



FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

FEB 2017

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IMPORTANT DATES

- February 4, 2017 - The Department Sweetheart Rally at New Prague. Turn in from 1:00 to 2:00pm with the program at 2:30pm.
- February 5, 2017 - The First District "Four Chaplains Program" at 10:30 am , Stewartville American Legion Post 164. Please try and attend this great program.
- February 14, 2016—Valentines Day, don't forget your sweetheart.
- February 25, 2016—The Area Three Rally in Rushford. 2 PM fun time, rally starting at 4PM

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Legion family,

The District was indeed busy with Mid-Winter, Oratorical, Post Revitalization and 1st & 3rd fishing Derby. Glenville did a great job of providing adequate facilities to accommodate everyone as well as serving a delicious meal. The oratorical contest was a bit disappointing with only one contestant but oh what a contestant he was. Ricky Erpelding will once again represent the District at Department. I think going forward we should include Oratorical during our Mid-Winter so that the contestants have the opportunity to speak in front of many listeners. It is also an opportunity for all to see and hear what these young folks do. I think most everyone that attended the conference was at the contest. It is important to show our support for our programs. We also had the honor of having Dept. Commander Denise Milton, Dept. Membership Director Mark Dvorak, 1st and 3rd Vice-Commander Richard Skillestad, Dept. Historian Ralph Schneckloth and National Vice-Commander Douglas Boldt at our conference. They all had good info to convey to us. We also had Mike Schaffer and Gary Olson as candidates for Dept. Commander, Dept. SGT-at-Arms Candidate Joe Nielson, and 1st and 3rd Vice-Commander candidate Rose Mary Nielson and Ralph Schneckloth running for Dept. Chaplain. With all these folks attending our conference we ran out of time to go thru our committee reports. But that was ok. It is always good to have our leaders pay us a visit. Adj. Wayne was going to be emailing the reports out.

The 1st and 3rd Fishing Derby at Waseca didn't go as planned. The sheriff's department did not want us out there because of 6 inches of water sitting on top of the ice so we stayed at the Post and had minnow races, drawings for some very nice prizes, bean bag tossing, and dining on homemade chili and soup. Thank you to Waseca for hosting this gathering.

If there is anyone who has been thinking about getting active on the District level then now is the time to inform us of your intentions. The District is always looking for new people with new ideas. We cannot grow and succeed without younger Veterans stepping up and conveying their ideas and trying something that has not been done that may appeal to this generation of Veterans. If one looks into the past every generation had a difficult time giving up the reins and letting the next generation lead the Legion. But it has to be done. Maybe not all at one time but with mentoring, teaching and lending a helping hand to make transitions smooth it can be done. We CANNOT and MUST not chase people away because they either feel like they have no say or questions about why we do something a certain way and why can't we do it a different way falls on deaf ears. At one time I felt that way but I am here to tell you that if you keep at it you will get noticed. People will start hearing you and your ideas. Will the ideas be utilized? Maybe, If not then try something else. But don't give up. **YOU** can make a difference.

God Bless you

Sy

I have set aside a block of rooms at the Days Inn La Crosse. Here is the info you need if you should decide to come to the testimonial on Saturday April 8th in La Crescent and need a room.

Days Inn
101 Sky Harbour Drive
La Crosse, WI

608-783-1000

Must call before 3-27-17 to get this rate

1 King \$69.00

2 Queen \$79.00

After the 27th rates are

1 King \$89.00

2 Queen \$109.00

The rooms are under the American Legion La Crescent

Sy Fix - First District Commander

FROM AREA ONE

Its already Feb. where has the winter gone. Been down here in Arizona also visited several Posts here, going over to Texas this week. The posts I've been to, same old problem just at the verge of getting goal but a few short. Weather has been a little cool only in the lower 70's and plenty of rain, but no snow

February 4th is the Dept. Sweetheart Rally; hopefully all the posts that are just a few short can make their goals. I'll send up some warm weather if they do.

It's not too early to start thinking about the Consolidated Post Reports so you have all the info ready to go in March. Plus all the other reports that will be coming due.

Well like I said will be headed to Texas, want to see how they are doing in memberships too.

Dist. 1 Area 1, Vice Commander Gary Miller

FROM AREA TWO

Hello!

On January 7th, I traveled to Glenville Post 264 as they hosted the Mid Winter Rally and Oratorical Contest. It was a nice turnout. A Thank you goes out to all those that attended that day.

On January 21st, I headed to Waseca Post 228 as they hosted the 1st and 3rd District Ice Fishing Contest. Mother Nature wasn't cooperating so no actual fishing was done. However, the minnow race and bean bag tournaments were a great deal of fun!

Just a gentle reminder that Valentine's Day is Feb 14. So don't forget your sweethearts on that day!

Thoughts and Prayers as always to our Servicemen and women around the world!

Vice Commander,

Mryon Ehrich

FROM AREA THREE

Greetings from Area Three:

Happy Ground Hogs Day! I hope the ground hog predicts an early spring because, I don't know how you feel, but I think winter is getting long.

Thank you to the Commanders, Membership Directors, and Adjutants in Area Three for the outstanding job you are doing in membership so far this year. Now we are getting close to the end of the year it will take more effort to make person to person contact to fulfill our goal. I know, beyond a reasonable doubt that you will put all the effort necessary to fulfill our goal.

I encourage everyone in District One to attend the Area Three Rally that will be held in Rushford on February 25th. I hope to see you all there.

Bless all our men and women in uniform and may our prayers be with them every day.

Area Three Vice Commander—Carroll W. Hill

FROM AREA FOUR

Greetings from Area Four:

Happy Valentines to everyone. Now we are getting to crunch time for the membership. We need to contact the not paid members and get them to pay or try and find out the reason they haven't renewed. If they have a problem we cannot try and resolve it if we do not know what the problem is. Take your roster and write down the not paid members and maybe break the list into smaller groups and have other members of your post contact them. As always keep our service men and women in your thoughts and prayers and God Bless the USA.

