Lee Parr as your next wing leader! She is full of energy and enthusiasm that will continue to move the WI Wing forward carrying out our mission to Educate, Inspire and Honor. I have agreed to stay active as your Executive Officer to share my experience with Candy as she takes on this demanding role at the WI Wing.

Looking back, I see a trail of CAF friendships that have enriched my life and allowed me to share my passion for warbird flying with so many wonderful people. The 450+ people that I have shared this passion with while flying with me in our PT-26, SNJ-5 and T-34, have been able to experience how these airplanes are priceless time machines that transport you back to a time where the fate of the world was in the hands of a generation of young men and women who went on to earn the title of "the greatest generation". It is our job to tell that story and honor those who fought for and won the freedoms we still enjoy today.

If you have won a free wing aircraft ride in one of our monthly meeting raffles, and you have yet to receive that flight, please send me a reminder, as while Mike Woods and I thoroughly enjoy providing these flights, we sometimes need a nudge to get things done! The T-34 has a great cockpit heater and we have a heated hangar, so winter flying is enjoyable and comfortable. One more way to tell that story while educating, inspiring and honoring!

Thank you to all our members, current and past, that have helped me as your leader to lead us ever moving forward.

Col Gary Otto
WI Wing Leader 2015-18, 2021-23



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COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE
Wisconsin Wing Newsletter



Wisconsin Wing News



Maintenance Report – November 2023: *by Col Scott Twesme – WI Wing Maintenance Officer*

SNJ: SNJ is in for annual inspection at TabAir in East Troy.
T-34: T-34 → All systems go and ready for flights. Annual inspection approaching.

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Membership Update – December 2023: *by Col Michael Guslick – WI Wing Membership Officer*

Just a reminder that wing dues are on a calendar year (January-December) basis and due January 31st for renewing members. Renew for 2024 right away and help support the wing and its activities by renewing online or mailing in your renewal - visit <https://www.cafwi.org/join-or-renew.html> for details.

The most valuable asset of our wing is not our aircraft, but you, our members! Thank you for your continued support in our mission to Educate, Inspire, and Honor.

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Leadership Opportunities at the WI Wing: *by Col Gary Otto*

We are electing 5 staff officers at the December election meeting, but there are other very important roles at the wing that need volunteer support. If you are interested in any of these positions, please let anyone on the wing staff know of your interest. We can define what each position entails and answer any questions you may have.

- Public Information Officers: Additional volunteers needed to cover more social media
- Development Officer: The 2nd year of the current 2 year term is open and the staff needs to appoint an interested member to fulfil the term.
- PX Volunteer Coordinator: Ed Pleva needs some support for the volunteer side of the PX effort.
- Education Officer: We are electing Tom Leunig for Education this month, but he only agreed to fill the position until we find a volunteer that has more education and activities background for the longer term. If you want to get involved in this significant portion of our CAF Mission, please volunteer.

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Operations Report – November 2023 *by Col Mike Woods – WI Wing Operations Officer*

Our SNJ flew 2 times in October by Col Gary Otto and he ended up taking the plane to Oshkosh for a few months where Gary has a friend who is donating the temporary use of his hangar. The normal SNJ hangar at Waukesha has the PT-26 in it until HQ can send a mechanic to install two cylinders, rework the tail wheel, switch a gear leg and do an annual. It is anticipated that this should be finished by the end of the year. So far the SNJ did not fly in November. Our T-34 had 4 flights in October for an airshow and free rides and currency. Our plane had 2 flights in November for currency. Both flights in November were solo and our radios seemed to work very well with a Bose noise cancelling headset. So perhaps our intercom issues are limited to the back seat set up. We are currently trying to get a quote to install a high noise environment built in intercom, which should clear up our issues there.

Both planes are flying, but we also have several items that need to be done to the T-34 to get it out of the experimental category and there are still some minor maintenance issues that will need to be addressed in the annual inspection.

As of now we have two active and one supporting pilot for the SNJ, and we have 5 active pilots and one monthly contributor for supporting the T-34. We all need to work together to get more active pilots and supporters for our planes. This should be our push over the winter.



Wisconsin Wing News



WI Wing Membership Meeting

You are invited to the CAF WI Wing on Sat., Dec. 9th, 2023

10:30 AM Central Time → Waukesha Airport Terminal Conf. Room
(Airport Drive, Waukesha)

**Program: 2023 Election &
Special Pearl Harbor Remembrance Program**

Lunch → Please RSVP for Cousins Sub Lunch Option!

