



FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

MARCH 2016

Legion Contacts

Commander

Roland Hanson
2002 10th St SW
Austin, MN 55912
507/438/6573
rehan-
son46@outlook.com

Adjutant

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

Membership

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

Hello Comrades,

We made it through the busy month of February. It was busy but a lot of fun. The National Commanders Tour had very good turnouts at all four stops. He is a very nice guy and a good speaker. He got a big kick out of his first snowmobile ride in Winona.

The Sweetheart Rally in Legionville which included the ice fishing contest and a chili cook off contest was a fun day too. The First District didn't win the chili cook off but we did get a lot of compliments on the chili. We didn't win at the minnow races either.

The program presented on Four Chaplains Sunday served as a remembrance of their bravery and their faith. A model of faith and service we should embrace.

District One and District Three also had a ice fishing contest. I didn't win there either but I got wet feet.

The Appreciation Dinner is coming up on the fifth of March. It will be suit and tie affair. Ticket sales are closed. Bring your appetite and lots of membership.

Remember the Area Three Rally that was scheduled for February 27th has been moved to March 12th. It will still be held in Spring Grove, Post 249.

Remember to thank a veteran.

Roland Hanson—First District Commander

IMPORTANT DATES

March 4, 2016—Past District Commander/President's Fish Fry— Albert Lea Post 56 at five (5) pm.

March 5, 2016—Department Voce Commander Appreciation Rally at Legionville. Membership turn in from 3 to 4 pm with supper at 5 and program to follow.

March 12, 2016—Area Three Rally at Spring Grove Post 249. social time 3pm and rally at 4pm.

March 19, 2016—District Auxiliary Jr Conference at Stewartville Post 164. registration at 9am and conference at 10am.

April 2, 2016—Commander Hanson's Testimonial dinner at Austin Post 91. Social time at 5pm with dinner at 6 pm program following. Info in flyer section

April 9, 2016—Department Commander Jim Kellogg's Testimonial dinner at Adams Post 146. Social time 5pm, dinner 6pm and program following. More info in the flyer section

VICE—COMMANDER INFORMATION

Area One - Joe Brown
3611 85th St NW Lot 180
Oronoco, MN 55960
507/990/1347

Brown49tex@charter.net

Area Two - Gene "Sarge" Luedtke
166 22nd St NW Apt 205
Owatonna, MN 55060
507/451/5731

gene.luedtke@hotmail.com

Area Three - Carroll W. Hill
28992 Hill Rd
Winona, MN 55987
507/438/6531
hilltoprepair@yahoo.com

Area Four Arnie Troe
PO Box 173
Emmons, MN 56029
507/402/2585
actroe@wctatel.net

INDEX

LEGION	pages	1—13
AUXILIARY	pages	14—17
SAL	pages	18—19
LEGION RIDERS	page	20
FLYERS	page	21—24

OFFICER ENDORSEMENTS

- 1. Sy Fix - LaCrescent - For Commander
- 2. Ralph Schneekloth - Mabel - For Chaplain
- 3. Bill Goede - Plainview - For Finance Officer

NATIONAL CONVENTION REQUESTS

- 1. Sy Fix
- 2. Wayne Hammon Jr
- 3. Bill Goede
- 4. Arnie Troe
- 5. Eugene Warke
- 6. Chuck Kruger
- 7. Roland Hanson

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)

First District Facebook page at [mnfirstdistrict](https://www.facebook.com/mnfirstdistrict)

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! IMPORTANT !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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 ADJUNT 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.

RESOLUTIONS NOTICE

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

If you have a resolution you want considered at the First District Convention in Mabel on May 21, 2016, **IT MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE DISTRICT RESOLUTION CHAIRMAN NO LATER THAN APRIL 11, 2016.**

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

Thank you

Richard Gosse— First District Resolution chairman

Greetings from Area One:

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. If you need a ride give me a call.

I would like to thank the Winona Legion for their outstanding job in hosting the National Commander. The meal was excellent and our National Commander Dale Barnett is second to none. If you have never been to a function hosting the National Commander, you need to put it on your calendar.

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?

Please keep Marilyn Harcey in your prayers as she recovers from surgery.

I look forward to visiting your Post, and feel free to contact me. Remember our troops and their loved ones in your prayers. May God Bless You and May God Bless America.

Area One Vice Commander
Joe P Brown, Sr

Greetings from Area Two

I have busy helping my son-in-law getting a wood working shop up and running.
I did attend the National Commander's visit in Adams on the 3rd of March. I enjoyed taking with him and listening to the speech that he gave. Let's keep the memberships coming in. Let's have the 1st on top at the end of the year.

