



FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

MARCH 2015

IMPORTANT DATES

March 6, 2015 - Past Commander / President fish Fry at Austin Post 91 in Austin, MN from 5 to 7pm

March 7, 2015 - The Department Appreciation Rally in Royalton Post 137. Turn in from 3:00 pm until 4:30 pm with a plated lunch at 5:00 pm and program following.

March 21, 2015 - First District Jr Conference in LeRoy. See Details inside.

March 28, 2015 - Area One Rally in Eyota. Social for 2 to 3 pm rally starting at 3pm. Note the change of location and time of this rally. SEE THE IMPORTANT INFORMATION BELOW.

Legion Contacts

Commander

Myron Ehrich

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

Adjutant

Wayne Hammon Jr

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

Membership

Sy Fix

1930 County 3
Brownsville, MN 55919
507/482/6226 or
507/313/3376
papafix1@gmail.com

GREETINGS FIRST DISTRICT

Here it is March already. Time is just keeps moving along.

The National Commanders tour is over and it is time for us to celebrate The American Legion Birthday! I have been invited to Owatonna, Blooming Prairie and Mabel for their celebrations so far.

Thank You to everyone that was at the 1st and 3rd Ice Fishing Contest in Albert Lea. A big thanks to Les Shaunce and the Albert Lea Post 56 for the job well done. I cannot forget to thank the Third District Commander and President for participating in the contest.

After the fishing contest Adjutant Wayne and myself went down to Holiday Lanes in Albert Lea for the first round of bowling in the First District Bowling Tournament.

It was a very busy weekend we all had a great time.

I will be having my testimonial at Dodge Center Post 384 on April 11. Come, enjoy the meal and have some fun.

First District Commander

Myron Ehrich

DISTRICT VICE—COMMANDERS

AREA 1 Joe Brown
3611 85th St NW lot 180
Oronoco, MN 55960
507/367/2157 or 507/990/1347
Brown49tex@charter.net

AREA 2 Chuck Stone
1625 Crestview Lane
Owatonna, MN 55060
507/213/7517
castoney@hotmail.com

AREA 3 Carroll W. Hill
28992 Hill Rd
Winona, MN 55987
507/454/5063 or 507/438/6531
hilltoprepair@yahoo.com

AREA 4 Les Shaunce
528 S Alice Ave
Albert Lea, MN 56007
507/373/0134 or 507/402/4878
lshaunce@smig.net

VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Area Three Rally scheduled for Spring Grove on March 28th has been cancelled and moved to the Eyota Post with social time from 2 to 3 pm with the rally starting at 3pm.

Also Eyota has a FISH FRY that night starting at 5 pm. Ten (10) dollars for all you can eat.

Greetings from Area One:

If you missed the Ice fishing tournament in Albert Lea, you missed out on a lot of fun. You will have to guess how many fish we caught.

The 2015 Veterans Day on the Hill Rally will be on Wednesday March 4, 10 a.m. This year the Rally will start at the Cedar Street Armory, 600 Cedar Street, Saint Paul, MN. For more information and to preview the 2015 Legislative Agenda visit <http://www.mnctf.org>. I will be going, and if you would like to car pool give me a call.

I look forward to visiting your Post, and feel free to contact me. Remember our troops and first responders in your prayers. May God Bless America.

**Area One Vice Commander
Joe P Brown, Sr**

2015 Officer Endorsements

- 1) Roland Hanson - Cmdr
- 2) Bill Goede - Finance
- 3) Ralph Schneekolth Chaplain

**2015 NATIONAL CONVENTION
DELEGATE REQUESTS**

- 1) Sy Fix
- 2) Roland Hanson
- 3) Wayne Hammon Jr
- 4) Arnie Troe
- 5) Myron Ehrich
- 6) Bill Goede
- 7) Les Shaunce
- 8) Rich Gosse

Greetings from Area Three

Well March is here but where is spring? I'm sure it will show up sooner or later.

Now is the time for all post Commanders and membership Directors to set down and make contact with those members who have not paid yet. Personal, face to face contact is probably the only thing that will work to get them to pay. Remember that membership is everyone's job.

Also the rally that was set for Spring Grove on March 28th has been cancelled due to event conflicts at the post. The rally has been moved to Eyota on the same date but social time will be from 2 to 3 with the rally starting at 3pm.

Make sure to keep our service men and women in your prayers .

Carroll W. Hill
Area Three Vice—Commander

**From your 1st & 3rd Department
Vice—Commander**

It would be very nice to see the First and Third on top of the membership standings. The only way that is going to happen is to get out there and meet with the not paid members one on one to get them renewed.

We had a very poor turnout at the 1st and 3rd ice fishing contest but amongst the ones who were present , we had a good discussion on how to get new members and also how to get us to come together as a "Legion Family" and help each other. A big Thank You to the ones who braved the cold to attend.

Glenn Mueller

Department 1st & 3rd Vice Commander

Greetings First District**Greetings First District:**

Our membership recruitment is really slow right now . As of 2-20-15 we are sitting in sixth place. We definitely need to start knocking on doors.

Our Area Four Rally in Glenville was kind of anemic. We really need more participation at these rally's. This is where the Legion business begins.

On February 21st we had our annual 1st and 3rd Fishing Contest. We had seven people participate, we had only a couple of bites and no fish. There was a very poor turnout for the meeting. Only about 15 people. We may have to look at this for the future.

On **March 4th** there will be the annual Veterans Day OnThe Hill. This year the rally will be held at the Cedar St. Armory instead of in the Rotunda of the Capital. Anyone wishing to go can give me a call at [507-402-4878](tel:507-402-4878).