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2022-23 NEW MEMBERS!!!



Donn Droegkamp (Pewaukee) *** Gold Lifetime Member ***	Al Pavik (TX-Coyote Squadron Member)	Eric Ruediger (Racine)
Jackson LaManna (Mequon) *** Cadet ***	Laura Stants (Indiana Wing)	John Reed
Scott Slay	Mitch Saltzberg	Candy Parr
George Bacik	Jeff Karsten	Cadet Francis Anderer (Noel Skerven's Nephew!)
Joe Van Wie	Glenn Leidel	Brian Liddle *** Life Member ***
Mary Berg	Eric Chappellear	Evan Bauer
Dan Butler	Tony Madonia	Mike Heileman
Steve Janke	Larry McClellan	Jarrett Tessar
Kristian Anderson	John Ricchio	Corey Grape
Mal Gross	Linda Becket (TX-Coyote Squadron Member)	

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Friendly Reminder!!!

Please remember to renew your CAF WI Wing dues. This is separate from CAF National dues. Wing dues are \$50 (adult), \$25 (active military & member of other wing), and \$0 (cadets). Please see the application/renewal form at the end of this newsletter for additional information.



Wisconsin Wing News



Wisconsin Wing News



by Col Candy Parr – WI Wing Education Officer

What does the F/A stand for on the McDonnell Douglas F/A-18 Hornet?

(answer at the end of PAGE 11)

F/A-18 Hornet



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CAF WI Wing "Breakfast at Denny's" – Sat., 11/25

Greetings from Brad, Tom, Mike, Steve, Candy (not pictured), Evan, Gary, Ethan & Alex!





Wisconsin Wing News



WI Wing invades the EAA Museum on Black Friday!!! By Col Gary Otto & Col Tom Leunig

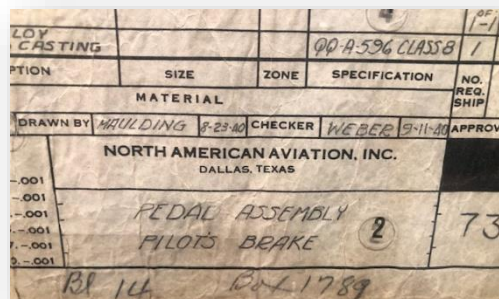


Ten (10) WI Wing members and guests made the annual trek up to Oshkosh to visit the always interesting and inspiring EAA Museum on Black Friday (Fri., Nov. 24th)! Wade and Ethan Lindberg joined in on the visit along with members Mike Woods, Steve Lark, George Crawford, Tom McDermott, Mal Gross, Tom Leunig, and Brad & Alex Ohde.

Friend of the Wing, Chris Henry is the Museum Manager, and keeps the museum alive with new and relevant displays. The most recent being the Corsair as related to the Korean Conflict, depicted in the movie "Devotion". Prior to that, the introduction of

Vietnam veterans and families to the Warbird Young Eagle hangar through the Huey helicopter restoration and display. This effort on the part of the EAA museum has done so much to touch the lives of so many Vietnam and Korean war veterans and families. Many of us ended up in the Eagle Hanger to view the warbirds, including a P-38 Lightning, P-51 Mustang, Spitfire, Mosquito, and other aircraft. There was also a great exhibit on draftsmen who made the engineering drawings in WW-II. These were done by hand and with no computers!

The tour wrapped up with lunch at Friar Tuck's restaurant. It was a nice way to unwind after Thanksgiving.

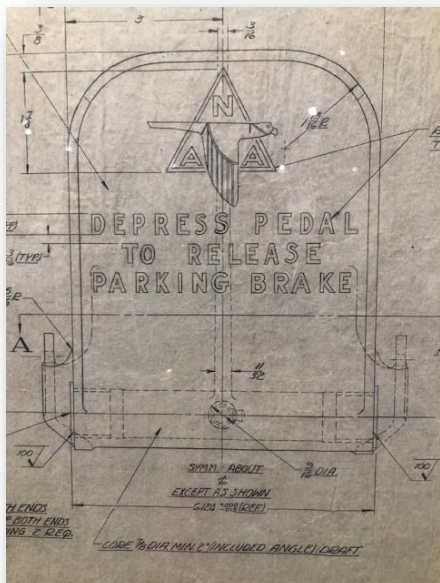




Wisconsin Wing News



WI Wing invades the EAA Museum on Black Friday!!! *(cont'd from previous page)*





Wisconsin Wing News



Education Update:

by Col Candy Lee Parr

I learned more about the CVI when I attend the **5th Annual Veterans Ball** at the Italian Community Center in Milwaukee, WI. The **CENTER FOR VETERANS' ISSUES, INC** has 90 employees and with over \$8 million in revenue.