Area Four Vice Commander - Rodger German

AMERICANISM INFORMATION

February is Americanism Month The passage of Resolution No. 163 at the 1960 National Convention, in Miami, established February as Americanism Month. During this annual observance, we should all reflect on what it means to be an American and rededicate ourselves and our posts to taking action that will uphold the principle of “a 100 percent Americanism.” Americanism, one of the Legion’s four pillars, is simply the love of America, loyalty to its ideals and institutions, allegiance to its flag, willingness to defend it against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and a desire to pass on the blessings of liberty to future generations. To safeguard our nation’s continuing prosperity, it is vital that we ensure that our youth understand and cherish our ideals and traditions. No other organization offers such a wide-variety of programs designed to enhance the attributes of good citizenship, discipline, community service, education and patriotism as The American Legion. As we pause during the month of February to reflect on what Americanism means to us, it is the perfect time for us to rededicate ourselves to engage in meaningful activities and programs in our own community that perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism. There is no need for you or your post to “reinvent the wheel” when it comes to promoting Americanism, as The American Legion already has a plethora of established, well-respected programs to achieve this goal. Our proven and respected programs include American Legion Boys State/Boys Nation, Baseball, Boy Scouts, Family Support Network, Flag Education, Get Out the Vote, Junior Shooting Sports Program, Operation Comfort Warriors, Oratorical Contest and Youth Cadet Law Enforcement just to name a few! Your imagination is your only limit on how you and your post can help! Americanism program information and resources can be located online at www.legion.org/programs by calling the Americanism Division at 317-630-1203. In addition, Americanism brochures, archives of past Americanism newsletters and e-Bulletins and other publications are located at [www.legion.org/ publications](http://www.legion.org/publications). A legacy of Americanism is a legacy worth imparting on our youth, to not only honor those men and women that have served and laid down their lives to secure our freedom, but to ensure that our freedoms and way of life are secured for generations to come. During Americanism Month, let us rededicate ourselves to one hundred percent Americanism one hundred percent of the year!

!!!!!!!!!!!!!! ATTENTION WOMEN VETERANS !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Austin Spam Post 570 in Austin, MN is looking for female veterans who are eligible for the American Legion to think about joining their post.

Spam post is the only all female post in the state of Minnesota. It was started during WWII and has been active until their members got into their 90’s. Their meetings will be held in Austin Post 91 Clubrooms where their Charter is displayed.

Some new interest has been seen with a few women wanting to get the post up and running again. If you want more information please contact District Adjutant Wayne Hammon and he will get the information to the proper contact people until a slate of new officers are selected.

FIRST DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 1/19/2017

POST	LOCATION		PREVI-	TURN IN	TOTAL	PERCENT	LEFT	DATE
9	WINONA	639	542	20	562	87.95%	77	1/19/2017
90	LEWISTON	78	52	5	57	73.08%	21	11/16/2016
190	ST CHARLES	142	131	5	136	95.77%	6	1/12/2017
WINONA COUNTY TOTALS		859	725	30	755	87.89%	104	1/19/2017
50	WABASHA	282	206	7	213	75.53%	69	1/4/2017
110	LAKE CITY	153	127	6	133	86.93%	20	1/4/2017
179	PLAINVIEW	205	170	6	176	85.85%	29	1/12/2017
546	KELLOGG	72	66	5	71	98.61%	1	1/12/2017
573	ELGIN	40	30	6	36	90.00%	4	1/12/2017
579	MILLVILLE	136	156	10	166	122.06%	-30	1/4/2017
588	MAZEPPA	78	72	1	73	93.59%	5	1/4/2017
WABASHA COUNTY TOTALS		966	827	41	868	89.86%	98	1/19/2017
92	ROCHESTER	1009	891	2	893	88.50%	116	1/19/2017
119	BYRON	158	131	2	133	84.18%	25	1/12/2017
164	STEWARTVILLE	312	278	3	281	90.06%	31	1/19/2017
446	ROCHESTER	16	13	5	18	112.50%	-2	11/23/2016
551	EYOTA	182	167	4	171	93.96%	11	1/12/2017
OLMSTEAD COUNTY TOTALS		1677	1480	16	1496	89.21%	181	1/19/2017
AREA ONE TOTALS		3502	3032	87	3119	89.06%	383	1/19/2017
295	WEST CONCORD	70	48	2	50	71.43%	20	1/4/2017
330	HAYFIELD	241	200	2	202	83.82%	39	1/19/2017
333	KASSON	277	233	14	247	89.17%	30	1/4/2017
384	DODGE CENTER	86	81	2	83	96.51%	3	1/12/2017
422	CLAREMONT	38	28	4	32	84.21%	6	1/4/2017
DODGE COUNTY TOTALS		712	590	24	614	86.24%	98	1/19/2017
52	BLOOMING	111	103	3	106	95.50%	5	1/4/2017
77	OWATONNA	577	478	29	507	87.87%	70	1/19/2017
296	ELLENDALE	34	16	7	23	67.65%	11	1/4/2017
STEELE COUNTY TOTALS		722	597	39	636	88.09%	86	1/19/2017
75	NEW RICHLAND	64	51	5	56	87.50%	8	1/19/2017
228	WASECA	353	297	17	314	88.95%	39	1/12/2017
281	JANESVILLE	105	98	1	99	94.29%	6	1/19/2017
587	WALDORF	29	18	4	22	75.86%	7	11/23/2016
WASECA COUNTY TOTALS		551	464	27	491	89.11%	60	1/19/2017
AREA TWO TOTALS		1985	1651	90	1741	87.71%	244	1/19/2017
40	LANESBORO	105	101	3	104	99.05%	1	1/19/2017
68	SPRING VALLEY	84	78	4	82	97.62%	2	11/2/2016
81	HARMONY	33	31	1	32	96.97%	1	1/4/2017
94	RUSHFORD	133	122	8	130	97.74%	3	1/12/2017
166	PRESTON	77	69	1	70	90.91%	7	12/14/2016
197	CHATFIELD	52	45	1	46	88.46%	6	11/16/2016
299	MABEL	193	139	23	162	83.94%	31	1/4/2017
369	WYKOFF	21	2	17	19	90.48%	2	12/7/2016
400	CANTON	17	2	10	12	70.59%	5	1/4/2017
492	FOUNTAIN	18	12	3	15	83.33%	3	1/4/2017

