November 7th, 2014 was the first annual Milwaukee Area Student Veteran’s Ball, and what a great event it was. The sold out event raised $2,500 for the Fisher House Milwaukee. Over 225 local student vets and their guests came together to celebrate Veteran’s Day and build camaraderie in our local area. All of the branches of service were represented that evening, with stories and good times for all in attendance.

We’d like to show our gratitude for all the major sponsors that helped facilitate bringing this idea into reality, including Wounded Warrior Project, Harley-Davidson, Northwestern Mutual, GE Health Care, Cintas, Wells Fargo, Marquette University, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee Area Technical College, Ogden Real Estate and local VFW posts.

The evening started out with a cocktail hour and silent auction. Silent auction items were generously donated by Ambassador Hotel, Associated Veteran’s Network, Beans and Barley, Ben’s Bicycle, Downer Hardware, Get Dollyd Up Beauty Lounge, Glorioso’s, Green Bay Packers, Gretchen Schuttey, Island Breese Tanning, Kim Michalowski, Kesslers Diamonds (Germantown), Kochanski’s Concertina Beer Hall, Milwaukee Admirals, Milwaukee Marriot Downtown, Relax the Back, Shutter Events Photo Booth Rentals, Stephen’s Soccer, Tee It Up (New Berlin), Tracy Delfar, Landmark Lanes, and Wisconsin Athletic Club Corporate. During the silent auction, Hayden Skaggs played acoustic guitar in the foyer. As Host and Master of Ceremonies, John Malan, from WTMJ4, helped set the celebratory mood of the evening with his witty stories and introductions. Silver Star recipient George Banda was the keynote speaker of the evening, and shared stories of leadership and bravery in battle. Zilli Hospitality catered a wonderful dinner with cake provided by Simmas Bakery. Tim Haumersen played piano during the meal. Jane Kelley Floral decorated the War Memorial, with up-lighting provided by Personal Touch DJ Services. From the vendors, to the War Memorial Staff, to the brothers of Kappa Sigma Xi-Xi who volunteered their time, we would like to thank everyone who helped make the first ball a tremendous success. Following the dinner and speakers, Joe Bruhn with Personal Touch DJ kept people on the dance floor for the rest of the night. There was also a photo booth with services donated by Joyful Photos after the meal.

We are now looking forward to next year. With the interest from both guests and veterans at the event, next year looks to be an even bigger ball. The planning committee is looking to expand the event to include more local colleges and universities. Our current estimates will be raising our seat limit from 225 to 300-500 student veterans. We will once again be promoting and supporting a local veteran charity through donated silent auction items! Again, thank you for your support of the Milwaukee Area Student Veteran Ball and we look forward to seeing you soon!