



FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

FEBRUARY 2014

IMPORTANT DATES

Legion Contacts

Commander

Brian Medinnus

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Adjutant

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Membership

Glenn Mueller

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507/316/3977
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From the Commander's pen

Keep up the good work!! This District has done some great things in the Membership area this last month. Now is when the hard work starts. To stay on track, we need to ensure we are out knocking on doors and talking to members who have not paid their dues.

Please remember that National Commander Daniel Dillenger will be in the 1st District on the following dates and Locations-Waseca at 6pm On Feb 4th and in Rochester at 8am on Feb 5th. Please get members of your Post together and attend one or both of these great events.

As of this month the Newsletter is only being sent out in the email format. If anyone has concerns about this situation, please contact me and we will discuss it. But this change was necessary to curb the rising costs associated with publishing this Newsletter.

The next District Rally is tentatively set at Lewiston on March 6th-the Past Commanders Fish Fry. The hours of serving are 5p-7p.

Also remember the Joint Leaders Testimonial in La Crescent on March 22nd.

Remember that all Posts need to fill out their Post Consolidated Report when it arrives from Department. If you have questions on how to fill it out, please let us know.

Brian Medinnus
1st District Commander

February 2 to 7, 2014 will be the National Commander's Tour of Minnesota. See details inside for locations and times for his stops in the First District.

February 22, 2014—Ostrander Post 544 will be holding a Chili and oyster fed from 11am to 1pm. \$9 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. Some small bingo will follow until prizes are gone.

February 22, 2014—The Rushford VFW will be holding a smelt feed at the Rushford Legion Post starting at 5pm until gone. In conjunction with that the Rushford American Legion Riders will be holding their gun raffle.

Vice Commanders

Area 1 - Julie Ludwig

1324 Soppa Dr St Charles, MN 55972
507/932/4241 or 507/259/3594
jludwig55972@yahoo.com

Area 2—Myron Ehrich

220 Irvin St West Concord, MN 55985
507/527/2578 or 507/259/5261

Area 3 - Sy Fix

1930 County 3 Brownsville, MN 55919
507/482/6226 or 507/313/3376
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Area 4— Les Shaunce

528 Alice Ave Albert Lea, MN 56007
507/373/0134 or 507/402/4878
ishaunce@smig.net

District One Chaplain

Our Background

A spiritual emphasis, under one name or another, has long been a part of The American Legion activities. Various Posts and Departments through the years have felt the need to emphasize our religious heritage and have conducted various programs along this line. As the realization of the importance of this emphasis grew in Posts and Departments, the need for organization at a national level was felt. In 1950, this endeavor was crystallized into a religious program through which all Americans were urged to seek Divine Guidance in their everyday activities. This led to a National Convention mandate in Miami, Florida, in 1951, which authorized a "Back to God" program as a continuing American Legion Activity. This program, under the direction of the National Chaplain, continued until 1963, when a National Convention action in Miami Beach, Florida, changed the designation of the program to "Service to God and Country."

Carroll W Hill,
Chaplain

REQUESTS TO BE NATIONAL DELEGATES TO CHARLOTTE, NC

1. Brian Medinnus
2. Arnie Troe
3. Wayne Hammon Jr
4. Sy Fix
5. Bill Goede
6. Jim Kellogg
7. Glenn Mueller
8. Kenny Nelson

Legion Family Members

Membership turn in has slowed down. Even though this is not uncommon this time of year it doesn't mean we let it continue. We need to be getting in touch with those who have not paid their dues. Remember that membership is what aides with the continued sustainability as well as growth of your Post.

I was privileged to have the opportunity to visit Mabel Post for their membership meeting. I thank them for their hospitality. I was hoping to be able to visit more Posts but weather seemed to hamper that. I will continue to pursue more visits.

I would ask that you look at the coming events that are published in the newsletter and try to attend whenever you can. There is always something new that can be learned or something that may refresh your memory.

Have a Happy Valentine's Day and be careful driving if you plan to celebrate.

Sy Fix

Greetings First District:

The holidays are over and 2013 has come to an end. It's time now too really get serious on our membership drive. We need the members are already have and we definitely need new members so we can lobby congress to make sure we keep the benefits we have and to secure the benefits that we deserve. Remember don't leave membership up to legion officers, we all need to contribute to the cause. Paid up members have to know members who haven't paid yet lets contact these members and get them paid up.

