



FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

February 2021

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You can go to the Minnesota American Legion web site (mnlegion.org) and click on the COVID 19 link for a lot of information about the state mandates, contact information and links to important PDF information files.

IMPORTANT DATES

Because of the COVID 19 pandemic all events are either put on hold or postponed to a later date.

Some posts might be opening up, depending on the Governor's mandate with COVID 19 rules in place, or curb side service only.

Please contact your post to see what the times and rules are.

Please keep making buddy check calls to make sure all of our fellow veterans are handling the lockdown

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.

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2 FROM THE COMMANDER'S PEN

From the mighty First District American Legion Family.

Thank you for your service to our country and to all of our supporters.

We are now over the end of year holidays, that puts 2020 behind us.

The two Department awards the district had were Law Enforcement officer of the Year was presented to Tracey Pagel at the Eyota post meeting.

The Employer of the year for the small Employer of veterans was presented to DeGeus Tile and Granite Inc. at their place of business in Rochester. It was with great honors to present these awards to these great employers of veterans. Due to the cancelations in 2020 these couldn't be presented at Department events.

We are also doing planning of events for this year.

The Oratorical Contest will be at the Byron American Legion on Saturday, February 13, 2021 at 2:00. We need help to put this on. If you can assist us in any way please call Sy FIX asap at 507-313-3378. or email him at papafixone@gmail.com

The rally in Blooming Prairie March 25, [2021, at](#) 6:30 pm. This one maybe virtual and/or in person this will take extra planning.

The National Commander's tour schedule will be covered in the Legionnaire.

Many of the Department activities are be covered in the Legionnaire.

Membership is always on our agenda. Now as of the January 28th report we have 9 posts at 100% or more, congratulations for the great work. We can't stop working on this, the District is in 7th place.

Elections are coming up in April/May, if you plan on running for office you need to have a letter of endorsement from your post to the District Adjutant. Department Appreciation Rally March 6th in La Crescent at the post.

District Commander's testimonial April 17th at the Dodge Center post.

District President testimonial May 1st in Stewartville.

District convention May 21-22 ,2021 at the Austin post.

At all American Legion events covid19 and CDC mandates (rules) will apply.

Dale Wellik – First District Commander

From your 1st District Legion Chaplain

To the 1st District American Legion Family,

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He chose for His inheritance." Psalm 33:12

These words could have been spoken when our founding members formed the American Legion and chose to start the preamble with the words, "For God and country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes."

I believe that those founding members knew that if they didn't put "God" in the forefront, this organization would not have had a chance of surviving without God's hand of mercy and grace. We would never have survived 100 years, much less 200 plus years as a nation.

God's hand has been on this nation from the very beginning. If we ever lose sight of that, I'm afraid we won't last much longer. I, personally, believe we have drifted about as far away from God as possible without having the wrath of God brought down on us. I'm not saying that the American Legion should be a religious order; no, not at all. But I do believe that we as individual Legionnaires need to search our hearts and minds and ask God where it is that He wants us to go and what He wants us to do. Now, I know not every member is a person of faith; we are people of many different faiths and have different ideas of how we worship. Some worship on Saturday, some on Sunday morning in a building and others worship while walking outdoors in God's creation. A pastor once said, "I'd sooner have someone in a boat, fishing on Sunday morning, wishing they were in church, than to have a person in church wishing they were out fishing!"

There are many things that have happened in this past year that make some of us wonder, "Where are we going as a nation?" I wonder if our founding members could see the United States of America today, would they recognize what they fought so hard to preserve and defend. Would it be the nation that we are now?

We are so divided along party lines, one side sees only their side and the other side sees only theirs. We need to come together if we are to remain the nation our founding members pledged to serve. I don't care if you voted for Trump or Biden; it was your choice. That's what this nation is all about. When we start putting one or the other down, and start calling one another names, I feel we have gone too far. We can agree to disagree and leave it at that.

The Bible tells us that we are to pray for our nation and for those in charge. In the 2nd book of Chronicles chapter 7 verse 14 it says, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." And in 1Timothy 2:1-2a, we read "I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayer, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone--for kings and all those in authority..."

Let us always remember to pray for our nation. Pray that God's healing hand will be upon it. Pray that we can come together as one nation, not left or right, but as one America. If we can do this collectively, I believe the United States of America will be preserved. I fear if we don't, this nation will fall, "For a nation divided against itself, cannot survive." Matthew 12:25

Remember 4 Chaplains Sunday February 7, 2021. It is the 78th anniversary of the sinking of the U.S.A.T. Dorchester. Do a buddy check (call or visit), help a neighbor in need, remember our service personnel here at home or deployed.

Until next month, may the God of Peace and Grace be with you and yours,
Larry H. Otto, 1st District Chaplain

Four Chaplains Sunday

February 7, 2021 will mark the 78th anniversary of the sinking of the troopship USAT Dorchester. It carried to their death 672 men, including four US Army chaplains of three faiths, who stood united in prayer as the ship went down.

These four chaplains, Roman Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant, gave their own life jackets away, not asking if those receiving them were Catholic, Jew or Protestant. They simply gave their jacket to the next one in line, thus sacrificing their own life to save others.

The heroic deeds of Chaplains Lt. George L. Fox, Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Lt. John P. Washington, and Lt. Clark V. Poling are inspiring and ever shining examples of real brotherhood for all times and all peoples. We, as Americans, must never forget their supreme sacrifice for our freedom. May our lives prove that their sacrifice was done not in vain.