The American Legion Family Appreciation Rally will be held at Royalton Post # 137 **March 7th**. Please plan to attend and show your appreciation for the 2014 -15 Membership Team. Royalton always puts on a good program.

Austin Post # 91 will be hosting the annual Past Commanders/Presidents Fish Fry on **March 6th**. This is always a great time. Plan to attend and enjoy some great fish and fellowship. I'm sure Post # 91 will do a great job.

Our Area 1 Rally will be held at Eyota Post # 551, **March 28th**. Social 2 to 3 and rally at 3pm, The weather should be a lot better by then. Let's show Area 1 and Eyota our appreciation for hosting this event by having a large turn out.

Until next Month keep warm, let's get the job done.

Area Four Vice Commander - Les Shaunce

FROM YOUR DISTRICT CHAPLAIN

Greetings First District:

The time is going fast this year, already to March, wow! We are in the season of Lent, with Palm Sunday on the 29th of March this year and Holy week, culminating with Resurrection Sunday, Easter on the 5th of April.

I would like to start this month with some writings from Thomas Paine in the lead sentence of his pamphlet "The American Crisis", published December 23, 1776 while serving in General Washington's Continental Army in Morristown New Jersey. "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country but he that stands it now deserves a loving thanks of men and women. Tyranny, like hell is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly; it is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial deal and article as *Freedom* should not be highly rated". Source: Thomas Paine Common Sense and The Rights of Man.

The preamble to the Constitution the American Legion begins with the following words for God and Country. Our service goes beyond our service to church, synagogue and post to all people. True, we cannot do everything, but all can and should be of service. A good start is to strengthen ourselves as individuals morally, spiritually, mentally, and physically. Citizenship asked us to be responsible, to give them some time, talent and means to do it. Legionnaires can be examples of integrity, self-sacrifice and hard work.

The United States is a special nation, we are exceptional, we are free to worship as we choose and in whatever church, or other place of worship, we choose to. We as a people, citizens, immigrants, must not given to hate, we must always strive to look to the heights and be good examples for all to see.

I will close this month with a prayer for the American Legion's birthday on March 15. "Oh God, Judge over Nations, be with us as we come together to pay tribute to our American Legion birthday. We rejoice that we are a source of support to our country. Help us with your guidance in the work of our great organization. May our activities be counted among the good deeds that please You. We asked for the strength and the ability to do the tasks You set before us. Keep us concerned about the welfare and improvements of our community, the safety and pride of our home, And the moral and spiritual values that guide our community living. We ask Your blessings upon our members, and on our nation as we continue our way forward. All this we ask "for God and Country" Amen.

In service to God and country,

Ralph Schneekloth,
MN First District Chaplain

Commander Myron's Testimonial

April 11, 2015

Wells Peterson Post 384 in Dodge Center, MN

Social Hour from 5 to 6 pm with entertainment by "Driven"

**Meal will be served at 6 pm with the program to follow. The lunch will be:
Windsor Pork Chop, Baked Potato, Cream Corn, Coleslaw, Roll and Desert.**

Cost will be \$15 per plate and please RSVP by April 1st to:

Roger Kabage at 507-413-2121 or send the registration and payment to:

**Roger Kabage
18034 Co Hwy 34
Dodge Center, MN 55927
Care of Wells Peterson Post #384**

(Make checks payable to Wells Peterson Post 384)

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I/we will be attending the testimonial supper

Name _____

Number of tickets at \$15 each _____ Total amount \$ _____

President Michelle's Testimonial

April 18, 2015

Leon J Wetzel Post #9 located at 302 East Sardina St, Winona, MN

Social will be from 5 to 6pm With lunch served at 6 pm.

The cost of the dinner is \$10 per plate

**Dinner will consist of Windsor Chops, Baked Potato, Corn, Mixed Fruit,
Tossed salad with Ranch or French Dressing and dinner roll. Coffee, milk,
Water ect.**

Please RSVP to me no later than April 11, 2015 . My address is:

**Michelle Weaver
183 N 3rd St
La Crescent, MN 55947**

(Make checks payable to Winona Post 9 and send with RSVP)

-----cut off-----

I/ we will be attending the testimonial Dinner

Name _____

Number of tickets at \$10 each _____ Total Amount _____

2015 First District Convention Call

To: All Posts of the First District

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and By-Laws of the American Legion, Department of Minnesota, I, First District Commander, Myron Ehrich, do hereby call a convention of the First District to Convene at Waseca, Minnesota Saturday May 16, 2015.

The business sessions of the convention will be held at Waseca Post # 228, commencing at 8:30 am Saturday, May 16 and will continue until adjournment.

The purpose of this convention is to elect a District Commander, Four (4) District Vice-Commanders, a District Chaplain, a District Finance Officer, Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention and to do other business of the First District that may properly come before the Convention.

The voting strength of each Post will be, as provided in the Department Constitution and By-Laws, Article 5, Section 3 based upon the membership certification sent to the District Commander by the District Adjutant.

Please send certification of your Post Delegates and Alternates to Wayne Hammon Jr, PO box 135, LeRoy, MN 55951 before May 10, 2015.

All members are encouraged to attend
First District Commander
Myron Ehrich

Delegate Certification to the First District Convention in Waseca, Minnesota, May 16, 2015. Please send to the District Adjutant as soon as possible.

