



FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

JAN 2016

IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 9, 2016—First District Mid-Winter at Adams Post 146. Exec board at 9am and the session starting at 10am.

Jan 17, 2016 - First District Oratorical Contest. La Crescent Post 595 at 1pm. The bad weather day will be Jan 24, 2016 at the same place and time.

Feb 1—4—National Commander’s Tour Of MN. More info in flyer section of this newsletter.

Feb 6, 2016 - Department Sweetheart Rally—Legionville

Feb 7, 2016 - The Four Chaplains service - Stewartville Post 164 at 10 am.

VICE—COMMANDER INFORMATION

- Area One - Joe Brown**
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Oronoco, MN 55960
507/990/1347
Brown49tex@charter.net
- Area Two - Gene “Sarge” Luedtke**
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- Area Three - Carroll W. Hill**
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hilltoprepair@yahoo.com
- Area Four - Arnie Troe**
PO Box 173
Emmons, MN 56029
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actroe@wctatel.net

Legion Contacts

Commander

Roland Hanson
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Austin, MN 55912
507/438/6573
rehan-son46@outlook.com

Hello Comrades,

I trust Christmas was a joyful holiday for you and I hope the New Year looks bright. The First District Christmas party was fun and the caroling at the Rest homes in Austin was enjoyable. Post 91 in Austin was the host for the party.

Past First District Commander Kenny Nelson passed away on November 26, 2015. He was a good friend and comrade. My condolences go out to his family.

Adjutant

Wayne Hammon Jr

115 East Cabot St
LeRoy, MN 55951
507/324/9301 or
507/696/2707
1stadjutant@gmail.com

The Pheasants for Veterans program is doing well. I attended the appreciation dinner at the Minneapolis Veterans Hospital. The pheasant was excellent and the Director said the Veterans enjoyed it also.

I also visited the Brain Science Center and picked up some literature. Raising funds to continue this important work is my project for the year and also the Department Commanders project. Remember the Sweetheart Rally and Chili Cook-off is coming up on February 6 2016 at Legionville. The Legionville Ice Fishing Derby is the same day, if there is any ice. Remember to thank a veteran.

Membership

Les Shaunce
528 Alice Ave
Albert Lea, MN 56007
507/373/0134 or
507/402/4878

Commander Rollie Hanson

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ATTENTION LEGION COMMITTEE CHAIRMANS

Please bring a written report to mid—winter on January 9th to be handed to the District Adjutant after you give the report to the members who are present.

If you cannot be at the mid—winter send your report to the District Adjutant and the report will be read to the body.

These reports go into the district archives as part of our history so lets get as many committee reports as we can.

First District Adjutant - Wayne Hammon Jr

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:

First District Website at mnmightyfirst.org

Albert Lea Post 56 at americanlegionpost56.com

Austin Post 91 at austinpost91.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. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE MEMBER PER POST THAT HAS AN E-MAIL ACCOUNT TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER AND PRINT ONE COPY OFF FOR THE POST, IF POSSIBLE. WE WANT TO GET DISTRICT INFORMATION OUT TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE.

Greetings from Area One:

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. On a sad note, Lavonne Skillestad passed away on December 24. Please keep Lavonne and Richard and their loved ones in your thoughts and prayers.

Veterans Day on the Hill will be Wednesday, March 16th, 2016 at 10AM at the Cedar Street Armory 600 Cedar Street in Saint Paul. Mark your calendars for this event.

Remember, it is the responsibility of all Legion Members to recruit new members. Just imagine if each member signed up just one new member. Have you signed up a new member yet?

Hope to see you on January 9 at the First District MidWinter in Adams.

I look forward to visiting your Post, and feel free to contact me. Remember our troops and their loved ones in your prayers. This time of year is very difficult on the family members who are separated from their loved ones. May God Bless You and May God Bless America.

Area One Vice Commander
Joe P Brown, Sr

Area Two Vice Commander

I would like to wish one and all a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

My recovery from hip surgery is going very good. Saw my surgeon last week and he was happy that things turned out okay. He also said see you in one year. I would like to attend your post meetings, let me know of your time and place.

SARGE

Greetings

Now that the holidays are over and we are starting a New Year and winter has finally arrived, it is time for the Posts to focus on membership.

In February, the National Commander will be visiting Posts in District One. At this time, I do not know which Posts it will be. When he arrives, I would like as many people as possible to visit with him at the Posts that he will be attending.

As we approach the end of the membership year, it is important that Post Commanders, Adjutant, and Membership directors take the extra time to get your remaining members signed up.

I hope you all fulfill your New Year's resolutions.