As American Legion 1st District Chaplain it is my hope that on February 7, 2021, all people in all places of worship would take some time to honor these four men of God, who gave up their lives that others may live. The Bible states in John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." After being hit by a German torpedo and as the Dorchester was sinking, the Four Chaplains did just that. It was February 3, 1943 in the icy Atlantic waters 150 miles from their destination to Greenland.

If you would like more information about Four Chaplains Sunday, contact me,



FROM AREA ONE

Well, here we are almost spring again. With all that has been happening it is glad to see that most of the legions post have kept things going with thinking out of the box, curbside burger nights and curbside fish fry. We also got a lot of things organized at the district level to help our post out with answers trying make sure that the legion can do the things we do best helping veterans and their family in times of need. We had set up training and with the pandemic almost in coming to end and we can finally get back out into the post and meet in person. It is good to see that we are finally getting close to start planning outdoor activities. So, let us keep supporting each other and keep the buddy checks up and keep in touch we will get through this we are almost out of the woods and soon we be seeing rides, picnics and more post activities so keep up the great job we are getting through the worst of this pandemic great job.

Thank you

Area1 vice commander

Mark A Maloney III

FROM AREA FOUR

Hello Fellow Legionnaires,

Happy Valentines Day! In the spirit of the holiday do some buddy checks. Show that you care about your fellow comrades. I am sure that there are many that would appreciate the call and fellowship.

The Four Chaplains Day is celebrated on February 7th this year. A day to honor and remember the selfless act of 4 army chaplains that went down with the United States Army transport the Dorchester on February 3rd, 1943. The ship was struck by a German torpedo. As soldiers climbed into lifeboats, the chaplains comforted the wounded and directed others to safety. They gave up their life jackets to save soldiers. The chaplains went down with the ship with linked arms and praying. If you would like more information on this incredible story and the chaplains, visit www.fourchaplains.org.

The oratorical contest will be held on February 13 at 2:00 pm at the Byron post. Currently, there are two contestants. Please come and support these young people. They put a lot of time and effort into preparing for this event. Make the 1st District proud.

The CPR report is post activity from June 1st to May 31st. Please keep this in mind. Each post is required to fill one out. Hopefully, we can get back to some sort of normalcy in the near future.

Mary Hanson

American Legion

Area 4 Vice Commander

FROM AREA TWO

Hello Comrades,

At this time of year, we all think about the Future. 2021 to be exact. The future is the time after the present (Today). Its arrival is considered inevitable due to the existence of time and the laws of physics. Due to the apparent nature of reality and the unavoidability of the future, everything that currently exists and will exist can be categorized as either permanent, meaning that it will exist forever, or temporary, meaning that it will end. Wow, that's pretty heavy. It makes me think of some advice many of us have received over our lifetime. Don't worry about the past, it's gone, done, over with, so don't worry about it, just make sure you've learned from it. Then, we have those who keep telling us to 'save for the future, make future plans for this and that.' So many get obsessed in the Past and the Future that they forget about "Today." Let's talk about Today. The Present. Here and Now. I want you to stop reading this for a moment and think about Today. What have you done? What are you going to do? What's your surroundings like? Family present? What's your mood? How do you feel? OK, let's go a little farther. Remember last month's front-page article? About wishes and Hopes? How we traced back to biblical times? I'm going to do that again. Take Ephesians 1:3-14 for example. Paul takes us on an exciting path through the past, present and future. Our past, a mixture of good things and horrible things. Our present, God's persistent love and forgiveness and then the future, Hope which is essential to human life. This hope strengthens us in the hardships and drudgeries of everyday life. Without it we can not survive. I believe that what matters the most is Today. The here and now. This moment. How each of us handles it, is different, but if we start the day as Proverbs 3:6 tells us, "seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take" our Today will definitely touch, in ways we can't imagine, the lives of others. Let's take a final moment and check out some quotes from different authors. "Change your life today. Don't gamble on the future, act now, without delay." Simone de Beauvoir. "The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today." H. Jackson Brown, Jr. And finally, a quote from Joan Rivers, "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is God's gift, that's why we call it the present." So, what's your "Today" going to look like? Positive or Negative? Happy or Sad? Helpful or Selfish? Will you decide to engage "Today"? We all need to take time to decide how we will handle each individual Today in 2021.

Mike Parry, Area 2
Vice Commander



INFORMATION FROM EAGLES HEALING NEST

Veterans, this is not an ask, this a tell. We are almost out of room at the Eagles Healing Nest and other Veterans facilities. They are working around the clock and taking in 4 to 7 Veterans from across the US and more being pushed on the street daily is leaving many desperate. We have buildings that can be made livable to house more but we do have the manpower or funds. This is getting across the country and it's getting worse. If you can help we need construction people, electrical, HVAC, painters, paint, building supplies and again funding. Please go to your local Legion, VFW, anyone who can help. If you find someone or resources, please call or PM me. We said we'd have our Brothers and Sisters backs. Check on your local Veterans NOW!!! This lockdown is hitting them HARD!!! Make sure they are Okay. That is where this is. If you don't see it, open your eyes, it's time we hold up our end of the bargain.

This article was sent to me by Tim Burley who is the Commander of the Hutchinson American Legion Post in Hutchinson, MN. He is very active in Veteran help and assistance programs and is very dedicated to this endeavor.

