



WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION



FY2018 ANNUAL REPORT

WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The connection between our veterans and our citizens has always been influenced by the times and the nature of the conflict in which they fought. Many Civil War veterans lived the balance of their lives revered by the public for their participation in that tragic, and all-consuming conflagration.

When I was young, most adults had stories to tell of their service during World War II. America viewed the fight as a great crusade, to free the world from oppression and tyranny. The Home Front was as much in the fight as those on Bataan and Normandy, as total war made the bond between the citizen and the veteran as tight as it has ever been.

Vietnam changed everything. Our fighting men and women came home to face hostility and the trauma of being part of a divisive war. Since then, we have had a volunteer force that at times, can seem to be disconnected from the public. There is, however, a renewed effort to recognize and appreciate the sacrifices our fighting women and men have made, and continue to make, to protect our freedom.

The mission of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum is to nurture the connection between our citizenry and our fighting women and men from Wisconsin. The conflict, and the times in which they fought, never changed the sacrifices they and their families made for our country.

As you review how the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation has served the public in this annual report and learn about where we want to take our efforts in the future, we invite you to join us in our mission.

Help us preserve Wisconsin's rich military history, and honor those who served, today, and in days past. Help us keep the connection between our citizens, and our Wisconsin veterans alive and vibrant.

Thank you,

Daniel Checki
WVMF Board President



Donors support new exhibits, public programs, artifact acquisition, conservation and educational outreach efforts.

WHO WE ARE



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Dan Checki

Vice President
Jason Johns

Secretary
Tom Huismann

Treasurer
Dan Heiliger

Directors At Large
Lynn Fyhlund
Dan Greene

Andrew Hitt
William Hustad
Joane Mathews
Loretta Metoxen
Joseph Naylor
Phil Prange
Robert Simmons

Emeritus Directors
John Coe
Lewis Harned
Fred McCormick
Elizabeth Orella
Eric Petersen
Dennis Wagner

FOUNDATION STAFF

Jen Carlson, Executive Director

OUR MISSION

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation provides private fundraising support for the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, ensuring that the Museum continues its record of excellence as the preeminent interpreter of the Wisconsin veteran experience.

We pursue this mission by following best practices in fundraising, providing support for special events, and ensuring that the fiduciary and ethical responsibilities of the Foundation are met.



KEY PROGRAMS

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation provides funding for a number of Museum activities. Here are some highlights of programs we've supported in the last year.



BEYOND THE TRENCHES: STORIES FROM THE FRONT

WWI Beyond the Trenches: Stories from the Front, uses the Museum's rich collection and first person accounts to bring to life Wisconsin's role in shaping global history. Over 122,000 Wisconsin men and women served on land, sea, and in the air during World War I. This exhibit shares an up close and personal look at the Great War through the eyes of Wisconsin veterans.

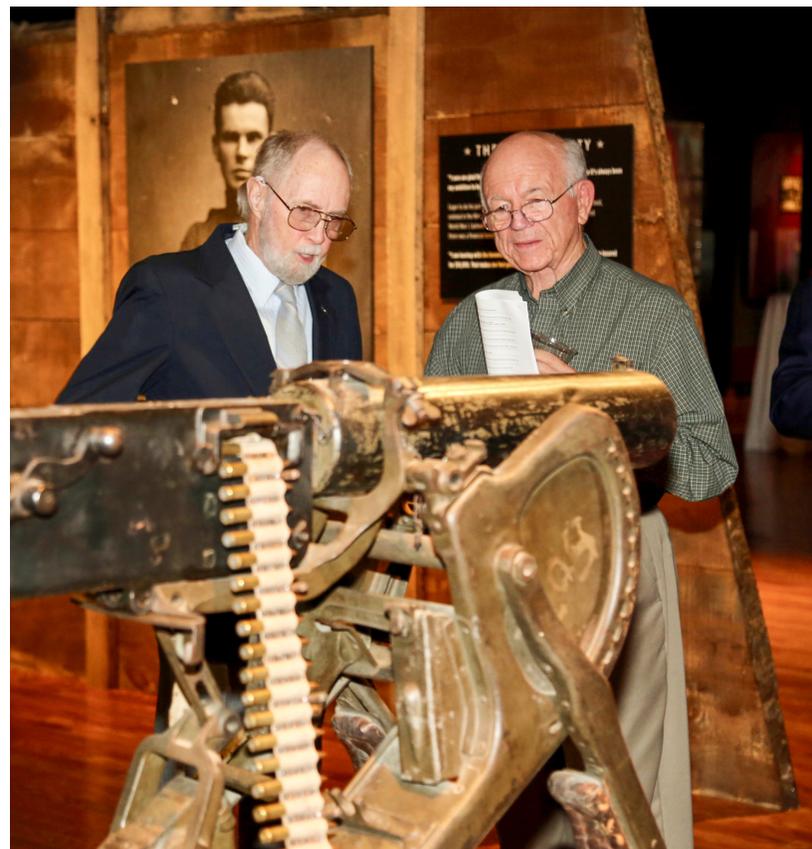
WWI Beyond the Trenches: Stories from the Front will be on exhibit until December 30, 2018.