526	PETERSON	36	34	2	36	100.00%	0	1/19/2017
544	OSTRANDER	28	26	2	28	100.00%	0	1/4/2017
637	WHALEN	17	13	2	15	88.24%	2	11/23/2016
FILLMORE COUNTY TOTALS		814	674	77	751	92.26%	63	1/19/2017
191	CALEDONIA	174	153	4	157	90.23%	17	1/4/2017
249	SPRING GROVE	166	144	1	145	87.35%	21	1/19/2017
423	HOUSTON	115	100	1	101	87.83%	14	1/19/2017
498	HOKAH	22	16	2	18	81.82%	4	1/4/2017
595	LA CRESCENT	346	301	1	302	87.28%	44	1/19/2017
HOUSTON COUNTY TOTALS		823	714	9	723	87.85%	100	1/19/2017
AREA THREE TOTALS		1637	1388	86	1474	90.04%	163	1/19/2017
56	ALBERT LEA	741	622	2	624	84.21%	117	1/19/2017
264	GLENVILLE	88	76	1	77	87.50%	11	1/12/2017
266	HARTLAND	19	14	1	15	78.95%	4	9/14/2016
317	EMMONS	76	65	5	70	92.11%	6	1/19/2017
404	ALDEN	108	102	1	103	95.37%	5	1/19/2017
552	FREEBORN	40	33	1	34	85.00%	6	12/14/2016
FREEBORN COUNTY TOTALS		1072	912	11	923	86.10%	149	1/19/2017
91	AUSTIN	678	569	4	573	84.51%	105	1/19/2017
105	LYLE	92	72	10	82	89.13%	10	1/4/2017
140	GRAND MEADOW	50	48	1	49	98.00%	1	1/4/2017
146	ADAMS	217	194	12	206	94.93%	11	1/4/2017
161	LEROY	74	49	4	53	71.62%	21	1/4/2017
570	AUSTIN SPAM	6	1	0	1	16.67%	5	7/23/2016
MOWER COUNTY TOTALS		1117	933	31	964	86.30%	153	1/19/2017
AREA FOUR TOTALS		2189	1845	42	1887	86.20%	302	1/19/2017
1111	DAKOTA	67	0	0	0	0.00%	32	7/23/2016
DISTRICT ONE TOTALS		9380	7916	305	8221	87.64%	1159	1/19/2017

AREA	VICE	COMMANDERS							
AREA ONE			3502	3032	87	3119	89.06%	383	1/19/2017
AREA TWO			1985	1651	90	1741	87.71%	244	1/19/2017
AREA THREE			1637	1388	86	1474	90.04%	163	1/19/2017
AREA FOUR			2189	1845	42	1887	86.20%	302	1/19/2017

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

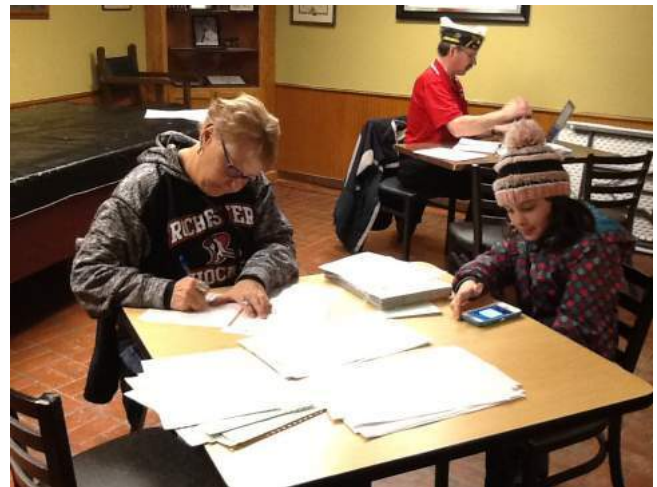
Rochester Post 92 at post92.org

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

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

MEMBERSHIP REVITALIZATION IN ROCHESTER

Great job by everyone involved



Membership-Membership-Membership

As of the membership report on January 19th, 2017 the district is barely ahead of the National target of 85%. This target date is President's day, February 8th, 2017. We currently are at 87.64%.

We had a turn in of 64 memberships at the Mid-Winter Conference in Glenville. This is a very poor and disappointing turn-in for this event. I would like to thank the posts that attended and who brought membership with them. Congratulations to Area 3 Vice Commander, Carroll Hill for receiving the Golden Boot award again. That area continues to stay on top.

The district membership drop-off in Stewartville on February 3rd has been cancelled. If you have any membership to turn in please contact your Area Vice Commander or myself and we will make arrangements to pick it up for the Department Sweet-heart Rally on February 4th, 2017 in New Prague.

The next National target date in 90% by March 8th which is the American Legion Birthday. Let's work to get 100% on this date.

I would like to thank the volunteers from area Posts that helped at the District Revitalization program held at the Rochester Post #92. Posts around the area will be gaining transferred members. From the figures that I have, it should be around 30-40 members that were transferred into posts.

First District Membership Director. Dennis A Lewison

FROM YOUR CHAPLAIN

Greetings First District Legion family, we are already to February, time flies when you are having fun. February we have Americanism month; First Sunday is Four Chaplains Sunday; Religious emphasis week; President's Day; Valentine Day. There will be a Four Chaplains Memorial service on Sunday, Feb 05, 2017, 1030 hrs at Stewartville American Legion Post 164.

