

COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE MINNESOTA WING

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

Phone: 651-455-6942 www.cafmn.org



Welcome New Member!

On behalf of the Commemorative Air Force Minnesota Wing, we are thrilled to extend a warm welcome to you as a valued member of our volunteer team! The Commemorative Air Force has the largest collection of flying warbirds, but our members are one of our best assets. Members help carry out our mission to protect these rare flying monuments to freedom for future generations through preservation, education, events, and exhibition.

Your decision to volunteer with us is deeply appreciated and speaks volumes about your commitment to making a positive impact in our community. With your passion, dedication, and unique skills, we are confident that together, we can achieve great things and make a difference in the lives of those we honor and serve.

As a volunteer, you play a vital role in helping us fulfill our objectives in bringing our initiatives to life. Whether you're lending a helping hand at events, providing support behind the scenes, or sharing your expertise in specific areas, your contributions are invaluable and deeply appreciated.

We strive to create a welcoming and inclusive environment where every volunteer feels valued, respected, and supported. We are here to provide you with the resources, guidance, and assistance you need to thrive in your role and make the most of your volunteer experience. In this guide, you will find information on meeting times, projects and events to get involved in, and so much more. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to one of our volunteer staff officers!

As you embark on this journey with us, we encourage you to embrace new opportunities, forge meaningful connections, and take pride in the positive impact you are making in our community. Together, we can inspire change, foster compassion, and create a brighter future for all.

Once again, welcome to the Commemorative Air Force Minnesota Wing. We are excited to have you on board and look forward to working together to achieve our shared goals.

Sincerely,

The MN Wing Staff

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CAF Minnesota Wing Staff

Want to get in touch with one of our volunteer staff officers? Here is the contact information!

Wing Leader - Amy Lauria: amy.lauria@cafmn.org

Executive Officer - Jim Lauria: jim.lauria@cafmn.org

Finance Officer - Linda Franke: linda.franke@cafmn.org

Adjutant Officer - Jenn Watson: jennifer.watson@cafmn.org

Operations Officer - Trevor Henson: trevor.henson@cafmn.org

Operations Assistant - Andy Bredeson: andy.bredeson@cafmn.org

Safety Officer - Katie Liedert: katie.liedert@cafmn.org

Maintenance Officer - Jason McNeil: jason.mcneil@cafmn.org

Business Development Officer - Amy Lauria: amy.lauria@cafmn.org

Education Officer - Shawn Hokuf: shawn.hokuf@cafmn.org

Facilities Officer - Glenn Franke: glenn.franke@cafmn.org

Motor Pool Events Officer - Troy LaFaye: motorpool@cafmn.org

Motor Pool Maintenance Officer - Clayton Dunn: motorpool@cafmn.org

Museum Officer - Shawn Harding: shawn.harding@cafmn.org

Security Officer - Bob Koelbl: bob.koelbl@cafmn.org

Membership Officer - Denise Edelman: denise.edelman@cafmn.org

PX Officer - Joe Daley: px@cafmn.org

Avionics Officer - Joe Siedler: joe.siedler@cafmn.org

Aircraft Rides Coordinator - Andy Bredeson: andy.bredeson@cafmn.org

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Frequently Asked Questions

Before You Being Volunteering

Before you begin volunteering with us, we need you to complete your [hold harmless](#) and the [Youth Protection](#).

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, our Facebook group, or our Slack Channel. 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.

Do I need to be a member of Headquarters as well as the wing?

Before joining the Minnesota Wing, you must first join the national headquarters wing of the Commemorative Air Force. You must join as a CAF Colonel or above. For Cadets, you can join at the Cadet level. [Click here](#) to join if you haven't already.

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

As needed, our staff will distribute membership wide emails with upcoming events and links to electronic [signup](#) sheets. In addition, the Wing homepage and [Facebook® page](#), and Slack contain a listing of upcoming wing events and participating airshows.

What's the best way for a non-mechanic/pilot to 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

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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. You can assist with things like our PX (gift shop), museum, tours, Motor Pool events and maintenance, special events and more. To find out how to get involved, contact a staff member.

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 include participating in local parades with our vintage vehicles. If you're interested contact the Motor Pool Officer.

How do Cadets get involved?

As the parent of the cadet, you are our primary contact and will receive emails and other communications about opportunities for your cadet to get involved. All cadets (ages 13-18) can get involved with most wing activities based on their age and knowledge level. Our Education Officer and Staff will work with you to get them involved.

Any cadets wishing to sign up for air shows and events can do so, but participation will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Cadets are not eligible to do overnight air shows and events without a parent or legal guardian in attendance, who must be a member of the Commemorative Air Force as well.

Please see "*What is the Process For Signing Up for Air Shows and Events*" below for additional information.

What kind of help is needed?

