



# Commemorative Air Force®

## Minnesota Wing

# Welcome

, to the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Minnesota Wing! You have joined the ranks of one of the largest and most unique Air Forces in the world, with more than 165 airplanes from the Second World War. Since 1957, the members of the precursor of the CAF the Confederate Air Force® have been leaders of the warbird movement in an effort to preserve, honor and protect the legacy, sacrifices and living memory of the World War II generation.


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In 1971, the Minnesota Wing of the CAF was formed as the first charter unit and acted as a maintenance arm in support of the CAF's expanding fleet of warbirds. In the early 1980s the Wing acquired the B-25J that would eventually become "Miss Mitchell" as a restoration project, conducting the first post restoration flight on the 50th anniversary of the famous Doolittle Raid.

Today the Minnesota Wing continues the CAF's mission started 60 years ago of honoring those who served in WWII by introducing new generations to the sights and sounds of a bygone era.




# COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

## MINNESOTA WING



310 Airport Road  Hangar 3, Fleming Field  South Saint Paul, MN 55075

Phone: 651-455-6942  [www.cafmn.org](http://www.cafmn.org)

## Greetings,

and welcome to the Minnesota Wing of the Commemorative Air Force!

On behalf of myself and the entire Wing, we are very glad you've decided to join us! We have been around since the 1970s and are planning to continue well into the future. In the relatively short time that I've been a member, I am always amazed at what we accomplish every year. From the airshows, parades, museum and other events where we educate the public about what our parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends and other family members did as part of the Greatest Generation for our Country – but also what we as members do behind the scenes to keep the business running smoothly. And it is a business – one where all of us contribute not only monetarily, but also our time and fresh ideas to keep the 1940s alive for generations to come. You will see that our family of volunteers are second to none and is why the CAF is growing not only locally but at a National level. It is truly amazing and I'm so glad you've decided to be part of the fun!

Speaking of fun – if at any time you aren't feeling like you are having fun, let me know. It is easy to take things too seriously when there are pressures to get to an airshow or order the PX items on time or get the website to take credit cards like we want, and so on. It is a business but we are all volunteers and you probably joined to do something other than something like your day job. I'm with you. We don't want you to get frustrated, burned out or ready to quit. That's where we can find other things for you to do, expand your knowledge of the Wing and, maybe someday you'd like to become Wing Leader or another Officer position. You will absolutely love it here. It is the best place in the world to be both in the personal satisfaction of learning something new or flying one of the planes (yes, you can fly these warbirds), but also the most gratifying to me is talking to someone who was there. Someone who worked on a B-25. Someone who was a tail gunner in a B-17. Someone who needed some closure because her husband was a radio operator on a B-25 and never came home but needed to see where he sat in the plane. This is why we are here. This is what makes what we do the greatest "job" in the world. I thank you for joining us and am looking forward to where we all take the Wing into the future!

Bill Tischer

Wing Leader, Minnesota Wing

| <b>Wing Officers</b>                      | <b>Duties and Responsibilities</b>   |
|---|--|
| Executive Officer (XO)<br>Jim Lauria      | The Wing Executive Officer (XO) is the Assistant to the Wing Leader. In addition, the XO acts as the Wing Leader in his/her absence.   |
| Adjutant<br>Mark Manske                   | The Adjutant is responsible for recording and maintaining the minutes of all Unit Staff meetings and sending them and all required Unit records to Headquarters CAF.   |
| Maintenance Officer<br>Jason "Mac" McNeil | The Maintenance Officer's responsibilities include the maintenance and care of all wing assigned aircraft and ground equipment including vehicles. Specific responsibilities are ensuring all wing aircraft are airworthy prior to flight, maintaining appropriate records and training crew chiefs and ground equipment operators.  |
| Operations Officer<br>Keith Struck        | The Operations (Ops) Officer oversees the operation of Wing assigned aircraft by ensuring that all flight crew members (Pilots, Flight Mechanics, Loadmasters) are properly qualified and current in his/her sponsored aircraft. The Ops Officer also serves as the Chairman of the Flight Evaluation Board for aircrew assignments. |
| Finance Officer<br>Linda Franke           | The Finance Officer is responsible for collecting all Wing funds. In addition, s/he produces and maintains accurate records to ensure unit compliance with CAF regulations, policies and directives. Also, The Finance Officer ensures that all property donated shall become property of the CAF, Inc.                              |
| Safety Officer<br>Andy Schmidt            | The Safety Officer has overall and independent responsibility for both ground and flight safety. In addition, the Safety Officer ensures unit compliance with the CAF Safety Management System (SMS).  |
| Public Information Officer<br>Amy Lauria  | The Public Information Officer's (PIO) responsibilities include proper dissemination of information to the public and Wing members of all Wing events.   |
| Development Officer<br>Amy Lauria         | The Development Officer is responsible for overseeing all development activities for the Unit, including creating a Culture of Philanthropy, and oversight of fundraising activities. In addition, the DO provides a recommendation to the Unit Officers of the potential success of any fundraising activity or plan.               |
| Education Officer<br>Robb Keech           | The Education Officer will support the national implementation of the CAF Rise Above National Educational/Inspirational Programs drive at the unit level. Also, the EO will support the development of educational programs at the unit local level and its integration into the community   |