On February 1st we will be having the Sweetheart Rally at the Waite Park Post#428. Let's pack the place and show a great 1st District presence. It's been miserable but we can show our resilience.

As of this letter the 1st District is in 2nd place in department membership. With a little help we can be back in first.

Have a great February and remember your Sweetheart on the 14th.

Area 4 Vice Commander

Les Shaunce

ENDORSEMENTS FOR DISTRICT OFFICERS

1. Sy Fix for Area Four Vice Commander
2. Ralph Schneekloth for Chaplain

FIRST DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP FOR 1/22/14

post	city	goal	turn in	previous	total	percent	left	date
9	Winona	712	0	654	654	91.85%	58	12/13/2013
90	Lewiston	92	0	62	62	67.39%	30	9/21/2013
190	St Charles	169	0	167	167	98.82%	2	12/13/2013
Winona County Totals		973	0	883	883	90.75%	90	1/22/2014
50	Wabasha	345	0	324	324	93.91%	21	12/13/2013
110	Lake City	163	0	153	153	93.87%	10	12/13/2013
179	Plainview	226	0	197	197	87.17%	29	12/13/2013
546	Kellogg	81	0	76	76	93.83%	5	12/13/2013
573	Elgin	64	0	51	51	79.69%	13	11/20/2013
579	Millville	128	0	129	129	100.78%	-1	10/23/2013
588	Mazeppa	82	0	76	76	92.68%	6	12/13/2013
Wabasha County Totals		1089	0	1006	1006	92.38%	83	1/22/2014
92	Rochester	1128	11	959	970	85.99%	158	1/22/2014
119	Byron	179	0	156	156	87.15%	23	12/13/2013
164	Stewartville	342	0	309	309	90.35%	33	12/13/2013
446	Rochester	10	0	10	10	100.00%	0	9/21/2013
551	Eyota	173	0	173	173	100.00%	0	12/13/2013
Olmstead County Totals		1832	11	1607	1618	88.32%	214	1/22/2014
Area One Totals		3894	11	3496	3507	90.06%	387	1/22/2014
295	West Concord	73	0	61	61	83.56%	12	12/13/2013
330	Hayfield	258	1	216	217	84.11%	41	1/22/2014
333	Kasson	282	0	269	269	95.39%	13	11/13/2013
384	Dodge Center	105	0	92	92	87.62%	13	11/20/2013
422	Claremont	39	0	39	39	100.00%	0	12/13/2013
Dodge County Totals		757	1	677	678	89.56%	79	1/22/2014
52	Blooming Prairie	133	0	116	116	87.22%	17	11/20/2013
77	Owatonna	635	12	572	584	91.97%	51	1/22/2014
296	Ellendale	34	0	26	26	76.47%	8	9/21/2013
Steele County Totals		802	12	714	726	90.52%	76	1/22/2014
75	New Richland	81	0	66	66	81.48%	15	11/20/2013
228	Waseca	364	0	328	328	90.11%	36	12/13/2013
281	Janesville	110	0	111	111	100.91%	-1	12/13/2013
587	Waldorf	30	0	27	27	90.00%	3	9/21/2013
Waseca County Totals		585	0	532	532	90.94%	53	12/13/2013
Area Two Totals		2144	13	1923	1936	90.30%	208	1/22/2014
40	Lanesboro	100	0	95	95	95.00%	5	12/13/2013
68	Spring Valley	93	0	87	87	93.55%	6	12/13/2013
81	Harmony	42	0	34	34	80.95%	8	11/6/2013
94	Rushford	131	3	130	133	101.53%	-2	1/22/2014
166	Preston	82	0	75	75	91.46%	7	11/20/2013
197	Chatfield	58	0	52	52	89.66%	6	9/21/2013
299	Mabel	213	0	185	185	86.85%	28	12/13/2013