Once again, take time to remember our veterans in uniform and pray that they return home safely from their tours.

Carroll Hill
Vice Commander, Area Three

Area Four Vice Commander

Christmas is past and we are starting a new year. Anything from 2015 is gone. Our Pearl Harbor Rally at Faribault in December was a great event. 1st District had a huge turn-out of members and we reached 1st place two weeks in a row. It was the best program, and the speaker's firsthand story was one that most people never knew about. This man had gone on 25 or more missions! I have three posts to call on yet so I have to get busy. I had a good time caroling with Austin Post 91. I don't make New Year's resolutions but I'd like to go to some warmer places when time allows. I will be here for Mid-Winter rally on January 9 in Adams, hosted by Post 146.

I hope for good things for the 1st District this upcoming year. I wish everyone Happy New Year. God bless our Troops and God Bless the USA.

Arnold C. Troe
Area 4 Vice Commander

First District Membership Report For 12/16/2015

POST	CITY	Goal	Previous	Turn In	Total	PERCENT	LEFT	Turn In Date
9	Winona	668	566	7	573	85.78%	95	12/16/2015
90	Lewiston	79	57	1	58	73.42%	21	12/10/2015
190	St Charles	150	128	1	129	86.00%	21	12/16/2005
Winona County Totals		897	751	9	760	84.73%	137	12/10/2015
50	Wabasha	322	242	5	247	76.71%	75	12/16/2015
110	Lake City	160	146	1	147	91.88%	13	12/16/2015
179	Plainview	202	181	2	183	90.59%	19	12/16/2015
546	Kellogg	71	68	2	70	98.59%	1	12/10/2015
573	Elgin	45	36	2	38	84.44%	7	12/16/2015
579	Millville	135	148	4	152	112.59%	-17	12/16/2015
588	Mazeppa	85	68	6	74	87.06%	11	12/16/2015
Wabasha County Totals		1020	889	22	911	89.31%	109	12/16/2015
92	Rochester	1043	824	38	862	82.65%	181	12/16/2015
119	Byron	154	123	6	129	83.77%	25	12/10/2015
164	Stewartville	330	266	15	281	85.15%	49	12/16/2015
446	Rochester	11	13	1	14	127.27%	-3	12/16/2015
551	Eyota	179	153	20	173	96.65%	6	12/10/2015
Olmstead County Totals		1717	1379	80	1459	84.97%	258	12/16/2015
Area One Totals		3634	3019	111	3130	86.13%	504	12/16/2015
295	West Concord	69	56	11	67	97.10%	2	12/10/2015
330	Hayfield	240	209	11	220	91.67%	20	12/16/2015
333	Kasson	275	263	1	264	96.00%	11	12/16/2015
384	Dodge Center	94	80	1	81	86.17%	13	12/16/2015
422	Claremont	37	33	5	38	102.70%	-1	11/25/2015
Dodge County Totals		715	641	29	670	93.71%	45	12/16/2015
52	Blooming Prairie	120	87	4	91	75.83%	29	12/16/2015
77	Owatonna	605	477	5	482	79.67%	123	12/16/2015
296	Ellendale	28	24	7	31	110.71%	-3	12/16/2015
Steele County Totals		753	588	16	604	80.21%	149	12/16/2015
75	New Richland	70	53	6	59	84.29%	11	12/16/2015
228	Waseca	347	317	3	320	92.22%	27	12/16/2015
281	Janesville	110	102	2	104	94.55%	6	12/10/2015
587	Waldorf	28	17	1	18	64.29%	10	11/19/2015
Waseca County Totals		555	489	12	501	90.27%	54	12/16/2015
Area Two Totals		2023	1718	57	1775	87.74%	248	12/16/2015