Tim Burley (Welcome Home. Vet, Eagles Healing Nest)

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Officer endorsements

Commander—Mark Maloney

Finance Officer—Bill Goede

Chaplain— Larry Otto

Delegate requests

Mary Hanson

Myron Ehrich

Dale Wellik

To whom it may concern

THE GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MONUMENT

The CPL Curtis M Swenson Memorial Fund is excited to announce a project we are working on in conjunction with the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation. The MN Gold Star Families Memorial Monument demonstrates that a community cares for the families and appreciates their sacrifice. Today, there are 64 dedicated monuments and 76 in progress throughout the United States. Our efforts in bringing this to our area would be the first in Minnesota.

Our committee has secured the new Dodge County Courthouse grounds, 721 Main Street North, Mantorville to place this beautiful monument. Three benches have already been promised. Fundraising efforts are ongoing to build and maintain the monument.

The CPL Curtis M Swenson Memorial Fund has started this effort with a \$5000 donation in hopes of matching funds. We know this may be a hardship for smaller groups but, be assured, all donations will be greatly appreciated. The 501c3 non-profit # is 46-2047833 for your tax information.

Groundwork for the monument will begin Spring 2021 with the hopes of dedicating this meaningful gift Fall of 2021.

Please send your donations to: CPL Curtis M Swenson Memorial Fund
 Attention; MN Gold Star Monument Committee
 4520 58th LN NW
 Rochester, MN 55901

Direct questions to: Scott Eggert 507-993-2414 or
 Dave Swenson 507-206-8479

Thank you for your continued support of our Military, Veterans and Their Families



The American Legion, Dept of MN, First District 2021 Membership Report as of Jan 28, 2021

D i s	Post	Location	New 2021	PUFL 2021	Online 2021	Trad 2021	Paid 2021	HQ Trans 2021	Total Membr 2021	Goal 2021	% of Goal	HQ Trans 2020	Last yr at this dae
1	9	Winona	3	30	58	375	466	1	467	536	87.13%	0	512
1	90	Lewiston	3	8	4	55	70	0	70	69	101.45%	0	67
1	190	St Charles	5	19	13	91	128	1	129	133	96.99%	1	118
1		Winona County					664	2	666	738	90.24%		697
1	50	Wabasha	0	48	20	125	193	0	193	221	87.33%	0	209
1	110	Lake City	4	17	15	95	131	0	131	157	83.44%	0	130
1	179	Plainview	0	28	20	89	137	0	137	159	86.16%	0	147
1	546	Kellogg	0	9	0	51	60	0	60	63	95.24%	0	60
1	573	Elgin	0	2	3	20	25	0	25	29	86.21%	0	24
1	579	Millville	0	22	25	102	149	0	149	148	100.68%	0	176
1	588	Mazeppa	1	9	1	53	64	0	64	72	88.89%	0	67
1		Wabsha County					759	0	759	849	89.40%		813
1	92	Rochester	4	91	131	542	768	4	772	905	85.30%	11	824
1	119	Byron	2	17	17	75	111	0	111	133	83.46%	0	111
1	164	Stewartville	2	26	32	210	270	0	270	303	89.11%	0	283
1	446	Rochester	0	2	4	2	8	0	8	20	40.00%	0	11
1	551	Eyota	1	21	24	117	163	0	163	186	87.63%	0	165
1		Olmsted County					1320	7	1327	1547	85.78%		1394
1		Area One					2743	9	2752	3134	87.81%		2904
1	295	West Concord	0	8	2	31	41	0	41	65	63.08%	0	51
1	330	Hayfield	0	18	19	138	175	0	175	199	87.94%	0	182
1	333	Kasson	3	34	34	173	244	0	244	264	92.42%	0	246
1	384	Dodge Center	1	8	6	60	75	0	75	78	96.15%	0	74
1	422	Claremont	1	2	3	23	29	0	29	27	107.41%	0	27
1		Dodge County					564	0	564	633	89.10%		580
1	52	Blooming Prairie	1	16	4	65	86	0	86	94	91.49%	0	91
1	77	Owatonna	4	53	44	298	399	0	399	460	86.74%	0	432
1	296	Ellendale	1	3	3	28	35	0	35	39	89.74%	0	35
1		Steel County					520	0	520	593	87.69%		558
1	75	New Richland	0	8	1	40	49	0	49	48	102.08%	0	37
1	228	Waseca	4	21	25	222	272	1	273	310	88.06%	0	284
1	281	Janesville	1	9	9	66	85	0	85	88	96.59%	0	82
1	587	Waldorf	1	0	1	19	21	0	21	22	95.45%	0	20
1		Waseca County					427	1	428	468	91.45%	0	423
		Area Two					1511	1	1512	1694	89.26%	0	1561