New Art Exhibit in 2019

In My Spare Moments: The Art of Harold F. Schmitz

In March 2019, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum will open its next exhibit featuring the artwork of Harold Schmitz. The drawings, combined with letters, photographs, and printed military ephemera, offer us an incredible timeline of what the artist was doing, where he was located, and why he was drawing what he drew. Over the course of the next several months, we will share more information about Harold Schmitz.

The exhibit will run for a year and will transition into a traveling art exhibit. The Foundation is still accepting sponsorships for this exhibit. If interested, contact the office at 608.261.0536.





TALKING SPIRITS XIX

In October, the Museum held the 19th annual *Talking Spirits Cemetery Tours* in Madison, WI. On the 90-minute walking tour, local actors shared Civil War stories through portrayals of Wisconsin Civil War soldiers and citizens buried at Forest Hill Cemetery.

Throughout the week of tours, over 2,500 school children and members of the public attended the event.

MESS NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

The Museum continues an extremely popular dinner lecture series, *Mess Night at the Museum*. Every *Mess Night* features a new speaker, topic, dinner, beverages, and time to socialize before and after the talk. During each *Mess Night* the audience takes a deeper look into the personal stories of Wisconsin's military history in a format that is accessible for all who want to learn.

Over 200 people joined us this year as we turned this naval tradition into our own.



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



ASSETS

Total Net Assets
\$206,153

Unrestricted
57%

Temporarily Restricted for
battle flag conservation,
program & exhibit support
43%

SUPPORT BY TYPE

Individuals
58%

Corporate/Organization
Gifts
29%

In-Kind Support
8%

Grants
5%

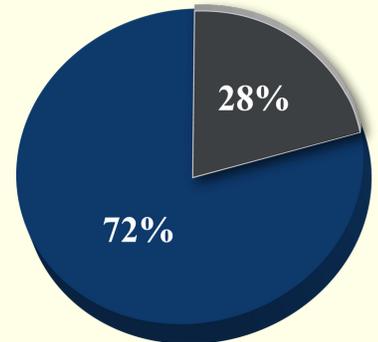


TOTAL EXPENSES

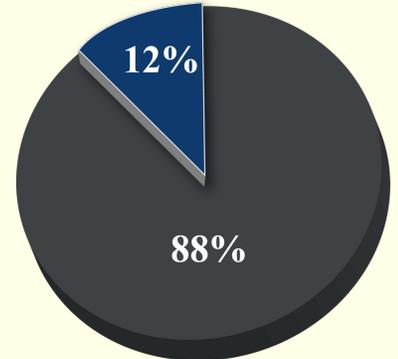
\$172,646

See below for the breakdown of
Wisconsin Veterans Museum
Foundation vs DVA funding for 3 key
Museum programs.

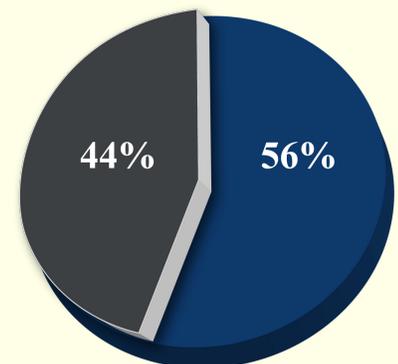
EXHIBITS



TALKING SPIRITS



MESS NIGHT



★ FOUNDATION
★ DVA (state funding)

ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

The Oral History Collection contains the personal stories and military experiences of Wisconsin-connected veterans of World War I to the present day. There are currently over 2,000 interviews in the collection, and continues to grow on a daily basis. The Museum still needs the monetary support from the Foundation to continue to transcribe these oral histories and make them more accessible to the public.

