

Winter 2022

# 84th Railsplitters Association

## Bugler



Greetings Fellow Railsplitters!

As we say good-bye to 2022 and we welcome 2023, I pray you all had a happy and healthy holiday season! The annual Steak Fry closed out our events of 2022 and it was a remarkable success. The event was held at the Brookfield Highlands in Waukesha, WI in which the facility and staff made it an excellent location for the Steak Fry. Previously, we had been spoiled all those years when we hosted the cookout at the American Legion Post #449; therefore, thinking creatively was necessary for the planning and execution of this event. Much thanks to our board members, their spouses, volunteers and LTC Tom Abts for the overall success of this event!

Through the generosity of attendees, we collected over \$2,100 from the silent auction alone. Monies received through membership fees, donations and the Steak Fry are used in paying it forward to organizations that support veterans and their families.

Next on the calendar, we are gearing up for the Annual Valentine's Dinner being held on Saturday, February 11, 2023. This year's event will be at Alioto's Restaurant, 3041 N. Mayfair Rd., Wauwatosa, WI. Flyer is included with this issue of the Bugler. In the past we have hosted this event and the Dining Out at the Western Racquet Club, Elm Grove, however, they are currently undergoing renovation and not accepting reservations until June 1, 2023. A search is ongoing for venues to host the Dining Out, Annual Meeting, and the Steak Fry, if you have any suggested locations, please notify me.

We are calling on everyone to help recruit new members!!! Like other veteran organizations we are experiencing a decline in our numbers. Sadly, it is not due to them no longer wanting to serve, it is a case of them being called by a higher authority and have passed. Request that you reach out to our fellow Railsplitters by opening your address books or phone directories and invite them to join our Association. Membership applications can be found at [www.84thrailsplitters.com](http://www.84thrailsplitters.com). Another option is to reach out to a Board Director and they can send an application form.

Lastly, if you have not visited our website, please do! LTC Ron Moe has dedicated countless hours making the site not only appealing to the eye, but continuously informative and updated with resources & reference material. Moe has expressed a need to have an Assistant Webmaster as a backup. If you know of anyone with experience in websites that may be interested in the position, please let me know. It is a volunteer position. It is best if the applicant has previous military experience regarding the understanding and interpreting of military operations and terminology. I am confident an incoming administrator would accept these duties for God and country.

God bless this nation, all service members, veterans, and their families! Looking forward to seeing you in 2023 at our upcoming events. Strike Hard!

Goldie M. Schuh, MSG (Retired)  
President, 84<sup>th</sup> Railsplitters Association, LTD

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### Upcoming Events:

**Valentine's Dinner**  
**11 Feb 23**  
**Dining Out**  
**TBD**

## Please Join Us!

# 84TH RAILSPLITTERS OUT AND ABOUT

The 84th Railsplitters supports the Milwaukee County War Memorial and this year a group of Railsplitters signed up for Operation: Run, Walk, & Roll! The War Memorial partnered with the Paralyzed Veterans of American-Wisconsin Chapter to present this 5K event which was held in October to honor the sacrifice of veterans who are now in wheelchairs.

Most of the group ended up placing in the top three of their age brackets including first place winners: Izzy Pochowski, Mary Orley, and Skip Pochowski!



All winners!



Medal winners Marcel deRidder (Sandra Heim's husband) and Skip Pochowski. Steve Kassens had already run off to another event and received his medal later.



The women faired even better! Mary Orley, Sandra Heim, Goldie Schuh and Izzy Pochowski all placed and won medals in their age groups! Mary Oppliger, being in a younger age group, faced stiffer competition and did not win a medal—but she crossed the finish line!



You should recognize the back of this Railsplitter! Frank Parker prepares for the parade this past summer.

## Sunshine Club

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of those who recently passed away:

**COL John Maug**

**LTC Ralph (Tex) Potter**

**MSG Timothy Kubik**

**CW4 David Cash**

**Barbara Brinza**

Get Well Wishes for:

**BG Patricia Heritsch**

**MAJ Steve Kassens**

**CSM Don Dennett**

**CSM Frank Parker**

**Sandy Davis**

Remember to send any information, or correspondence for Get Well, Encouragement, Sympathy, etc. to:

Mary Orley at (414) 425-0256 or email, maryo\_44@yahoo.com

**Camping in lieu of the Steak Fry!**  
**Michael and Opal Simmons**

Michael and Opal Simmons went to their grand daughter's wedding and celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary during a camping trip to Niagara Falls and the Northeast. "Sorry to have missed the Steak Fry!"

Opal and I left Oak Creek on September 1<sup>st</sup> for Walker, Minnesota for our third oldest grand-daughter's wedding. We stayed at the Chase on the Lake Resort situated on Leech Lake. The wedding was held in a country barn. First

time attending a wedding reception in a barn!