We begin on the first with Four Chaplains Sunday, which memorializes the actions of Four chaplains aboard the USAT Dorchester, which was torpedoed and sank at 12:55 am Feb 03, 1943. The ship sank in less than 27 minutes. Those chaplains were Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed.

Valor is a gift," Carl Sandburg once said. "Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes." That night Reverend Fox, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling and Father Washington passed life's ultimate test. In doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage and selflessness.

The Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously December 19, 1944, to the next of kin by Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, Commanding General of the Army Service Forces, in a ceremony at the post chapel at Fort Myer, VA. A posthumous Special Medal for Heroism, never before given and never to be given again, was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President January 18, 1961.

In February 1951, the Chapel of the Four Chaplains, an interfaith memorial chapel, was dedicated in Philadelphia, Rev. Daniel Poling, Chaplain Clark Poling's father, presided over the ceremony, which was attend by President Harry S. Truman. Source: Chapel of the Four Chaplains.

Religious emphasis week, during this time posts are encouraged to hold events highlighting the special role faith and religious ideas have played in the history and development of the United States.

I would now like to offer a prayer for the American Legion; Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm does bind the wind and wave, we remember the ancient words, "Blessed be the nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom He has chosen for an inheritance." We are grateful for the heritage that is ours ini this nation whereby we enjoy more freedom than any other people on earth. Help us never to neglect any part of this freedom lest we lose the opportunity for ourselves and children.

We humbly dedicate these moments to You and pray that as the American Legion calls the heart and mind of America back to God, we may enjoy the fruits of righteousness, justice and peace. Keep us ever mindful of the sacrifice made by veterans, named and nameless, who laid down their lives that we and those whom we love might love. For Your name's sake. Amen

So, my Legion family, I hope and pray that all are well and in good spirits, and if not, may you soon enjoy the blessing of good health. We need to keep our troops and their families in our thoughts and prayers, that all might come home safe. We look out for our brothers and sisters that we can be a strong family. For our homeless, may they find shelter, for those suffering PTSD and depression, anxiety and other afflictions, may you find peace and hope. For those of us with suicidal urges-- **please do not act on them!** Call the Veterans Crisis line at 1-800-273-8255 Press 1. Confidential Chat at veteranscrisisline.net or text to 838255.

One of our brothers or sisters committing suicide is too many, the 22 a day is a crying shame and a tragedy.

God bless America, God bless the American Legion, and pray for our nation.

Ralph Schneekloth,

REQUEST FOR DELGAGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTION

1. Ralph Schneekloth
2. Roland Hanson
3. Bill Goede
4. Chuck Kruger
5. Richard Skillestad
6. Jim Kellogg

OFFICER ENDORSEMENTS

1. Les Shaunce for Commander
2. Scott Ihrke for Area One Vice Commander

PUBLIC RELATIONS

My fellow Department of Minnesota American Legion members. Hard to believe we are halfway through the membership year already. I am sure all the Post and District Historians are busy compiling the history books for the year. This should not be a surprise to anyone. Just a quick note from myself to all of you. When I assumed duties as Department Historian, I said the history contest would be well attended with many entries. The format is in the Officer Manual, pages 147-156. This year's contest is triple tiered. First, is the Post contest- best entry wins. Second is the District Historian, the best District history book wins, and finally, the District with the highest percentage of entrants will win.

The history program is much more important than has been run in the past. How can we have a good record of all our accomplishments and actions serving our fellow veterans and our organization if we don't record it, how can we know and tell new prospects and new members of what we are about. The history leads to public relations, which is what we are doing now and in the near future. Once we've established the fact we are a vibrant, living veterans service organization that serves America and most importantly our fellow veterans and families, wouldn't we have a much stronger argument for overcoming objections when recruiting and retaining members?

Finally, posts need to get registered on the Centennial page. Commander Milton wants 100% participation in this. Concurrently we are asking for all posts to take pictures of their post and any memorials you might have, along with a short narrative and send them to www.postpics@mnlegion.org. We are putting together in video format a presentation at this year's national convention in Reno showcasing our posts and all the great memorials that the great state and for the history of the Department of Minnesota American Legion family. Questions may be directed to myself at schneeklothr@gmail.com or my cell 507.438.6319.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as Department Historian.

Ralph Schneekloth,
Department of Minnesota
Historian



From left—District SAL Commander Ron Wolff, Detachment SAL Commander Gene Oswald, 1st & 3rd Department Vice Commander Richard Skillestad, Department Commander Denise Milton, National Legion Vice Commander Douglas Boldt, District Legion Commander and District Auxiliary President Cindy Nelson

THERE WILL NOT BE A BUS FOR THE FOR THE FIRST DISTRICT BOYS STATE THIS YEAR. EACH POST OR PARENT MUST SUPPLY TANSPORTATION TO AND FROM ST JAMES UNIVERISITY .

LEGION BOYS STATE 2017
PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

LEGION DISTRICT NUMBER _____ DATE _____ 20____

(Name of Post) POST NO. _____ IN _____
(City)

WILL SPONSOR _____ BOY(S) TO BOYS STATE THIS YEAR.
REGISTRATION FEE OF \$300.00 EACH IS ENCLOSED HEREWITH. A POST
MAY SPONSOR AS MANY BOYS AS THEY CAN AFFORD FROM ANY HIGH
SCHOOL. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CAN BE ACCEPTED FROM OUTSIDE
SOURCES BUT SPONSORSHIP MUST REMAIN WITH THE POST.

OUR BOYS STATE CHAIRMAN IS: _____
(Please Type or Print)

(Street Address)

(Town and Zip Code)

TELEPHONE HOME: _____ / _____

CELL: _____ / _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

CHECKS MUST BE MADE PAYABLE TO: MINNESOTA AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION – FUND 77.
PLEASE WRITE BOYS STATE REGISTRATION IN THE MEMO PORTION OF THE CHECK. CHECKS MADE TO THE AMERICAN LEGION OR BOYS STATE WILL BE RETURNED.