369	Wykoff	24	0	21	21	87.50%	3	11/20/2013
400	Canton	17	0	17	17	100.00%	0	9/21/2013
492	Fountain	21	0	18	18	85.71%	3	11/13/2013
526	Peterson	33	2	33	35	106.06%	-2	1/22/2014
544	Ostrander	29	0	24	24	82.76%	5	11/6/2013
637	Whalen	21	0	13	13	61.90%	8	9/21/2013
Fillmore County Totals		864	5	784	789	91.32%	75	1/22/2014
191	Caledonia	195	0	180	180	92.31%	15	12/13/2013
249	Spring Grove	182	0	137	137	75.27%	45	11/6/2013
423	Houston	118	0	101	101	85.59%	17	11/20/2013
498	Hokah	25	0	22	22	88.00%	3	11/20/2013
595	LaCrescent	396	1	355	356	89.90%	40	1/22/2014
Houston County Totals		916	1	795	796	86.90%	120	1/22/2014
Area Three Totals		1780	6	1579	1585	89.04%	195	1/22/2014
56	Albert Lea	825	1	725	726	88.00%	99	1/22/2014
264	Glenville	101	0	88	88	87.13%	13	12/13/2013
266	Hartland	22	0	20	20	90.91%	2	9/21/2013
317	Emmons	88	0	78	78	88.64%	10	12/13/2013
404	Alden	109	1	87	88	80.73%	21	1/22/2014
552	Freeborn	42	0	41	41	97.62%	1	10/23/2013
Freeborn County Totals		1187	2	1039	1041	87.70%	146	1/22/2014
91	Austin	781	0	694	694	88.86%	87	12/13/2013
105	Lyle	98	0	95	95	96.94%	3	12/13/2013
140	Grand Meadow	59	0	41	41	69.49%	18	10/23/2013
146	Adams	216	3	202	205	94.91%	11	1/22/2014
161	LeRoy	74	0	65	65	87.84%	9	12/13/2013
570	Austin Spam	5	0	4	4	80.00%	1	9/21/2013
Mower County Totals		1233	3	1101	1104	89.54%	129	1/22/2014
Area Four Totals		2420	5	2140	2145	88.64%	275	1/22/2014
1111	Dakota	132	0	28	28	21.21%	104	12/13/2013
District One Totals		10370	35	9166	9201	88.73%	1169	1/22/2014
Vice commanders								
AREA ONE		3894	11	3496	3507	90.06%	387	1/22/2014
AREA TWO		2144	13	1923	1936	90.30%	208	1/22/2014
AREA THREE		1780	6	1579	1585	89.04%	195	1/22/2014
AREA FOUR		2420	5	2140	2145	88.64%	275	1/22/2014

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent those beautiful flowers, that we saw sitting there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words, as any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much for whatever part.

The Bill Lyke Family

!!!!!!! THE FIRST DISTRICT NOW HAS A FACE BOOK PAGE !!!!!!!

We are happy to announce that all ten districts in the department of Minnesota now have face book pages. Ralph Schneekloth from Mabel Post 299 has volunteered to take care of the page and we want to thank him for taking that on. Our face book page is **MN FIRST DISTRICT**, please visit this page if you have a face book account and let Ralph know what you think. As of the writing of this article the face book has over one hundred likes which is great for the short time that it has been up. If you have anything to post on the District Face Book page please send it to Ralph at : **rschneekloth@mabeltel.coop**

FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The First District newsletter can be found on these post web sites. Please go to them and have a look. It not only will give you access to the newsletter but also to the events happening at each of these posts. They are as follows:

Albert Lea Post 56 at americanlegionpost56.com

Austin Post 91 at austinp91.com

Rochester Post 92 at post92.org

Winona Post 9 at americalegionwinona.org (click on windjammer tab)

THE NEWSLETTER WILL NOT BE MAILED OUT ANYMORE. IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO WANTS IT E-MAILED TO THEM PLEASE HAVE THEM SEND THEIR NAME AND E-MAIL ADDRESS TO THE DISTRICT ADJUTANT WHO'S INFORMATION IS ON THE FRONT PAGE.



2014 First District American Legion Bowling Tournament

Austin American Legion Post 0091

To be held at *Echo Lanes*

(507) 437-8241

1600 10th Drive SE

Austin MN 55912

February 8 & 9 and February 22 & 23

Saturdays and Sunday Squad Times at 12 Noon and 3PM

Teams, Doubles & Singles, All Events (Optional)

Pertinent Information:

- Must be an American Legion member, Sons of American Legion member or American Legion Auxiliary Member
- Handicap is based on 90% of difference between average and 220
- Using current season average

Tournament Fees

Prize Fee Each Event	\$ 10.00
Bowling	\$ 9.00
Expense Fee	\$ 1.00
Total Entry Per Event Per Bowler	\$ 20.00

All Events

Prize Fund	\$2.00
Payback	1 in 10
Handicap	

Call or Email for Entry Form and Reservations:

Daryl Kilgore, (507) 434-9671 Home; (507) 213-0541; darylkilgore@charter.net

Mail entry forms and fees to Daryl Kilgore, 1908 1st Ave SE, Austin, MN 55912-4341

Entry deadline is February 3, 2014

Hope to see you all there!