1	40	Lanesboro	1	13	14	78	106	0	106	107	99.07%	0	109
1	68	Spring Valley	0	8	1	63	72	0	72	76	94.74%	0	71
1	81	Harmony	1	2	0	27	30	0	30	32	93.75%	0	30
1	94	Rushford	0	14	11	63	88	0	88	116	75.86%	0	87
1	166	Preston	0	18	3	28	49	0	49	61	80.33%	1	61
1	197	Chatfield	0	2	1	36	39	0	39	45	86.67%	0	44
1	299	Mabel	5	31	15	98	149	0	149	165	90.30%	0	155
1	369	Wykoff	0	0	0	16	16	1	17	16	106.25%	1	17
1	400	Canton	2	0	1	16	19	0	19	18	105.56%	0	18
1	492	Fountain	0	0	0	13	13	0	13	14	92.86%	0	14
1	526	Peterson	0	4	0	27	31	0	31	39	79.49%	0	32
1	544	Ostrander	0	2	1	19	22	0	22	24	91.67%	0	22
1	637	Whalan	0	0	0	10	10	0	10	7	142.86%	0	7
1		Fillmore County					644	1	645	720	89.58%	0	667
1	191	Caledonia	1	17	13	100	131	0	131	150	87.33%	0	143
1	249	Spring Grove	0	15	13	111	139	0	139	151	92.05%	0	127
1	423	Houston	0	8	12	73	93	0	93	101	92.08%	0	96
1	498	Hokah	1	1	2	14	18	0	18	22	81.82%	0	19
1	595	LaCrescent	0	47	37	158	242	0	242	273	88.64%	0	245
1		Houston County					623	0	623	697	89.38%	0	59
1		Area Three					1267	1	1268	1417	89.48%	0	726
1	56	Albert Lea	1	41	56	389	487	2	489	543	90.06%	0	509
1	264	Glenville	0	9	2	57	68	0	68	70	97.14%	0	66
1	266	Hartland	0	1	0	12	13	0	13	13	100.00%	0	13
1	317	Emmons	0	3	2	40	45	0	45	53	84.91%	0	53
1	404	Alden	0	4	15	65	84	0	84	106	79.25%	0	103
1	552	Freeborn	0	5	2	22	29	0	29	33	87.88%	0	29
1		Freeborn County					726	2	728	818	89.00%	0	773
1	91	Austin	2	56	42	334	434	5	439	502	87.45%	3	465
1	105	Lyle	0	8	7	60	75	0	75	84	89.29%	0	80
1	140	Grand Meadow	0	2	5	34	41	0	41	41	100.00%	0	40
1	146	Adams	1	20	15	73	109	0	109	187	58.29%	0	174
1	161	LeRoy	0	4	6	36	46	0	46	52	88.46%	0	46
1	570	Austin Spam	0	0	2	12	14	0	14	15	93.33%	1	14
1		Mower County					719	2	724	881	82.18%	0	819
1		Area Four					1445	7	1452	1699	85.46%	0	1592
1	1111	Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	0.00%	0	0
1		District Totals	57	864	796	5249	6966	15	6981	8009	87.16%	19	7361

FIRST DISTRICT VICE COMANNDER STANDINGS AS OF 1-28-2021

		Vice Commanders											
		Area One					2743	9	2752	3134	87.81%	0	2904
		Area Two					1511	1	1512	1694	89.26%	0	1561
		Area Three					1267	1	1268	1417	89.48%	0	726
		Area Four					1445	7	1452	1699	85.46%	0	1592

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA 2021 DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 1-28-21

Dist	Rank												
1	7th	Dale Wellik	57	864	796	5249	6966	15	6981	8009	87.16%	19	7361
2	8th	Bradley Pagel	49	654	492	4137	5332	12	5344	6189	86.35%	4	5689
3	1st	Linda Dvorak	111	1568	1702	6533	9914	91	10,005	10,938	91.47%	103	10,083
4	9th	Joseph Jansen	24	288	296	1167	1775	4	1779	2,091	85.08%	26	1947
5	10th	Wade A. Larson	16	308	374	1025	1723	0	1723	2164	79.62%	7	1946
6	4th	Paul D. Edwards	111	1112	1145	6829	9197	54	9251	10,598	87.29%	25	9735
7	2nd	Dean Knutson	31	704	424	3885	5044	42	5086	5,646	90.08%	47	5171
8	6th	D Marvin Hill	21	320	393	2395	3129	4	3133	3591	87.25%	10	3325
9	3rd	Steven Sundstrom	48	554	608	4023	5233	53	5286	5953	88.80%	19	5418
10	5th	Thomas H. Allen	93	916	1394	5238	7641	22	7663	8780	87.28%	15	8089
99			9	180	463	1371	2023	0	2023	2997	67.50%	0	1773
Totals			570	7468	8087	41,852	57,977	297	58,274	66,956	87.03%	275	60,537

FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Please keep working both the 1982 and 1982 AD lists found in the My Legion Post site if your post is signed up. If your post is not signed up please try and get signed up. There is a lot of great help for membership recruitment to be found there. Also do not forget about the expired member lists which are there too.. If you need help , contact the District Adjutant, he knows how to get your post signed up and use the site.

Myron Ehrich - First District Membership Director

¹⁰ Department Employer of the Year award for the small Employer of Veterans being presented to DeGeus Tile and Granite in Rochester.



L to R. Mitch Harris (vet), Greg Vaughn (vet), Dodge County Commander/ Committees Chairman George Gunderson, Mike DeGeus, Missy Bakken and District I Commander Dale Wellik.


Department Law Officer of the Year being presented to Tracy Pagel at the Eyota American Legion Post.



From left to right—Committee Chairman Richard Skillestad, First District Commander Dale Wellik, Olmsted County Sheriff Kevin Torgerson, Law Officer of the Year Tracy Pagel, SGT Mark Chambers and Area One Vice Commander Mark Maloney.

Memorial Day is coming so if you visit a cemetery don't remove the coins as they have meaning.

THE MEANING OF COINS ON A HEADSTONE




A penny, you stopped and paid your respects.



A nickle, you attended bootcamp with them



A dime, you served in the armed forces with them



A quarter, you were with the soldier when they were killed

IF YOU WONDERED WHY WE DO NOT WALK BETWEEN OR "BREAK" THE COLORS AT LEGION EVENTS, THIS IS THE REASON WHY.



This Is Hallowed Ground

Why You Don't Walk Between The Colors

Between the flags that proudly fly
Let no one dare to stand
For here our fallen comrades lie,
We call it Hallowed Ground.
A symbol, yes, but mark it well;
Here let us ever humbly pause
In Memory of the ones who fell
In fighting for our sacred cause.