THIS FORM, WITH ACCOMPANYING FEE OF \$300.00 PER BOY, MUST BE SENT TO:

LEGION BOYS STATE
THE AMERICAN LEGION
ATTENTION: JENNIFER
20 WEST 12TH STREET, ROOM 300A
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155-2000

St Charles schools held a Veterans Appreciation night at one of their home boys basketball games. Here are a few pictures of that event. Thank You, St Charles School District , Staff and Students.



FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY NEWS



Auxiliary Contacts

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Secretary

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Membership / First Vice

Cheryl Nyman
2251 1st Ave NW
Plainview, MN 55964
507-202-9700

Treasurer

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

Greetings

Midwinter was well attended. Great reports were given by our chairmen. Reminder to all-- our Junior Conference coming up in March. Hope to see a lot of you there! Remember the juniors do not have to be organized. This is for all units who have juniors. Bring these young ladies so they can learn a bit about our organization. All Unit Presidents have received the Annual Report's in the last department mailing. Let's have 100% reporting.

ATTENTION, ATTENTION !!!! Please read the special article on Strategic Planning. All unit presidents' make sure all members in your unit are aware of the Strategic Plans our Department team is working on. These plans are to be used by our District but more importantly every unit! Have you reviewed what your unit might look like in 5 years? Do you look forward to who may lead your unit next year? This is a 5 yr. process that will be ongoing in our units and districts. What is it? A team has been put together to help us with many different ideas so we can all stop the slide in membership. They have worked hard on this.

Let's all work together to get the job done and make our organization stronger!! Each unit is doing a good job in the first district, yet there are a few who haven't turned in membership for a while. Take a look at your roster. Make phone calls, send post cards, or have a coffee party! You just never know, that one person may invite someone to come along and may be interested in our organization.

Happy Valentine's Day!!!

God bless America, God bless our Troops and God bless each of you!!!

Until next month – President Cindy

President Cindy, Honorary Jr President JoJo and Commander Fix at Mid Winter in Glenville Post 264



UP COMING EVENTS AT FREEBORN POST 552
Gilmore-Stensrud Post #552 in Freeborn MN
February 18th at the Freeborn Legion Hall
Soup N' Pie/Dessert serving 4:00 to 6:00

GIRLS STATE

By Marie Goede, Chairman

The 71st session of Minnesota Girls State will be held June 11-17, 2017 at Bethel University in St. Paul. The Girls State citizens will arrive on Sunday and leave on Saturday morning before noon. **There will NOT BE A DISTRICT BUS THIS YEAR – Each Unit or parent must provide their own transportation to/from Bethel.**

The school mailing was scheduled to be sent to principals just after Christmas. The schools are aware that units will be contacting them to set up an appointment to meet with potential candidates from the Junior class to attend the 2017 Girls State session. Please read all of the information provided on the Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary website or your unit mailing so that you are aware of the eligibility and qualifications required.

There is no limit to the number of citizens any Unit may send to Girls State. The reservation cost remains at \$300 per citizen. If there are no high schools in your community, please consider sponsoring or co-sponsoring a girl(s) from the Junior class in a neighboring community.

What can your Unit do to raise funds to send a girl to Minnesota Girls State? Here are a few suggestions:

- Units may hold different types of fundraising events
- Charitable Gambling funds may be used for the registration fee only. If used, please make checks payable to: The American Legion Foundation, Fund 83.
- Donations can be received from local businesses and/or community organizations. Their checks need to be made out to your Unit and then your Unit sends a check to the Department office for the registration fee.
- Ask your American Legion Post or Sons of The American Legion Squadron to sponsor a girl or girls by writing a check to the American Legion Auxiliary.

A resolution was passed at the 2011 Department Convention that stated that monies sent for registrations not used to sponsor a girl to Girls State would be placed into a "Girls State Reservation Fee Fund". This fund is available for any unit to use one time every 3 years on a "first come-first serve" basis. If your Unit has a girl who is interested in attending and your do not have enough funds to reserve a place for her, consider applying to the Department Office in writing to request these funds.

Reservations are due by March 31st accompanied by your check. Once your Unit has submitted your reservation and payment of \$300.00 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. It is important that you read the Reservation Packet thoroughly before you share it with your citizen. Please remember there are NO late arrivals and NO early dismissals. The 2017 Girls State session begins promptly at 3:00 pm on June 11th and ends on Saturday morning just before lunch.

The name(s) of your citizen(s) are due to the Department office by May 1, 2017.

There are plans to have a "Package Deal" of items from the Shirt Shack at Girls State that is currently being finalized and information will be posted on the website and it will also be in the March unit mailing.

Children and Youth

Unit chairs work with your Legion family to identify specific needs of children of veterans.

Promote Star Spangled Kids at your local schools. Contact your schools and churches to see if there are children who have performed a heroic deed. Make them aware of the Hero/Good Deed Award for students who have a performed a heroic deed.

Children and youth chair along with Education chair distribute patriotic coloring book pages to the youth in primary school.

State has sent out a list of helpful ideas, these are just a few.

I would like to share ideas on what your Units have been doing this year to promote Children and Youth. If you wouldn't mind sharing, you can email me at w.prescher@kmwb.net
I look forward to hearing from you!

Wanda Prescher
Children and Youth



Mid—Winter Pictures



Mid—Winter Pictures

Stewartville Unit 164

We have 5 -100 cup Coffee Pots we no longer use.