40	Lanesboro	103	101	4	105	101.94%	-2	12/16/2015
68	Spring Valley	84	68	8	76	90.48%	8	11/25/2015
81	Harmony	36	27	2	29	80.56%	7	11/13/2015
94	Rushford	142	120	2	122	85.92%	20	12/16/2015
166	Preston	81	62	1	63	77.78%	18	12/16/2015
197	Chatfield	54	44	5	49	90.74%	5	11/25/2015
299	Mabel	192	175	1	176	91.67%	16	12/16/2015
369	Wykoff	21	18	2	20	95.24%	1	9/17/2015
400	Canton	18	12	1	13	72.22%	5	12/16/2015
492	Fountain	19	13	4	17	89.47%	2	12/10/2015
526	Peterson	35	24	12	36	102.86%	-1	11/13/2015
544	Ostrander	25	26	1	27	108.00%	-2	12/16/2015
637	Whalen	15	14	1	15	100.00%	0	10/2/2015
Fillmore County Totals		825	704	44	748	90.67%	77	12/16/2015
191	Caledonia	179	159	8	167	93.30%	12	12/16/2015
249	Spring Grove	171	140	2	142	83.04%	29	12/16/2015
423	Houston	114	94	8	102	89.47%	12	12/16/2015
498	Hokah	21	17	3	20	95.24%	1	10/30/2015
595	LaCrescent	365	305	1	306	83.84%	59	12/16/2015
Houston County Totals		850	715	22	737	86.71%	113	12/16/2015
Area Three Totals		1675	1419	66	1485	88.66%	190	12/16/2015
56	Albert Lea	739	635	5	640	86.60%	99	12/16/2015
264	Glenville	90	75	2	77	85.56%	13	12/16/2015
266	Hartland	20	17	1	18	90.00%	2	9/17/2015
317	Emmons	76	68	2	70	92.11%	6	12/10/2015
404	Alden	106	82	10	92	86.79%	14	11/25/2015
552	Freeborn	40	37	2	39	97.50%	1	12/10/2015
Freeborn County Totals		1071	914	22	936	87.39%	135	12/16/2015
91	Austin	700	579	24	603	86.14%	97	12/16/2015
105	Lyle	97	81	9	90	92.78%	7	12/16/2015
140	Grand Meadow	50	44	1	45	90.00%	5	12/16/2015
146	Adams	216	181	12	193	89.35%	23	12/16/2015
161	LeRoy	73	51	5	56	76.71%	17	12/10/2015
570	Austin Spam	6	1	4	5	83.33%	1	7/29/2015
Mower County Totals		1142	937	55	992	86.87%	150	12/16/2015
Area Four Totals		2213	1851	77	1928	87.12%	285	12/16/2015
1111	Dakota	82			0	0.00%	82	12/16/2015
District One Totals		9627	8007	311	8318	86.40%	1309	12/16/2015

AREA VICE COMMANDER STANDINGS

AREA ONE	3634	3019	111	3130	86.13%	504	12/16/2015	
AREA TWO	2023	1718	57	1775	87.74%	248	12/16/2015	
AREA THREE	1675	1419	66	1485	88.66%	190	12/16/2015	
AREA FOUR	2213	1851	77	1928	87.12%	285	12/16/2015	

Greetings First District:

I hope everyone had a very merry Christmas. It's hard to believe that we just had our first major snowfall. Those temperatures have been unreal.

We had an excellent turnout at Faribault for the Pearl Harbor Rally. It would be nice to see all rally's with this kind of turnout. Thanks to Post#264 for doing such a great job.

A big thank you to Austin Post# 91 for hosting the district Christmas Party. We had a very good time caroling and visiting three nursing homes. I hope we brought some cheer and enjoyment to the residents. We had an enjoyable time and lunch at the post afterwards.

On January 9th, we will be having our Midwinter Rally at Adams Post#146. This is one of the most important rallies of the year so please plan to attend. Every committee chairman should have a report to give. January is American Legislative month so in conjunction with this rally we will be having Shawn Schloesser, aid to Representative Tim Walz, give us an update on what is going on in the current Legislature. Let's make sure we have plenty of people on hand to welcome Shawn.

The District Oratorical Contest is scheduled for January 17th at LaCrescent Post# 595. Let's all plan to attend to show our support for this great program.

All post's make sure you get all those members who have not yet paid their dues to do so. Membership dues at the old rate of \$26.75 have to be into Department by **January 18th**. Membership received after that date need to be at \$31.75. Unless you have increased your dues the post will have to cover the difference. Let's make those phone calls and knock on those doors.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!!

Les Shaunce - First District Membership Director

ADAMS SAL SQUADRON 146 STEAK FRY

On January 9, 2016 following the District Mid—Winter at 5pm the Adams SAL Squadron will be holding it's first ever winter time steak fry. Everyone is welcome. Proceeds from this steak fry will be going to the cancer telethon.

ORATORICAL CONTEST INFORMATION

I am emailing to let you know that the materials your Posts and Auxiliary would have typically received by now, are a bit delayed. They were only received by the Department last week, and as a new Chairman and Vice – we are still in our planning phase regarding locations, etc.

I am attaching the Oratorical rules, brochure and the 2015-16 Assigned Topics that may be downloaded/reproduced by you as needed. The Post/Auxiliary information will be mailed to them as soon as the Department contest locations are designated, of which you will be notified as well. We would like you to have completed your District Oratorical Contest by **January 31, 2016**.