Area Two Vice Commander Sarge.

Greetings from Area Three,

I want to thank all the personnel in Area Three who took the time to come and visit with our National Commander when he was here. It showed the National Commander that Minnesota appreciated him taking the time to come and visit us.

The Area Three rally that was cancelled for the 27th of February at Spring Grove has been rescheduled for the 12th of March. I apologize for the inconvenience that it may have caused anyone. I hope to see everyone on the 12th of March.

Now that March has arrived, we have to take extra time and effort to contact the members who have not paid their membership yet. I know the increase in dues this year has caused some concern for many but it was necessary in order to keep the American Legion's various programs in effect. Veterans of the past took the time and money needed to keep the American Legion viable and it is our obligation to continue to keep the organization going.

As always, keep the men and women in harm's way in your thoughts and prayers.

Carroll Hill, Vice Commander Area Three

Greetings from Area Four

Spring is coming fast, thanks to the nice weather we had most of February. Two things coming up in March to be aware of:

March 4, 2016 The Past Commanders and President's Fish Fry at the Albert Lea American Legion Post 56. The food and the fun start at 5 p.m.

March 19, 2016 The District Auxiliary Junior Conference at Stewartville American Legion Post 164. Registration starts at a.m., and the meetings follow at 10 a.m.

We hosted the National Commander Tour in early February with a stop at Adams American Legion Post 147. It was well-attended and we had television and newspaper coverage.

The Sweetheart Rally was held in Legionville on Feb. 6th. We had a good turn-out of members from District 1 and from members across the state.

God bless our troops and God bless America!

Arnold Troe
Vice Commander, Area 4

First District Membership Report For 2/25/2016

POST	CITY	Goal	Previous	Turn In	Total	PERCENT	LEFT	Turn In Date
9	Winona	668	611	8	619	92.66%	49	2/25/2016
90	Lewiston	79	67	3	70	88.61%	9	1/21/2016
190	St Charles	150	129	5	134	89.33%	16	1/21/2016
Winona County Totals		897	807	16	823	91.75%	74	2/25/2016
50	Wabasha	322	260	18	278	86.34%	44	2/18/2016
110	Lake City	160	149	2	151	94.38%	9	1/21/2016
179	Plainview	202	188	14	202	100.00%	0	1/21/2016
546	Kellogg	71	70	1	71	100.00%	0	2/11/2016
573	Elgin	45	36	2	38	84.44%	7	12/16/2015
579	Millville	135	160	1	161	119.26%	-26	2/18/2016
588	Mazeppa	85	74	2	76	89.41%	9	1/7/2016
Wabasha County Totals		1020	937	40	977	95.78%	43	2/25/2016
92	Rochester	1043	914	9	923	88.49%	120	2/25/2016
119	Byron	154	153	1	154	100.00%	0	2/18/2016
164	Stewartville	330	301	1	302	91.52%	28	2/11/2016
446	Rochester	11	13	1	14	127.27%	-3	12/16/2015
551	Eyota	179	173	10	183	102.23%	-4	1/7/2016
Olmstead County Totals		1717	1554	22	1576	91.79%	141	2/25/2016
Area One Totals		3634	3298	78	3376	92.90%	258	2/25/2016
295	West Concord	69	67	-1	66	95.65%	3	1/7/2016
330	Hayfield	240	242	1	243	101.25%	-3	2/25/2016
333	Kasson	275	269	5	274	99.64%	1	2/18/2016
384	Dodge Center	94	83	2	85	90.43%	9	2/11/2016
422	Claremont	37	33	5	38	102.70%	-1	11/25/2015
Dodge County Totals		715	694	12	706	98.74%	9	2/25/2016
52	Blooming Prairie	120	104	3	107	89.17%	13	2/25/2016
77	Owatonna	605	541	16	557	92.07%	48	2/11/2016
296	Ellendale	28	31	2	33	117.86%	-5	1/7/2016
Steele County Totals		753	676	21	697	92.56%	56	2/25/2016
75	New Richland	70	60	3	63	90.00%	7	1/21/2016
228	Waseca	347	349	1	350	100.86%	-3	2/25/2016
281	Janesville	110	102	2	104	94.55%	6	12/10/2015
587	Waldorf	28	27	1	28	100.00%	0	2/18/2016
Waseca County Totals		555	538	7	545	98.20%	10	2/25/2016
Area Two Totals		2023	1908	40	1948	96.29%	75	2/25/2016

