



FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

FEB 2019

Legion Contacts

Commander

Gary Miller
PO Box 151
Eyota, MN 55934
507-545-2703
gmusmc32@yahoo.com

Adjutant

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

Membership

Gary Weaver
29 N Elm
Lac Crescent, MN 55947
507-895-2818 or 507-696-1431
gweaver@acegroup.cc

Chaplain

Larry Otto
14758SW 52nd Ave
Ellendale, MN 56026
507-475-1023
larryandem2@gmail.com

VICE—COMMANDER INFORMATION

Area One - Andru Peters
1009 Safari Way
Lake City, MN 55041
651—345—3045
candancinbear@yahoo.com

Area Two - Dale Wellik
17941 Cty Hwy 34
Dodge Center, MN 55927
507-374-2766 or 507-421-5674
treeson34@gmail.com

Area Three - Ralph Schneekloth
40621 130th St
Mabel, MN 55947
507-493-5705 or 507-438-6319
schneekolthr@gmail.com

Area Four - Roland Hanson
2002 10th ST SE
Austin, MN 55912
507/438/6573
lorohanson@outlook.com

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IMPORTANT DATES

February 3, 2019 - Four Chaplains Day , please take time to remember the sacrifices of these brave Chaplains

February 9, 2019 - The Department Sweetheart Rally at Royalton Post 137. membership turn in from 3:00 to 4:00 PM , the program at 4:00 PM with dinner to follow.

February 16, 2019 - The 1st & 3rd District (non fishing) ice fishing contest at Owatonna Post 77, 137 Broadway St West, Owatonna, MN starting at 1:00 PM.

March 2, 2019 - Area Three National Security Rally at Rushford Post 94 at 3 PM. (note the time change).

March 9, 2019 - Department Appreciation Rally at Montgomery Post 79. Executive meeting (TBA) turn in from 4 to 5 PM dinner at 5 PM with the program to follow.

March 16, 2019— The First District American Legion Jr Auxiliary Conference in Owatonna. (see the call to conference in the Auxiliary section of this newsletter

March 23, 2019 - Area One National Security Rally at Millville Post 579. Rally will be starting at 3PM.

ATTENTION ALL POSTS IN THE FIRST DISTRICT

This is just a reminder that if any post in the First District has or is planning on having a resolution to come before the District Convention it MUST be in the hands of the Resolution Chairman Rich Gosse by April 15, 2019.

Rich Gosse— First District Resolution Chairman.

A Wintery Hello....

Winter vacation is ending fast. You should be reading this as I am on my way home. And it's cold already, roads still ok so far, just left this morning Feb. 1st and already changed time zone.

The weather permitting I will be home in about 4 days or so. Not pushing it. Be home just in time to go to the Sweetheart Rally on the 9th.

We have moved up in the membership totals, but still a long ways to go for most of the posts. Have you checked with some of the past members see why the quit paying, then try to get them back in the family. New members, that's what we really need. Who will be the ones to step forward next, most of us, not all, but it's time for some who would like to take a rest, sit back (sort of) and just watch and help mentor were and when needed. Also remember the National Commanders pin, you can also get by 3 renewals, 3 new ones would be a lot better though.

There is a reservation for the joint testimonial dinner of the District Leaders elsewhere in this newsletter. Please check it out.

Commander Gary Miller



From your 1st District Legion Chaplain

Greetings to My Fellow Legionnaires.

I start this month's letter with a quote from the Bible. It's John 15:13, NIV. "Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends." Many a veteran has done just that in the 200 plus years that we have been a nation. The example I'm most reminded of happened on February 3, 1943 at about 1:00 a.m. A German torpedo hit the U.S.A.T. Dorchester where 903 American soldiers, including 4 chaplains, were serving. Those chaplains represented diverse faith communities, but one God. One man was a Methodist Minister, George Fox, from the Reformed Church, Clark Polig, Rabbi Alexander Goode and Father John P. Washington, a Catholic Priest.

As the Dorchester was sinking, men were confused and frightened; some were barely clothed because of the heat below deck even though the ship's captain had told them to sleep with their clothes on. Men filed on deck without their life vests. One young soldier asked one of the 4 chaplains, "Padre, I've lost my life jacket", where upon the chaplain replied, "Here. Take this one. I won't need it. I'm staying." One by one the chaplains all gave away their life jackets. They continued to help calm the soldiers until at last they joined arms, sang hymns and prayed as the ship slipped below the waves.

678 soldiers, including the 4 chaplains, died that night. President Harry Truman later stated, "I don't think in the history of the world that there has been anything in heroism equal to this." It was the greatest sermon ever preached. It is said that St. Francis of Assisi is quoted as saying, "Preach the Gospel daily and if necessary, use words." Our lives are the greatest or worst sermons we'll ever preach. May our lives be a reflection of who we are in our Faith walk and in our Legion walk.

Until next time.

May God Bless and Keep You and Yours,

Larry H. Otto

1st District American Legion Chaplain

FROM AREA ONE

Amazing how time flies by. We are now at midpoint of the District One calendar and seems like we still have much to do. Of course we still are pushing for membership renewals. Area #1 has 11 of 15 Post's at or beyond the 85% goal for February 13, 2019. Proud to acknowledge that Millville #579 went over the top in October 2018. The month of January had me traveling around the District with visits to Legion Posts in Eyota #551 attending fund raising events; Mazeppa #588 met with the members to prepare for the upcoming Wabasha County Council meeting; West Concord #295 attending a fund raising event; Olmsted County Council meeting assisting their County Commander in revitalizing their council and they have elected a great board; Owatonna #77 attending a fund raising event; attended the District One Legion baseball meeting at Stewartville #164; and of course my home Lake City Post #110 meeting as their Adjutant. My St Paul visits had me attending meetings with the Military Action group (MAG), United Veterans legislative Council (UVLC), House Veterans Affairs & Military Affairs committee meetings; Senate Veterans Affairs & Military Affairs committee meetings, and also participated at the District One Mid-winter meeting in LeRoy #161. Let us continue our support and advocacy as Legionnaires to support all veterans in attaining and keeping their benefits they all so deservedly earned while serving our Nation and Flag. God Bless the USA!
Area One Vice Commander - Andru Peters

FROM AREA TWO

Greetings to all.