Mission

The Center for Veterans Issues, Inc. provides housing and supportive services to help improve the quality of life for ALL Veterans, their families, and the communities in which they live and serve.

Vision

The Center for Veterans Issues strives to be the premier Veteran Resource Organization that helps end homelessness across Wisconsin and the United States.

History of CVI

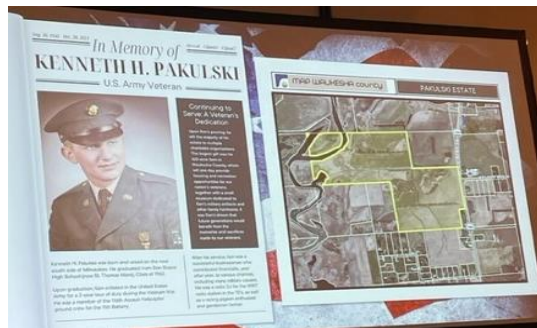
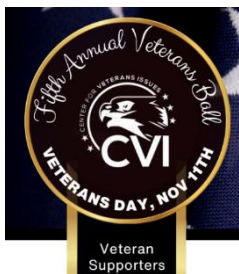
The Center for Veterans Issues, Inc. was born out of longstanding frustration with a range of negative factors confronting veterans returning from the Vietnam War. After many years of trying to work through a number of efforts and institutions, the Center was founded as a way of providing a consistent, professional, effective, and replicable means of moving beyond the advocacy and addressing problems harming low-income veterans and their families.

Waukesha 414-345-4249

Center for Veterans Issues, Inc.
Veterans Resource Center
741 Grand Avenue, Suite 300
Waukesha, WI 53186
With 7 locations in Wisconsin.

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5th Annual Veterans Ball 2023 at the Italian Community Center in Milwaukee, WI - Nov. 11th, 2023



The Pakulski family donated the land that will expand the CVI to Waukesha County!



Many large sponsors.....

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Sat., 1/27: Waukesha JanBoree at Crites Field → 10am-2pm (Terminal)
Devotion Movie Showing → 6pm (Atlantic Aviation Hangar)

Our Wing will have a table again - NEED Volunteers

Contact Candy Parr for details: candy.parr2018@gmail.com



Wisconsin Wing News



Education Update: (cont'd from previous page)

5th Annual Veterans Ball 2023 at the Italian Community Center in Milwaukee, WI - Nov. 11th, 2023



*Eduardo M. Garza, Jr.
CVI President/CEO*



*Keynote speaker: Bill Kraus,
Mission BBQ founder & CEO*



Every day, we salute the USA together, all standing at attention for the National Anthem, at noon



Founded 9-11-2011 by Bill Krauss & Steve Newton. 134 locations in 17 states based in MD. 7,000 employees. WI Locations: Brookfield, Green Bay, Kenosha, Madison (East) West Allis.

They seek to hire veterans and give back to the community.

MISSION BBQ opened its doors for business on September 11, 2011.

Ten years after our world changed forever, in some small way we wanted to change it back.

As the founders of MISSION BBQ, we strive every day to remind everyone what makes Our Country great—its heroes.

Who are we? Two friends passionate about BBQ, patriotic for Our Country, and who believe in running a business with meaning and purpose.

We believe there is nothing more American than BBQ. And nobody more American than the brave men and women who have sworn to protect and serve Our Communities and Our Country. We do what we do for the love of our soldiers, firefighters, police officers, first responders—all our loved ones in service.

We set across this great land from Texas to Kansas City, the Carolinas to St. Louis...to discover the secrets of great BBQ.

Every day we strive to serve you authentic BBQ made from the freshest, most delectable ingredients, and serve it to you in a patriotic dining room filled with tributes to those who've made Our Country great, given to us by the people who earned them. Stop by at lunchtime, and you might catch us during our daily salute to the Stars and Stripes.

We don't do any of this because we have to. It's because we want to.