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### Welcome!

to the Minnesota Wing of the Commemorative Air Force! As you begin your adventure with the Wing, please take some time to review some safety topics to keep yourself, and others, from harm.

The Wing Safety Officer's primary responsibilities are for industrial, fire and ground movement safety at the Wing. I'm also tasked with monitoring safety systems, enforcing state and local codes, safety directives published by CAF Headquarters and ensuring Member safety.

While you're getting acquainted with the Wing and our Hangar feel free to contact me. I'll be happy to give you a tour and point out where fire extinguishers, emergency exits, first aid kits and various personal protective equipment (ear plug, safety glasses, work gloves, etc.) are located. I can also introduce some of the procedures we use throughout the Wing.

As you become more acquainted with the Wing keep in mind the following:

- Smoking, including using e-cigarettes, is not allowed in our airplanes, facilities or on the ramp (apron).
- Fire Extinguishers of various types are located throughout the hangar for use in fighting different types of fires. If you're unclear which extinguisher is used for what fire, please ask.
- Please clean oil and liquids from the hangar floor to prevent slip hazards. Also, dispose of used rags in the designated container to eliminate potential fire hazards.
- Please keep designated emergency exit paths (red lines on Eastern wall) and exits clear and free of obstructions. If an electrical or air line must be used, properly cover them to prevent a trip hazard.
- Airport Safety: The MN Wing is located on an operating airport. It is important to be vigilant for airplanes and vehicles that are moving or about to move. In addition, avoid standing behind running engines as the prop blast may pick up debris causing injury.
- Use care when working from ladders; make sure the ladder is secure before climbing, don't over-reach or climb above the recommended rung, don't leave tools on the ladder. Finally, observe any placards installed by the manufacturer.

Overall, make sure you understand what you are doing and how to accomplish the job safely before you start work. If you have any questions please ask! We would much rather take a little more time to make sure everything is done correctly and prevent injury or damage. If there is an injury, fire, or damage to facilities of equipment notify the Safety Officer or other Staff member know as quickly as possible. After the fact, or hopefully prior, myself or another Staff Member may suggest a safer way to accomplish your task.

Finally, we are a museum and open to the public. Their safety is of utmost importance. Our patrons include children, seniors and individuals with mobility restrictions who most likely are not aware of most of the hazards that exist. It is every member's duty to provide a safe and inviting environment for them to explore history.

Welcome once again, and stay vigilant!

Andy Schmidt

Safety Officer, Minnesota Wing CAF

# Frequently Asked Questions

## General membership:

### What kind of help is needed?

Any and all help is appreciated the Minnesota Wing is a museum, maintenance facility, aircraft operator and finally a business. As you become more involved you will begin to see that there is always work to be accomplished in some form.



### When should I show up?

The hangar is open for normal business on Wed and Fri 9:30am-5:00 pm.

The hangar will also be opened for special events and as operational needs dictate.

### I don't live near the Wing, can I still help out somehow?

Absolutely! No matter your physical location the Wing can use your assistance. The most visible is coordinating a summer tour stop at a local airport. These stops are central to the CAF's mission of being a flying museum and bring the sights and sounds of WWII to younger generations. Also, during the winter maintenance cycle there are many projects that can be completed outside the Wing, then added to the airplanes to increase their historic authenticity.

### How do I sponsor an airplane?

There are three levels of sponsorship which show various levels of additional financial support for an individual aircraft.