Any and all help is appreciated. The Minnesota Wing is a museum, maintenance facility, aircraft operator and a thriving local business. As you become more involved you will begin to see that there is always work to be accomplished in some form. Check our project list for things you can get involved in. You can refer to our

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org chart to see who is in charge of each location and project to get more involved.

When should I show up?

The hangar is open for normal business on Wed and Fri 9:30am-5:30 pm. Our members are here and active on our open days. The hangar will also be opened for special events and as operational needs dictate. We will notify our volunteers as this happens.

When are regular member meetings?

Regular membership meetings are held at 5:30pm on the **third** Wednesday of each month in the Wing Education and Briefing Room. You can also attend by Zoom. Links go out in our monthly e-newsletters.

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. Reach out to our staff to see how you can get involved from afar.

Do I need to complete the Youth Protection Program?

Yes! Every member of the wing 18 years or older needs to complete the training. The training takes 10 minutes to complete and you must complete a background check after the training is completed. To complete the training, [click here](#), or go to <https://www.cafeducation.org/youth-interaction-and-protection>

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:

1. **Dress Uniform:** MN Wing or Aircraft Polo shirt paired with khaki trousers and dark shoes or Mil-spec boots.
2. **Work:** Dark blue CAF work shirt paired with khaki pants/shorts (weather

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dependent) and dark shoes or military-spec boots. Steel toes are preferred. You may also pair jeans (no holes) with these items on hangar work days. Please refer to our Member Uniform policy for more details.

3. **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. If you need a flight suit, please ask one of the staff members for assistance and links.
4. **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 to find out if there is a specific uniform for the day. For more information see our member uniform policy which is located in our Members Only portion of the website.

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 if the items are a good fit and how they might best be incorporated into the museum displays.

What Do I Need to Do to Be Safe at the Museum?

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

Safety is everyone's responsibility

- Smoking, including using e-cigarettes, is not allowed in/around 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 our Safety Officer or Staff for assistance.
- 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. You can check with our Maintenance team on the proper places or what to use.

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- Please keep designated emergency exit paths (red lines on East 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. Minors should be accompanied by an adult when on the ramp.
- 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.

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 they are under the direct supervision of an A&P and with the approval of the appropriate Crew Chief. To get involved, please see one of our staff members.

Can I work on the vehicles?

The Motor Pool is always in need of help. For specific projects and events contact the Motor Pool Officer Events Officer or our Motor Pool Maintenance Officer.

Flight Operations:

Are there crew positions for non-pilots?

Absolutely! The B-25 requires 3 crew members to operate including pilots: Pilot, Co-pilot, Flight mechanic or Flight Observer. The rest of the crew is made up of

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volunteers who provide tours on the aircraft, sell px and history flights and more. For more information contact the Operations Officer.

How do I get a ride in an airplane?

The most effective way to get a ride in one of the Wing airplanes is to be an active participant in wing activities and demonstrate your commitment to the CAF and MN Wing's Mission. The more commitment you show in non-flying activities, the more likely you are to fly on airplanes during airshow season. Our Seat Assignment Committee picks each crew based on several criteria to fit the needs of that mission. Please remember that flying with the Minnesota Wing is a privilege, not a right. Flying with our crew is meant to be an enjoyable experience for all involved, however, there is a mission and that mission comes first.

What is the Process For Signing Up for Air Shows and Events?

When you sign up for a trip or flight, it does not automatically mean you will be on the flight. You will be notified by email prior to the flight whether you have been selected to be a part of the crew. If you do not receive a notification from the Crew Picking Committee or staff, you are not on the flight. Signup generates automated emails which is not notification that you are on the flight. To view everything in signup, [click here](#).

Please be sure to put your full name in the signup so we know who you are. Please sign up under the appropriate category as well. For those that are not PIC (Pilot in Command), SIC (Second in Command), or FM (Flight mechanic), you can sign up for the crew position on trips.

If you have any questions about the crew picking process or signing up, please let us know.

How can I become a pilot for the Wing?

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- 1) Participate in Wing activities and events.
- 2) Possess an appropriate FAA Pilot license and valid Medical Certificates.
- 3) Become an Aircraft Sponsor and receive authorization from CAF Headquarters
- 4) Talk to Operations about the next steps

How do I sponsor an airplane?

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

Aircraft Sponsor– Required to become a CAF pilot:

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

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

Restoration Sponsor:

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

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

Supporting Sponsor:

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

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

For more information, please contact our Operations Officer or Support team!

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Additional Information

Membership renewal Info:

Jan 1

Dues for **ALL** Wing Member are collected

Annual Dues are \$50 for adults and \$10 for Cadets (12-18 years of age).

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*®
- Additional benefits from HQ: [Click here.](#)

Have questions? Email the staff at info@cafmn.org