Good afternoon Legionnaires.

Sitting here with temps -23/-51 will be warming up soon.

Membership is really coming and knocking on the doors of the 85% goal by February 12. Thanks for all the work to meet this and those who are over the 100% mark!!

The rally in LeRoy was good! We heard comments from our Department commander and Department president.

Thank you!!

The sweetheart rally is in Royalton February 9. The weather is predicted to be above 0. Have safe travels. See many of you there.

Keep our Troops and their families and Veterans in your prayers. God Bless.

Dale Wellik - Area Two Vice Commander



Don't forget to honor the immortal Four Chaplains on the first Sunday in February each year.

Let us not forget their sacrifices .

FROM AREA FOUR

Greetings American Legion Family

Hope everyone survived the cold month of January and are looking forward to the month of love, February my favorite month of Sweethearts.

We had a very successful winter convention at LeRoy with guests ranging from the Department Commander to many showing interest in being officers in the American Legion in the future.

Please think about filling an office at the Post level, the District level or appointments from the Department.

Remember the Sweetheart Rally in February. My wife Lola and I will be in Florida for 2- 3 weeks, soaking up some sun.

Remember to thank a veteran for their service and defending our great nation now.

Area 4 Vice Commander, Rollie Hanson

Updates from the State Capital activities this past month:

From the *Congressional legislative side*; we still need to continue supporting our American Legion National (NEC) legislative team in supporting the rejection of the USPS proposal of removing the marketing mail premiums for all Federally Chartered non-profit organizations. This legislation is amending 83 FR 42624; 39 CFR 111; Doc number: 2018-18105.

This month was essentially MN Department heads submitting their veteran's legislation goals for the upcoming 2019 session. The following was offered:

MN Dept of Veterans Affairs Commission Larry Herke – Provided his goals for 2019.

1. Address veteran homelessness issues
 2. Improve the veterans outreach especially for the post 9/11 veterans.
 3. As for infrastructure updates, will prepare a 20-30 year replacement plan to keep current VA buildings up to date.
 4. Address ongoing maintenance requirements.
 5. Continue working on obtaining funding for the three new veterans homes approved as well as maintaining/upgrading the existing homes.
 6. Commented that his priorities agree with the governor's priorities.
- OTHER TIBITS: When serving in the military, Gov. Walz was Col. Herke's 1st Sgt. for 18 months.

As a sidebar, did follow up with a District One question as to the status of DNR requesting MN Dept of VA to allow sharpshooters and hunters onto the Preston State military cemetery property. At a meeting I met with Commissioner Herke and posed the question who acknowledged receiving such a request and whose response was "No way", and his office will be submitting a message to DNR citing Federal regulations and state statutes regarding what occurs within the military cemeteries.

House Chair, Veterans Affairs Committee, Rob Ecklund (3A) named his veterans priorities for this session

1. Address veteran homelessness, and is working with the VFW in addressing these needs.
2. Will concentrate on any veteran issue relating to mental health

House Minority Lead, Veterans Affairs Committee, Rep Bob Dettmer (39A) offered – He would like to see this session on creating one veteran's omnibus bill inclusive of all veteran's bills vs having these bills intertwined in other bills.

Minnesota 2019 Legislative Veterans Related Bills Submission Status to Date:

SENATE: 18 veteran bills submitted to committees

HOUSE: 13 veteran bills submitted to committees

District One Bills of Interest:

Update on the 2019 legislative bills for reducing rates for the flat rate tax and the combined net receipts tax for lawful gambling. There could be up to six bills related to this tax reduction. Legislative bills on this topic referred to committee to date:

HF 81 (Lueck) – This is a 4.25% tax rate proposed from the current 8.5% rate.

SF 371 (Koran) – This is a 6% tax rate proposed from the current 9% rate

Respectively submitted

Andru Peters

Andru Peters

District One Legislative Committee Chair

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

Kasson Post 333 has a over supply of medical equipment which includes hospital beds with mattresses, wheel chairs (both regular and electric), motorized scooters and much more. If interested please call Richard Denny at 507—259—2081 for more information.