POST _____ MN

DELEGATES

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____

ALTERNATES

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____

SIGNED _____

ADJUTANT POST # _____

FIRST DISTRICT CONVENTION PRE REGISTRATION

MAY 16, 2015

WASECA, MN

The First District Convention will be held in Waseca, May 16, 2015 at Waseca American Legion Post 228. Please complete registration and return by May 1, 2015.

Place an "X" by your organization and include your organization's number:

Legion _____ Post # _____ Auxiliary _____ Unit # _____ SAL _____ Squad # _____

Circle one: Delegate Alternate Guest

(You must register as delegate, alternate or guest)

NAME _____ PHONE ____/____/____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

Please mark the following with an "X" and total the amount:

_____ Registration Fee \$10

_____ Saturday Luncheon \$8 (Creamed Turkey on Biscuits, Cole Slaw, Dessert)

TOTAL \$ _____

Please make checks out to: Waseca American Legion and send to the address below:

Waseca American Legion Post 228, 700 South State Street, Waseca MN 56093

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

It is very important that we receive as many pre-registrations as possible for planning purposes. Please share this registration with others and PLEASE PRE-REGISTER!

CONVENTION HOUSING INFORMATION

Waseca American Motel
 1313 Noth State St. Hwy 13
 (507) 835-4300
 1 Bed (Double Occupancy) \$59.90
 2 Beds (Double Occupancy) \$69.90

Waseca Crossings by Grandstay
 2201 State Street North
 (507) 835-0022
 Full Continental Breakfast, Pool and Whirlpool
 2 Queen Standard Room \$89.90
 2 Queen Deluxe Room \$94.90 (Refrigerator and Microwave)

CONVENTION BOOKLET ADVERTISEMENTS

Full Page Ad: \$100 Half Page Ad: \$50 Quarter Page Ad: \$25
 Send copy and payment for ads by April 30, 2015 to:
 Waseca American Legion
 ATTN: Convention Committee
 700 South State Street
 Waseca , MN 56093

RESOLUTIONS NOTICE



Resolutions guide The American Legion in developing programs that affect the position The American Legion takes on the issues that impact The American Legion, Veterans and Our Country.



If you have a resolution you want considered at the District Convention in Waseca, May 16, 2015, IT MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE DISTRICT RESOLUTIONS CHAIRMAN BY APRIL 6, 2015.

Send to ; Richard Gosse, 1136 6th St W, Wabasha, MN 55981

Thank You

Richard Gosse - First District Resolutions Chairman

FIRST DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR

2/26/2015

POST	LOCATION	GOAL	PREVIOUS	TURN IN	TOTAL	PERCENT	LEFT	DATE
9	WINONA	708	627	0	627	88.56%	81	2/19/2015
90	LEWISTON	84	70	0	70	83.33%	14	1/22/2105
190	ST CHARLES	171	147	0	147	85.96%	24	2/11/2015
WINONA COUNTY TOTALS		963	844	0	844	87.64%	119	2/19/2015
50	WABASHA	338	323	0	323	95.56%	15	2/19/2015
110	LAKE CITY	158	158	2	160	101.27%	-2	2/26/2015
179	PLAINVIEW	208	197	0	197	94.71%	11	2/19/2015
546	KELLOGG	77	71	0	71	92.21%	6	2/19/2015
573	ELGIN	56	45	0	45	80.36%	11	1/8/2015
579	MILLVILLE	131	154	0	154	117.56%	-23	12/17/2014
588	MAZEPPA	83	84	0	84	101.20%	-1	2/19/2015
WABASHA COUNTY TOTALS		1051	1032	2	1034	98.38%	17	2/26/2015
92	ROCHESTER	1106	979	0	979	88.52%	127	2/19/2015
119	BYRON	166	148	0	148	89.16%	18	2/19/2015
164	STEWARTVILLE	327	314	1	315	96.33%	12	2/26/2015
446	ROCHESTER	10	11	0	11	110.00%	-1	9/10/2014
551	EYOTA	177	180	0	180	101.69%	-3	2/19/2015
OLMSTEAD COUNTY TOTALS		1786	1632	1	1633	91.43%	153	2/26/2015
AREA ONE TOTALS		3800	3508	3	3511	92.39%	289	2/26/2015
295	WEST CONCORD	68	70	0	70	102.94%	-2	2/11/2015
330	HAYFIELD	250	227	7	234	93.60%	16	2/26/2015
333	KASSON	284	263	6	269	94.72%	15	2/26/2015
384	DODGE CENTER	100	86	3	89	89.00%	11	2/26/2015
422	CLAREMONT	39	37	0	37	94.87%	2	1/22/2105
DODGE COUNTY TOTALS		741	683	16	699	94.33%	42	2/26/2015
52	BLOOMING PRAIRIE	127	109	3	112	88.19%	15	2/26/2015
77	OWATONNA	619	567	0	567	91.60%	52	2/19/2015
296	ELLENDALE	34	27	0	27	79.41%	7	1/22/2105
STEELE COUNTY TOTALS		780	703	3	706	90.51%	74	2/26/2015
75	NEW RICHLAND	73	68	0	68	93.15%	5	1/22/2105
228	WASECA	345	338	9	347	100.58%	-2	2/26/2015
281	JANESVILLE	115	105	1	106	92.17%	9	2/26/2015
587	WALDORF	28	31	0	31	110.71%	-3	1/22/2105
WASECA COUNTY TOTALS		561	542	10	552	98.40%	9	2/26/2015
AREA TWO TOTALS		2082	1928	29	1957	94.00%	125	2/26/2015
40	LANESBORO	102	101	0	101	99.02%	1	1/8/2015
68	SPRING VALLEY	88	83	0	83	94.32%	5	11/26/2014
81	HARMONY	41	34	0	34	82.93%	7	2/19/2015
94	RUSHFORD	140	140	0	140	100.00%	0	2/11/2015
166	PRESTON	79	82	1	83	105.06%	-4	2/26/2015
197	CHATFIELD	57	54	0	54	94.74%	3	12/10/2014
299	MABEL	210	171	0	171	81.43%	39	2/19/2015
369	WYKOFF	21	21	0	21	100.00%	0	9/24/2014
400	CANTON	17	16	0	16	94.12%	1	11/19/2014
492	FOUNTAIN	20	19	0	19	95.00%	1	10/1/2014
526	PETERSON	35	35	0	35	100.00%	0	12/17/2014
544	OSTRANDER	27	24	0	24	88.89%	3	2/11/2015 ⁸