At MISSION BBQ, we are Proudly Serving Those Who Serve. Come help us complete Our Mission.



Wisconsin Wing News



Education Update: *(cont'd from previous page)*

Florida International Air Show.....



Thank you, Mike Woods, for telling me about this air show! Perfect weather with low humidity when I attended the 42nd Florida International Air Show in November at Punta Gorda airport. Est 15-17K in attendance. There were many great performances, both civilian and military like the US Air Force Thunderbirds.

“One of the ‘10 best air shows around the world” — USA TODAY

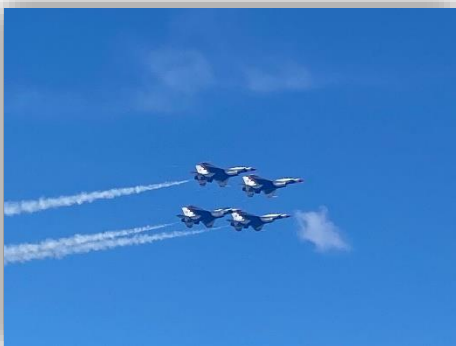
The Punta Gorda Airport - Military History:

The Florida International Air Show (FIAS) organization is a Florida 501c4 nonprofit corporation staffed entirely by volunteers. The air show is a multiday event showcasing nationally known performers and exciting static displays of aircraft and vehicles. The air show offers opportunities for attendees to learn more about aviation, space, and military services.

The 2023 Florida International Air Show will celebrate its 42nd year of continuously presenting air shows to the residents and visitors of Southwest Florida. Beginning as a brief single day event with only a few acts, the Air Show has grown into a three-day event with family and fan-friendly activities, a large variety of acts, interactive displays and much more. The Punta Gorda Airport plays an integral role in the Air Show's history—it was here long before the Florida International Air Show and has hosted the event since its inception.

Government officials began planning the Punta Gorda Army Air Field in 1941. Plans called for a base including two squadrons of student pilots and over 3,000 off base personnel. The base was home to forty Curtis P-40 “Warhawk” aircraft, later changed to North-American P-51 “Mustang” aircraft, which were assigned as part of the final flight training for pilots who were sent overseas to fight the war in these famed aircraft. The base also had C-45 and C-47 transports assigned to the Punta Gorda Army Air Field. All base officers and some upper NCOs lived in Punta Gorda, while all student officers and most enlisted men lived in tent structures on base. Buildings included operation headquarters, classrooms, supply, fire station, dispensary, chapel and the control tower. The base had nose hangars where just the nose of the plane was under shelter for repairs. The Army airfield closed shortly after WWII and reverted to the County's jurisdiction, becoming what is now known as the Punta Gorda Airport.

Today, the airport is managed and operated by the Punta Gorda Airport Authority and is recognized as one of the finest general aviation facilities in Florida. The Airport hosted its first air show on New Year's Day in 1950. Betty Skelton was a featured performer and the star of that show. Betty returned to the Airport and present-day Air Show in 2008, honored and recognized as a Pioneer in Aviation.





Wisconsin Wing News



Education Update: (cont'd from previous page)

Florida International Air Show.....



Mike Woods (aka "little Mike") was able to ask a lot of questions and won prizes at EAA last summer.



Col Candy Parr got the TopGun experience while in Florida! This cockpit experience in an actual F/A -18 used in mission combat & by the Blue Angels. And a maverick helmet from the Maverick movie!

As quoted per Mike Woods (aka "little Mike"): "All three of us are Mike. The big guy, known as "big Mike", was a next-door neighbor in FL and still lives a few miles away. The "other Mike" and his wife are good friends of "big Mike" and is an Air Force Academy grad. Both of the "other Mikes" flew F4s in the Air Force. For some odd reason, in those circles I am known as "little Mike."



"HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO BE A FIGHTER PILOT? EVER WONDERED WHAT IT'S LIKE TO CLIMB INSIDE A REAL FIGHTER JET?"

A Memory that will Last a lifetime. Come DREAM BIG, TOPGUN STYLE!!!

DreamBIG allows Visitors to Dress the Part and put on a Flight Helmet (from the Maverick Movie) and step inside the Cockpit.



Wisconsin Wing News



Congratulations Wally!



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by Col Candy Parr –
WI Wing Education Officer

Answer to “What does the F/A stand for on the McDonnell Douglas F/A-18 Hornet?