First District 2019 membership report for 1/30/2019 Bulletin # 31

POST	LOCATION	GOAL	PREV.	TURN IN	TOTAL	PERCENT	LEFT	Date
9	WINONA	573	513	0	513	89.53%	60	1/16/2019
90	LEWISTON	72	70	0	70	97.22%	2	1/9/2019
190	ST CHARLES	146	130	3	133	91.10%	13	1/30/2019
WINONA COUNTY TOTALS		791	713	3	716	90.52%	75	
50	WABASHA	230	219	0	219	95.22%	11	1/16/2019
110	LAKE CITY	144	143	0	143	99.31%	1	1/16/2019
179	PLAINVIEW	186	154	0	154	82.80%	32	1/23/2019
546	KELLOGG	67	63	0	63	94.03%	4	1/9/2019
573	ELGIN	32	23	0	23	71.88%	9	1/9/2019
579	MILLVILLE	145	184	0	184	126.90%	-39	1/16/2019
588	MAZEPPA	74	69	0	69	93.24%	5	1/16/2019
WABASHA COUNTY TOTALS		878	855	0	855	97.38%	23	
92	ROCHESTER	938	802	3	805	85.82%	133	1/30/2019
119	BYRON	150	122	0	122	81.33%	28	1/9/2019
164	STEWARTVILLE	290	272	5	277	95.52%	13	1/30/2019
446	ROCHESTER	18	13	0	13	72.22%	5	11/28/2018
551	EYOTA	184	169	3	172	93.48%	12	1/30/2019
OLMSTEAD COUNTY TOTALS		1580	1378	11	1389	87.91%	191	
AREA ONE TOTALS		3249	2946	14	2960	91.10%	289	
295	WEST CONCORD	60	48	0	48	80.00%	12	1/9/2019
330	HAYFIELD	215	184	0	184	85.58%	31	1/9/2019
333	KASSON	260	243	0	243	93.46%	17	1/23/2019
384	DODGE CENTER	81	66	0	66	81.48%	15	1/9/2019
422	CLAREMONT	32	29	0	29	90.63%	3	1/9/2019
DODGE COUNTY TOTALS		648	570	0	570	87.96%	78	
52	BLOOMING PRAIRIE	107	91	2	93	86.92%	14	1/30/2019
77	OWATONNA	510	444	0	444	87.06%	66	1/16/2019
296	ELLENDALE	34	35	0	35	102.94%	-1	12/12/2018
STEELE COUNTY TOTALS		651	570	2	572	87.86%	79	
75	NEW RICHLAND	54	51	0	51	94.44%	3	1/9/2019
228	WASECA	320	297	0	297	92.81%	23	1/9/2019
281	JANESVILLE	99	88	0	88	88.89%	11	1/9/2019
587	WALDORF	25	26	0	26	104.00%	-1	1/9/2019
WASECA COUNTY TOTALS		498	462	0	462	92.77%	36	
AREA TWO TOTALS		1797	1602	2	1604	89.26%	193	
40	LANESBORO	106	107	0	107	100.94%	-1	1/9/2019
68	SPRING VALLEY	82	74	0	74	90.24%	8	1/9/2019
81	HARMONY	34	28	0	28	82.35%	6	12/12/2018
94	RUSHFORD	121	124	0	124	102.48%	-3	1/9/2019
166	PRESTON	68	66	0	66	97.06%	2	1/16/2019
197	CHATFIELD	51	49	0	49	96.08%	2	1/9/2019
299	MABEL	177	151	0	151	85.31%	26	1/16/2019
369	WYKOFF	19	17	0	17	89.47%	2	11/21/2018

400	CANTON	13	19	0	19	146.15%	-6	1/9/2019
492	FOUNTAIN	16	14	0	14	87.50%	2	10/17/2018
526	PETERSON	39	35	0	35	89.74%	4	1/9/2019
544	OSTRANDER	28	19	0	19	67.86%	9	1/9/2019
637	WHALEN	14	13	0	13	92.86%	1	9/19/2018
FILLMORE COUNTY TOTALS		768	716	0	716	93.23%	52	
191	CALEDONIA	164	149	0	149	90.85%	15	12/12/2018
249	SPRING GROVE	159	137	0	137	86.16%	22	1/16/2019
423	HOUSTON	116	104	0	104	89.66%	12	1/23/2019
498	HOKAH	21	17	0	17	80.95%	4	1/9/2019
595	LA CRESCENT	320	208	0	208	65.00%	112	1/16/2019
HOUSTON COUNTY TOTALS		780	615	0	615	78.85%	165	
AREA THREE TOTALS		1548	1331	0	1331	85.98%	217	
56	ALBERT LEA	627	537	0	537	85.65%	90	1/16/2019
264	GLENVILLE	82	72	0	72	87.80%	10	1/9/2019
266	HARTLAND	16	15	0	15	93.75%	1	9/12/2018
317	EMMONS	63	54	0	54	85.71%	9	1/9/2019
404	ALDEN	113	89	0	89	78.76%	24	1/16/2019
552	FREEBORN	39	31	0	31	79.49%	8	11/21/2018
FREEBORN COUNTY TOTALS		940	798	0	798	84.89%	142	
91	AUSTIN	547	454	0	454	83.00%	93	1/16/2019
105	LYLE	90	84	0	84	93.33%	6	1/9/2019
140	GRAND MEADOW	49	41	0	41	83.67%	8	1/9/2019
146	ADAMS	214	180	0	180	84.11%	34	1/16/2019
161	LEROY	62	47	0	47	75.81%	15	1/16/2019
570	AUSTIN SPAM	7	9	0	9	128.57%	-2	10/31/2018
MOWER COUNTY TOTALS		969	815	0	815	84.11%	154	
AREA FOUR TOTALS		1909	1613	0	1613	84.49%	296	
1111	DAKOTA	50	0	0	0	0.00%	50	8/1/2018
DISTRICT ONE TOTALS		8553	7492	16	7508	87.78%	1045	

AREA	VICE	COMMANDERS							
AREA ONE			3249	2946	14	2960	91.10%	289	
AREA TWO			1797	1602	2	1604	89.26%	193	
AREA THREE			1548	1331	0	1331	85.98%	217	
AREA FOUR			1909	1613	0	1613	84.49%	296	

District	Percentage	
District 3	89.42%	1st
District 6	88.86%	2nd
District 2	88.55%	3rd
District 5	88.16%	4th
District 1	87.78%	5th
District 9	87.50%	6th
District 7	87.44%	7th
District 4	87.29%	8th
District 10	87.23%	9th
District 8	86.44%	10th
At Large	85.07%	

Here are the latest membership totals we slipped to 5th place but lets get back to work and bring us back. Remember any membership must be in the department office by Wednesday February 6th to be counted in the Sweetheart Rally totals.

First District Membership Director
Gary Weaver

FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY NEWS



Auxiliary Contacts

President

Michelle Weaver
1303 Kane St, Lacrosse, WI 54603
608-519-8311 or 608-881-9049
Weaver.michelle595@gmail.com

Secretary

Sharon Hammon
115 East Cabot St. LeRoy, MN 55951
507-923-7205
1stadjutant@gmail.com

Membership / First Vice

Wanda Prescher
3321 Vista View Ct SW
Rochester, MN 55902
507-280-4027
W.prescher@kmbw.net

Treasurer

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

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Hello Members of the 1st District Auxiliary

Winter has arrived in Minnesota and I hope you are all staying warm.