FIRST DISTRICT 2014 CONVENTION PRE REGISTRATION

May 17, 2014

AUSTIN, MINNESOTA

The First District Convention will be held in in Austin, Minnesota at the American Legion Post 91. Please fill this form out and return to:

American Legion Unit 91 before May 4, 2014.
Convention Registration
809 12th Street SW
Austin, MN 55912

Please mark the items with an "X" and total up the amount.

_____ Registration Fee \$ 10.00
_____ Saturday lunch \$ 8.00
Total \$ _____

Please make checks out to **American Legion Auxiliary Unit 91** and send to the address above.

NAME _____ **PHONE** _____/_____/_____

ADDRESS _____ **CITY** _____ **ZIP** _____

Circle one - **Delegate** **Alternate** **Guest**

Place an "X" by your organization and fill out your organization number

Legion _____ **Post #** _____ **Auxiliary** _____ **Unit #** _____ **SAL** _____ **Squadron #** _____

You must register as a delegate, alternate or guest if you are going to attend the convention.

One person per registration form please. Make copies if needed. More than one registration and lunch fee may be put on one check.

Important – Being that this our first time having a one day convention it is imperative that we have pre-registration to get us a number of those attending for Post 91. Please share this with everyone that you can and PLEASE, PLEASE pre- register.



CELEBRATE 1ST DISTRICT LEADERSHIP !!!!!

MARCH 22, 2014

POST 595 LA CRESCENT, MN



Social Hour From 5 to 6 pm

Dinner starting at 6:15pm

Toasting and Roasting at 7:30pm

**Dinner will be Prime Rib or Chicken, Baked Potato, Salad and
Dinner Roll, Coffee water and Cake.**

COST = \$18:00 per plate

**Make checks payable to American Legion Post 595 and send
to Gary Weaver at: 29 North Elm St**

La Crescent, MN 55947

Reservations need to be sent in by March 12th

-----cut off and mail in-----

NAME _____

NUMBER ATTENDING _____

TYPE OF DINNERS: Prime Rib _____ Chicken _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF DINNER TICKETS _____

AMOUNT SENT _____



Any Question please call

Gary Weaver At 507-450-9580



FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY NEWS



Auxiliary Contacts

President— Jill Muller

548 East 10th St
St Charles, MN 55972
507/932/4301 or 507/269/6316
jilly1026@gmail.com

Secretary Sharon Hammon

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hammonws@yahoo.com

Membership / First Vice

Michelle Weaver
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michelleweaver595@gmail.com

Treasurer

Sandy Fredrickson
771 2nd St SW
Glenville, MN 56036
507/448/3438 or
507/383/3776
dsfredrickson@gofast.am

Greeting 1st District American Legion Family,

Happy New Year and I hope everyone is staying warm!!! This winter has been a bad one for travel and I have missed some events due to the weather, which makes me sorry because I really look forward to seeing as many members as I can. Last week on the 17th of Jan I attended the venison dinner in Hastings. What a treat!! Glenn and I attended and if you know Glenn he went off to talk to other legionnaires and I stayed at the table. Along came some veterans and sat down to eat. I just started talking and it was great hearing their stories and what they were doing. When they went to leave I thanked them for their service and they just smiled. Then the dinner was going to start, Glenn came back to the table and along came another legionnaire from the 3rd District with his wife and we talked to them through our dinner. He has been in the American Legion for 70 years strong. WOW. What a great country we live in.

We had our mid-winter in Adams and next is the Sweet Heart Rally in Wait Park. The year is going fast. We had a wonderful time in Adams. Tons of laughter and great reports were had by all. Thank you to all who attended. We have started planning for the convention and testimonial. I mentioned at Mid-winter but would like everyone to know we are having a joint testimonial in La Crescent March 22 starting with Social Hour at 5pm. Gary Weaver will be the contact person for this and I believe the information will also be in this newsletter and I hope everyone can make it.