(Fighter/Attack) → A Versatile Fighter Jet! What do you get when you combine the speed of a fighter and the power of an attack aircraft? You get the F/A-18 Hornet, a multirole combat jet that can fly in any weather from any carrier.

Did you know? The F/A -18 Hornet is also used by the air forces of several other nations, and formerly by the U.S. Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels.

The McDonnell Douglas F/A-18 Hornet is an all-weather supersonic, twin-engine, carrier-capable, multirole combat aircraft, designed as both a fighter and attack aircraft (hence the F/A designation). Designed by McDonnell Douglas and Northrop, the F/A-18 was derived from the latter's YF-17 in the 1970s for use by the United States Navy and Marine Corps. The Hornet is also used by the air forces of several other nations, and formerly by the U.S. Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels. The F/A-18 was designed to be a highly versatile aircraft due to its avionics, cockpit displays, and excellent aerodynamic characteristics, with the ability to carry a wide variety of weapons. The aircraft can perform fighter escort, fleet air defense, suppression of enemy air defenses, air interdiction, close air support, and aerial reconnaissance. Its versatility and reliability have proven it to be a valuable carrier asset, though it has been criticized by many Naval aviation experts[by whom?] for its lack of range and payload compared to its earlier contemporaries, such as the Grumman F-14 Tomcat in the fighter and strike fighter role, and the Grumman A-6 Intruder and LTV A-7 Corsair II in the attack role. The Hornet first saw combat action during the 1986 United States bombing of Libya and subsequently participated in the 1991 Gulf War and 2003 Iraq War. The F/A-18 Hornet served as the baseline for the Boeing F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, its larger, evolutionary redesign, which supplanted both the older Hornet and the F-14 Tomcat in the U.S. Navy.



Wisconsin Wing News



2024

www.commemorativeairforce.org

Join the "Flight Crew" at the CAF WI Wing

You can join the Flight Crew for our historic warbird aircraft and get a piece of the action! Aircraft Sponsor support is limited to aircraft improvements and major repairs, but does not support the every day "fixed costs" like hangar rent and insurances. Flight Crew support goes directly to current fixed costs and helps keep our WI Wing aircraft ready to carry out the CAF mission to Educate, Inspire and Honor!

"Flight Crew" members can donate as little as \$20/month with a 12 month commitment to qualify as a "Flight Crew" member for each aircraft. Being a "Flight Crew" member entitles you to a T-34 or SNJ-5 special cap with "Flight Crew" notation on the backside. Wear your "flight Crew" gear with pride as you show your support for our WI Wing CAF aircraft.

Flight Crew donations are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Your donation indicates your strong interest in playing an active role in our Wing aircraft operations.

The WI Wing needs "Flight Crew" members now to keep these historical aircraft flying. If you can help in any way, let Gary Otto know.

Call with any questions:

Col Gary Otto Executive Officer WI Wing

262-875-1640 cell

www.cafwi.org

Wisconsin Wing

Candy Parr Wing Leader
262-490-0330 cell

SNJ-5/AT-6 600 HP



N3195G



COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE



T-34 Mentor 300HP



N5347W

Preserving America's Legacy of Freedom

Flight Crew Support...

Flight Crew Support is a great way to help keep our warbirds flying! This is one way for members and non-members to get some "skin in the game" with much needed financial support for the huge fixed costs of keeping our planes assigned to the WI Wing. Insurance, hangar, and annual inspections are our major expenses, and Flight Crew monthly support is directly applied to these costs. Sponsorships are also welcomed and needed, but those funds are not allowed to be applied to monthly fixed costs. Sponsor funds are dedicated to upgrades and major repairs. Please consider adding some dollars from your monthly budget to become a Flight Crew member and support your WI Wing Warbirds.

Christmas Gifts for our Warbirds???

Have you considered giving a "gift" to your WI Wing aircraft? Each airplane has a special need for an upgrade. The SNJ needs a new COM radio and the T-34 needs a new intercom.

If interested, please contact Mike Woods or Gary Otto.