40	Lanesboro	103	105	5	110	106.80%	-7	1/7/2016
68	Spring Valley	84	76	2	78	92.86%	6	1/15/2016
81	Harmony	36	29	3	32	88.89%	4	2/25/2015
94	Rushford	142	128	2	130	91.55%	12	2/25/2016
166	Preston	81	68	5	73	90.12%	8	2/11/2016
197	Chatfield	54	48	2	50	92.59%	4	1/21/2016
299	Mabel	192	189	1	190	98.96%	2	2/18/2016
369	Wykoff	21	18	2	20	95.24%	1	9/17/2015
400	Canton	18	13	3	16	88.89%	2	1/15/2016
492	Fountain	19	13	4	17	89.47%	2	12/10/2015
526	Peterson	35	36	-1	35	100.00%	0	1/7/2016
544	Ostrander	25	26	1	27	108.00%	-2	12/16/2015
637	Whalen	15	15	1	16	106.67%	-1	2/11/2016
Fillmore County Totals		825	764	30	794	96.24%	31	2/25/2016
191	Caledonia	179	168	2	170	94.97%	9	2/18/2016
249	Spring Grove	171	149	1	150	87.72%	21	2/11/2016
423	Houston	114	106	1	107	93.86%	7	2/18/2016
498	Hokah	21	20	1	21	100.00%	0	2/11/2016
595	LaCrescent	365	327	1	328	89.86%	37	2/18/2016
Houston County Totals		850	770	6	776	91.29%	74	2/25/2016
Area Three Totals		1675	1534	36	1570	93.73%	105	2/25/2016
56	Albert Lea	739	700	6	706	95.53%	33	2/11/2016
264	Glenville	90	82	1	83	92.22%	7	1/21/2016
266	Hartland	20	17	1	18	90.00%	2	9/17/2015
317	Emmons	76	74	1	75	98.68%	1	2/18/2016
404	Alden	106	112	1	113	106.60%	-7	1/21/2016
552	Freeborn	40	37	2	39	97.50%	1	12/10/2015
Freeborn County Totals		1071	1022	12	1034	96.55%	37	2/25/2016
91	Austin	700	651	1	652	93.14%	48	2/25/2016
105	Lyle	97	90	1	91	93.81%	6	1/7/2016
140	Grand Meadow	50	47	1	48	96.00%	2	2/11/2016
146	Adams	216	203	1	204	94.44%	12	2/18/2016
161	LeRoy	73	67	1	68	93.15%	5	2/11/2016
570	Austin Spam	6	1	4	5	83.33%	1	7/29/2015
Mower County Totals		1142	1059	9	1068	93.52%	74	2/25/2016
Area Four Totals		2213	2081	21	2102	94.98%	111	2/25/2016
1111	Dakota	82	0	4	4	4.88%	78	2/25/2016
District One Totals		9627	8821	179	9000	93.49%	627	2/25/2016

AREA VICE COMMANDER STANDINGS

AREA VICE COMMANDER								
AREA ONE	3634	3298	78	3376	92.90%	258	2/25/2016	
AREA TWO	2023	1908	40	1948	96.29%	75	2/25/2016	
AREA THREE	1675	1534	36	1570	93.73%	105	2/25/2016	
AREA FOUR	2213	2081	21	2102	94.98%	111	2/25/2016	

Greetings First District:

National Commander Barnett got to see what a Minnesota winter is like. He was able to do some ice fishing, drive a snowmobile and travel our highways between stops.

The Sweetheart Rally was quite well attended. The weather was beautiful, the chili was great, but the fishing was questionable.

The Four Chaplains program went very well considering everything going on that weekend. Ralph did a great job with the presentation.

Because of the amount of things happening that weekend the First and Third Fishing Tournament was more or less a wash out.

Our Area Three Rally had to be moved to March 12th. Several area towns were in the State Basketball Tournament and thus would limit the attendance at the rally.

The First District Past Commanders/Presidents Fish Fry will be held at Albert Lea Post #56 March 4th. Serving will begin at 5:00p.m. Karaoke will be held in the lounge beginning at 9:00p.m. Let's bring lots of membership. I'm sure Commander Rollie wouldn't mind footing the bill for a good turn in.

The American Legion Family Appreciation Rally will be held at Legionville March 5th. Bring lots of membership so we can get back to first place at Department. Let's have a great turnout and give our Vice Commanders a big thank you for a job well done.

We are well on our way to make goal. Let's get those final members signed up. There are a lot of eligible members out there who need to become members. REMEMBER JUST ASK!!!!

1ST District Membership Director
Les Shaunce

MAKE SURE AND USE THE RED TRANSMITTALS TO SEND MEMBERSHIP IN. IF YOU USE THE GREEN ONES THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP AND CHECK WILL BE SENT BACK TO YOUR POST.