We had a wonderful Mid-Winter conference January 5th and thank you so much to LeRoy for hosting it. One of the things discussed is the newsletter no longer being mailed out. We do send the email to Unit Presidents and Unit Secretaries if an email has been provided and any other member can receive it just let me know your email and I will get you on the list. We discussed the possibility of mailing out the Auxiliary section of the newsletter for a small cost to cover paper, ink and postage and would appreciate your feedback on that option. Any ideas will be appreciated.

If any of you are interested in becoming more involved on the District level please contact me and I will be happy to pass your information on to the nominating committee. I would also be happy to answer any questions about the different positions and chairmanships.

On a sad note one of our past District Presidents Alice Jensen passed away January 25th. Alice's passion was working with the American Legion Auxiliary, both at the local Hayfield Post 330 and District levels. Her favorite projects were the local spelling bee which she initiated, and the Minnesota Girls State program.

Until next month ladies stay warm and thank you for your support of our veterans and their families.

Michelle Weaver

weaver.michelle595@gmail.com

608-881-9049



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA



9 AM – 2 PM

\$10.00 Pre-Registration includes coffee, donut/roll, lunch & course handouts

*Presented by
Dee Dee Buckley, Department Leadership Chairman
Robin Dorf, Department Membership Chairman
Cheryl Nymann, Department Public Relations Chairman*

- January 19th** Little Falls American Legion Post #46
108 1st Street NE
Little Falls, MN 56345
(Pre-register by Tuesday, January 15th)
- February 23rd** Thief River Falls American Legion Post #117
324 Brooks Avenue
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
(Pre-register by Tuesday, February 19th)
- March 9th** Waseca American Legion Post #228
700 S State Street
Waseca, MN 56093
(Pre-register by Tuesday, March 5th)

*Cut and return this portion to: Dee Dee Buckley, 1666 Oakcrest Ave, Roseville MN 55113 along with \$10 registration fee.
Make checks payable to Dee Dee Buckley*

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Unit _____ District _____
 Phone Number _____
 Email _____

I will be attending:
 _____ January 19th Little Falls
 _____ February 23rd – Thief River Falls
 _____ March 9th - Waseca



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 16, 2019 at the Owatonna American Legion, 137 Broadway St West, Owatonna, MN 55060 for the purpose of:

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

Registration will be at 8:30 AM. The 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 9:30 AM. Honorary Junior President, Kassy Betterman will call the conference to order at 10:00 AM.

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 Chair-woman, Tonia Betterman by the time of the 1st District Junior Conference. You may bring them with you that day.

2019 Department Poppy Contest entries may be brought the day of the Conference.

Poppy Corsage/Boutonniere Contest

To the Junior member in each class with the best Poppy corsage or boutonniere using Honorary Department Junior President Harley's theme: "Juniors Working Their Magic for Veterans". Entries are to be placed in a Ziploc bag with a corsage pin.

Poppy Centerpiece Contest

To the Junior member in each class with the best Poppy centerpiece using Honorary Department Junior President Harley's theme: "Juniors Working Their Magic for Veterans".

Poppy Accessories Contest

To the Junior member in each class with the best Poppy jewelry or accessory using Honorary Department Junior President Harley's theme: "Juniors Working Their Magic for Veterans".

Poppy Memorial Day Wreath

To the Junior member in each class with the best Poppy Memorial Day Wreath with the Poppy as the focus of the wreath

Poppy Junior Membership Recruitment Board

To the Junior member in each class with the Poppy Junior Membership Recruitment Board using Honorary Department Junior President Harley's theme: "Juniors Working Their Magic for Veterans".

Poster Board

To the Junior who designs the most creative Poster Board using Honorary Department Junior President Harley's theme: "Juniors Working Their Magic for Veterans". Include your Unit name, pictures, artwork or anything that you have done throughout the year.

All poppies must have the white tags removed.

There will also be one Poster Board as a Unit entry. This is replacing the Scrapbook contest.

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!

Girls State

The 73rd session of Minnesota Girls State will be held June 9-15, 2019 at Bethel University in St. Paul. The Girls State citizens will arrive on Sunday and leave on Saturday morning before noon.

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 2019 ALA MN Girls State session. Please read all of the information provided 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 you 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 2019 Girls State session begins promptly at 3:00 pm on Sunday, June 9th and ends on Saturday, June 15th morning just before lunch.

The name(s) and email address of your citizen(s) are due to the Department office by **May 1, 2019**.

There are plans to have a Package Deal of items from the Shirt Shack at Girls State. We are currently finalizing this and will have the information posted on the website soon and it will also be in the March unit mailing.

Please see the included brochure and registration form for more information.

Tara Goede
District Girls State Chairman

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS STATE HISTORY

The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program, first presented in the late 1930s, is one of the most respected experiential learning programs in the United States. Guided by the principle "For God and Country," the program epitomizes the ALA's mission to honor those who have brought us our freedom by continuing to train young women to be leaders grounded in patriotism and Americanism. ALA Girls State participants become extremely knowledgeable about the democratic process and how our republic works at the state and national levels.

About 16,000 young women participate in weeklong ALA Girls State programs across the nation each summer that teach government from the city to state level. Using a nonpartisan curriculum, participants assume the roles of government leaders, campaigning as "Federalists" and "Nationalists" to become elected officials in their mock ALA Girls States. During the immersive learning program, delegates live in "cities" in a dormitory at Bethel University. The knowledge, memories, and friendships they take home last a lifetime.

ALA Girls State has been heralded by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and has been placed on the National Advisory List of Contests and Activities.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MINNESOTA GIRLS STATE OBJECTIVES

- ★ To develop leadership and pride as American citizens
- ★ To educate citizens about our system of government
- ★ To instill a greater understanding of Americanism
- ★ To stimulate a desire to maintain our democratic government processes

ALA Minnesota Girls State encourages the citizen's creativity and fellowship with one another.

"Veterans Are Our Stars and Our Heroes"

is the theme for the year 2018 – 2019 for the ALA Department (State) President Jean Walker.