FIRST DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP FOR 2/26/15 CONTINUED

637	WHALEN	15	15	0	15	100.00%	0	1/8/2015
FILLMORE COUNTY TOTALS		852	795	1	796	93.43%	56	2/26/2015
191	CALEDONIA	191	175	0	175	91.62%	16	1/22/2105
249	SPRING GROVE	189	163	0	163	86.24%	26	2/19/2015
423	HOUSTON	112	93	3	96	85.71%	16	1/22/2105
498	HOKAH	22	21	0	21	95.45%	1	1/8/2015
595	LA CRESCENT	381	345	0	345	90.55%	36	2/11/2015
HOUSTON COUNTY TOTALS		895	797	3	800	89.39%	95	2/19/2015
AREA THREE TOTALS		1747	1592	4	1596	91.36%	151	2/26/2015
56	ALBERT LEA	791	720	0	720	91.02%	71	2/19/2015
264	GLENVILLE	97	86	0	86	88.66%	11	2/11/2015
266	HARTLAND	20	20	0	20	100.00%	0	9/10/2014
317	EMMONS	79	76	0	76	96.20%	3	1/28/2015
404	ALDEN	104	105	0	105	100.96%	-1	2/19/2015
552	FREEBORN	42	40	0	40	95.24%	2	1/28/2015
FREEBORN COUNTY TOTALS		1133	1047	0	1047	92.41%	86	2/19/2015
91	AUSTIN	736	679	0	679	92.26%	57	2/19/2015
105	LYLE	98	93	0	93	94.90%	5	2/19/2015
140	GRAND MEADOW	54	48	1	49	90.74%	5	1/28/2015
146	ADAMS	217	198	0	198	91.24%	19	1/28/2015
161	LEROY	71	69	0	69	97.18%	2	2/19/2015
570	AUSTIN SPAM	6	6	0	6	100.00%	0	1/8/2015
MOWER COUNTY TOTALS		1182	1093	1	1094	92.55%	88	2/19/2015
AREA FOUR TOTALS		2315	2140	1	2141	92.48%	174	2/19/2015
1111	DAKOTA	32	17	7	24	75.00%	8	1/8/2015
DISTRICT ONE TOTALS		9976	9185	44	9229	92.51%	747	2/26/2015

AREA	VICE	COMMANDERS						
AREA ONE			3800	3508	3	3511	92.39%	289
AREA TWO			2082	1928	29	1957	94.00%	125
AREA THREE			1747	1592	4	1596	91.36%	151
AREA FOUR			2315	2140	1	2141	92.48%	174

Fellow Members,

PUSH PUSH PUSH PUSH.. That is the point of where we are now. We all know when the end of the year gets closer it becomes a challenge to get those who procrastinate to send in their dues. There are 791 unpaid members out there. Yes we lost some to deaths but not 791. Make those calls, get to the county meetings and have them push as well. Remember, the county officers are part of the membership team as well.

Good Luck !!!!

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
tinpost91.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, First District. PR tips for the month.

MARCH – Community Service Month Give priority to Boys State selection this month, or earlier. Close out the membership campaign, and mail dues and cards to the department. Recognize the anniversary of The American Legion's founding March 15-17. This is an occasion for post and district officers to focus on projecting the proper image of The American Legion in the community, in the programs sponsored and services provided, and also in the appearance of post homes and surrounding grounds. These are often perceived as a reflection of the attitude, initiative and Civic awareness of the post membership. Posts should be pillars of their community, conscious that they represent the national organization to local citizens. Renewed attention to appearance doesn't require a capital improvement project, merely one of attention to detail and routine fix-ups, from signs to inside and outside improvements. This should be included on an annual Post Responsibility Audit. Source: American Legion County and District Commander manual.

Public Relations is primarily about image, and every Legionnaire plays a role in communicating it. The positive and negative things seen and heard at every level of the organization shape how people perceive the American Legion and what we stand for. **For most people, perception is reality.**

An organization's image is based on its character, integrity and total performance. It has many facets, including:

- The organization's history in dealing with people
- Internal attitude towards members
- External attitude toward community responsibility and involvement
- News releases, interviews and other dealings with the media
- Internal and external publications
- Institutional advertising

Public Relations ties directly into membership; without members we cease to be an organization. It is stated that approximately 200,000 members do not renew each year. That's how important it is. Not for the sake of the numbers but for our impact on our elected officials and the impact on our many programs at local, state and national level- "That's why it's important."