If any club would be interested in wanting one, please Call Wanda Prescher at 507-280-4027 or

Email- w.prescher@kmwb.net

CALL TO FIRST DISTRICT JUNIOR COFERENCE

The annual Junior Conference of the First District American Legion Auxiliary is hereby called to be held of Sunday March 26, 2016 at the Stewartville American Legion, 1100 2nd AVE NW, Stewartville, MN 55976 for the purpose of:

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

Registration will be at 12:00 noon. Thee registration fee is \$5.00 per junior or senior member, maximum of \$10.00 per family. Lunch will be served at the cost of \$5.00 per lunch. There will be an Executive Board meeting for Junior Officers with Senior Officers at 12:15 PM. Honorary Junior President, Johanna Welter will call the conference to order at 1:00 PM

To compete 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 Chairwoman, Myrna Welter by the time of the 1st District Junior Conference. You may bring them with you that day.

2017 Department Poppy Contest entries may be brought the day of the Conference. Categories include: Poppy Corsage/Boutonniere; Poppy Centerpiece; Poppy Jewelry/Accessories; Poppy Memorial Day Wreath; Poppy Junior Membership Recruitment Board. Also, including Junior Scrapbook. A prize of \$5.00 for first place and \$3.00 for second place will be awarded in each category, 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.

I would like to extend a special invitation to all Junior Members, even if they don't belong to an organized Unit. Come for a day of fun and learning! Juniors are the future of the American Legion Auxiliary!

Myrna Welter
First District Junior Activities Chair

2016-2017 Junior Conference

Stewartville American Legion Auxiliary Unit #164

12:00 Registration

12:15 Executive Meeting

12:30 Lunch

1:00 Call to order Honorary District Junior President, Johanna (JoJo) Welter

Advancement of Colors

Opening Prayer-Junior Chaplin, Maizy Lowe

Pledge of Allegiance- Junior District 2nd Vice President, Mia Lowe

Preamble to the Constitution- Junior District 1st Vice President, Abigayle Wilson

Welcome: Stewartville Unit #164 Auxiliary President, Wanda Prescher

Post #164 Commander, Roger Peterson

Greetings: First District President, Cindy Nelson

First District Commander, Sy Fix

First District SAL, Ron Wolff

Introduction of First District Parliamentarian, Louise Kleiboer

Roll Call of Units

Secretary's Report, Junior Secretary Taylor McElroy

Treasure Report-Haley Schliehter

Old Business:

Unit Reports

New Business: Trophy Presentations

Poppy contest Awards

Nomination and Election of 2016-2017 Officers

Installation of 2017-2018 Officers by Cindy Nelson

Announcements

Closing Prayer

Patriotic tie blankets will be made after the meeting.

What You Should Know
About the
American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota
Centennial Strategic Plan

In an effort to foster a culture of goodwill in our units and to help to build membership so we can continue to serve our veterans, the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota has created a Centennial Strategic Plan.

Minnesota's plan is based upon the same goals of the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters' Centennial Strategic Plan. The plan includes five goals:

- 5) With The American Legion, Build Brand Loyalty
- 4) Strengthen Departments and Units
- 3) Develop Leadership at All Levels
- 2) Create an Internal Culture of Goodwill
- 1) Enhance Membership Strength

The goals of the Department of Minnesota's Centennial Strategic Plan align completely with those of National; however, Minnesota has created its own ad hoc committee to develop subsequent initiatives and strategies to help our Department achieve the five goals.

The ad hoc committee consists of a chairman, Sandra Fredrickson, and five Goal Champions: Jean Walker, Judy Ackerman, Robin Dorf, Karla Otterness and Michelle Leonard. However, meeting the needs laid out in the strategic plan cannot be done by a handful of people. We need your help.

While the Centennial Strategic Plan ad hoc committee members can present at district meetings or at their own units, this plan and all of the goals it includes takes commitment by all of our members, in every unit, in the Department of Minnesota. We are looking for more people to join us on our committees!

Because the plan affects all corners of the state, we need thought and input from everyone. Much of our committee work is done through phone conferences, usually about an hour in duration, every few weeks. We also meet at Department functions like rallies or conference/convention.

We know and understand that no two units operate the same, and that no two members have the same opinions. That's why we're looking for input from as many members – especially those who do not attend Department conference or convention on a regular basis! We need to know where the strengths and weaknesses are in this great organization, and we can only do that through your feedback and participation.

Information about the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota Centennial Strategic Plan is available on the Department website, www.mnala.org. To go directly to the Strategic Plan information, go to this link: <http://mnala.org/StrategicPlans.aspx>.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



COMMANDER

Ron Wolff

1213 Clear Lake Drive

Waseca, MN 55903

507-456-3817

ronwolff5@gmail.com

ADJUTANT

Gary Weaver

29 North Elm St

LaCrescent, MN 55947

507-450-9580

gweaver@acegroup.cc

EAST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

Tim Weaver

1303 Kane St

La Crosse, WI 54603

608-304-6532

timweaver595@gmail.com

WEST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

MEMBERSHIP

Glenn Mueller

548 E 10th St

St Charles, MN 55972

507-316-3977

glm01311962@gmail.com

From Your Sal Commander

Greetings Everyone,

As we enter the final half of our Legion year we still have 6 Squadrons on the goose egg. They are Lewiston, Rushford, Grand Meadow, Janesville, Mable, and Houston. We need help in getting contact information for officers in these Squadrons. If anyone knows of any contact people to these Squadrons please email me or feel free to call me. I will put my contact information at the bottom of this letter. We were still in 9th place in the state in Membership so we need to push and try to get us up the ladder. I know that this is the time where getting membership is tough but we have to keep pushing.

I want to thank everyone who attended the 1st and 3rd Fishing day in Waseca although the weather didn't cooperate and we were unable to go out on the lake I think a good time was had by all.

In closing I would like to thank all the Members and volunteers who keep this great organization going. Keep up the good work.

Supporting our Troops Honoring our Veterans

Ron Wolff

Commander

Email: ronwolff5@gmail.com

Phone: 507-456-3817

IMPORTANT LEGIONVILLE DATES

Dates to put in calendars.