On sea or land these buddies died.
Some lie beneath a foreign sod
In graves caressed by winds and tide,
In spots unknown to all but God.
And so this place is Hallowed Ground.
And it shall be forever blessed,
As though it were a grassy mound
Beneath which gallant heroes rest

Be ever watchful, Legionnaire.
Of those two flags which signify
That we should guard this spot with care
Where our departed comrades lie.
And, if a man should dare to tread
This spot where lie our gallant brave,
He desecrates those noble dead
As tho he walked upon their grave.

FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY NEWS



Auxiliary Contacts

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Treasurer

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

What a year we have all experienced!

As we are slowly starting to hopefully get going again, please continue to be safe and keep healthy. We still need to continue to work as best we are able too, with all our Auxiliary programs during this time of social distancing. Thank you for staying the course!

1st Place in Department at 82.27% in Membership!! We should all be proud of the hard work our Membership Chairs! Thank you ladies, and keep turning in!

February is Americanism Month!

Remember to fly your flag, show your patriotism for those that have served, those that gave their all and those serving today! Especially on these given dates.

Lincoln's Birthday : 2/12

Washington's Birthday: 2/15 (Presidents Day)

Flag raised at Iwo Jima (1945): 2/23

Battle of Java Sea (1942): 2/27

Department Leadership Workshop: One is scheduled this March in the 2nd. District in Pine Island, which is a close location for some of us. It is currently not on the Department Schedule. It is a great workshop, our turnout last year could have been better, so here is an opportunity to attend, if you never have.

Here is the info if anyone would like to attend.

Saturday, March 13th - 9am-2pm

Cost \$10.00 (includes coffee/rolls, lunch and handouts).

RSVP to Linda Kelly 2nd District President - lkkauxiliary@gmail.com

My 1st District Presidents Project remains the same as last year.

Veterans Emergency Funds at the VA Hospital

Our veterans have given so much to our country, and now they are in need more than ever! I am selling raffle tickets to help raise funds.

Patriotic Flag Quilt - 80X67

Tickets - \$5.00

Drawing - May 1, 2021

Tickets have been sent to your Unit Presidents, you can buy from them or myself.

Wanda Prescher

3321 Vista View Ct SW

Rochester, MN 55902 I will return the ticket(s) to you.

I can't thank all of you enough, for everything that you have done this past year to keep our ALA going strong, even when it hasn't been easy.

We will hope and pray that 2021 will start getting better for all of us!

Thank you, for all that you do for our 1st District ALA!

President Wanda



Picture of the Quilt President Wanda is raffling off





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 27, 2021 at the LeRoy Community Center, 204 West Main Street, LeRoy, MN 55951 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 start at 9:00 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, Taylor McElroy will call the conference to order at 10:30 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 Chairwoman, Tonia Bettermann by the time of the 1st District Junior Conference. You may bring them with you that day.

2021 Department Poppy Contest entries may be brought the day of the Conference.

1. **Poppy Corsage/Boutonniere Contest**
To the Junior member in each class with the best Poppy corsage or boutonniere using Honorary Department Junior President Emily's theme: "Juniors Catching Veterans Hearts". Entries are to be placed in a Ziploc bag with a corsage pin.
2. **Poppy Centerpiece Contest**
To the Junior member in each class with the best Poppy centerpiece using Honorary Department Junior President Emily's theme: "Juniors Catching Veterans Hearts"
3. **Poppy Accessories Contest**
To the Junior member in each class with the best Poppy jewelry or accessory using Honorary Department Junior President Emily's theme: "Juniors Catching Veterans Hearts".
4. **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
5. **Poppy Junior Membership Recruitment Board**
To the Junior member in each class with the Poppy Junior Membership Recruitment Board using Honorary Department Junior President Emily's theme: "Juniors Catching Veterans Hearts".
6. **Poster Board**
To the Junior who designs the most creative Poster Board using Honorary Department Junior President Emily's theme: "Juniors Catching Veterans Hearts". 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!

Tonia Bettermann
First District Junior Activities Chair

First District Auxiliary Membership Report for January 27, 2021

Unit	Location	Goal	Previous	Turn In	Total	Precent	Left
9	Winona	141	69	1	70	49.65%	71
90	Lewiston	36	32	0	32	88.89%	4
190	St Charles	51	33	10	43	84.31%	8
50	Wabasha	110	72	9	81	73.64%	29
110	Lake City	64	57	1	58	90.63%	6
179	Plainview	120	93	14	107	89.17%	13
546	Kellogg	110	84	6	90	81.82%	20
573	Elgin	13	13	0	13	100.00%	0
579	Millville	51	41	1	42	82.35%	9
588	Mazepa	37	34	1	35	94.59%	2
92	Rochester	136	100	10	110	80.88%	26
119	Byron	41	21	0	21	51.22%	20
164	Stewartville	175	149	7	156	89.14%	19
551	Eyota	97	80	5	85	87.63%	12
Pod One Totals		1182	878	65	943	79.78%	239
295	West Concord	32	21	0	21	65.63%	11
330	Hayfield	173	142	0	142	82.08%	31
333	Kasson	135	124	3	127	94.07%	8
384	Dodge Center	64	55	0	55	85.94%	9
422	Claremont	20	1	19	20	100.00%	0
52	Blooming Prairie	91	74	0	74	81.32%	17
77	Owatonna	111	81	5	86	77.48%	25
75	New Richland	45	36	2	38	84.44%	7
228	Waseca	240	181	14	195	81.25%	45
587	Waldorf	21	18	0	18	85.71%	3
Pod Two Totals		932	733	43	776	83.26%	156