**"GET INVOLVED IN MEMBERSHIP
RECRUIT---RETAIN---REINSTATE"**

Additional: Adjutant Wayne Hammon Jr, is now the District iPad holder, and Tony Loecher has been added to the District PR team as an additional FB and PR person. Thanks to all, we are getting there, each day we can put the Legion family's message out there is a good day. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

First District PR committee chair,
Ralph Schneckloth

FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY NEWS



Auxiliary Contacts

GREETINGS TO ALL OF THE FIRST DISTRICT

President—

Michelle Weaver

183 N 3rd St
La Crescent, MN 55947
507/551/2058 or
608/498/5805
michelleweaver595@gmail.com

I want thank all of the Units who have generously donated to my project the NSF doublewide upright freezer for the Mosher Veterans Home. We have a way to go to succeed and any donation is appreciated.

March is Community Service Month: making our communities better places to live is something we should strive for every day. We do that by showing compassion and support for those who serve our country and give so much as well as their families. Consider Organizing a Walk, Run & Roll for Our Veterans and Their Families to raise community awareness of The American Legion Family and raise funds to benefit your department veterans' projects. Find information at www.ALAforVeterans.org. Be brand advocates and represent the Auxiliary at special celebration events in the community for such events as holiday parades, grand openings of community facilities and community leader recognition ceremonies.

We are currently at 79.87% for membership and I would like to congratulate Chatfield, Hayfield and Peterson for being at 100% or more. Remember renew, recruit, rejoin...race to a million in 2019.

Michelle Weaver

1st District President

Michelleweaver595@gmail.com

608-498-5805

507-551-2058

Secretary

Audrey Erwin

208 1st St SW
Dodge Center, MN 55927
507/374/2760
erwin47@kmtel.com

Membership / First Vice

Pat Miner

106 E Oak St Box 136
Rose Creek, MN 55970
507/433/1326 or 507/251/9219
minerpa24@gmail.com

Treasurer

Sandy Fredrickson

771 2nd St SW
Glenville, MN 56036
507/448/3438 or
507/383/3776
dsfredrick@gmail.com

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 21, 2015** at the Community Room of Wildwood Grove Assisted Living, located at 410 East Main St in LeRoy, Minnesota for the purpose of:

- Presentation and judging of awards
- Reports from the Unit Junior Presidents
- Election of District Junior Officers
- Election of Delegates to the Department Junior Conference
- Other business for the good of the Junior Auxiliary group

Registration will be at **9:00 A.M.** 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 **9:30 A.M.** Honorary Junior President Amelia Welter will call the conference to order at **10:00 A.M.** **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 JoEllen Isenberg 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, they will be posted.

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.

JoEllen Isenberg
First District Junior Activities Chairman

POPPY CORSAGE CONTEST

Award Criteria: To the Junior member in each class with the best Poppy corsage or boutonniere using Jules' theme "Juniors are Gems Serving Veterans" and gems are her symbol.

Award Guidelines: All tags must be removed from the poppies. Entries are to be placed in a ziploc bag, including a corsage pin. Including Junior's name, age, Unit number, location and District number on a card and placed in an envelope. Write the class entered and "Poppy Corsage" on the outside of the envelope and attach it to the ziploc bag.

Award:

Class I	Ages 6 and Under
Class II	Ages 7 - 12
Class III	Ages 13 - 18

1st Place - \$10.00 cash award in each class
2nd Place - \$5.00 cash award in each class

POPPY HAT CONTEST

Award Criteria: To the Junior member in each class with the best Poppy hat using Jules' theme "Juniors are Gems Serving Veterans" and gems are her symbol.

Award Guidelines: All tags must be removed from the poppies. Put the Junior's name, age, Unit number, location and District number on a card and place it in an envelope. Write the class entered and "Poppy Hat" on the outside of the envelope and attach it to the hat.

Award:

Class I	Ages 6 and Under
Class II	Ages 7 - 12
Class III	Ages 13 - 18

1st Place - \$10.00 cash award in each class
2nd Place - \$5.00 cash award in each class

POPPY JEWELRY/ACCESSORIES CONTEST

Award Criteria: To the Junior member in each class with the best Jewelry or accessory using a poppy theme or Jules' theme "Juniors are Gems Serving Veterans" and gems are her symbol.

Award Guidelines: All tags must be removed from the poppies. Put the Junior's name, age, Unit number, location and District number on a card and place it in an envelope. Write the class entered and "Poppy Jewelry/Accessories" on the outside of the envelope and attach it to the jewelry/accessory.

Award:

Class I	Ages 6 and Under
Class II	Ages 7 - 12
Class III	Ages 13 - 18

1st Place - \$10.00 cash award in each class
2nd Place - \$5.00 cash award in each class

POPPY CENTERPIECE CONTEST

Award Criteria: To the Junior member in each class with the best Poppy Centerpiece using Jules' theme "Juniors are Gems Serving Veterans" and gems are her symbol.

Award Guidelines: All tags must be removed from the poppies. Put the Junior's name, age, Unit number, location and District number on a card and place it in an envelope. Write the class entered and "Poppy Centerpiece" on the outside of the envelope and attach it to the display.

Award:

Class I	Ages 6 and Under
Class II	Ages 7 - 12
Class III	Ages 13 - 18

1st Place - \$10.00 cash award in each class

2nd Place - \$5.00 cash award in each class

DECORATE A POPPY DONATION COLLECTION CONTAINER CONTEST

Award Criteria: To the Junior member in each class with the best Poppy Donation Collection Container using Jules' theme "Juniors are Gems Serving Veterans" and gems are her symbol.

Award Guidelines: You must use the Poppy theme, size and type of container are at your discretion. Put the Junior's name, age, Unit number, location and District number on a card and place it in an envelope. Write the class entered and "Poppy Donation Container" on the outside of the envelope and attach it to the display.