CAMP-O-REE - September 7, 8, 9, 10, 2017

LEGION RIDERS ROMP - September 14, 15, 16, 17, 2017

SAL DEER HUNT - September 28, 29, 30, 2017

Thanks – Wayne Gilbertson

SQUADRON 92, ROCHESTER, MN MONTHLY EVENT

SAL Fish and Chicken Dinner.

The Third Friday of each month - September thru May.

At the Legion Post 92 Club in Rochester.

\$11.00 for all you can eat.

Hello First District SAL membership officers and fellow members.

We need everyone help to get to our goal of 2010 members. If you are still on goose egg, what is going on. All of your members just lost their hospital association benefits and their continuous years of service. The same goes for those who have not renewed. We are the only Detachment that has the hospital benefits.

Remember if you're a rider and have not paid your son's dues you are not a member of them either. If you are already at goal them thanks but please don't hesitate in bringing in more members. If you don't have your packet or are out of memberships cards, call me. Especially if you lost your packet the same goes. Please help us keep growing.

You're Membership Chairman

Glenn Mueller

A few pictures of the 1st District Mid-Winter



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

RIDERS CONTACT INFORMATION



DIRECTOR

Dennis Lewison
68127 150th St
Adams, MN 55909
507/440/6067

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Brett Naylor
118 Columbus Ave
Waltham, MN 55982
507/438/2497

SECRETARY

Tonia Bettermann
1625 Crest View Lane
Owatonna, MN
507/456/2315

SGT AT ARMS

Jim Rinehart
28006 US Hwy 218
Austin, MN
612/991/4699

HISTORIAN

Nancy Lewison
68127 150th St
Adams, MN
507/440/2090

CHAPLAIN

Zack Naylor
1817 E Oakland Ave
Austin, MN
507/438/6933

ROAD CAPTAIN

Lee Dority
56235 220th St
Austin, MN
641/210/9035

First District ALR

Our last meeting was held during the Mid-Winter conference in Glenville on January 7th, 2017 with six chapters represented.

Applications for the A.L.R. Rider of the Year were received and processed.

Minnesota A.L.R. Director, Chuck Stone went over the dates of the Department Legacy Rides. Mark your calendar for the North Ride on July 28-30th, 2017 and the South Ride on August 4th-6th, 2017.

Our own "Tour of the First District" Legacy Ride is scheduled for July 8th-9th, 2107. Appointed committee members are Chairman, Roe Naylor, Lee Dority, Nancy Lewison, Karla Miller, Joe Smiley & Duane Thompson. Planning will begin soon and we will have an update at our next meeting.

Chapters in the First District reported a lot of activities are being held through the winter months as well as planning for summer events.

We have three Posts interested in starting a chapter this year. We look forward to having them organized and participating in our events.

Our next meeting will be held at the Rochester Post #92 on Sunday, April 2nd at 2:00 PM. We will be excepting nominations for District ALR Officers for the 2017-2018 year. Per our by-laws, all offices are open for nominations except for the Director which is a two-year term with one more year to complete.

On another note, we were at the Albert Lea Post last fall when the Quilt of Valor bus stopped. We had one quilt to get delivered and we accomplished that on January 23rd. We presented Scuffy Paulson with his quilt at the Rushford American Legion meeting. Congratulations to you and it was a pleasure to present it to you.

Dennis Lewison
First District ALR Director



The Post 92 American Legion Riders presented Carroll Johnson of the Unit 92 Auxiliary with a plaque in appreciation of all the dedicated help to the American Legion Riders in 2016



Denny and Nancy Lewison presenting Scuffy with his Quilt of Valor that they picked up in Albert Lea when Quilts of Valor ladies handed them out.

90th Birthday Open House for Eugene Warke

Saturday February. 4, 2017

1 to 4 pm

Green Lea Golf Course

101 W. Richway Drive

Albert Lea , MN 56007

Everyone welcome! No Gifts Please !

Contact: Debbie Baas

507-383-3355

Hope to see you there!

ADAMS AMERICAN LEGION POST 146 Chicken, Pork, Fish & Steak Fry Schedule



Serving 5:30-8:00 p.m.
(507) 582-3266



2016 SCHEDULE

Chicken & Pork Fry	September 3
Chicken & Pork Fry	September 17
Chicken & Pork Fry - Auxiliary	October 1
Southland Sportsman Steak Fry	October 8
Chicken & Pork Fry	October 15
Chicken & Pork Fry	November 5
Steak Fry - Knights of Columbus, Dance.....	November 12
Chicken & Pork Fry	November 19
Chicken & Pork Fry	December 3
Chicken & Pork Fry	December 17
Chicken & Pork Fry	December 31

2017 SCHEDULE

Chicken & Pork Fry.....	January 7
Steak Fry - Sons of American Legion	January 14
Chicken & Pork Fry.....	January 21
Chicken & Pork Fry	February 4
Chicken & Pork Fry.....	February 18
Fish Fry	March 3
Sportsman Steak Fry	March 11
Fish Fry - Auxiliary	March 17
Fish Fry	March 24
Chicken & Pork Fry	April 1
Chicken & Pork Fry	April 15
Chicken & Pork Fry	May 6
Chicken & Pork Fry	May 20
Steak Fry - Dairy Days	June 10
Chicken & Pork Fry - Dairy Days.....	June 11

**** MUSEUM OPEN 6:00-8:00 P.M. EVERY FRY ****



**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

Hello,

It's Samantha Mueller, Glenn's daughter; I am doing the polar bear plunge on February 11 in Rochester, MN. I was wondering if any of you would be willing to donate because if I raise more than 250 dollars, my mother will jump with me!! Now that will be cool! Please think about it and thank you.

The polar bear plunge is to raise money for the Special Olympics for Special Ed kids

<http://reg.plungemn.org/participant/sammiemueller>

This is my page for donation

Have a happy holiday and a great new year.