Our National motto for the Oratorical Contest is “Recruit, Recruit, Recruit!” The funds are allocated for scholarships; it would be a shame to not send a candidate forward who will benefit tremendously by, first – participation in this program and the knowledge they will gain regarding the laws of our land, and second – the scholarship monies they may receive for participation at the District, Department and National Contests.

Please encourage participation by all of your posts. The competition at the post level can be less formal, and the contestant is permitted to use their notes during their oration. The District level competitions will be run in accordance with the Department rules – no notes and the contestant will be prepared to do an oration on one of the 4 assigned topics; in the same basic format as the Department and National Contests. We are asking you to ensure your respective posts reach out to the schools and school districts to get the word out about this great opportunity for scholarship funds! Don't forget your home-schooled participants – we've had a number of those kids participate over the years. Any student, grades 9-12, are eligible! The teachers are our biggest assets with regard to judging your local and district contests, and to getting the word to students!

We look forward to working with you this year! Please don't hesitate to contact us with questions!

The First District contest will be held on January 17, 2016 at La Crescent American Legion Post 595 at 1pm. In case of bad weather the contest will be held on January 24 at the same time and location.

Sincerely,

Sy Fix

First District Oratorical Chairman

Deb Norman

MN Department Oratorical Chairman

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Greetings, First District and happy new year to all! May 2016 be awesome! It is my fervent hope that all had a great holiday season.

Starting the new year off right with a prayer so here goes: Dear Lord, we thank You for these days wherein we are given the freedom to make decisions for the betterment of our Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Legion Rider programs- to obtain knowledge and the wherewithal to better care for our veterans. How to combine these efforts for a better America, always being mindful that we are "one nation under God." We pray that this will be our goal, knowing that when we place our trust in You we are assured of Your blessing. We know, Lord, all things are possible with You. Help us to be worthy as we claim this blessing, in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Getting back to service to Country: Not only must we prevent national spiritual decay, we must instill in our citizens a spirit of positive Americanism, with respect for the law, reverence for authority, and awareness of our God given rights and freedoms. This, in turn, reaps a spirit of service to community and nation.

Citizenship imposes responsibility,. As American citizens, every Legionnaire (or Legion Family member) should provide an example of integrity, self-sacrifice, hard work and a life of faith. Devotion to mutual helpfulness means service to community. No one is an island, each Post and Legion family member should be eager to help their community be a good place to live, and to serve the community.

ISAIAH 59: 20-21 ²⁰"The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins," declares the Lord. ²¹ "As for me, this is my covenant with them," says the Lord. "My Spirit, who is on you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will not depart from your mouth, or from the mouths of your children, or from the mouths of their descendants from this time on and forever," says the Lord.

JOHN 3: 17-19. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

Now, why Isaiah? Some of the greatest prophecies in the Old Testament pointing to Jesus' birth are found here, written 700 some years before his birth. Also, here God's covenant, His announcement says His redeemed people will always have and proclaim divine truth. Now from the book of John, quite simply- God sent His Son to save, not condemn the world. Believe, unbelief damns. But many refuse to hear this message, even today and are content with their unbelief, as too often in the modern world, we are held to be "intolerant and judgmental," if we don't follow the world and its ideas of modern thinking and living.

Again, God bless all and may we have a Happy New Years going forward, also keep those who lost loved ones, and those suffering physical and mental duress in our prayers during these difficult times. Keep Richard Skillestad in mind too, as he is dealing with the loss of his wife. Upcoming event: Feb 07, 2016 there will be a Four Chaplains Service at Stewartville Post 164. 10 AM until complete. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Chaplain.

Ralph Schneekloth,
MN First District Chaplain

FROM YOUR PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN

Greetings First District, the District PR committee has made a lot of headway this year. From making business cards with the Four Pillars of the American Legion written on them to help those who don't know, to creating door-hangers for revitalizations, we've been there. We are also getting a screen setup to work at rallies and events that we can project images and reports to generate greater interest. Facebook is ongoing, as is the website. Are we where we need to be, not yet. However, in the past few years we have increased our activities many times over. I would like to thank the committee members Wayne Hammon Jr, and Tony Loecher for the job they do and to everyone else I say, be informed, be active, we cannot do it all by ourselves. Also each Department Vice Commander has a PR trunk to sign out to Districts for events as required. They work well for armory visits.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

Ralph Schneekloth,

First District PR chair

JANUARY ADULT SPORTS

Department bowling tournament is in Albert Lea and District bowling tournament is in Rushford and information can be found below. Thank you.