Aircraft Sponsor– Required to become a CAF pilot:

\$3500 for BT-13, B-25 and SNJ

\$1500 for L-5, L-17 and PT-22

Restoration Sponsor:

\$1750 for BT-13, B-25 and SNJ

\$750 for L-5, L-17 and PT-22

Supporting Sponsor:

\$350 for BT-13, B-25 and SNJ

\$150 for L-5, L-17 and PT-22



# Frequently Asked Questions Cont.

## Is there a Wing uniform?

The Official Wing uniform guidance can be found in the members only section of the Wing website. Generally speaking the wing has three uniforms:

### **Dress:**

MN Wing or Aircraft Polo shirt paired with khaki trousers and dark shoes or Mil-spec boots.

### **Work:**

Dark blue CAF work shirt paired with khaki trouser/shorts (weather dependent) and dark shoes or mil-spec boots. Steel toes are preferred.

### **Flying:**

The CAF flying uniform consists of a Mil-Spec Nomex® flight suit with appropriate CAF patches (4) Dark blue (CAF) cotton undershirt, MN Wing or aircraft specific hat and dark shoes or mil-spec boots.

### **Special Events:**

During special Wing events or parades members are encouraged to wear period correct uniforms from the WWII or Korean War era, as appropriate. The more authentic the better, prior to reporting for a special event contact the event coordinator.

## When are regular member meetings?

Regular membership meetings are held at 6:30pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the O'Club located on the second floor of the museum hangar.

## I've got some artifacts at home. Can I donate them?

Of course! The first step is to coordinate with our Museum Officer to see how they might best be incorporated into the museum displays.

## Events and Displays:

### **How do I start participating within the Wing?**

The MN Wing truly depends on the active participation of all Wing members. A good way to get started is to sign up for events that are listed on the wing website or through membership email traffic. As you become more familiar with other members and inner workings of the Wing you will begin to find areas where your expertise and interests combine and discover new ways to participate.

### **How do I know what's happening at the Wing?**

As needed the Adjutant or Public Information Officer will distribute membership wide emails with upcoming events and links to electronic signup sheets. In addition, the Wing homepage and Facebook® page contain a listing of upcoming wing events and participating airshows.

# Frequently Asked Questions Cont.

## What's the best way for a non-mechanic/pilot get involved?

The best way to get involved is to be at the hangar and ask if there is anything you can do to help out. No task is unimportant, because we are a museum open to the public our facilities need constant attention. No matter what, all members share a common interest in preserving and sharing the history of WWII and aviation with the general public.

## Are there any non-flying events?

Absolutely! Throughout the year there are various events both at the museum and around the Twin Cities. Our most popular non-flying events are participating in local parades with our vintage vehicles. If you're interested contact the Motorpool Officer

## Maintenance:

### Can I work on the airplanes?

An FAA A&P certificate is required to work unsupervised on any CAF airplane regardless of flying status. However, any member can assist in maintaining CAF airplanes as long as s/he is under the supervision of an A&P or with the approval of the appropriate Crew Chief.



### Can I work on the vehicles?

The Motorpool is always in need of help. For specific projects contact the Motorpool Officer.

## Flight Operations:

### How do I get a ride in an airplane?

The most effective way to get a ride in one of the Wing airplanes (without becoming a crew-member) is to be an active participant in wing activities and demonstrate your commitment to the CAF and MN Wing's Mission.

### How can become a pilot for the Wing?

- 1) Participate in wing activities and events.
- 2) Possess an appropriate FAA Pilot and valid Medical Certificates.
- 3) Become an Aircraft Sponsor and receive authorization from CAF Headquarters

### Are there crew positions for non-pilots?

Absolutely! The B-25 requires up to 4 crew members to operate including pilots. For more information contact the Operations Officer.

# Final Thoughts.

## Membership renewal Info:

### Jan 1

Dues for **ALL** Wing Member are collected  
Annual Dues are \$50.  
Sign annual Hold Harmless Agreement

### Anniversary Month

#### **For Colonel and Preservation Colonel Only:**

CAF National Dues are collected during each year during your anniversary month.

## Member Benefits:

As a CAF Colonel you are eligible to:

- Fly in CAF aircraft on a space-available basis as qualified crew
- Receive a CAF name tag, wings and commissioning certificate
- Gift Shop discounts
- Monthly magazine *Dispatch*®
- Free admission to the CAF Airpower Museum



**Website:**

[www.cafmn.org](http://www.cafmn.org)

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/CommemorativeAirForceMinnesotaWing/](http://www.facebook.com/CommemorativeAirForceMinnesotaWing/)

**Email:**

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**CAF National Website:**

[www.commemorativeairforce.org](http://www.commemorativeairforce.org)