If you would like to send money our address it is: 548 E 10th street, Saint Charles, MN 55972

Thank you for all you do!

Samantha

PS—Samantha checked on this being a 501-C3 and it is.



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 90 years.

Today, the fastest growing posts, units, and squadrons within The American Legion Family all have successful newsletters and/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

Email

Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Membership #

Department/Post/Detachment

I AM A MEMBER OF THE FOLLOWING:

The American Legion

American Legion Auxiliary

Sons of The American Legion

THIS IS FOR:

New Membership: \$15

Renew Membership: \$15

NALPA Pin\$ 5.00 in person \$7.50 by mail

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

BRING YOUR SWEETHEART OR
FAVORITE PERSON

TO THE

Rushford American Legion

February 12, 2017

8am – Noon



Build Your Own Omelet

3 Egg Omelet \$10

2 Egg Omelet \$9

(Includes Toast and Milk/Coffee)

STEWARTVILLE AMERICAN LEGION POST 164

2017

SOUP_{PER} BOWL PARTY

SUNDAY, FEB 5 @ 4:00

BRING Your FAVORITE SOUP (YUMMY)
 (and ladle) to SHARE!

Come for the food.....

OPEN to the **PUBLIC**

..... Stay for the FUN!

my favorite team is the
VIKINGS and whoever BEATS
 the Packers!



PANCAKE & EGGS BREAKFAST



Hosts: Post 92 American Legion Riders & Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association 48-2 Minnesota

Sunday

February 19th

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Adults: \$7 Kids (12 and under): FREE



American Legion
Wm. T. McCoy Post 92
315 First Ave NW
Rochester, MN 55901

Save the Date !

**SPAGHETTI
DINNER**

Friday, February 24th
4:30 pm - 7:00 pm
\$7.00

Proceeds go
toward raising
awareness and
providing
treatment for
veteran PTSD



SPAGHETTI DINNER



Hosts: Post 92 American Legion Riders & Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association 48-2 Minnesota

Friday

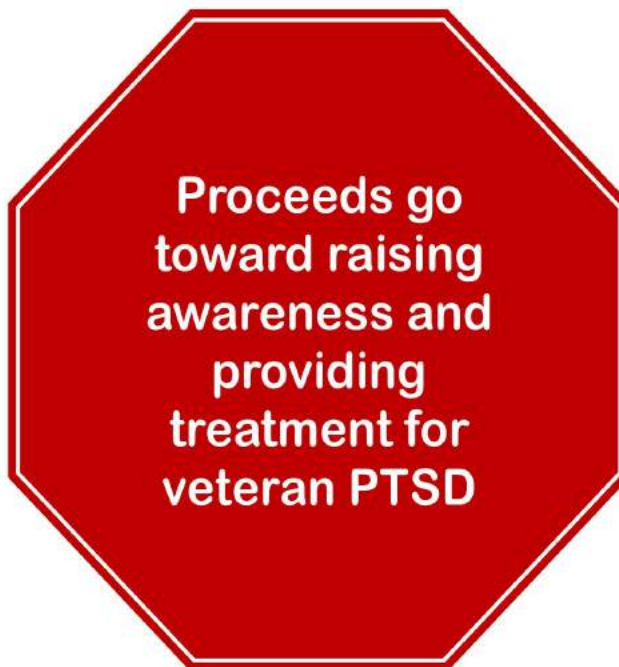
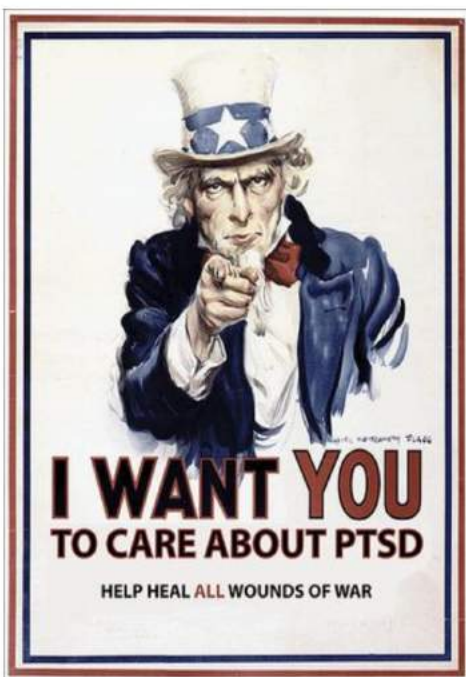
February 24th

4:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Adults: \$7 Kids (12 and under): FREE



American Legion
Wm. T. McCoy Post 92
315 First Ave NW
Rochester, MN 55901





**AMERICAN LEGION POST 91
DART TOURNAMENT**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2017

COST: \$10/PERSON

SIGN UP: 11AM

START TIME: NOON

****DRAW DOUBLES *100% PAYBACK***

809 12TH ST SW, AUSTIN MN



Rushford American Legion

GUN RAFFLE

Saturday, February 18, 2017

\$20 donation Only 400 tickets are being sold License #00067

- Remington R-1 .45 ACP
- Del-Ton AR-15 .556/.223
- Kel-Tec KSG 12 GA.
- Ruger GP 100 .357 MAG
- Taurus M44 .44 MAG
- Winchester SXP 12 GA 3.5 MAG
- \$100 CASH PRIZE
- \$100 CASH PRIZE
- \$100 CASH PRIZE
- \$100 CASH PRIZE
- Weibke Fur Co \$50 Gift Card
- Weibke Fur Co \$50 Gift Card

Available from any Rushford American Legion Rider
or contact Sunshine at (507) 459-5962
or Scuffy at (507) 450-8493

Drawings from 5pm – 8pm at the Rushford American Legion



In conjunction with the Smelt Fry
hosted by the Rushford VFW

Money raised will help to support local Veteran causes,
Legion Riders Legacy Scholarship Fund and the Freedom Honor Flight