Chaplains Corner

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 20th of March this year and Holy week, culminating with Resurrection Sunday, Easter on the 27th of March.

“In suffering, the deliverance consists in our being allowed to put the matter out of our own hands into God’s hands.” *Dietrich Bonhoeffer to Eberhart Bethge, 28 July, 1944.*

(Psalm 51:1-2) Have mercy on me oh God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

(Isaiah 53:4-5) Surely he has borne our iniquities and carried our diseases; yet we account him stricken, struck down by God and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

(Romans 5:3-5) Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance, character; and character hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

We should all be aware of Lent, and how this had to happen to have Christ go to the cross to bear all our sins, and to gain forgiveness once for all. The culmination on Good Friday and the empty tomb on Easter morning speak it all.

Edmund Burke wrote: What is liberty without wisdom and without virtue? It is the greatest of all possible evils; for it is folly, vice and madness, without restraint. Men are qualified for civil liberty in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains upon their own appetites... Society cannot exist, unless a controlling power upon will and appetite be placed somewhere; and the less of it there is within, the more there must be without.

It is ordained in the eternal constitution of things, that men of intemperate minds cannot be free. Their passions forge their fetters. *Source: America’s God and Country, Encyclopedia of Quotations, William J Federer*

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 and should be examples of integrity, self-sacrifice, and hard work.

Thank you for allowing me to humbly serve.

For God and Country,

Ralph Schneekloth,
MN First District Chaplain

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 organizations 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. Also 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"

Thank you for allowing me to humbly serve,

Ralph Schneekloth,

PR Committee Chair

TESTIMONIAL DINNER FOR FIRST DISTRICT COMMANDER



ROLAND HANSON

DATE ----- April 2, 2016

TIME-----Social – 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Dinner – 6:00 pm
Program - 7:00 pm

PLACE-----Austin American Legion Post 91
809 12th Street SW
Austin, MN 55912

MENU-----Barbequed Ribs, Baked potato, Vegetable,
Dinner roll, dessert, coffee, milk and water.

COST-----\$15 per plate.

-----cut off and send with payment-----

NAME _____

NUMBER ATTENDING _____

Please make checks payable to “Austin American Legion Post 91” and mail to:

Roland Hanson
2002 10th St SW
Austin, MN 55912

PLEASE RESPOND BY MARCH 26, 2016

2016 First District Call To Convention

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, Roland Hanson, do hereby call a convention of the First District to convene at Mabel, Minnesota, Saturday May 21, 2016.

The business sessions of the convention will be held at Mabel Post # 299 located at 114 North Main St, Mabel, MN commencing at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, May 21 and will continue until adjournment.

The purpose of this convention is to elect a District Commander, Four (4) District Vice- Commanders, District Chaplain, 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 District Adjutant, Wayne Hammon Jr, PO Box 135, LeRoy, MN 55951 before May 15th.

All Members are encouraged to attend
First District Commander
Roland Hanson

Delegate Certification to the First District Convention in Austin, Minnesota, May 21, 2016, Please send to the District Adjutant as soon as possible.

POST _____ MN

DELEGATES

ALTERNATES

1. _____

1. _____

2. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3. _____

4. _____

4. _____

5. _____

5. _____

6. _____

6. _____

7. _____

7. _____

8. _____

8. _____

SIGNED _____

ADJUTANT, POST # _____

FIRST DISTRICT 2016 CONVENTION PRE REGISTRATION

May 21, 2016

MABEL, MINNESOTA

The First District Convention will be held in in Mabel, Minnesota at the American Legion Post 299. Please fill this form out and return to: **American Legion Unit 299** before May 4, 2016.

**Convention Registration
114 North Main Street
Mabel, MN 55954**

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 299** 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 as we having a one day convention it is imperative that we have pre-registration to get us a number of those attending for Post 299. Please share this with everyone that you can and PLEASE, PLEASE pre- register.