**1st District American Legion Auxiliary Membership as
of January 27, 2021 continued**

40	Lanesboro	97	71	0	71	73.20%	26
68	Spring Valley	39	37	0	37	94.87%	2
81	Harmony	52	37	8	45	86.54%	7
94	Rushford	45	32	1	33	73.33%	12
197	Chatfield	30	25	0	25	83.33%	5
299	Mabel	116	84	11	95	81.90%	21
369	Wykoff	17	16	0	16	94.12%	1
526	Peterson	46	43	1	44	95.65%	2
544	Ostrander	14	12	0	12	85.71%	2
637	Whalen	21	17	0	17	80.95%	4
191	Caledonia	75	67	0	67	89.33%	8
249	Spring Grove	109	85	4	89	81.65%	20
423	Houston	126	102	0	102	80.95%	24
498	Hokah	18	17	0	17	94.44%	1
595	LaCrescent	171	116	25	141	82.46%	30
Pod Three Totals		976	761	41	811	83.09%	165
56	Albert Lea	285	218	0	218	76.49%	67
264	Glenville	90	89	0	89	98.89%	1
404	Alden	43	33	0	33	76.74%	10
552	Freeborn	62	57	0	57	91.94%	5
91	Austin	134	100	0	100	74.63%	34
105	Lyle	52	47	5	52	100.00%	0
140	Grand Meadow	65	60	0	60	92.31%	5
146	Adams	127	113	0	113	88.98%	14
161	Leroy	46	34	0	34	73.91%	12
Pod Four Totals		904	751	5	756	83.63%	148
Totals		399	3123	154	3286	82.27%	708

RENEW - RECRUIT - REJOIN

Mining for Members...Each One is a Gem

DISTRICT	# of Units	Goal	Period Gain	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year	Difference from Last Year
One	48	3,994	50	3,286	82.27%	3,549	263
Two	73	4,015	40	3,241	80.72%	3,619	378
Three	47	3,870	46	3,122	80.67%	3,409	287
Four	7	581	1	451	77.62%	517	66
Five	7	572	6	436	76.22%	513	77
Six	63	5,170	30	4,153	80.33%	4,602	449
Seven	60	3,197	20	2,482	77.64%	2,860	378
Eight	25	1,302	14	1,012	77.73%	1,128	116
Nine	49	3,445	13	2,666	77.39%	3,071	405
Ten	44	3,978	49	3,192	80.24%	3,599	407
982 Dept	1	193	3	192	99.48%	179	-13
istrict Totals:	424	30,317	272	24,233	79.93%	27,046	2,813
Group 1 (Even)	212	15,046	134	12,049	80.08%	13,465	1,416
<i>St. Timothy Coleman</i>							
Group 2 (Odd)	211	15,078	135	11,992	79.53%	13,402	1,410
<i>St. Mary Kuperus</i>							



RANKINGS

10th	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	1st
76.22%	77.39%	77.62%	77.64%	77.73%	80.24%	80.33%	80.67%	80.72%	82.27%
District 5	District 9	District 4	District 7	District 8	District 10	District 6	District 3	District 2	District 1



Newsletter Article

Membership Chairman

The First District is doing a great job at membership so far this year. There are quite a few Units that are at 100% and they are Elgin, Claremont, and Lyle. There are also quite a few in the 90%. The First District is still in first place at 82.27%. Everyone please keep up the good work.

I pray everyone is staying healthy in these hard times. Thank you for all you do for the Auxiliary.

Tonia Bettermann, Membership Chairman

Happy Valentines Day! I can't believe it is already February. Just a quick reminder! We will be having the Jr Conference on Saturday March 27th. (See the Jr conference Call to Convention in this newsletter.)

I would like to get our junior members out in to the community. For an example we are building a new Veterans Memorial in LeRoy and that would be a great opportunity to help out with the upkeep.

I plan on continuing Kassy's project, Believet Service Dogs This project is a way to raise money to help pay for the service dogs that go out to veterans in need.

Remember if you want to donate to my project, the checks need to be made out to: The First District ALA with The District Honorary Jr President's project in the memo line and sent to Audrey Farnsworth at: 302 1st St E, Stewartville, MN 55976

Taylor McElroy—First District Honorary Jr Auxiliary President

SOME INFORMATION ON BELIEVET SERVICE DOGS

OUR PROGRAM

The Need

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs conducted a broad survey of recent veterans to gain better insight on their overall health. In raw numbers, it is estimated that a sobering 500,000 troops from the Gulf Wars alone have been diagnosed with PTSD, according to Miriam Reisman ("PTSD Treatment for Veterans: What's Working, What's New, and What's Next," U.S. National Library of Medicine, 2016). PTSD can be described as a mental health condition that may result from experiencing or witnessing trauma. Symptoms include flashbacks, nightmares, severe anxiety, depression, and confusion. This condition—often accompanied by major depression and/or traumatic brain injury (TBI)—can make it difficult, if not impossible, to meet the normal demands of daily life. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 20 deployed veterans die by suicide every day in the United States (Office of Suicide Prevention, "Suicide Among Veterans and Other Americans, 2001–2014," 2016).

Our Response

Trained service dogs can provide an essential source of security, affection, and connection for our veterans. Believet™ dogs are custom-trained for mobility and psychiatric tasks. They can wake a veteran from a nightmare, ease their anxiety in a crowded public place, and provide comfort through companionship and physical contact. Our dogs also help keep veterans on a schedule because the dogs need care and attention on a regular basis.