Ralph Schneekloth,

Adult Sports Chair

FIRST DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION BOWLING TOURNAMENT

(OPEN TO ALL AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS)

HELD AT THE RUSHFORD BOWLING ALLEY, RUSHFORD, MN

January 30 and 31, 2016 plus February 13 and 14, 2016

Singles and Doubles will be held on both Saturdays 1/30/16 and 2/13/16 at 3 pm


Team events will be held on both Sundays 1/31/16 and 2/14/16 at 12:00 noon

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT— Jim Kitchen at Nordic Lanes in Rushford at 501—864—7799

SOME USEFUL INFORMATION FOR YOU TO LOOK AT


Below is an application for the National American Legion Press Association membership application. We are going to get a Department level one going so please look the it over and think about joining. If you have any questions please Call me at 507—438—6319.

Ralph Schneckloth - First District Public Relations Chairman and a member of the Department Public Relations Committee.



The National American Legion Press Association

NALPA



For the Mutual improvement of the Legion Press — By Mutual Endeavor

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The National American Legion Press Association (NALPA) is an organization of newsletter editors, writers, historians, public relations officers and communications volunteers of The American Legion Family and subsidiary organizations.

NALPA encourages the exchange of ideas; promotes the development of local newsletters and public relations activities; strives to communicate the corporate goals of The American Legion Family organizations and recognizes achievement through an annual newsletter and newspaper awards program. NALPA has been working to facilitate this communication at all levels of The American Legion Family for more than 75 years.

Today, the fastest growing posts, units, and squadrons within The American Legion Family all have a successful newsletter or other media to communicate with their members. Leaders within The American Legion Family today recognize and accept the fact that the majority of the members never make it to the Post Home. A newsletter (whether digital or print) is the best, most cost-effective tool to keep non-active members informed. By keeping them informed you never know when an activity will spark their interest and you will suddenly have a more active member.

Members of NALPA also receive a quarterly newsletter as a member benefit.

Join today and become an active member of The American Legion Family communications team. The National American Legion Press Association (NALPA) strives to assist you in shaping a "Positive Image" of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion.

FULL NAME: _____
FIRST MI LAST

HOME ADDRESS: _____

CITY STATE ZIP

YOUR EMAIL: _____

LEGION/AUXILIARY/SON MEMBERSHIP #: _____

DEPARTMENT/POST/DETACHMENT: _____

I AM A MEMBER OF THE FOLLOWING:

the American Legion Auxiliary
 The American Legion
 SONS of The American Legion

THIS IS FOR New Membership:\$15 Renew Membership: \$15 NALPA Pin\$ 6

TOTAL: _____

Make Check Payable To: NALPA **MAIL TO:** NALPA
 The American Legion
 C/O Debra Murrell, National Media & Communications
 PO Box 1055
 Indianapolis, IN 46206

PLEASE ENTER Membership Year: 20 _____

The NALPA membership year is from September 1 through August 31.

FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY NEWS



Auxiliary Contacts

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Rose Creek, MN 55970
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Secretary

Gloria Njos
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507/477/3259

Membership / First Vice

Cindy Nelson
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507/383/0082
tindylou@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Audrey Farnsworth
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Stewartville, MN 55976
507/533/4454
harlee@charter.net

From the President's desk

Happy New Year to all.

I have not been felling very well since before Christmas so this will be short.

Remember that the District Mid-Winter is coming up on January 9, 2016 at the Adams American Legion. Please gather up as much membership as you can and bring it along to turn in.

Also do not forget about the live and silent auctions that will be held to benefit our Auxiliary Emergency fund. Please bring some articles to include in the auction.

Hope to see a lot of you at Mid-Winter and remember to keep our troops in your prayers.

Pat Miner - First District Auxiliary President.

Poppy Campaign 2016

Just a reminder to get your Poppy Orders in early!
By doing so, you will get the better poppy.
That I found out last year.....my reorders weren't as nice!
Poppy Chairs, you should have received your info from State on the Poppy Program.
Poppy order deadline is December 1, 2015.
Get creative at your club in selling the poppy, send out to your local businesses.
Have a contest, make it a club endeavor not just the Auxiliary!
Wanda Prescher-Unit 164
Poppy Chair

Auxiliary Leadership Workshop

Saturday, January 23, 2016

Plainview American Legion

9:00a.m. - 1:00pm

Are you a new member to the Auxiliary, a 'seasoned' member and need a refresher, or have some questions? Come to the Leadership Workshop and find some answers, develop a deeper understanding / appreciation of the Auxiliary programs, and share thoughts and ideas from others.