Wisconsin Wing News



WISCONSIN WING - CAF 2024 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(This section for official use only)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____ DATE PAID: _____ MEMBERSHIP YEAR: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE FOLLOWING WITH YOUR DUES:
(YOU MUST BE A CAF NATIONAL MEMBER TO BE A WISCONSIN WING MEMBER)

CAF National MEMBERSHIP No: _____ NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

NAME: _____ BIRTHDATE (optional) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: (HOME) _____ (CELL) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ DATE: _____

[] ANNUAL (Jan-Dec) WISCONSIN WING MEMBERSHIP - \$50.00 (ADULT) / \$FREE (CADET)
\$25 (ACTIVE MILITARY)
(SNOWBIRD OPTION) \$25 (MEMBERS OF OTHER WINGS)
Extra Donation +\$ _____
Total Cash/Check Enclosed = \$ _____

YOU CAN SEND MORE THAN \$50 !! EXTRA DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED!!!
ALL YOUR DONATIONS TO THE CAF ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: WISCONSIN WING - CAF.
MAIL TO: WISCONSIN WING - CAF, P.O. BOX 1998, WAUKESHA, WI 53187-1998.

VOLUNTEER INTERESTS – PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- _____ Education (Rise Above Program, WASP's, Youth groups, Boy Scout hangar visits, etc.)
- _____ Event Planning (Planning/prep for local CAF events/lunches/dinners/special events)
- _____ Gathering of Warbirds (GOW) (Wisconsin Wing airshow at Waukesha Airport)
- _____ PX (Fundraising through sales at local airshows and events)
- _____ Fundraising (Fundraising efforts/assist development officer)
- _____ Social Media/Web Development (Maintaining Wisconsin Wing social media outlets)
- _____ Photography (At local events for social media, community outreach, etc.)
- _____ Pilot/Flying Hours/Certificates held: _____
- _____ Other Skills/Interests: _____

Calendar – Upcoming Events

Please go to cafwi.org for more details on all the Commemorative Air Force Wisconsin 2024 Wing activities.

Notes: CAF WI Wing activity always subject to weather and aircraft availability

- WI Wing Staff meetings are always 10 days prior to each wing meeting and open to all members to attend.

Date	Event Name	Location	Time	PX Booth	Education Table	T-34A	SNJ-5
1-13-24	WI Wing Meeting	Waukesha Airport – Terminal	10:30am				
1-27-24	Waukesha JanBoree	Crites Field (Terminal)	10am-2pm (6pm Movie in Atlantic Aviation Hangar)	X			
7-20-24	Janesville Warbird Show	Janesville Airport	All Day	X		X	X
7-21 to 7-28-24	AirVenture 2024	Oshkosh Airport	All Week			X	X
9-21-24	Oconto Elks Flyin	Oconto Airport	All Day			X	X

* Updates as of December 3rd, 2023.

Contact Gary Otto at 262-875-1640 with questions or information to share.

For the latest EAA AirVenture news & info go to: <https://www.eaa.org/airventure>

WI Wing Staff

<u>Position</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Contact Info.</u>
Wing Leader:	Gary Otto	262-875-1640 gary.arthur.otto@gmail.com
Executive Officer:	*** Open *** This could be you!	
Finance Officer:	Tony Madonia	312-208-9840 tony@madonia.com
Maintenance Officer:	Scott Twesme	920-650-6101 srtzen@gmail.com
Operations Officer:	Mike Woods	262-781-0487 mikewwoods@gmail.com
Safety Officer:	Evan Bauer	901-541-0476 bauere25@gmail.com
Ground Crew Leader:	*** Open *** This could be you!	
Public Information Officer:	Bob Vajgrt	414-550-2770 dawnbob@wi.rr.com
Development Officer:	*** Open *** This could be you!	
Education Officer:	Candy Parr	262-490-0330 cparr@jamesimaging.com candy.parr2018@gmail.com
Membership Officer:	Michael Guslick	262-203-6049 haveblue@haveblue.org
Adjutant Officer:	John Leidel	262-538-1542 mfd4401@yahoo.com
Events Officer:	Kathy Laabs	414-418-7222 t28gal@att.net
Historian:	Brian Liddle	920-634-7034 liddle.brian@yahoo.com
Newsletter:	Brad Ohde	262-309-8600 brad.ohde@outlook.com
PX Leader:	Ed Pleva	262-844-0965 ed.pleva@gmail.com
PX Volunteer Coord.:	*** Open *** This could be you!	
Fly-Over Coord.	Vic Stottlemeyer	262-391-5110 stottlemey7@aol.com
Wisconsin Wing mailing address: CAF Wisconsin Wing P.O. Box 1998 Waukesha, WI 53187-1998 www.cafwi.org		