We returned to Oak Creek on Labor Day, Sep 5<sup>th</sup>, unpacked and repacked for departure on Sep 7<sup>th</sup>. We hooked up our 26-foot travel trailer and headed east to Niagara Falls. We camped on Grand Island, NY and spent the next four days taking in the views and had to take the ride on the Maid of the Mist. We also had to stop at the Anchor Bar in Buffalo, where barbeque wings got their start. We toured the Carrousel Museum in North Tonawanda, NY.

I contacted one of the Air Force officers that I served with in Qatar who lives in East Aurora, NY. I hadn't seen him since 2007. We spent the day with him and his wife. Neither of us had changed much except I got a little heavier since the last time we saw each other. Heading east we spent the day at Letchworth State Park, NY, known as the Grand Canyon of the East.

The next day we headed to Bennington, Vermont where we traveled to four of the covered bridges in the area and the Revolutionary War Bennington Battle Monument. We continued east through New Hampshire to Maine and turned north heading to Bangor, Maine area and our campground. We visited Acadia National Park and Cadillac Mountain. Cadillac mountain is where the first rays of the morning sun touch the continental United States. Naturally we were looking for fall colors and decided to drive north to the Canadian border. There was about 25 percent of color, and we were 2-3 weeks too early. Looks like we will have to plan another future trip later in the year.

Heading south and west going through Massachusetts, we stopped at Mount Graylock, the highest elevation at 3,491 ft. On top was a monument, a 92-foot tall tower, dedicated to the Massachusetts men and women who died in World War I.

Continuing west we stopped at the Hershey Chocolate Factory in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Got lots of chocolate for spoiling grandchildren! Our next stop was at Gettysburg Battlefield. We did the driving tour and stopped at the visitor center with all of the different state displays. Staying in Pennsylvania, we headed to Stoystown, Pennsylvania and the Flight 93 National Memorial. If you ever get the chance to visit the memorial, it is one of the most moving sights that I have ever seen.

The last stop on our adventure was in Dayton, Ohio, at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. Four buildings of all aircraft from the Wright brothers to the space shuttles. Also available to walk through were three US Presidents' planes, one of which was the Air Force One that brought back President Kennedy's body from Dallas, Texas.

We made it home on Sep 28<sup>th</sup> and we're looking at heading west next year (maybe) to see the Grand Canyon, Four Corners area, and visit relatives in Colorado. Looks like a Route 66 trip!

# Steak Fry & Fun!

*A big thank you to everyone who donated, who attended and who volunteered! It was a successful fundraiser!*



Guests arrived, ready to bid in the silent auction, purchase 50/50 raffle tickets and have a great steak & chicken dinner!



The Door Prize table was filled with an assortment of donations—this picture was taken before many items were displayed!



One of the photographers, Jim Schuler, practiced his selfie skills!



The grills are ready to go!

We had a great selection of silent auction items ranging from cigars to Brewers tickets to a hand-made lap quilt.



We couldn't do this without our auction donors: Al Cottrell, Balistreri's Restaurant, Bill Krieger, Carol Ridgely, Clarence Brunner, Dean and Mary Orley, Goldie Schuh, Green Bay Packers, Jim Schuler, Julie Koss, Kim Michalowski, Lakefront Brewery, Lori Kunstman, Machine Shed, Mary Oppliger, Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club, Milwaukee Milkmen, Milwaukee Wave, *continued*



The 5091st was well-represented.



Gerard Schuh, the corn master, took a break while the corn was cooking.



Bill Krieger won the 50/50 raffle—he took the money and ran!



The food was served with smiles!



Steve Kassens made sure the corn was buttered just right!



And all the family and friends!



Auction donors continued: Mission BBQ, Pepino's Restaurant, PJ Heritch, Robert Kaminski and KwikTrip, Sam's Club, Sandy Heim, Stephen Kassens, Texas Roadhouse, Tim Vanderboom, Wisconsin Timber Rattlers, and all those that also donated to the Door Prizes! THANK YOU!

## 84TH CHANGE OF COMMAND



Maj. Gen. Miguel A. Castellanos relinquished duties as the commanding general of the 84th Training Command, located at Fort Knox, Kentucky, to Brig. Gen. Edward H. Merrigan Jr. during the change of command ceremony held at Brooks Parade Field on Aug. 12.

Castellanos took command of the 84th on October 31, 2020. The 84th TC holds a special place in Castellanos's heart. "Being a part of the 84th TC legacy has truly been an honor," said Castellanos. "Assuming any command comes with tremendous responsibility and serving Soldiers is paramount." He continued, "First and foremost, I will miss the people," said Castellanos. "I will miss the culture and I am fortunate enough to serve as long as I have, it's a big part of who I am today."