CIVIL WAR BATTLE FLAG CONSERVATION

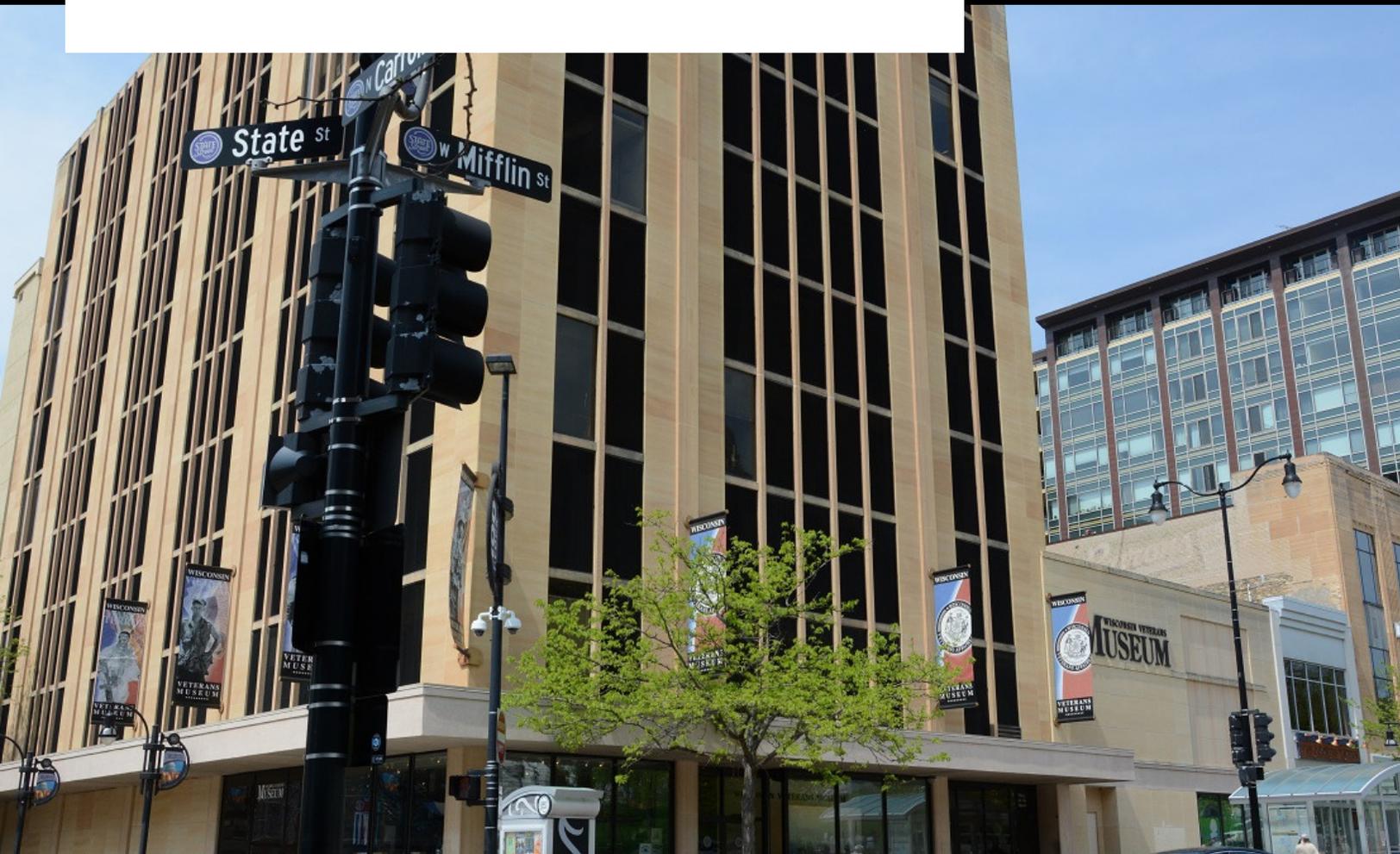
The Wisconsin Veterans Museum has a large collection of rare Civil War battle flags. The Museum undertook the conservation of the Wisconsin Civil War battle flags in the 1990's and the project to preserve these flags for future generations continues to this day. It generally costs between \$8,000 to \$10,000 to preserve one flag.

HE WAS TOO WEAK TO STAND.
BUT NO ONE HAS EVER
STOOD TALLER



CORPORAL
MITCHELL RED CLOUD, JR.
HATFIELD, WI.

**WISCONSIN VETERANS
MUSEUM FOUNDATION**
30 W. MIFFLIN ST. STE 200
MADISON, WI 53703



EVERY VETERAN IS A STORY

**LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

WWW.WISVETSMUSEUM.COM/FOUNDATION/
30 W. MIFFLIN ST. STE 200, MADISON, WI 53703
(608)261-0536