CONVENTION BOOKLET ADVERTISEMENTS

Full page Ad: \$100

Half page Ad: \$50

Quarter page Ad \$25

Send a copy of the ad and payment for the Ads By April 30th, 2016 to:

Mabel American Legion

ATTN: Convention Committee

114 North Main Street

Mabel, MN 55954

CONVENTION HOUSING INFORMATION (rooms filling up fast)

Country Lodge Inn

525 Main Ave North

Harmony, MN 55939

Phone # 507-886-2515

Americas Best Value Inn & Suites

745 North Broadway St

Spring Valley, MN

Phone # 507-346-7788

Mabel House Hotel

117 South Main St

Mabel, MN 55954

Phone # 507-493-5768

Stone Mill Motel & Suites

100 Beacon St East

Lanesboro, MN 55949

Phone # 507-467-8663

The Trailhead Inn & Suites

112 Center St

Preston, MN 55965

Phone # 507-765-2460

Country Trails Inn & Suites

Highway 52

Preston, MN 55965

Phone # 507-765-2533

Jail House Inn & Breakfast

109 Houston St NW

Preston, MN 55965

Phone # 507-765-2181

Fair Bridge Inn & Suites

508 Kruckow Ave

Caledonia, MN 55921

Phone # 866-430-2692

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, First District for your great attendance for our National Commander Tour stops. It was very much appreciated and showed the Department of Minnesota that the stops on the National Commander's Tour do not have to be held at large posts only. Once again thanks for the great support from the First District.

**Jim Kellogg, Commander
Department of MN American Legion**

Since I am running for the position of District Commander and in case I am elected I am trying to get the Chairmanships done before hand. I ask for your support in my endeavor to run for Commander as well as your support for the District Chairmanships. The following are the positions still open:

Blood Program

Boys State

Legion Riders

Post Development

Veterans Affairs and Rehab

The 2016 State Convention is coming soon. Unit #92, Rochester will be hosting and will be in need of help with various duties such as registration and different Chairmanships. Please contact Sharon Kingsley if you think you can be of assistance this year.

507-288-1411

sharo2100@yahoo.com

IMPORTANT - LEGIONVILLE SAFTY PATROL CAMP

It's that time of year again get your school safety patrol kids signed up. Remember that this is open to any 5 grader or older plus you can send more than one kid you can ask your local lions club or VFW or anyone who might want to send a kid.

To find out more information and registration forms go to the Minnesota American Legion Website at mnlegion.org and click on post resources. Then from the drop menu click on Legionville, then click on reservations, from that page all the information and registration forms can be found.

Thanks Glenn Mueller – First District Legionville Chairman

FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY NEWS



Auxiliary Contacts

President

Pat Miner
PO box 136
Rose Creek, MN 55970
507/433/1326 or 507/251/9219
minerpa24@gmail.com

Secretary

Gloria Njos
PO Box 195
Walham, MN 55982
507/477/3259

Membership / First Vice

Cindy Nelson
91 14th St N
Northwood, IA 50459
507/383/0082
tindylou@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Audrey Farnsworth
302 1st St E
Stewartville, MN 55976
507/533/4454
harlee@charter.net

Ladies, a reminder of the First District Junior Conference on March 19th at the Stewartville American Legion starting at 9:00 am with the Junior Executive meeting. All units are encouraged to come even if you don't have an organized junior group.

The Department Junior Conference is April 8-9 hosted by the Second District in Fairmont if you have any questions you can contact me or check the Department website mnala.org for further details.

The First District Past President's luncheon will be on Saturday March 12th at the Pizza Ranch in Stewartville starting at noon. There is also an Area Three Rally at Spring Grove starting at 3 pm on March 12th.

Please remember Department President Sandy's family in your prayers and also Past District Secretary Marilyn Harcey.

THERE IS NO GOING BACK, WE CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST.

THERE IS NO TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME.

YOU CAN'T TURN BACK THE CLOCK

BUT YOU CAN WIND IT UP AGAIN.

EACH OF US LEAVES A THUMBPRINT ON THE WORLD.

A RECORD THAT WE WERE HERE OF WHOM WE WERE AND WHAT WE DID.

YOUR ONLY CHOICE IS WHAT KIND OF THUMBPRINT TO LEAVE.

SO UNTIL YOU HEAR FROM ME AGAIN.....TAKE CARE

First District President Pat Miner

Poppy Program

Have all Units ordered their Poppies? If not you are still able too.

All Units should have received the Poppy Program Plaques and Awards sheet. After your Poppy Poster Contest, I will need you to send me your winning Posters by April 1st.

One winner in each category from 1st. District will be sent on to State for competition.

Good Luck to each Unit!

I would really like to know what your Unit would have done last year to promote the Poppy Program.

You can send your winning posters and poppy recap to the following address.

Wanda Prescher- Poppy Chair
3321 Vista View Ct. SW
Rochester, MN. 55902

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 19, 2016** at the Stewartville American Legion 1100 2nd Ave. NW Stewartville, 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 Carrie Lowe 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.