The colors of the 84th TC are the embodiment of its history, tradition, and accomplishments. The passing of the colors between commanders symbolizes the transfer of

responsibility of the unit and the welfare of its Soldiers. It ensures that the unit is never without official leadership and represents continuity of trust and allegiance between its Soldiers and their unit's commander. LTG Jody J. Daniels, chief of Army Reserve and commanding general, U.S. Army Reserve Command, presided over the ceremony.

In his remarks, Merrigan said he is humbled by the trust and confidence that has been placed in him to lead the 84th TC. He thanked Daniels, Castellanos, and other distinguished guests for their continued support and mentorship, adding that he is honored to serve on the 84th TC team. "Today marks the pinnacle of my military career," said Merrigan. "To be selected to command the Soldiers of the 84th Training Command."

Previously, Merrigan served as the deputy commander of the 84th TC and Director of the Fort Knox Mobilization Force Generation Installation Program, assisting Castellanos in executing mission command, providing sustainment, and directing mobility exercises for deploying units with intense training environments for pre-deployment and focused competencies.

As the incoming commanding general, he says his top priorities are people, modernization and readiness. "To the Soldiers of the 84th Training Command, I am humbled to be able to join your ranks and be part of an organization with such a proud image and reputation of excellence," said Merrigan. "I will endeavor to do my best to carry on the legacy of this organization and give you my best effort each and every day."

Additionally, he stated his short-term vision for the unit is to provide multinational collective training in a mission command-focused setting to build and sustain trained and equipped units ready to perform in the dynamic operational environment. His goal is to be sought after by name from the operational force to build trained and ready Soldiers.

"STRIKE HARD"



MG (Ret) Robert Silverthorn and MG Castellano at the Change of Command Ceremony this past August.

MG Silverthorn with his wife, Rusti, represented the Railsplitters at General Castellanos's retirement reception at Fort Knox Kentucky. They presented the transitional gifts to the outgoing general who was very appreciative of the Railsplitter Associations' presence. MG Castellano expressed sincere appreciation for the Railsplitter Associations' involvement with the 84th Training Command. The incoming commander Brigadier General Edward H Merrigan, Jr. pledged to continue to build on the 84th Training Command's involvement with the association. The presentation was made on behalf of Goldie Schuh, president of the Association, and the Board of Directors and all members of the Association. MG Silverthorn was appreciative for the opportunity to represent the Railsplitters Association as a new chapter is about to be written for the 84th and the Railsplitter Association. LTG Jody Daniel, USARC/CAR officiated.

Strike hard!



Family Support Group headed to Great Lakes for a shopping trip in 1989!



Izzy Pochowski at a Family Support Table.



Mary Orley provided this oldie but goodie—with no names! It's Tom Jurkowski sitting down with the red tie. Other than that ??? I'm sure our readers know.



From left, Pat and Al Cottrell, Carolyn and Ron Groleau front row. Next to Ron is Barbara Roth and Robert Roth behind her. Then Dean and Mary Orley. Wow, how young we are!

American Heart Association.



National Wear Red Day is coming up on February 3, 2023. The day draws awareness to cardiovascular disease as it is the number one killer of women. Although it kills more women than all forms of cancer combined, only 44% of women recognize that it is their greatest health threat.

#### Signs and Symptoms of Heart Attacks in Women:

1. Uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain in the center of your chest. It lasts more than a few minutes or goes away and comes back.
2. Pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
3. Shortness of breath with or without chest discomfort.
4. Other signs such as breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

As with men, women's most common heart attack symptom is chest pain or discomfort. But women are somewhat more likely than men to experience some of the other common symptoms, particularly shortness of breath, nausea/vomiting and back or jaw pain.

#### Help Wanted

The 84th Railsplitters Association webmaster is seeking an assistant to learn the creation and maintenance of the Railsplitters website with the goal of succeeding the current webmaster.

The applicant should be proficient in:

- ◆ The use of a personal computer using a Mac, Windows or Linux operating system.
- ◆ Working knowledge of a word processor is requisite.
- ◆ A knowledge of proper grammar and spelling is also necessary.
- ◆ A familiarity with HTML (Hypertext Meta Language) is helpful. Internet research is often done.
- ◆ Graphics editing is also a common task.

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PLEASE  
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#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mary Oppliger, MAJ USA Retired

## Humor noun

hu·mor| \ 'hyü-mər, 'yü- \

#### Definition of *humor*

**1a:** that quality which appeals to a sense of the ludicrous or absurdly incongruous : a funny or amusing quality // Try to appreciate the *humor* of the situation.



***"Serves you right - I told you not to wear those to the beach."***