As we move into the new year, please keep in mind all the great projects you do and keep doing them because the veterans do value all that you do. I saw this at Hasting Veterans home and I hear and read it in all the veterans I meet.

God Bless all and God Bless the USA

Gnomes Growing the American Legion Family,

Jill Mueller, 1st District President 2013-2014

THANK YOU

I WANT TO THANK EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU VETERANS, SPOUSES AND FAMILIES FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND THINKING OF ME. ALSO THANK YOU FOR THE CARDS THAT I HAVE RECEIVED.

YOUR FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN

LAVONNE SKILLESTAD

CALL TO FIRST DISTRICT JUNIOR CONFERENCE

The annual Junior Conference of the First District American Legion Auxiliary is hereby called to be held on **Saturday, March 29, 2014** at the American Legion Post 330 in Hayfield, Minnesota for the purpose of:

1. Presentation and judging of awards
2. Reports from the Unit Junior Presidents
3. Election of District Junior Officers
4. Election of Delegates to the Department junior Conference
5. Other business for the good of the Junior Auxiliary group

Registration will be at 8:30 am. Snacks and juice will be served. **The registration fee is \$5.00 per junior or senior member, up to \$10.00 per family.** Displays may be set up at this time. There will be an Executive Board meeting for Junior officers with Senior officers at 9.00 am. Honorary junior President Lilly Bacon will call the conference to order at 9:30 am. **Lunch will be served at a cost of \$5.00 per lunch.**

In order to complete for District Junior trophies or awards, a copy of the Unit Junior Activities Annual Report and a written narrative of their activities must be in the hands of the District Junior Activities Chairman Luann Kellogg by the time of the District Junior Conference. You may bring them with you that day.

“Memory Book, prayer books, placemats, tray favors, and any other categories” recommended by the Department may be brought in the day of the conference. A prize of ten(10) dollars for the first place and prize of five(5) dollars for second place shall be presented to the winners of the memory book and prayer book category. A prize of five(5) dollars for first place and three(3) for second place will be awarded in the other categories, including talent. Refer to the First District junior Standing Rules and the Department Junior Trophy and Awards.

If your unit received trophies last year, please bring them to the Conference so they can be awarded to the winners.

District colors will be posted. If your Unit would like to bring their individual colors, we will have a processional of colors. The Junior Unit will have a color bearer and sergeant-at-arms. Each color bearer and sergeant-at-arms must wear a navy skirt or slacks and a white blouse.

We would like to extend a special invitation to all junior members even if they do not belong to an organized Unit. Any senior member may bring one or more junior members to the conference and is welcome to stay for the meeting. Come for a day of learning and fun! You are the future of the American Legion Auxiliary.

We hope you can join us to meet new friends and enjoy being with those you have already met. We hope this will be a great day for you.

Luann Kellogg
First District Junior Activities Chairman

First District Auxiliary is still looking for the Units that have not paid their per capita and junior dues.

Those not paid are:

Chatfield

Harmony

Janesville

Lanesboro

Lyle paid per capita but not junior dues (\$5.00)

Mabel

Millville

Rushford

Spring Grove

West Concord

It is the obligation of every Unit to pay these dues to the First District. If possible please mail these at your earliest convenience. My mailing address is 771 2nd St. SW.

At this time of the year a reminder also if you have not paid the Bonding Fee to Department--- This is \$20.00 and needs to be mailed to the Department of MN.

I would like to remind you of your continued support to the District Presidents project. As of this time she has received \$842.25. Please check to see if your Unit has any dollars available to support her project. These also can be mailed to me. Every dollar is greatly appreciated.

(Honorary Junior President has not received any donations as of this time.)

Just to make you aware of one of my worst nightmares—checks being lost in the mail.

This was an October 14, 2013 deposit for \$1036.00. Most all transactions are done via mail as our bank is in Sargeant, MN (First Farmers & Merchants).

It happened! The Units involved have been informed. I have talked with our bank 2-3 times and the Post Office. No luck as of this time. I have asked the Units involved to speak with their bank to stop payment and reissue a check to the District. Units involved have been very understanding and have agreed to reissue their checks (Owatonna, Peterson, Spring Valley, Claremont, Fountain, Albert Lea, Alden, and Waldorf). I have rec'd reissue checks from Claremont, Waldorf, Albert Lea, Owatonna, and Spring Valley. I am working with Alden, Fountain (in need of Pres. or Treas ph. #), and Peterson.