Carrie Lowe
First District Junior Activities Chairman

Call to Convention

The annual First District Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota is hereby called. It is to be held in Mabel, Minnesota on **Saturday May 21, 2016**. Auxiliary sessions will be held at Mabel Community Center, 201 South Main, Mabel, MN

Opening session will be called on May 21, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

The purpose of the Convention is to:

1. Elect District Officers for the 2015-2016 year.
2. Receive reports of Unit Presidents.
3. Receive reports of District Chairmen.
4. Elect delegates and alternates to the National Convention.
5. Conduct such other business as may be brought before the Convention in conformity with the provisions of the Department and National Constitutions.

DISTRICT CHAIRMEN

ALL DISTRICT CHAIRMEN MUST FILE/TYPE A REPORT FOR THE DISTRICT BOOK OF ANNUAL REPORTS, which will be available at the Convention. Reports should include information from the Unit annual reports forwarded to each respective Chairman by the Department office shortly after April 15 and any pertinent information regarding District projects or activities in your program area. Reports should be forwarded to the First District President **NO LATER THAN APRIL 30, 2015**. If possible, reports should be typewritten and ready to print.

District Chairmen are also responsible to judge the Unit Annual Reports in their respective program area for trophies, awards and certificates of merit according to the District Standing Rules. They should notify the District President of winners of Certificates of Merit prior to the opening of the Convention so that the certificates can be properly prepared, signed and awarded at the Convention.

UNIT COLOR BEARERS

Units are encouraged to bring their flags to the Convention to be presented as part of the opening ceremonies, posted during the Auxiliary sessions and retired at the close of the Convention. Auxiliary members who are carrying their flags at the District Convention are asked to meet at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday May 16, 2015 to rehearse.

PAGES AND COLOR BEARERS

Pages and color bearers are expected to wear **white blouses, navy blue skirts or slacks, and comfortable shoes**. NO jewelry except rings, watches and small earrings should be worn while acting as a page or color bearer.

UNIT PRESIDENTS

ALL Unit Presidents are asked to take part in the **Opening Ceremonies** at the District Convention regardless of whether or not their Unit Colors will be present. Please be there by 8:00 A.M. to rehearse.

ALL Unit Presidents are expected to prepare a **two minute report about Unit activities throughout this past year**. Reports may include summaries of Unit activities or specific activities unique to the Unit that may provide ideas for other Units. Presidents will **present their report** during the convention sessions and submit a **written copy of that report** to the District Secretary upon completion of their presentation. Unit Presidents who are unable to attend the Convention may prepare a report to be read by another unit member or may forward a written report to the District Secretary prior to the Convention.

COUNTY COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

County Council Presidents are expected to be prepared to report on their county's activities, what their county does to keep their council active, and ideas that may help other counties start a council.

GIRLS STATE

GIRLS STATE BUS: Due to the lack of response from the form that was in the last district newsletter, there will be **NO** bus this year to Girls State. Your citizen will need to supply their own transportation, whether it is by the unit, parent(s) or themselves.

REMINDER - MARCH 31ST IS THE DEADLINE FOR GIRLS STATE RESERVATIONS Girls State is June 12-18, 2016 at Bethel University

It's not too late to sponsor a Junior girl for ALA Minnesota Girls State! It's the 70th Anniversary of Girls State and we would love to have the maximum number of girls this year. If your local high school doesn't have a qualified participant, consider contacting a neighboring high school and/or also consider parochial and home school students as well.

Once you have submitted your reservation and payment of \$300 per girl, you will be sent a Reservation Packet. This packet will be sent to the name listed on the Reservation form. The paperwork included in this packet has due dates listed which must be followed. Our contract with Bethel University requires that we commit to a final number of reservations for citizens and staff on that date so the deadline is very important!

If your American Legion Post is providing the funds for your citizen(s) through charitable gambling, these checks are to be made out to the Minnesota American Legion Foundation and earmarked Fund 83 on the memo line. The check should be mailed to the Auxiliary Department office with your form.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU READ THE RESERVATION PACKET THOROUGHLY BEFORE YOU SHARE IT WITH YOUR CITIZEN. WE HAVE NEW INFORMATION THAT IS NOW REQUIRED

Basically here are some of the things you will need your citizen to provide:

- Proof of legal inhabitation (copy of birth certificate, passport, green card)

- A parent or legal guardian will need to read and sign the back page of the registration form and have their signature notarized.

- Once the form has been signed and notarized, then the Unit President or Girls State Chairman will sign the form.

They are acknowledging that they have read the information on their citizen and the application form is complete. Incomplete applications will be returned for proper re-submission.

Please remember that there are NO late arrivals and NO early dismissals. The 2016 Girls State session begins promptly at 3:00 pm on June 12th and ends on Saturday morning June 18th just before lunch.