There is a growing body of research and clinical evidence supporting the value of service dogs. Despite this, neither the Veterans Health Administration nor most private insurers pay for or provide reimbursement for psychiatric service dogs for people diagnosed with PTSD. Believet™ provides highly trained service dogs, free of charge, to disabled veterans, helping them to lead more productive, independent lives. A service dog provides a sense of security, greater independence, non-judgmental acceptance, affection, physical assistance, and peace of mind.

Our Dogs

Believet™ service dogs transform the lives of veterans and their families. The dogs come from shelters, rescue groups, and generous individuals. The training process for the service dogs is as follows:

1. Over the course of 18 months, Believet™ cares for and trains our service dogs to become ADA-approved and certified. During this time the dogs live with a foster family.
2. Believet™ matches a veteran with a service dog and provides additional training tailored to the veteran's individual needs. Together, the veteran and service dog participate in 120 hours of training, including public access training and testing. Believet™ provides all equipment free of charge.
3. Graduation! Once training is complete, the dog and veteran graduate. The Believet™ service dog goes to live with the veteran.

Our Facility

Believet™'s training facility is located on 12 acres just 3 miles outside of Northfield, Minnesota, (45 minutes south of Minneapolis). Our facility is heated and air-conditioned, and includes indoor and outdoor training spaces, and fenced outdoor airing yards. We can accommodate a maximum of 25 dogs at capacity.

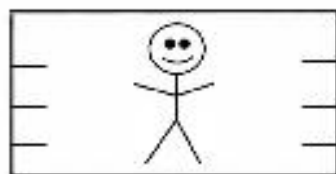
For more information check out their website at: believet.org

How to make a *Face Mask*

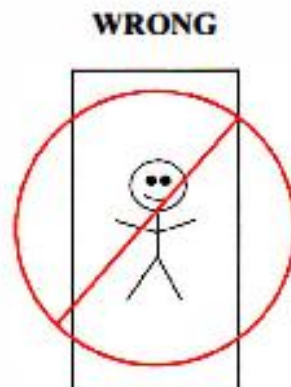
You will need a cotton fabric, any print for adult: 100% cotton, tightly woven fabric is preferred. Cotton flannel for the backing is preferred, though a different print of standard cotton is accepted.
 1/8" flat braided elastic
 Cut the elastic 7" long

Adult face mask (9"x6")

1. Put right sides of cotton and flannel fabric together.
2. Starting at the center of bottom edge sew to the first corner, stop. Sew end of elastic to corner. A few stitches forward and back will hold this.
3. Sew to the next corner, stop, and bring the other end of that same elastic to the corner and sew a few stitches forward and back.
4. Now sew across that top of the mask to the next corner. And repeat #2 to the corner.
5. Sew to next corner and sew in the other end of the same elastic.
6. Sew across the bottom leaving about 1.5" to 2" open. Stop, cut the thread. Turn inside out
7. Pin 3 tucks on each side of the mask to create pleats. Make sure the tucks are the same direction.
8. Sew around the edge of the mask twice.



RIGHT



adapted from pattern by

TURBAN PROJECT 501 c3



Full Tutorial on their Facebook and Website

CHANGES TO THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ELIGIBILITY

The American Legion Constitution and Bylaws has been updated to replace the word “wife” with “spouse,” related to the membership criteria for the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA).

Here are some common questions and answers to what this means going forward:

Question: Why change ALA membership eligibility?

Answer: In 1920, veterans were almost 100 percent male so the ALA was formed as the organization for the spouses of the veteran — those spouses just happened to be women.

Today, an estimated 16 percent of enlisted people and 18 percent of officers are women, who may be married to a non-veteran. To keep the ALA as the organization that supports spouses of the veteran, we need to change the ALA’s definition from wives to spouses, thereby updating the organization to represent the changing makeup of the military.

Q: How can this change help ALA membership?

A: Think about female spouses who are alone as their husband is deployed. They have the ALA to lean on. Who can the male spouse rely on? With this eligibility change, now male spouses who are ALA members can receive the same support while their wives are deployed.

Q: Would this change need to be approved by Congress?

A: No, because the American Legion Auxiliary is not chartered by Congress. The American Legion, which was chartered by Congress, created the ALA. The Legion approved the ALA to operate as a separate corporation; however, The American Legion has always set the eligibility requirements of the ALA in their bylaws.

Q: What about the previous communications issued by former ALA leadership claiming this change could not happen? Why is that information inaccurate?

A: Previously released messaging could have been interpreted by members to mean ALA needs congressional approval for this change to happen. That information is inaccurate. The American Legion Auxiliary is not chartered by Congress.

Q: ALA refers to itself as the world’s largest women’s patriotic service organization. How can we allow men to join?

A: Now that the resolution has been adopted by The American Legion, the Auxiliary will no longer call itself the world’s largest women’s patriotic service organization.

Q: How would this change affect the American Legion Auxiliary membership application or signing up new members?

A: We anticipate taking applications on Sept. 1.