My apologies for this to happen but I have no control over the mail. I feel confident this will be corrected and hope it never happens again! Any questions, please call me.

Please help me finish getting this part of bookkeeping done so I can start working on the report for district convention!

Happy Valentine's Day,

Treasurer, Sandy Fredrickson

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



COMMANDER

Tim Weaver
183 N Third St LaCrescent, MN 55947
507/895/2014 or 608/498/5803
timweaver595@gmail.com

Omelet Breakfast—LaCrescent Squadron 595, 8am to 12pm on the fourth Sunday of every other month starting with August.

ADJUTANT

Paul Spyhalski
11 Sixth St NW Austin, MN 55912
507/437/6748 or 507/279/0340
prspyhal@yahoo.com

Greetings and SALutations!

I hope that everyone had a safe and happy new year. I think I speak for everyone when I say that I cannot wait for this winter to be over and for the temperatures to rise. As of the writing of this newsletter we are at 69.97% to goal with 1,361 paid members. This places us 3rd within the Detachment which is great news! Unfortunately, we are still 194 members behind where we were at this point last year. I know that getting memberships can be difficult, but this is the time where each squadron has to look at those members that have not yet paid their dues and get those members paid so we can continue to strive as the biggest district within the Detachment. Having those 194 members would increase our membership percentage to 79.94% and place us in 2nd place within the Detachment and less than 1% from 1st place. I know we can do this! Remember that we as a District cannot be successful unless each squadron is successful.

EAST SIDE VIC COMMANDER

Peter Mueller
548 10th St East St Charles, MN 55972
507/932/4301 or 507/269/6087

On January 4th, we held our Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Adams. At Mid-Winter, we usually look at officers for the upcoming year. At this time, a decision was made to postpone officer nominations until April 12th at the Membership Rally in Lake City. If you, or someone you know is interested in becoming a District Officer, please contact either myself, Membership Director Wayne, or Adjutant Paul and we would be glad to inform you on the duties of any of the positions available. The following positions are available: Commander, Vice Commander East, Vice Commander West, Adjutant, Membership Director, and Sergeant-At-Arms.

WEST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

Paul Spyhalski
111 Sixth St NW Austin, MN 55912
507/437/6748 or 507/279/0340
prspyhal@yahoo.com

The next District function for the SAL will take place on March 8th with the Annual Pool Tournament in Blooming Prairie. This is a four person tournament and if you are interested in signing up a team, please contact Membership Director Wayne.

MEMBERSHIP

Wayne Hammon Jr
115 East Cabot St LeRoy, MN 55951
507/324/9301 or 507/696/2707
hammonws@yahoo.com

As always, please keep our servicemen and women in your prayers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy Weaver
District 1 SAL Commander

Vice Commander (West) Report

We finally received some updated membership numbers from Detachment. Things are looking better with the First District in Third Place at 69.97% of goal. The First District, however, is only as strong as its many squadrons and we've got quite a few squadrons at goose egg or well below goal.

The February 12th target for each squadron is to be at 75% of their membership goal of last year's membership plus at least one new member. Where is your squadron and where do you want it to be? The District Officers are willing to help you reach your squadron goals. All you need to do is ask.

The pool tournament will be hosted by Blooming Prairie on March 8th. We've made a temporary rule to change to allow teams including two SAL members, one other Legion Family member and one non-Legion Family member. We are hoping this gets a few more teams to attend for a fun day.

The District Convention really isn't that far off. I know Austin is busy getting ready for the first one-day convention on May 17th. The SAL is tentatively scheduled to meet in the morning. More details will be coming in future newsletters.

The Executive Board will meet on April 12th as part of the District Spring Rally. We will be reviewing the Jim Marra Award for the most outstanding squadron in the District as well as accepting endorsements for District Offices. If you are interested in information on either topic, please feel free to contact me.

Paul Spyhalski
District Adjutant / Vice Commander
111 Sixth St NW
Austin, MN 55912
(507) 279-0340

FROM YOUR FIRST DISTRICT SAL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

As you have been told several times, As of December 31 all of your members who were not paid up by then have lost their eligibility to the Minnesota Hospital Association for a year. We should all be ashamed of allowing this to happen. All we would have had to do is contact the members and remind them to pay their dues.