There are plans to have a "Package Deal" of items from the Shirt Shack at Girls State. The Department Girls State Committee is in the process of finalizing this and will have information posted on the website soon and it will also be in the next Unit mailing.

Tara Goede, Chairman

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

Greetings Sons

Hi fellow Sons, boy is the year flying by fast. It's been a good time but also very frustrating. We have been in 9th place almost all year with membership we are the first district but nobody knows it by our membership. It's also hard to do when we don't have a complete team to work with. I am asking for help from anyone who can. We still need about 700 members to make goal I know we can if everyone starts working harder. If you are at goal keep putting them in, if over goal keep pushing on. If not get out there and do some door knocking and make that difference.

It is Also Time for our District Convention, so let's get some people to step up into the District Offices for next year. Next month I will give my Commanders end of year report

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

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! ATTENTION SQUADS !!!!!!!!!!!!!

We still have a number of Squadrons who need to get their officer lists updated with Detachment. They are Wabasha, Owatonna, Austin, Lyle, Byron, Grand Meadow, Preston, Caledonia, Spring Grove, Glenville, Janesville, Mabel, Hayfield, Dodge Center and Eyota. Remember you need to send in an officer list every year even if there are no changes. You **CANNOT** put the same as last year on the form and send in.

FIRST DISTRICT SAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 2/24/2016

SQUAD	LOCATION	GOAL	PREVIOUS	TURN IN	TOTAL	PERCENT	LEFT	DATE
9	WINONA	54	0	75	75	138.89%	-21	1/6/2016
40	LANESBORO	53	55	1	56	105.66%	-3	1/28/2016
50	WABASHA	30	7	2	9	30.00%	21	2/24/2016
90	LEWISTON	32	1	45	46	143.75%	-14	1/28/2016
92	ROCHESTER	101	0	105	105	103.96%	-4	1/6/2016
94	RUSHFORD	29	0	35	35	120.69%	-6	1/6/2016
119	BYRON	31	39	4	43	138.71%	-12	2/24/2016
164	STEWARTVILLE	114	6	58	64	56.14%	50	1/28/2016
166	PRESTON	47	0	41	41	87.23%	6	1/6/2016
179	PLAINVIEW	22	0	16	16	72.73%	6	1/6/2016
190	ST CHARLES	20	0	15	15	75.00%	5	1/6/2016
191	CALEDONIA	43	0	0	0	0.00%	43	1/6/2016
249	SPRING GROVE	16	0	7	7	43.75%	9	1/6/2016
299	MABEL	44	0	16	16	36.36%	28	1/6/2016
423	HOUSTON	53	0	19	19	35.85%	34	1/6/2016
546	KELLOGG	20	24	2	26	130.00%	-6	1/28/2016
551	EYOTA	33	27	4	31	93.94%	2	1/28/2016
573	ELGIN	25	0	1	1	4.00%	24	1/6/2016
579	MILLVILLE	25	0	4	4	16.00%	21	1/6/2016
595	LA CRESCENT	79	0	40	40	50.63%	39	1/6/2016
TOTAL FOR EAST SIDE		871	159	490	649	74.51%	222	1/28/2016
52	BLOOMING PRAIRIE	14	0	71	71	507.14%	-57	1/6/2016
56	ALBERT LEA	129	48	14	62	48.06%	67	2/24/2016
75	NEW RICHLAND	4	0	0	0	0.00%	4	1/6/2016
77	OWATONNA	121	58	11	69	57.02%	52	2/24/2016
91	AUSTIN	63	30	31	61	96.83%	2	2/24/2016
105	LYLE	30	0	1	1	3.33%	29	1/6/2016
140	GRAND MEADOW	11	0	0	0	0.00%	11	1/6/2016
146	ADAMS	126	0	74	74	58.73%	52	1/6/2016
161	LEROY	49	0	47	47	95.92%	2	1/6/2016
228	WASECA	95	99	10	109	114.74%	-14	2/24/2016
264	GLENVILLE	27	38	2	40	148.15%	-13	2/24/2016
266	HARTLAND	12	0	12	12	100.00%	0	1/6/2016
281	JANESVILLE	15	0	10	10	66.67%	5	1/28/2016
317	EMMONS	29	0	19	19	65.52%	10	1/6/2016
330	HAYFIELD	53	27	1	28	52.83%	25	2/24/2016
333	KASSON	51	0	38	38	74.51%	13	1/6/2016
384	DODGE CENTER	25	4	2	6	24.00%	19	1/28/2016
404	ALDEN	54	8	38	46	85.19%	8	2/24/2016
552	FREEBORN	34	0	35	35	102.94%	-1	1/6/2016
TOTAL FOR WEST SIDE		928	312	416	728	78.45%	200	1/28/2016
1111	DAKOTA	191	76	7	83	43.46%	108	2/24/2016
TOTAL FOR DISTRICT		2009	547	913	1460	72.67%	549	2/24/2016