**Cost for the workshop is \$11.00 and includes lunch
For additional questions, and pre-registration, please contact**

Cheryl Nymann

District 1 Leadership Chair

Plainview American Legion

215 3rd Street SW

Plainview, MN 55964

email: cheryljnymann@gmail.com

507-202-0115

District 1 Leadership Workshop Registration

January 23, 2016 ~ \$11.00

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

UNIT # _____

Department Numeric Objective (DNO) = Goal

1ST DISTRICT

	#	Unit Name	2015 Final Count	2016 DNO incl 21%	Period Gain Juniors	Period Gain Seniors	Period Gain Totals	Juniors To Date	Seniors To Date	To Date Totals	Percent
1	146	Adams	147	178			0	16	101	117	65.73%
1	56	Albert Lea	368	444			0	7	292	299	67.34%
1	404	Alden	53	64			0		37	37	57.81%
1	91	Austin	180	218			0		148	148	67.89%
1	52	Blooming Prairie	124	150			0	3	107	110	73.33%
1	119	Byron	96	116			0	15	66	81	69.83%
1	191	Caledonia	82	99			0	5	69	74	74.75%
1	197	Chatfield	36	44			0		37	37	84.09%
1	422	Claremont	26	32			0	4	16	20	62.50%
1	384	Dodge Center	91	110			0	1	55	56	50.91%
1	573	Elgin	26	32			0		15	15	46.88%
1	317	Emmons	30	36			0		30	30	83.33%
1	551	Eyota	123	149			0	2	80	82	55.03%
1	492	Fountain	21	25			0		1	1	4.00%
1	552	Freeborn	64	78			0	9	54	63	80.77%
1	264	Glenville	107	129			0	10	72	82	63.57%
1	140	Grand Meadow	77	93		4	4	10	62	72	77.42%
1	81	Harmony	44	53			0	13	24	37	69.81%
1	330	Hayfield	222	268			0	14	146	160	59.70%
1	498	Hokah	20	24			0		19	19	79.17%
1	423	Houston	136	165			0	15	99	114	69.09%
1	281	Janesville	61	74			0	1	55	56	75.68%
1	333	Kasson	153	186		5	5	5	131	136	73.12%
1	546	Kellogg	145	176			0	14	100	114	64.77%
1	595	LaCrescent	224	270			0	7	148	155	57.41%
1	110	Lake City	89	108			0	10	66	76	70.37%
1	40	Lanesboro	93	113		78	78		82	82	72.57%
1	161	Leroy	72	87			0	8	31	39	44.83%
1	90	Lewiston	40	49			0	2	30	32	65.31%
1	105	Lyle	56	68			0	5	39	44	64.71%
1	299	Mabel	141	171			0	14	110	124	72.51%
1	588	Mazeppa	53	64			0	2	38	40	62.50%
1	579	Millville	49	59			0	2	37	39	66.10%
1	75	New Richland	69	84			0		64	64	76.19%
1	544	Ostrander	16	19		1	1		16	16	84.21%
1	77	Owatonna	128	155			0		83	83	53.55%
1	526	Peterson	33	40			0	1	29	30	75.00%
1	179	Plainview	184	223			0	8	132	140	62.78%
1	92	Rochester	182	221			0	8	141	149	67.42%

1	94	Rushford	70	85			0		2	2	2.35%
1	249	Spring Grove	135	164			0	12	99	111	67.68%
1	68	Spring Valley	47	57			0		44	44	77.19%
1	190	St Charles	96	116			0	3	59	62	53.45%
1	164	Stewartville	181	220			0	8	142	150	68.18%
1	50	Wabasha	146	177			0	5	106	111	62.71%
1	587	Waldorf	29	35			0		28	28	80.00%
1	228	Waseca	241	290			0	7	200	207	71.38%
1	295	West Concord	39	47			0		35	35	74.47%
1	637	Whalan	23	28			0		18	18	64.29%
1	9	Winona	194	234			0	8	131	139	59.40%
1	369	Wykoff	16	19			0		15	15	78.95%
51		1st District Totals	5,078	6,146	0	88	88	254	3,741	3,995	65.00%

RENEW - RECRUIT - REJOIN

"Soaring to the top with Membership"

12/30/2014

DISTRICT	# of Units	Goal	Period Gain	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year
One	51	6,146	89	3,995	65.00%	4,070
Two	76	5,979	95	4,105	68.66%	4,157
Three	46	5,323	51	3,561	66.90%	3,645
Four	7	920	0	530	57.61%	605
Five	10	1,047	10	650	62.08%	692
Six	64	7,318	68	5,073	69.32%	5,167
Seven	62	4,859	18	3,261	67.11%	3,385
Eight	26	2,005	27	1,224	61.05%	1,319
Nine	53	5,232	31	3,655	69.86%	3,734
Ten	47	6,382	27	3,919	61.41%	4,267
1982 Dept	1	198	1	125	63.13%	106
District Totals:	443	45,409	417	30,098	66.28%	31,147