Even worse is if the Squadron was holding on to the membership until everyone paid and because of that they are now delinquent. We have heard from some members whose checks for membership have not been cashed yet and they do not have their 2014 membership card. This is a problem that we all need to take a look at and figure out a way to get rid of it.

I realize that we don't get updates only once a month from Detachment but you have a roster with everyone's name on it. Lets be looking these over and get with the program and contact the members who have not paid.

It is also the responsibility of the sponsoring legion post to check on their squadrons to make sure that everything is being handled in the right manner. Remember the Sons of The American Legion is a **PROGRAM** of the American Legion and needs to be treated as such.

Another problem is that Detachment and District do not get officer lists from the squadrons every year. Putting "same as last year" doesn't cut it. We cannot contact a squadron if we don't have any information about who to contact. As a District we need to address these problems as soon as possible.

Please transmit any membership that you have into Detachment as soon as possible and contact those members that have not paid.

First District SAL Membership Director Wayne Hammon Jr

FIRST DISTRICT SAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 1/8/14

SQUAD	LOCATION	GOAL	PREVIOUS	TURN IN	TOTAL	PERCENT	LEFT	DATE
9	WINONA	54	55	9	64	118.52%	-10	10/30/2013
40	LANESBORO	53	46	6	52	98.11%	1	12/11/2013
50	WABASHA	30	18	1	19	63.33%	11	1/8/2014
90	LEWISTON	32	0	44	44	137.50%	-12	12/11/2013
92	ROCHESTER	101	79	12	91	90.10%	10	1/8/2014
94	RUSHFORD	29	0	12	12	41.38%	17	1/8/2014
119	BYRON	31	39	2	41	132.26%	-10	11/27/2013
164	STEWARTVILLE	114	10	118	128	112.28%	-14	1/8/2014
166	PRESTON	47	31	8	39	82.98%	8	11/13/2013
179	PLAINVIEW	22	11	1	12	54.55%	10	1/8/2014
190	ST CHARLES	20	8	4	12	60.00%	8	11/13/2013
191	CALEDONIA	43	18	25	43	100.00%	0	11/27/2013
249	SPRING GROVE	16	0	1	1	6.25%	15	1/8/2014
299	MABEL	44	0	0	0	0.00%	44	8/22/2013
423	HOUSTON	53	0	0	0	0.00%	53	8/22/2013
546	KELLOGG	20	0	23	23	115.00%	-3	9/20/2013
551	EYOTA	33	2	19	21	63.64%	12	11/13/2013
573	ELGIN	25	0	2	2	8.00%	23	11/13/2013
579	MILLVILLE	25	0	14	14	56.00%	11	11/13/2013
595	LA CRESCENT	79	46	5	51	64.56%	28	1/8/2014
TOTAL FOR EAST SIDE		871	363	306	669	76.81%	202	1/8/2014
52	BLOOMING PRAIRIE	14	24	4	28	200.00%	-14	11/13/2013
56	ALBERT LEA	129	85	12	97	75.19%	32	12/11/2013
75	NEW RICHLAND	4	0	0	0	0.00%	4	8/22/2013
77	OWATONNA	121	43	51	94	77.69%	27	1/8/2014
91	AUSTIN	63	40	7	47	74.60%	16	1/8/2014
105	LYLE	30	0	1	1	3.33%	29	9/20/2013
140	GRAND MEADOW	11	0	0	0	0.00%	11	8/22/2013
146	ADAMS	126	45	10	55	43.65%	71	11/27/2013
161	LEROY	49	45	5	50	102.04%	-1	12/11/2013
228	WASECA	95	52	24	76	80.00%	19	1/8/2014
264	GLENVILLE	27	16	2	18	66.67%	9	1/8/2014
266	HARTLAND	12	0	11	11	91.67%	1	10/30/2013
281	JANESVILLE	15	0	0	0	0.00%	15	8/22/2013
317	EMMONS	29	20	6	26	89.66%	3	1/8/2014
330	HAYFIELD	53	20	4	24	45.28%	29	11/13/2013
333	KASSON	51	30	10	40	78.43%	11	1/8/2014
384	DODGE CENTER	25	5	2	7	28.00%	18	1/8/2014
404	ALDEN	54	0	9	9	16.67%	45	10/9/2013
552	FREEBORN	34	32	5	37	108.82%	-3	10/30/2013
TOTAL FOR WEST SIDE		928	457	163	620	66.81%	308	1/8/2014
1111	DAKOTA	191	67	5	72	37.70%	119	1/8/2014
TOTAL FOR DISTRICT		1945	1104	257	1361	69.97%	584	1/8/2014