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



RIDERS CONTACT INFORMATION

PRESIDENT

Dennis Lewison
Adams, MN
507/440/6067

VICE—PRESIDENT

Tony Loecher
Rochester, MN
507/358/6389

SECRETARY

Nancy Lewison
Adams, MN
507/440/2090

SGT AT ARMS

Spanky Carroll
Rushford, MN
507/450/0741

HISTORIAN

Karla Miller
Rushford, MN
507/459/5962

CHAPLAIN

Roe Naylor
Austin, MN
507/438/5804

ROAD CAPTAIN

Lee Dority
Austin, MN
641/210/9035

Greetings,

Our next meeting will be held at the Stewartville American Legion on Sunday, March 6th at 3PM. We will be in the meeting room off the bar area.

Nominations for all offices will take place at this meeting.

If you are interested in holding a First District ALR Office and are not able to attend the meeting, please e-mail any endorsement to the director or secretary at lewisonnancy@gmail.com.

The “Second Annual Tour of the First District” is being planned for July 9-10th, 2016. We have started planning the ride and will be contacting posts to be considered as stops. Since the ride covered much of the south area of our district, we will be traveling through the north area with supper in LaCrescent. This will be the overnight stop before traveling on Sunday morning.

It's a Party

Stewartville American Legion

Saturday March 12, 2016

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Appearance By

Rochester Caledonian Pipe Band

CORNER BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER \$12

with potato, carrots & roll. Ham also available

grasshopper cocktail \$3

green beer and Guinness available

Hammerschlagen

bean bag tourney 1:00 pm

registration noon-1pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE BAR



Hosted By
Stewartville American Legion Riders



TESTIMONIAL DINNER FOR FIRST DISTRICT COMMANDER



ROLAND HANSON

DATE ----- April 2, 2016

TIME-----Social – 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Dinner – 6:00 pm
Program - 7:00 pm

PLACE-----Austin American Legion Post 91
809 12th Street SW
Austin, MN 55912

MENU-----Barbequed Ribs, Baked potato, Vegetable,
Dinner roll, dessert, coffee, milk and water.

COST-----\$15 per plate.

-----cut off and send with payment-----

NAME _____

NUMBER ATTENDING _____

Please make checks payable to “Austin American Legion Post 91” and mail to:

Roland Hanson
2002 10th St SW
Austin, MN 55912

PLEASE RESPOND BY MARCH 26, 2016

**DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JIM KELLOGG'S
TESTIMONIAL DINNER**

APRIL 9, 2016

ADAMS AMERICAN LEGION POST 146

321 North Main Street, Adams MN, 55909

Social time ----- 5:00 PM
Dinner ----- 6:00 PM
Program ----- 7:00 PM

Dinner tickets are Fifteen (15) Dollars and the menu is:

Buffett, All you can eat, Steak and Chicken

Please make checks payable to -- Adams American Legion Post 146

Please RSVP to ----- Adams American Legion ----- by April 1, 2016

321 North Main Street

Adams, MN 55909

Attention Commander

Main Speaker will be Past National Commander Jimmy Foster

After the program entertainment will be provided by "Music by Tiny".

Hotels can be found in Austin, MN:

Holiday Inn – 1701 4th St NW, Austin, MN 55912

Phone 507- 433-1000

AmericInn - 1700 8th St NW, Austin, MN 55912

Phone 507-437-7337

COME JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FUN AND FREINDSHIP



**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA
"FOR GOD AND COUNTRY"**

With over 80,000 members, the Minnesota American Legion is the largest service organization in the state. There are 550 Posts in over 520 communities throughout Minnesota. In Minnesota, American Legion Posts have an impact of millions of dollars and thousands of volunteer hours in making our hometowns better places to live. Legionnaires are proud of their service and are proud to be "Still Serving America."

Referral Card

This card is a tool to use to help recruit new members. Who do you know that is a veteran, (or still serving) that would be interested in joining The American Legion Family? Ask the prospect how The American Legion can help him/her and if they would like more information, point them in the right direction. First impressions are very much determiners if they will come back.

Veterans Name _____

Address, or POC _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Cell, Home, Work _____

Email _____

Recruiter _____ Address _____

Post # _____

Email Address _____

Minnesota American Legion Department PR Committee 2016



The 4 Pillars



- I. Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
- II. National Security
- III. Americanism
- IV. Children and Youth