American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Committee

Peggy Tesdahl Girls State Director
 Amelia Tesdahl Education Director
 Mary Kuperus Girls State Chairman
 Lesley Christoffer . . . Girls State Committee
 Kelli Frederickson . . . Girls State Committee
 Bethany Dickert . . . Americanism Chairman
 Jean Walker State ALA President

73rd Annual



*A premier program
in citizenship for
young women*

June 9-15, 2019

Bethel University



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Minnesota
 State Veterans Service Building
 20 W 12th St #314 St Paul MN 55155
 Telephone 651-224-7634 Fax 651-224-5243
 Toll Free 1-888-217-9598
 Email - deptoffice@mnals.org

APPLICATION FOR RESERVATION AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MINNESOTA GIRLS STATE

Return by **MARCH 31st** to:

American Legion Auxiliary - Department of Minnesota
 State Veterans Service Building
 20 W. 12th St. - Room 314
 St. Paul, MN 55155

Unit Number _____ Unit Location (city) _____ District _____

1. How many girls is your Unit sponsoring to Girls State? _____
2. Name of the High School(s) you are sponsoring a girl(s) from _____

3. Amount of reservation check enclosed _____ (\$300.00 per girl)
*NOTE: Checks should be made payable to: ALA Dept. of MN unless you are using gambling funds.
 Checks from American Legion Gambling Funds should be made payable to: American Legion
 Foundation and earmark for Fund 83. Checks from Auxiliary Gambling funds should be made
 payable to: American Legion Auxiliary Dept of MN.*

Please note: There are no restrictions limiting the number of girls a Unit may sponsor to Girls State from the same high school. Consider sponsorship of a citizen from outside your Unit/area.

Upon receipt of your Unit's reservation fee(s), your space will be reserved for this year's session and your Unit will receive an information packet and the forms needed to register each Girls State citizen you are sponsoring. **If registering more than one girl, you will receive a packet for each girl.**

Information of Unit Member the citizen packet(s) should be sent to:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Position in Unit: _____

For Office Use Only: Citizen Reg. Form _____ Citizenship Confirmation _____ Enrollment Form _____ GS Pledge _____ Waiver & Consent Form _____ Media Consent Form _____ Insurance Info _____ City Assigned _____ County Assigned _____ Building _____ Room Number _____

Unit	Location	Goal	Previous	Turn In	Total	Precent	Left
9	Winona	181	0		106	58.56%	75
90	Lewiston	42	0		31	73.81%	11
190	St Charles	81	0		49	60.49%	32
50	Wabasha	142	0		95	66.90%	47
110	Lake City	88	0		63	71.59%	25
179	Plainview	185	0		115	62.16%	70
546	Kellogg	141	0		102	72.34%	39
573	Elgin	24	0		17	70.83%	7
579	Millville	50	0		52	104.00%	-2
588	Mazeppa	54	0		35	64.81%	19
92	Rochester	183	0		94	51.37%	89
119	Byron	95	0		74	77.89%	21
164	Stewartville	188	0		163	86.70%	25
551	Eyota	109	0		76	69.72%	33
Pod One Total		1563	0	0	1072	68.59%	491
295	West Concord	37	0		30	81.08%	7
330	Hayfield	198	0		142	71.72%	56
333	Kasson	151	0		119	78.81%	32
384	Dodge Center	81	0		72	88.89%	9
422	Claremont	22	0		20	90.91%	2
52	Blooming Prairie	118	0		100	84.75%	18
77	Owatonna	138	0		100	72.46%	38
75	New Richland	66	0		47	71.21%	19
228	Waseca	237	0		209	88.19%	28
587	Waldorf	30	0		16	53.33%	14
Pod Two Totals		1078	0	0	855	79.31%	223

40	Lanesboro	104	0		85	81.73%	19
68	Spring Valley	47	0		41	87.23%	6
81	Harmony	53	0		44	83.02%	9
94	Rushford	78	0		42	53.85%	36
197	Chatfield	40	0		31	77.50%	9
299	Mabel	139	0		98	70.50%	41
369	Wykoff	17	0		16	94.12%	1
526	Peterson	38	0		39	102.63%	-1
544	Ostrander	18	0		14	77.78%	4
637	Whalen	25	0		21	84.00%	4
191	Caledonia	79	0		73	92.41%	6
249	Spring Grove	144	0		102	70.83%	42
423	Houston	144	0		117	81.25%	27
498	Hokah	21	0		17	80.95%	4
595	LaCrescent	233	0		133	57.08%	100
Pod Three Totals		1180	0	0	873	73.98%	307
56	Albert Lea	342	0		246	71.93%	96
264	Glenville	111	0		81	72.97%	30
404	Alden	49	0		27	55.10%	22
552	Freeborn	65	0		58	89.23%	7
91	Austin	169	0		119	70.41%	50
105	Lyle	55	0		51	92.73%	4
140	Grand Meadow	79	0		49	62.03%	30
146	Adams	148	0		117	79.05%	31
161	Leroy	68	0		35	51.47%	33
Pod Four Totals		1086	0	0	783	72.10%	303
Total		4907	0	0	3583	73.02%	1324

FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

There is not much more that can be said about membership, except to please get it in to Department. End of January was the deadline, if a member should need their benefits, if the occasion should ever arise. Please continue to get those memberships in, it all counts doe this year! First District as of 1/30/19 ranked 5th in Department at 73.02% we went from 7th to 5th!!! Membership to date is 3,583 TY to 3843 LY. Down 317 members. I want to thank our membership chairs who have worked hard on getting their membership turned in on a timely and consistent manner; your membership numbers to date reflect it. Congratulations to our Membership Chairs!

Wanda Prescher
Membership Chair



First District American Legion Family members present at the First District Mid Winter in LeRoy, MN



More members present at the Mid Winter



Department American Legion Auxiliary President Jean Walker addressing the First District Mid Winter.