Award:

Class I	Ages 6 and Under
Class II	Ages 7 - 12
Class III	Ages 13 - 18

1st Place - \$10.00 cash award in each class

2nd Place - \$5.00 cash award in each class

JUNIOR SCRAPBOOK

Award Criteria: To the Junior member in each class with the best scrapbook on all around Junior activities.

Award Guidelines: Rules are included. This scrapbook must be made during the 2013-2014 year.

Award:

1st Place	- \$10.00 cash award
2nd Place	- \$5.00 cash award

The 1st District Junior Conference is planned for March 21st in LeRoy at the Wildwood Grove Assisted Living which is located on Highway 56 East if you need further directions please call me JoEllen Isenberg (507-259-1940) or Junior Hammon (507-696-2707). Included in this newsletter are the rules for the Poppy Contests once again if you have questions contact me or check the Department of Minnesota web page at www.mnala.org.

Senior members are welcome to attend the Junior Conference and any unit that has Junior members even if they are not an organized group.

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit #146 of Adams, MN, proudly endorses Pat Miner for First District Auxiliary President for 2015-2016.

Pat is eligible for membership through her husband of 63 years Marvin Miner a World War Two veteran and a 70 member of the American Legion.

Pat has been a member of the Auxiliary for 21 years and has held many Unit and District chairmanships.

She is a member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary 1216 and Fraternal Orders of the Eagles Auxiliary. She is also a member of the First Methodist Church of Austin, MN.

Pat and Marvin have 6 children, 24 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

We are sure Pat will do a great job leading the District.

Unit #146
Jan Johnson

Girls State Report for February District Newsletter:

Information regarding this year's Girls State session including an information brochure and the reservation form was forwarded to units in the January Unit mailings. If you don't have copies, you can find them at mnala.org under the "unit info" tab. Girls State will be June 7-12, 2015 at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. The registration fee is \$300 and can be paid from gambling funds. Like last year, the session will end after the evening meal on Friday. This has enabled some girls who were unable to attend due to sports obligations on Saturday to be able to participate.

Hopefully you have provided an opportunity for the girls from your units who attended Girls State last year to talk about their experiences at a unit meeting or other event. Use their enthusiasm to encourage girls from this year's junior class to apply to attend the upcoming session. If you know a teacher who has attended Girls State in the past, she may also serve as a valuable resource to promote the program in the school.

This is definitely the time to promote this program in your schools and communities as the reservation deadline is March 31. Girls who will have completed their junior year of high school by the end of the school year and live in Minnesota or attend a Minnesota public, charter, home, parochial or private school are eligible to attend if sponsored by a Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary unit. Additional criteria to aid in the selection of your representative or representatives are listed in the information brochure. The information packet needed to register the individual Girls State citizens will be forwarded to units after Department has received your reservation form and registration fee.

A District bus will again transport girls to and from the session. We will not be coordinating transportation with Boys State this year as their session will not be during the same time frame. Cost for the bus will be about the same as last year. Specific pick-up points will be determined based on where the girls who will be riding the bus live but will be similar to the drop-off points last year. Please let me know if you have issues with that. Because the cost to ride the bus is determined by the number of riders, I strongly encourage units to consider paying the cost to ride the bus for each of the girls they sponsor and inform the girls you expect them to use that service. More information about that will be provided closer to the session date after the registration process is completed.

By the time you read this, I will be unavailable until after February 20 so e-mail is the best way to contact me.

Louise Kleiboer

1st District Girls State Chairman

kleiboer@mabeltel.coop

507-493-5007



FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP AS OF 2/28/15

DISTRICT ONE

Unit #	Name	Goal	Jr's gain	Sr's gain	Total gain	Jr's to date	Sr's to date	Totals to date	Percent
146	Adams	168	0	0	0	18	117	135	80.36%
56	Albert Lea	432	0	14	14	8	334	342	79.17%
404	Alden	65	0	0	0	0	44	44	67.69%
91	Austin	213	1	1	2	1	175	176	82.63%
52	Blooming Prairie	137	0	1	1	4	113	117	85.40%
119	Byron	105	0	0	0	14	81	95	90.48%
191	Caledonia	97	0	8	8	6	76	82	84.54%
197	Chatfield	36	0	0	0	0	36	36	100.00%
422	Claremont	30	0	0	0	3	23	26	86.67%
384	Dodge Center	107	0	0	0	3	75	78	72.90%
573	Elgin	36	0	0	0	1	24	25	69.44%
317	Emmons	29	0	0	0	0	26	26	89.66%
551	Eyota	137	0	0	0	5	99	104	75.91%
492	Fountain	22	0	0	0	1	20	21	95.45%
552	Freeborn	74	0	0	0	8	56	64	86.49%
264	Glenville	115	0	0	0	16	88	104	90.43%
140	Grand Meadow	91	0	0	0	11	66	77	84.62%
81	Harmony	50	0	0	0	12	24	36	72.00%
266	Hartland	24	0	0	0	0	14	14	58.33%
330	Hayfield	202	0	19	19	18	199	217	107.43%
498	Hokah	22	0	0	0	0	20	20	90.91%
423	Houston	155	0	0	0	18	100	118	76.13%
281	Janesville	69	0	0	0	0	52	52	75.36%
333	Kasson	179	0	0	0	5	140	145	81.01%
546	Kellogg	168	1	5	6	18	117	135	80.36%
595	La Crescent	283	0	0	0	5	181	186	65.72%
110	Lake City	104	0	0	0	11	67	78	75.00%
40	Lanesboro	103	0	0	0	0	78	78	75.73%
161	LeRoy	84	0	0	0	18	49	67	79.76%
90	Lewiston	47	1	1	2	3	35	38	80.85%
105	Lyle	68	0	2	2	8	44	52	76.47%
299	Mabel	157	0	0	0	14	108	122	77.71%



FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP FOR 1/28/15
CONTINUED

588	Mazeppa	60	0	0	0	2	51	53
579	Millville	54	0	0	0	2	40	42
75	New Richland	80	0	0	0	0	69	69
544	Ostrander	20	0	0	0	0	16	16
77	Owatonna	147	0	5	5	0	121	121
526	Peterson	33	0	0	0	1	32	33
179	Plainview	211	0	0	0	16	146	162
166	Preston	28	0	3	3	0	4	4
92	Rochester	210	0	0	0	9	159	168
94	Rushford	92	0	0	0	0	54	54
249	Spring Grove	152	0	0	0	6	92	98
68	Spring Valley	60	0	0	0	0	46	46
190	St Charles	115	0	0	0	2	86	88
164	Stewartville	209	0	0	0	9	155	164
50	Wabasha	155	0	3	3	10	129	139
587	Waldorf	34	0	0	0	0	29	29
228	Waseca	272	0	0	0	7	211	218
295	West Concord	40	0	0	0	0	39	39
637	Whalen	26	0	0	0	0	23	23
9	Winona	221	1	13	14	10	168	178
369	Wykoff	19	0	0	0	0	16	16
	1st District	5,847	4	70	74	303	4367	4670



**HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY
FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP
CHAIRMAN
PAT MINER**

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



COMMANDER

Peter Mueller

548 East 10th St
St Charles, MN 55972
507/932/4301 or 507/269/6087
pm199616@yahoo.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
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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

Glenn Mueller

548 East 10th Street St Charles, MN 55972
507/932/4301 or 507/316/3977
jilly1026@gmail.com

FROM YOUR SAL COMMANDER

Good job guys, Now let's finish it off. We have the Detachment Spring Conference in Anoka on March 21, 2015.

We need to have people in our District to set up and take the officer slots at the District level. I am not sure of myself yet, it depends on my school schedule. We do not have a summer break.

I hope to let everyone know by next month.

First District SAL Commander
Peter Mueller

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

April 20 & 21, 2015 - The Detachment of Minnesota Spring Conference on Anoka American Legion Post 102. Check the flyer on the following pages for details.

FROM YOUR SAL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

We are doing very good right now., but we still have Spring Grove, Lewistown and Houston who have transmitted less than 5 members each in.

We also need to bring some more new SAL members into our organization and people to step up and help with the District Officer positions.

Please we only need about 275 more members to make our Detachment Goal. So let's do it!

First District SAL Membership Director
Glenn Mueller



www.bigboldbeautifulfood.blogspot.com

Menu-
SAL Homemade
Chili & Byerly's
Soup

Chili Cook-Off
\$5.00/Crockpot
Winner receives a
TROPHY. Voted by
the Public.
 Have entries there by 5:00pm

Time 5:00-7:00pm

Live Auction at
7:00pm by
Nyguard Auction

MARCH 7
EMMONS SAL
SOUP SUPPER &
CHILI COOK-OFF

FREEWILL DONATION

Proceeds Benefit the Emmons SAL Scholarship Fund

AT
EMMONS AMERICAN
LEGION POST 317
 Emmons, MN
 Find info on Facebook



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF MINNESOTA**

2015

Spring Conference

**Friday and Saturday
March 20-21, 2015**

Anoka American Legion Post 102
400 West Main Street
Anoka, MN 55303
763-421-0883

Friday Evening, March 20

Finance Committee meeting - 7:00pm
Executive Committee meeting - 8:00pm

Saturday, March 21

Conference convenes at 8:30am
(Please note earlier time!)

Registration fee is \$10.00 per person
(includes Saturday lunch)

Food will be available Friday evening at the Post

ALL OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN ARE EXPECTED TO SEND IN A WRITTEN REPORT
TO ADJUTANT DOUG BIBLE. REPORTS MUST BE IN BY 5:00PM MARCH 14.

PLEASE REGISTER

You may Register On-line @ www.mnsal.org (directly from the HOME page)
OR Click <Ctrl>+ [REGISTER](#) OR
email Allen Amundson at sal@anokalegion.org

ANOKA HOTELS / MOTELS

Regency Inn & Suites - (763)-422-8000 - \$95+
1129 Hwy 10 West, Hwy 10 & Thurston Ave, Anoka, MN 55303

Comfort Inn Suites - (763) 323-4800 - \$120+
6440 Hwy 10 West, Ramsey, MN 55303

AmericInn Coon Rapids - (800) 634-3444 - \$100+
3430 Northdale Blvd, Coon Rapids, MN 55448

Best Western Plus Coon Rapids - (763) 576-0700 - \$110+
3420 Northdale Blvd Northwest, Coon Rapids, MN 55448
[All within 4 miles of Post]