Group 1 (Even) <i>Carol Kottom</i>	220	22,604	217	14,851	65.70%	15,515
Group 2 (Odd) <i>Donna Arends</i>	222	22,607	199	15,122	66.89%	15,526

MID—WINTER SILENT AUCTION

A silent auction will be held during the First District Mid—Winter at Adams American Legion Post 146 on Jan 9, 2016. Proceeds of this auction will go to the American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

Please bring items to be put on the silent auction, they may include, baked items, blankets, baskets filled with goodies or anything else that people would like to purchase for a worthy cause. Lets make this a GREAT fundraising event.

Sherilyn Miller

Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman

First District President Pat Miner tying blankets for her project



Attention All Auxiliary Members:

Membership---Membership—Membership!

Let me start with a “thank you” to those who have been turning in membership!

I have done some calling to the units but still no movement!!! May I ask why? First District---we still have Units on the goose egg—NO membership turned in! May I ask why? Has the District---this is the Units-- lost pride in what our organization stands for?

Membership is the life blood of our organization! We need each and every member to help turn our numbers around.

Ladies, First District is running in 6th place. I have to ask what is wrong??

We have a Department Commander and Department President from our own District. Is this how we want them to be recognized? We can do better.

It is up to each of you to make a change! It is up to you—the Unit to make a difference!

If I can help in anyway, please let me know. President Pat is looking to make a change this year to stop the slide. It is the year to “Serve Those who Served”!

It is time to get membership out of the way and work on our programs.

Our American Legion Auxiliary does so many great things for our veterans, their families, and our communities. Ladies, let’s make a difference! Send in the members you have and work on asking others to join this great organization! One member at a time!

God bless each of you and God bless America!

Happy New Year to each of you.

District Membership Chairman,

Cindy Nelson

UPCOMMING FREEBORN UNIT 552 EVENT

January 23, 2016— Annual Soup and Pie supper at 4pm at the American Legion Post 552.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



COMMANDER

Glenn Mueller

548 East 10th St
St Charles, MN 55972
507/932/4301 or 507/316/3977
glm01311962@gmail.com

ADJUTANT

Gary Weaver

29 North Elm Street
507/895/2818 or 507/450/9580
gweaver@acegroup.cc

EAST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

Cody Paulson

26043 St Hwy 43
Rushford, MN 55971
507 / 450 / 9221

WEST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

Paul Spyhalski

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

MEMBERSHIP

Tim Weaver

183 N Third St
La Crescent, MN 55947
507/551/2149 or 608/498/5803
timweaver595@gmail.com

Happy New Year

I hope that you all had a great Christmas and wishes for a great New Year. Mine was good as most of you know the last 2 months have been hectic on my family. The good news is my dad's brain tumor was not cancer but about the size of a baseball. He is still recovering in the nursing home in St Charles hopefully getting back to home next week. My mother in law is home after having some trouble with her heart so my wife has been here and up to her parents. Now comes the fun part our son Peter graduated from the University of Technical of Illinois on **November 25th** and started working for a Ford dealership in Wisconsin all while these family issues going on. He is doing great just like the rest of the family.

Now comes membership, what the heck is going on doesn't anyone care. I can't believe that we still have several goose eggs. What is even more upsetting is several are only 1 or 2 sent in and we only have 58 percent that have officers lists sent in. Please remember that it cannot say the same as last year, Detachment and National will not accept them that way because of the computer programs. We are in 9th place what a shame. We have another 45 percent too go so that means almost 1000 members. So let's get off our behinds and get some memberships turned in now.

I have a small token of membership awards to be given out at Mid-Winter in Adams on Saturday the 9th of January. We have a board that morning at 11.30 am. This is Important to attend as we need to discuss the District Convention as well as next year's team.

Please keep those of our legion family who have lost a father and mother and wife sister or brother this past holiday season.

Thanks

Glenn Mueller – First District SAL Commander

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

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



RIDERS CONTACT INFORMATION

PRESIDENT

Dennis Lewison
Adams, MN
507/440/6067

Greetings,

VICE—PRESIDENT

Tony Loecher
Rochester, MN
507/358/6389

Our next First District ALR meeting will be held on Saturday, January 9th, 2016 at 3:00pm at the Adams Legion. This meeting will coincide with the First District Legion Family Mid-Winter conference. Watch the newsletter for more information on the day's events.

SECRETARY

Nancy Lewison
Adams, MN
507/440/2090

Chapters-If you have not done so already, provide a report of your activities to Dennis Lewison as soon as possible as he will give a report at the First District Midwinter Conference. We do some amazing things for our veterans and our communities. Let's share our successes.

