



***Fisher House Wisconsin***  
Board of Directors Biographies





**Carmen Anderson** is an attorney with Husch Blackwell, LLP where she practices in civil litigation. She has been on the FHW Board of Directors since 2016 and has served as Secretary since 2017.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Iowa. Carmen attended law school at the University of Iowa, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where she earned her Juris Doctor degree.

Carmen strongly believes that when military members serve, their families do too. Veterans recognize their tours of duty and service would be even more of a sacrifice were it not for family support. FHW enables family members to be close to their veterans when they are getting treatment at the VA, which provides them with the best formula for healing.

She is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of FHW, where she has worked with other Board Members and countless volunteers to ensure that the veterans and families staying at FHW have every need covered when staying under its roof.



**Angie Christianson** is the Senior Manager of Strategic Partner Operations at Stanley Black & Decker and serves as the President of FHW. Angie started volunteering for FHW in 2013 and was nominated to be on the FHW Board of Directors in 2016. Prior to becoming its President, she served as a Vice President, a Director, and oversaw the Fund Development & Marketing Committee.

Angie earned a Bachelor of Science in Business and Management from the University of Phoenix and is a Certified Software Asset Manager, as well as a Certified Contract | Vendor Manager.

Angie's father was in the Air Force and both her grandfathers, and a great aunt served in the Army. She has many friends that are veterans and loves for all veterans, while always asking, "How can I help?"

Angie chose to volunteer for FHW when a prior President asked for her help at a golf outing. Although she does not golf, she now enjoys planning the largest FHW fundraiser of the year – its annual golf outing. She is also working with the Madison VA Medical Center to continue the forward momentum to build a second Fisher House in Wisconsin.



**Michelle Friedman** is the Director of Marketing at DeWitt LLP Law Firm and became a Director on the FHW Board of Directors in 2020. She also serves as a member and co-chair of the Board's Fund Development & Marketing Committee and helps spearhead its biannual newsletter.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication | Journalism, magna cum laude, from the American University in Cairo and an Associate of Arts in Modern Standard Arabic from the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center located in the Presidio of Monterey, California.

During her military career Michelle obtained the rank of Sergeant while enlisted for four years, where she served on active duty in the United States Army Military Intelligence Corps as an Arabic Linguist-Voice Interceptor. She held a top-secret SCI security clearance and was selected to participate in Bright Star 1995, which at that time was one of the world's largest joint military exercises hosted in Egypt.

Michelle chose to volunteer with FHW because she is passionate about military service members and veterans and believes strongly every veteran and current service member deserves recognition and support for the sacrifices they have made. She, her father, and her brother all served in the armed forces at the same time in the 1990's, representing the Army, Navy, and Marines.



**Matt Griffin** is an Information Technology (IT) Director at Johnson Controls and is responsible for Strategic Supplier Management. He joined the FHW Board of Directors in 2023. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin.

Matt earned a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and is a Certified Project Management Professional.

Matt is a veteran of the United States Navy and was assigned to Fighter Squadron Two as an Aviation Electronics Technician. He was responsible for troubleshooting and maintenance of the F-14 Tomcat's radar, communications, and weapon systems. He was deployed multiple times overseas on aircraft carriers during Operation Southern Watch in the Arabian Gulf and he also participated in Operation Restore Hope off the coast of Somalia.

He is an advocate for military service members and their families. His first connection with FHW began when he attended its annual golf outing. He was impressed with the leadership team and the impact the organization had in the community. Matt strongly believes in the FHW mission to provide families a home away from home while their veteran or service member receives care at the VA.



**Patti Kneiser** is the President of Workforce Health, LLC, and is the Vice President-Employer Services for Froedtert Health. In this role, she provides strategic direction and leadership for the Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin health network's employer services. She is also responsible for initiatives to strategically advance the health system's growth and effectiveness in related businesses and other efforts to enhance quality of life in our communities.

Patti earned a Master of Health Care Administration from the University of Minnesota and a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology from the University of North Dakota. She is board-certified in health care administration as a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

As the proud daughter of a WWII U.S. Army Veteran who received care through the VA, Patti is passionate about serving the needs of military families and happily joined the FHW Board of Directors in 2017 to further its mission. She knows firsthand that, "a family's love is good medicine." Patti chairs the FHW Strategic Planning Committee and supports its charitable events throughout the year.



**Timothy La Sage** is the Military Affairs Manager for WPS Health Solutions. WPS Health Solutions processes Tricare and Medicare health care claims serving more than 16 million beneficiaries. Tim joined the FHW Board of Directors in 2022 and is a member of its Fund Development & Marketing Committee. He also spearheads the social media activities for FHW.

While serving in the Marine Corps, he attended Golden West College where he studied criminal justice. Tim also attended the Organizational Behavior and Leadership program at Edgewood College.

During his career, Tim earned two Purple Heart medals for wounds received in combat. His long journey to recovery after multiple surgeries to save a limb, all while having amnesia, was done without support. His motivation to assist FHW with its mission comes from a desire to ensure service members and families have the space to love and support each other while enduring difficult times.

First Sergeant Timothy La Sage served 22 years on active duty in the Marine Corps where he earned two Purple Heart medals, two medals for valor in combat, and two medals for life saving actions while saving his fellow Marines.