Squad	Location	2014	2015 Goal	10/29/2014	11/14/2014	11/26/2014	12/6/2014	1/7/2015	1/23/2015	2/26/2015
9	WINONA	64	65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65
40	LANESBORO	53	54	44	44	44	44	44	52	54
50	WABASHA	23	24	3	8	13	13	20	20	20
52	BLOOMING PRAIRIE	28	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
56	ALBERT LEA	127	128	81	81	81	81	97	97	112
75	NEW RICHLAND	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
77	OWATONNA	120	121	0	0	0	54	54	98	98
90	LEWISTON	44	45	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
91	AUSTIN	62	67	24	24	24	36	47	53	58
92	ROCHESTER	103	104	14	64	64	64	77	94	94
94	RUSHFORD	44	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	32
105	LYLE	16	17	1	1	1	1	1	1	17
119	BYRON	46	47	18	32	32	36	44	46	46
140	GRAND MEADOW	14	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
146	ADAMS	132	133	36	36	36	36	108	129	129
161	LE ROY	54	55	56	56	56	56	56	56	56
164	STEWARTVILLE	128	129	88	88	88	88	132	149	149
166	PRESTON	42	43	31	31	31	31	31	46	46
179	PLAINVIEW	19	20	11	11	11	11	13	13	18
190	ST. CHARLES	12	13	13	13	13	13	13	14	14
191	CALEDONIA	43	44	43	43	43	43	43	43	43
228	WASECA	109	110	19	32	48	48	56	67	86
249	SPRING GROVE	12	13	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
264	GLENVILLE	21	22	18	18	18	31	31	31	33
266	HARTLAND	11	12	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
281	JANESVILLE	12	13	0	0	0	0	0	9	9
299	MABEL	41	42	2	2	2	2	41	41	41
317	EMMONS	32	33	24	24	24	24	25	25	25
330	HAYFIELD	39	40	19	19	21	21	21	26	26
333	KASSON	43	44	25	25	38	38	38	38	38
384	DODGE CENTER	13	14	2	2	2	2	8	9	10
400	CANTON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
404	ALDEN	61	62	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
423	HOUSTON	0	30	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
546	KELLOGG	23	24	22	22	22	22	24	24	24
551	EYOTA	33	34	10	16	24	24	24	24	24
552	FREEBORN	37	38	32	32	32	32	32	32	33
573	ELGIN	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
579	MILLVILLE	41	42	4	4	4	4	20	20	20
595	LA CRESCENT	79	80	82	82	82	85	85	85	86
1111	DAKOTA	95	96	53	59	63	63	70	78	84
		1879	1952	913	1007	1055	1141	1393	1558	1677

Spreadsheet 2/30/15					
District	2015 Goal	Total 2014	Total 2015	Total Squads	% Of Goal
District 1	1,952	1,879	1,677	41	85.91%
District 2	1,030	993	1,033	30	100.29%
District 3	1,805	1,769	1,651	36	91.47%
District 4	297	292	284	6	95.62%
District 5	407	401	354	6	86.98%
District 6	1,386	1,356	1,109	30	80.01%
District 7	969	950	724	19	74.72%
District 8	602	584	495	14	82.23%
District 9	768	753	655	15	85.29%
District 10	1,659	1,617	1,544	34	93.07%
District 11	7	6	4	2	57.14%
Totals	10,882	10,600	9,530	233	87.58%

Gentlemen,

Once again, the Detachment of Minnesota has had a busy month in membership turn-ins. We can be very proud of our position in the Top 10 in membership nationally. We are well ahead of the national target pace with a percentage of 87.58%. Our task now is to finish what we have started.

I have attached updated district percentages and turn-in reports to date. Congratulations to Gene and the SAL members in the Second District for being the first district to 100%. Which district will be the next to reach 100% and beyond?

I have added a link to the Bataan Memorial March registration form on the Detachment webpage. For those wondering where we are at for the big 2-0 hike - 86.64%.

Keep up the great work.

**Paul R. Spyhalski
SAL Membership Director (MN)
111 Sixth St NW
Austin, MN 55912
(507) 437-6748
c (507) 279-0340**

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



RIDERS CONTACT INFORMATION

PRESIDENT

Scuffy Paulson
Rushford, MN
507/450/8493

VICE—PRESIDENT

Jason Konkel
Houston, MN
507/450/0955

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

Nancy Lewison
Adams, MN

CHAPLAIN

Tom Carroll
Rushford, MN
507/450/0741

ROAD CAPTAIN

Tom Schmidt
Winona, MN
507/313/4302

FIRST DISTRICT RIDERS

The Donnie Smith Bike show is scheduled for March 28-29th. There will be an ALR booth and all ALR members are encouraged to help if they can. This is a great opportunity to visit with potential new members from all over the state.

Plans are in the works for a District ride to raise funds for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. The date for the ride is scheduled for Friday, July 10th-Sunday, July 12th, 2015. We hope to reach all corners of our district. We will be contacting Legion Posts for stops, meals and donations. If you are interested in having us, please contact Nancy Lewison at 507-582-3390 or lewisonnancy@gmail.com.

Please contact "Scuffy" Paulson if you have questions regarding the First District American Legion Riders.

We ride to honor those who have served our country and to bring awareness to the American Legion Family.

ALR CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

Austin Post #91 ALR was organized in November, 2013. They decided to organize after Roy Naylor, Lee Dority & Paul Spyhalski were visiting about the ALR.

They are now up to 12 members and have been very active. They hosted a "Run for the Hills" ride in September raising over \$1200 for The March of Dimes. There were 30 participants in this ride. They have also had a pancake feed and a chili cook-off. Some of the funds raised from the chili cook when to the Post Kitchen fund.

They had a visit from Santa with the local National Guard Unit donating a truck load of toys and games to hand out. There were over 50 kids entertained at this event. The extra toys and games were distributed to local nursing homes, VA facilities and child care centers.

They are passionate about riding, helping veterans, their Legion Post and the community.

They appreciate the support of Post 91, Auxiliary Unit and the S.A.L. Squadron. They meet at 1pm, the 4th Sunday of the month at Post #91