SGT AT ARMS

Spanky Carroll
Rushford, MN
507/450/0741

Thank you American Legion Riders Post #91 for hosting the First District ALR Christmas party. They provided a delicious meal, some awesome door prizes and entertainment. It was great to visit and meet members from other chapters and catch up visiting with old friends.

HISTORIAN

Karla Miller
Rushford, MN
507/459/5962

The "Second Annual Tour of the First District" is being planned for July 9-10th, 2016. We are asking for a First District Legion Post to be our sponsor for the ride. We are also planning a raffle and will need a Post to sponsor that as well. The event last year was a huge success and we would really appreciate any assistance your post can offer.


CHAPLAIN

Roe Naylor
Austin, MN
507/438/5804

Wishing all of you a safe and happy new year!

ROAD CAPTAIN

Lee Dority
Austin, MN
641/210/9035



Waseca American Legion Post 228

Valentine

Dinner and Dance

February 13, 2016

- ◆ Tickets are \$20 per person, advance sale only
- ◆ No tickets at the door, No dance-only tickets
- ◆ Purchase at the club by January 25, 2016
- ◆ Call 507-833-9935

Dinner seating: 5:30-7:00 PM

Dance: 7:00 **"The Beginnings Band"**

Music influenced by the horn bands of the 1960's, and a hint of the "Blues."

Legionville Ice Fishing Derby

Saturday, February 6th

On Legionville Bay, North Long Lake
Brainerd, MN

Only 125 Holes
Will Be Drilled

Entry Fee - \$20-/hole

Noon Start until 2 p.m.



**Department Sweetheart Rally
& District Chili Cookoff**
2 to 3 p.m.

Membership Turn In:
Noon to 3 p.m.

Chili & Fishing Awards - 3 to 4 p.m.
Membership Results - 4 to 5 p.m.



Legionville Ice Fishing Derby



Ice Fishing Contest Rules . . .

1. The contest is scheduled for Noon to 2 p.m. February 6th on Legionville Bay
2. Should the contest not be held for any reason on February 6th, it will be rescheduled at a later date. No refunds or exchanges will be allowed.
3. Entry fee for the contest is \$20 per hole.
4. There will be random drawings throughout the contest.
5. Each contestant will be allowed to fish one pole per hole, per ticket, two holes maximum.
6. Contestants and holes must be in plain view at all times. No shelters will be allowed. Anything on the ice is subject to search and removal of items may be required.
7. Contestants are required to park in the areas provided and no on-ice parking is allowed.
8. All laws of the State of Minnesota prevail.

Registration Form . . .

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

\$20 per hole (two hole maximum) check one box.

One Hole Two Holes

Total \$ _____

Please mail to:

Legionville
9544 Legionville Road
Brainerd, Minnesota 56401



NATIONAL COMMANDER DALE BARNETT'S MINNESOTA VISIT

- Feb 1 – **Forest Lake Post 225** - Breakfast at 8:00 am Post Phone – 320-968-7902
 RSVP to the Post Banquet Line at 651-214-7745
Princeton Post 216 - Lunch at 12:00 pm Post Phone – 763-389-7814
 RSVP to 763- 389-7814
Little Falls Post 46 –5 pm social & 6 pm Dinner Post Phone – 320-632-5944
 RSVP to 320-632-5944
- Feb 2 - **Morris Post 29** – Breakfast at 8:00 am Post Phone – 320-589-2040
 RSVP to 320-589-3495
Litchfield Post 104 – Lunch at 12:00 pm Post Phone – 320-693-2350
 RSVP to 320-693-2350
Delano Post 377 – 5 pm social & 6 pm Dinner Post Phone – 763-972-2969
 RSVP to 763-972-2969
- Feb 3 - **Hutchinson Post 96** at VFW – Breakfast at 8:00 am Post Phone – 320-587-2665
 RSVP to 320-587-5856
Wells Post 210 – Lunch at 12:00 pm Post Phone – 507-553-3012
 RSVP to 507-381-3559
Adams Post 146 – 5 pm social & 6 pm Dinner Post Home – 507-582-3266
 RSVP to 507-582-7723
- Feb 4 - **Stewartville Post 164** – Breakfast at 8:00 am Post Phone - 507-533-9281
 RSVP to 507-254-1573
Preston Post 166 – Lunch at 12:00 pm Post Phone – 507-765-2205
 RSVP to 507-272-5966
Winona Post 9 – 5pm social & 6pm Dinner Post Phone – 507-454-4281
 RSVP to 507-452-2827 or 507-458-2519