Department Commander Darrel Redepenning speaking at the First District Mid Winter

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



COMMANDER

Tim Weaver
1303 Kane St
La Crosse, WI 54603
608-304-6532
timweaver595@gmail.com

ADJUTANT

Dave Bilderback
44092 2nd Ave NW
Rochester, MN 55901
507-250-1057
dbilderback@aol.com

EAST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

Jeremiah Oeltjen
412 3rd Ave SE—Stewartville, MN 55976
507—251—6940
jeremiah@oeltjen.us

WEST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

Ron Wolff
1213 Clear Lake Dr
Waseca, MN 55903
507-456-3817
ronwolff@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Greetings Sons of The American Legion;

Greetings and SALutations!

I hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season and that soon the snow and these painfully cold temperatures will go away. This article has been my most difficult one to write in the three years I have been District Commander so please bear with me.

Membership: As of the writing of this article, we are currently at 72.90% of our goal. This has us in 4th place within the Detachment. I would like to be in at least 3rd place at the Sweetheart Rally in Royalton on February 9th. This is the time where the rubber meets the road so to speak and it is tough to get those last renewals. Please do whatever you can to get those renewals in as we are about 50 members behind where we were last year at this time. With those 50 members, we would be in 2nd place. I would like to congratulate the following squadrons on reaching their goals set by the Department: Winona, Blooming Prairie, Lewiston, Preston, and Kasson. We still have seven squadrons on the goose egg. Those squadrons are: New Richland, Rushford, St. Charles, Caledonia, Janesville, Mabel, and Houston. I am asking all members of the American Legion Family to please reach out and get at least one membership turned in. The numbers that are in the membership spreadsheet in this newsletter does not reflect the numbers at Department Headquarters.

Continued on the next page

Detachment SAL Commander
Shawn Davis addressing the
First District Mid Winter



SAL officer endorsements

Waseca Squadron #228 proudly endorses Ron Wolff as a candidate for Treasurer of the 1st District Sons of The American Legion. Ron has held all offices in the Squadron and is currently the Treasurer for the Waseca County Avenue of Flags. He is also a Past 1st District Commander and Past Detachment Commander. We know that with all Ron's experience he will do a great job for the District.

Please join us in supporting Ron as a candidate for this position.

For God and Country

Roger Ockwig

Commander Waseca Squadron #228

Child Welfare Foundation: As many of you know, my project this year is Child Welfare Foundation. My goal for this project is \$2500 and thus far we are at a grand total of {insert your own drumroll sound here} \$1328.57. I would like to thank the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 595 for their donation of \$50 towards my project. I would also like to give special recognition to two squadrons for their recent donations: Stewartville Squadron 164 donated \$148 from the tips they collected at their recent night working at Pizza Ranch. And lastly, Winona Squadron 9 for their donation of \$1000 towards my project. Thank you to everyone who has donated. I still have the pigs out there and will be collecting those at District Convention. This is a reminder that all 10 District Commanders have a contest to see whose district can collect the most money for Child Welfare. This is the biggest project the SAL donates to and every penny helps.

I want to take a few moments to talk about communication and passion. We as a District cannot be successful if we do not communicate with one another. I am as guilty of this as the next person and take responsibility for my actions. I mentioned at Mid-Winter that I was disappointed in the turn out from the SAL and this seems to be an ongoing issue. I understand that there are dual members and the Dual members are a significant portion of the membership; however, when we have a bigger event such as our Mid-Winter Conference and I have all of 5 members show up for the SAL portion to where we don't even have a general session because the only members that showed up were a part of the executive board meeting we had that morning, it makes me a little uneasy on the status of the District SAL as a whole.

I am passionate about the SAL because it is something that I believe strongly in. I joined as a way to support my father and grandfather who both served in the military. If you would have asked me 23 years ago when I joined if I would be doing what I am doing now within the SAL, I would have laughed at you. But I learned over time about the projects and the beliefs of the American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion and I will continue to support them as long as I live. That being said, every month in this very newsletter we include the upcoming events. If you can make them, please do as it is a great time had by everyone in attendance. If you cannot, please at the very least, send me an email or a text message or give me a call and let me know. That's all I ask. If I don't know if someone is attending or not, we cannot conduct business if we do not have a quorum.

Testimonial Dinner: The First District American Legion Family will be having our testimonial dinner on 4/6/2019 at the Eyota American Legion. Social Hour is at 5pm with the dinner and program starting at 6pm. We are charging \$30 per person for this night of fun and fellowship. Please try to attend. We are doing this as a family so that everyone only has to take one night away for a testimonial dinner. Included in this newsletter article is the registration for the testimonial dinner.

District Convention: The SAL District Convention will be held on 5/4/2019 at the Stewartville American Legion. The Executive Board will be at 9am with the general session to follow. I would predict that we will be done by 2pm if not before. If you can attend, please do so as I would like as many Squadrons in attendance as I can. This is where we vote on our new officers for the 2019-2020 Membership year. Also, we will have our two candidates for Detachment Commander in Attendance. I have stated previously that I will not be running again for Commander. I have done my time and now it is time for some fresh faces to take over the leadership within the District.

The following offices are voted on by those in attendance at Convention: Commander, Vice Commanders x2, Finance Office, Chaplain, and Sgt -At-Arms. The following offices are appointed: Membership Director, Adjutant, and Historian. If you are interested in ANY of these positions, please let me know for the upcoming year. If you are a current officer and are interested in ANY of these positions for the upcoming year, please send me an email so that I know who may be running for what positions within the District.