**Bill Michaels** is the host of The Bill Michaels Sports Talk Network. He is a Director on the FHW Board of Directors, a member of its Fund Development & Marketing Committee and spearheads The Big Unit's Motorcycle Poker Run benefiting FHW.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications | Journalism from Ohio State University.

Bill once met a nameless Army Ranger at a local restaurant. The Ranger had just returned home from active duty in Afghanistan and met his 1-year-old daughter for the first time. After hearing part of the Ranger's story, Bill offered to buy him dinner to thank him for his service. The Ranger smiled and replied, "thanks but no, we know what we're signing up for. But what you can do is something for our families, for the kids of soldiers, they didn't sign up for this." Since that chance meeting with the Ranger, Bill has been a huge supporter of FHW.

Bill's father was a Gunnery Sergeant in the Army while stationed in Germany. Growing up, he always admired what his father accomplished during his storied life and is very proud of his legacy.



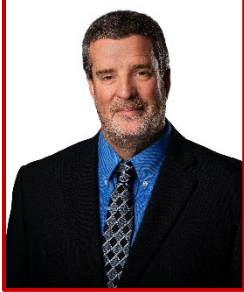


**Chad O'Brien** is a partner at Baker Tilly US, LLP and joined the FHW Board of Directors in 2017 and in 2021 became its Treasurer.

He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting, magna cum laude, from the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater.

Chad was first introduced to FHW in 2013, while the organization was planning construction for the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center Fisher House. Representatives from the Board met with him to discuss its mission, fundraising efforts, sponsorships and the FHW annual golf outing. Learning about the mission was powerful and Chad knew he needed to be a part of FHW movement. The passion and energy of the mission was overwhelming.

Coming from a long line of veterans, Chad acknowledges the personal sacrifices that each veteran and their families have made to serve and protect our country. It is in that same spirit of service that he volunteers his time with a commitment to serve our military men, women, and their families. Chad continues to be humbled by the experiences and stories shared at FHW meetings and events.



**Wade Roberts** is the Vice President of Pieper Electric and Ideal Mechanical Inc., where he serves on its Leadership team. He joined the FHW Board of Directors in 2023 and serves on the Board of Directors for Arrow-Accuserv Corporation located in Louisville, Kentucky.

Wade completed an IBEW Electrical apprenticeship with Local 702 after graduating from Marion High School and earned a Wisconsin Master Electrical License. He has a passion for his trade and through his relationships in the trades, he has been a leader with his team to serve others and give back to the community.

He believes strongly in helping others and is honored to serve the families of those who served in our military by volunteering with FHW. Like other board members, Wade's family has a history of military service which includes five uncles, two aunts and a nephew. They served in the armed forces proudly from 1950 through 2021 - (2) Army, (2) Navy, (3) Air Force, with some of them serving in the Korean War and OIF Operations.

In addition to volunteering with FHW, Wade also volunteers with the Milwaukee Fire Department's Survive Alive House helping to maintain the facility, and he recently upgraded the interior and exterior lighting of the facility. He also helps the department on an annual basis with installing operational smoke detectors in low-income houses. Additionally, he volunteered to assist with the relocation of the Lance Sijan F4 Jet memorial to the entrance of General Mitchell Airport and volunteered, designed, and donated materials for the Wisconsin 911 Memorial located in Kewaskum, Wisconsin.



**Terri Leigh Rhody** is the Vice President of Marketing at Sware, Inc. She became a Director on the FHW Board of Directors in 2020 and serves as a co-chair of the Board's Fund Development & Marketing Committee, where she helps lead its strategic marketing initiatives.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Terri Leigh chose to volunteer with FHW because she is passionate about supporting those who have served our country not only during, but also after their military engagements have concluded. She feels strongly about their access to healthcare and the ability for their caregivers and family members to be able to support them.

Military service runs through many generations of Terri's family. Her grandfather and great uncles served in the Army and Navy during World War II. Since then, a variety of relatives (uncles, cousins, second cousins, and their children) have served primarily in the Army and Navy.



**Dirk Stallmann** is the President of Verlo Mattress and joined the FHW Board of Directors in 2020. He served on the board's Fund Development & Marketing Committee for two years and is currently a member of the Board's Governance & Development committee.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Truman State University located in Kirksville Missouri.

Dirk enjoys volunteering for FHW because he believes strongly in supporting veterans. He believes the house serves as a significant symbol of Wisconsin's care and commitment to veterans and their families but is a modest token of our deep appreciation for their service and sacrifice.

Both Dirk's father and father-in-law were in the service, in addition to extended family who served in the Korean War and World War II.



**Chuck Steinmetz** is the Retired Senior Vice President and General Manager of WITI FOX6, which has one of the most experienced teams of anchors, reporters, and digital journalists committed to bringing the news that matters to those in southeast Wisconsin. He joined the FHW Board of Directors in 2019, where he serves as a Director and its Vice President.

Chuck earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire.

Chuck chose to volunteer with FHW after hearing about a family experience from a close friend. He feels strongly about its mission and advocates for the continued support of the needs of veterans and military service members receiving medical care at a VA approved medical facility. He is proud to be a part of FHW.