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



RIDERS CONTACT INFORMATION

PRESIDENT

Scuffy Paulson
Rushford, MN
507/450/8493

VICE—PRESIDENT

Mark Smith
Rushford, MN
507/459/4015

SECRETARY

Karla Miller
Winona, MN
507/459/5962

SGT AT ARMS

Kendall Bakkum
Rushford, MN
507/459/1473

TREASURER

Dennis Lewison
Adams, MN
507/440/6067

HISTORIAN

Paul Martin
Rochester, MN
507/271/1039

CHAPLAIN

Mark Smith
Rushford, MN
507/459/4015

ROAD CAPTAIN

Tom Schmidt
Winona, MN
507/313/4302

First District Legion Riders

The First District ALR group met on Saturday, January 4th, 2014 while attending the First District American Legion Family Mid Winter Conference in Adams.

There was a great turn out for this meeting. The group discussed the Christmas party hosted by the Rushford ALR. District ALR President Scuffy had some special presentations that evening which included an "ALR District Rider of the Year" This award was presented to Mark "Padre" Smith. Mark is a member of the Lewiston American Legion & Rushford ALR Chapter. Mark has been a very active member in the district taking on additional responsibilities which will include being the First District Representative for the Minnesota Legacy Run. He was pleasantly surprised with the award and the "Mug" that was present to him. Congratulations Padre!

Plans for next year's Christmas Party will begin with the Rochester Rider's as hosts. Several members attended the Department ALR Romp at Legionville last fall. They found it to be a great experience and a wonderful facility to have the event.

Road Guard legislation was discussed. First District meeting attire was talked as well as a First District Rider flag for district meetings. There will be a committee formed to discuss bylaws pertaining to the Department ALR election of officers. A District fundraiser was discussed. Plans for the Minnesota Legacy ride will be moving forward.

Upcoming ALR events :

February 4th & 5th, The National American Legion Commander will be visiting our area.

Saturday, February 22nd, Rushford ALR will be hosting a Smelt Fry & Gun Raffle at the Rushford Post.

Saturday, March 15th 2pm Meeting, Stewartville Post #164. We will have nominations for 1st District Officers.

Followed by a Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner, Saturday, March 15th beginning at 4pm sponsored by the Stewartville ALR. This supper is open to the public. Fun & Games for all!

Ride In and Show

MOTORCYCLE SHOW

Saturday - May 3, 2014



All makes and models welcome!!
Motorcycle Registration 9-10am
Trophies will be awarded at 2pm
\$5 entry fee and \$1 per vote

Vendors 9am – 3pm

Food & Beverages will be available inside the Legion

Proceeds benefiting the Freedom Honor Flight and other local charities

Bring your family and friends to see and vote for your favorite bikes
while supporting our Veterans.

American Legion Riders
Winona Post 9 - 302 East Samia St.



Vendors / Questions? Contact jazmyn769@yahoo.com OR 507-313-1183

American Legion Rider Chapter Spotlight

The Stewartville ALR Chapter was chartered in 2011. There are currently 24 members.

The ALR Chapter recognized Past Post Commander, Rich Paulson & District ALR President Scuffy Paulson for assisting in the organization of the chapter.

The first ALR Chapter President was Tom Blade, followed by Paul Bonnerup, Mike Stone with Greg Olson being the current President.

The group assists with Post Burger Night and Bingo. They also donated a TV/computer system that is used in the Post to advertise specials, give special recognition supporters and promote upcoming events. They are very proud to help with other activities such as metal drives, fund raising, cleaning and repairs round the Post.

The ALR has a tradition of preparing a St Patrick's Day Corn Beef Dinner. This will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2014. Serving will begin at 4pm. There will also be other activities that day.

The ALR Chapter was very proud to have Greg Olson honored as the VFW District & State Teacher of the Year. Greg is a teacher at the Dover-Eyota School System. His nomination will be submitted for National completion and we all wish him the very best.