In closing, please keep all our service personnel in your prayers, both at home and those service overseas.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy Weaver

District One Sons Of The American Legion Commander

FIRST DISTRICT SAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 1-2-19

SQUAD	LOCATION	GOAL	PREVIOUS	TURN IN	TOTAL	PERCENT	LEFT	DATE
9	WINONA	79	79	0	79	100.00%	0	1/2/2019
40	LANESBORO	60	55	0	55	91.67%	5	1/2/2019
50	WABASHA	9	6	0	6	66.67%	3	1/2/2019
90	LEWISTON	45	46	0	46	102.22%	-1	1/2/2019
92	ROCHESTER	131	100	0	100	76.34%	31	1/2/2019
94	RUSHFORD	46	0	0	0	0.00%	46	1/2/2019
119	BYRON	37	34	0	34	91.89%	3	1/2/2019
164	STEWARTVILLE	109	59	0	59	54.13%	50	1/2/2019
166	PRESTON	42	39	0	39	92.86%	3	1/2/2019
179	PLAINVIEW	16	4	0	4	25.00%	12	1/2/2019
190	ST CHARLES	10	0	0	0	0.00%	10	1/2/2019
191	CALEDONIA	1	0	0	0	0.00%	1	1/2/2019
249	SPRING GROVE	1	2	0	2	200.00%	-1	1/2/2019
299	MABEL	26	0	0	0	0.00%	26	1/2/2019
423	HOUSTON	1	0	0	0	0.00%	1	1/2/2019
546	KELLOGG	22	19	0	19	86.36%	3	1/2/2019
551	EYOTA	42	19	0	19	45.24%	23	1/2/2019
573	ELGIN	1	1	0	1	100.00%	0	1/2/2019
579	MILLVILLE	29	25	0	25	86.21%	4	1/2/2019
595	LA CRESCENT	69	27	0	27	39.13%	42	1/2/2019
TOTAL FOR EAST SIDE		776	0	0	515	66.37%	261	1/2/2019
52	BLOOMING PRAIRIE	40	39	0	39	97.50%	1	1/2/2019
56	ALBERT LEA	139	89	0	89	64.03%	50	1/2/2019
75	NEW RICHLAND	3	0	0	0	0.00%	3	1/2/2019
77	OWATONNA	140	49	0	49	35.00%	91	1/2/2019
91	AUSTIN	70	45	0	45	64.29%	25	1/2/2019
105	LYLE	33	1	0	1	3.03%	32	1/2/2019
140	GRAND MEADOW	11	0	0	0	0.00%	11	1/2/2019
146	ADAMS	134	55	0	55	41.04%	79	1/2/2019
161	LEROY	49	38	0	38	77.55%	11	1/2/2019
228	WASECA	130	98	0	98	75.38%	32	1/2/2019
264	GLENVILLE	39	37	0	37	94.87%	2	1/2/2019
266	HARTLAND	13	11	0	11	84.62%	2	1/2/2019
281	JANESVILLE	8	0	0	0	0.00%	8	1/2/2019
317	EMMONS	14	1	0	1	7.14%	13	1/2/2019
330	HAYFIELD	34	29	0	29	85.29%	5	1/2/2019
333	KASSON	33	39	0	39	118.18%	-6	1/2/2019
384	DODGE CENTER	11	6	0	6	54.55%	5	1/2/2019
404	ALDEN	61	34	0	34	55.74%	27	1/2/2019
552	FREEBORN	30	26	0	26	86.67%	4	1/2/2019
TOTAL FOR WEST SIDE		992	597	0	597	60.18%	395	1/2/2019
1111	DAKOTA	83	56	0	56	67.47%	27	1/2/2019
TOTAL FOR DISTRICT		1839	1168	0	1168	63.51%	671	1/2/2019

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



DIRECTOR

Roe Naylor
63109 240th St
Brownsdale, MN 55918
507-438-5804

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Karla Miller
5530 W 9th St—Winona, MN 55987
507—459—5962
928sunshine@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Joe Smillie
1001 7th St NW
Austin, MN 55912
641-590-3522

SGT AT ARMS

James Rinehart
28006US Highway 218—Austin, MN 55912
612—991—4669
kgwenel@msn.com

HISTORIAN

Kassy Betterman
1625 Crestview Lane—Owatonna, MN 55060
507—533—9434

CHAPLAIN

Ron Knudson
431 Shellrock Ln—Glenville, MN—56036
browninggold3112@yahoo.com

ROAD CAPTAIN

Mark Maloney
2315 Park Lane SE - Rochester, MN - 55904
507—513—1582
markmaloney0003@gmail.com



**American Legion Riders Post 91
809 12th St SW Austin, Minnesota
ALR Prevent 22 (Eagles Healing Nest)**

American Legion

Post, Son's and Auxiliary of the American Legion,

According to the Department of Veteran Affairs study, each day over 22 Veterans take their own lives. Together we can win the war against Veteran Suicide. The American Legion Riders Post 91 Austin, MN has created a program called ALR PREVENT 22 to help Veterans fight this ongoing battle with Veteran Suicide. We have raised and donated \$2000.00 the previous year.

All Proceeds with in the ALR Prevent 22 will be donated to the Eagles Healing Nest in Sauk Center, MN. The Nest is 100% ran by donations and volunteers and offers many programs to aid Veterans in their time of need. If you would like more information or to share information with your local veterans, we have enclosed a flyer from the Eagles Healing Nest.

We are looking for Donations to the ALR Prevent 22 and are currently planning a ride, followed by a raffle & outdoor event this year on July 13, 2019 from Austin, MN. We will be touring 1st District Legion Posts to collect donations to assist the Eagles Healing Nest with the services they provide Veterans each year. At a future date we will determine the route and stops for our ride. A second letter will be sent at that time with further detailed information. If your post would be interested in helping with any assistance or donations this would be greatly appreciated. We look forward to hearing from your post soon as we plan this fundraiser for prevent 22.

For more Information or you would like to donate to Prevent 22, you may contact the American Legion Riders Post 91 President Roe Naylor at (507)438-5804 or by email roe.land@yahoo.com

Thank you again, and we look forward to your continued support,

American Legion Riders Post 91 Austin

All You can Eat Pancake Breakfast

Every Sunday 9am -12pm \$8.00 at the Door

Breakfast includes Eggs, Sausage, your choice of Orange Juice or Milk & Bottomless Pancakes

Proceeds going to help Veterans in need

American Legion Post 91
809 12th St SW Austin, Mn



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

GUN RAFFLE

1ST - SF 1911 MILITARY SPEC 5" BARREL 5TH - SAVAGE AXIS 270
2ND - MB SILVER RESERVE II O/U 12GA 6TH - RUGER LCP .380ACP
3RD -DEL-TON ECHO 316 A3 CARBINE 5.56 7TH - MARLIN 60 .22LR RIFLE
4TH - MB GRAND SLAM TURKEY 12GA

TICKETS \$10 EACH

DRAWING HELD SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019

8PM AT THE AUSTIN AMERICAN LEGION

THERE WILL BE A DINNER AT 6PM PRIOR TO THE DRAWING

SPONSORED BY:

TENDERMAID* WIZARD TRUCKING* BRICK FURNITURE* COMMERCIAL SERVICES*

ROGER & SONS* LENWAY LAW* PIGGY BLUES* KATHY WENCL* Y WASTE*

**MARY RINEHART ERICKSON* SOUTH MAIN AUTO SERVICES* HOOT N OLE'S N JUDY TOO*
 AUSTIN AREA AMMUNITION AND FIREARMS***

**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE ALR POST 91 BOB KVAM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AND
 AMERICAN LEGION POST 91**

AUSTIN AMERICAN LEGION POST 91 LICENSE #00087-004

WINNER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY TAXES AND FEES

**3RD ANNUAL
ALL YOU CAN EAT
STEAK DINNER**



\$20 ADVANCE TICKETS

**THE AUSTIN AMERICAN LEGION
MARCH 9, 2019
5:00 PM**

GUN RAFFLE, LIVE AUCTION, GREAT FOOD.
20% OF PROCEEDS GO TO AMERICAN LEGION POST 91 AND 80% OF PROCEEDS GO TO AMERICAN
LEGION RIDER'S BOB KVAM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**DINNER INCLUDES SALAD, BAKED POTATO, GREEN BEANS,
DESSERT AND COFFEE.**

**\$25 AT THE DOOR
\$10 FOR AGES 10 AND UNDER**

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS CONTACT
ROE NAYLOR..... [507-438-5804](tel:507-438-5804)



Salute to the Grand Ole Opry

Saturday, February 16th

Steak or Shrimp Dinner

5:00-7:00pm

with Baked Potato, Salad and Texas Toast

Show following Dinner 8:00pm-12:30am



AMERICAN LEGION POST 228

700 State St., Waseca • 507-833-9935 



VETERANS DAY ON THE HILL 2019

WHEN:
MARCH 20TH, 2019

DAV of MN Presents a:
Free Veterans and Supporters
Pre-Rally Lunch @ 10:30

(This event is a free catered lunch to discuss our priorities and how to protect Veterans benefits)

Veterans March to the Rally @ 12:45

(Join with Veterans, family members, and community supporters as we march to the Capitol)

CTF, UVLC, and MACVSO Present:
Rally in the Rotunda 1:30-2:30pm

(Your opportunity to hear directly from those in power and let them know we are PAYING ATTENTION and want ACTION)

WHERE:

Pre-Rally at St. Paul Armory

One block from Capitol BLDG

(Address: 600 Cedar St, St Paul, MN 55101)

March to the Rally

State Veterans Services Bldg.

(20 West 12th St, St. Paul, MN)

**NO MEMBERSHIP IN ANY ORGANIZATION REQUIRED. ALL
VETERANS, FAMILY MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS ARE WELCOME!**

**ALL VETERANS, FAMILY
MEMBERS, AND
ADVOCATES ARE
INVITED TO RALLY IN
SUPPORT OF VETERANS
LEGISLATION**



Topics Include:

KEEPING SURVIVING SPOUSES IN THEIR HOMES!

ENSURING THE LONGTERM STABILITY OF SERVICES FOR VETERANS ACROSS MN

INCREASING ACCESS TO THE OUTDOORS FOR OUR DISABLED VETERANS!

ENSURING FULL-FUNDING FOR MDVA AND THE 3 NEW VETERANS HOMES



DAV
**BENEFITS
PROTECTION**



**ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE
CONTACT:
TRENT@DAVMN.ORG**

Ultimate Baked Potato Bar



American Legion Post #228

700 South State Street, Waseca

Friday, February 1st

5:00 p.m.



Only \$6.00



Many of your favorite toppings and even some homemade toppings that are sure to bring back some special memories.



**** We will also be doing Meat Raffles**

LC#00135



Serving our Veterans for 100 years ~ October 1919 - 2019

All proceeds will go toward the ongoing repairs and maintenance to our aging building.

Cribbage Tournaments



1st ~ draw partner
2nd ~ choose partner

Noon Registration ~ 1 p.m. Start
\$10 entry per person ~ BIG paybacks!
Guaranteed 2-3 games depending on # of teams

Don't play cribbage? Play games

Lots of games available all day, no fee to play!
Bring your own games too! (please label)

Saturday, February 2nd

Waseca American Legion

700 South State St ~ 507-833-9935



STEAK FRY



Choose steak, shrimp or both!

Served with a baked potato, dinner salad and Texas garlic toast.

12 oz. ribeye \$15

6 shrimp \$10

8 oz. ribeye & 3 shrimp \$15

Proceeds go toward required kitchen upgrades and other building repairs.

2nd Friday Monthly, 5-7 p.m.

Waseca American Legion

700 South State St ~ 507-833-9935



AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY TESTIMONIAL DINNER



Saturday April 6th

Eyota American Legion Post

Honoring Legion District Commander Gary Miller

Auxiliary District President Michelle Weaver

S.A.L. District Commander Tim Weaver

A.L.R. District Director Roe Naylor

Auxiliary District Honorary Junior President Kassy Betterman

\$30.00 per person and serving a Prime Rib Dinner

Social hour at 4 pm, Dinner at 5 pm and program to follow



Please make checks payable to Gary Weaver and send your reservation by March 26th to Gary Weaver, 29 N. Elm St., La Crescent, MN. 55947

Number Attending _____ X \$30.00 Total Enclosed _____

Names Attending _____