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP NEWS

THIS IS THE NEW APPLICATION FORM FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



American Legion Auxiliary MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Name (First)	(M.I.)	(Last)
Address		
City	State	ZIP
Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email Address
/ /	<input type="checkbox"/> Birth - 17 <input type="checkbox"/> 18 and over	
Date of Birth (Required)	Unit #	Location
Have you been a member previously? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If yes, fill in below.)		
Previous Unit City/State	ALA ID# (if known)	
	/ /	
Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18)		Date

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION	
Eligible Through—Name of Veteran (Female Veterans: List Your Own Name)	
If Living:	American Legion Member ID # Post # City State
<input type="checkbox"/> Deceased—If veteran is deceased, contact ALA unit about the necessary military records. For Veteran's DD214 Discharge Papers: www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records	
Veteran Served:	
<input type="checkbox"/> WWI (4/8/1917-11/11/1918)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Anytime After 12/7/1941 (check all that apply):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror	<input type="checkbox"/> Panama
<input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War	<input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada
<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam	<input type="checkbox"/> WWII
<input type="checkbox"/> Korea	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts
Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Male Spouse	<input type="checkbox"/> Female Spouse
<input type="checkbox"/> Mother	<input type="checkbox"/> Grandmother
<input type="checkbox"/> Sister	<input type="checkbox"/> Self
<input type="checkbox"/> Direct Female Descendant (daughter, granddaughter, great-granddaughter, etc.)	
To Be Completed By The American Legion Post Adjutant/Officer	
I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.	
Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification	Date

HELP US GET YOU CONNECTED!	
I am interested in learning more about:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering for Veterans, Military, and Their Families	
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Activities, Including ALA Girls State, Junior Member Programs, and Scholarships	
<input type="checkbox"/> Member Discounts and Services	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Please contact the following individual about volunteering or joining the American Legion Auxiliary:	
Name	Phone
Name	Phone
Name	Phone
Recruiter's Name	Unit/Post #
City	State

Submit this application to the ALA unit you wish to join. If unit is unknown, contact National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 for assistance. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. *Membership pending approval of application.*



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

Hello Legion family,

COMMANDER

Greg Lemmer
140 Jederman Drive
Winona, MN 55987
507-312-2222
gslemmer@hbc.com

ADJUTANT

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

EAST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

Brian Tomasheck
560 East fifth St
Winona, MN 55987
507-454-5998
btoma0210@gmail.com

WEST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

Chuck Stone
1625 Crestview Ln
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-213-7517
castoney@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

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

FINANCE OFFICER

William Goede
630 3rd Ave NW
Plainview, MN 55964
507-534-2931 or 507-259-7595
wgoede62@embarqmail.com

Greetings from your District SAL. I hope everyone is staying safe and taking the proper safety measures. With all the shut-downs there is not a lot going on. Do be sure to check in with your Legion to see if they are offering take-out meals. That is one way for you to continue to support your Legion.

In regards to this pandemic, please keep in mind the requirement to wear your mask when entering and exiting establishments. Let's all be considerate of others, and take the proper precautions.

Regarding membership; last month I reported that District 1 was in 6th place out of 10. The update is sad, as we have fallen to 9th place out 10 from a percentage stand point. The numbers speak for themselves. What can we do to get members to turn in renewals and set some goals to recruit new members? I know the Vice Commanders have been working with a few of the squadrons to see what we can do to help them out. Do you have a family member or friend that you could bring on board? We really need to get our numbers up and we need everyone's help to do so.

Please keep the Veterans and their families in mind during these cold wintery months. I'm sure a few of us know of Veterans that may struggle to get walkways and driveways cleared of snow. Maybe they can't get out to pick up the mail, or worse yet the medicine and or groceries they need. Now it's more important than ever to do those buddy checks. Check with your Post Commander and ask if there is a list of those in need.

Remember by patronizing your Legion you are also supporting the Veterans, the Legion, and the Legion Family Members. Please support your local Legion and think of ways you can better support it and the Veterans.

Please take the time to thank a Veteran or active military member. They deserve our Thank You each and every day. Please remember you have your freedoms because of them.

The SAL would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I for one, am hoping for a much better new year. Bring on 2021 already!

In closing I wish you all the best. God Bless our Troops past and present and God Bless America.

Respectfully Yours,
Greg Lemmer
1st District SAL Commander

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Josh Erickson
278 1/2 East Third St
Winona, MN 55987
507-313-5861
joshheric@hbc.com

HISTORIAN

James Myers
676 Grand Street
Winona, MN 55987
507-458-5396
meyers5396@gmail.com

SGT AT ARMS

Clint Betterman
1625 Crestview Ln
Owatonna, MN 55060

1st District

Sqdrn.	Location	2020 Results 6/27/20	2021 Goal	105%	Total at Dept	Rally Turn In	Grand Total	% of Goal	Date Goal Reached
9	Winona	85	89	94	112		112	125.84%	11/3/2020
40	Lanesboro	62	65	69	1		1	1.54%	
50	Wabasha	10	11	12	8		8	72.73%	
52	Blooming Prairie	41	43	46	0		0	0.00%	
56	Albert Lea	122	126	133	93		93	73.81%	
75	New Richland	0	5	6	0		0	0.00%	
77	Owatonna	122	126	133	40		40	31.75%	
90	Lewiston	47	49	52	1		1	2.04%	
91	Austin	64	67	71	10		10	14.93%	
92	Rochester	122	126	133	59		59	46.83%	
94	Rushford	24	25	27	8		8	32.00%	
105	Lyle	26	28	30	1		1	3.57%	
119	Byron	39	41	44	25		25	60.98%	
146	Adams	93	97	102	40		40	41.24%	
161	Le Roy	40	43	46	12		12	27.91%	
164	Stewartville	107	111	117	79		79	71.17%	
166	Preston	44	46	49	24		24	52.17%	
179	Plainview	13	14	15	3		3	21.43%	
190	St. Charles	12	13	14	11		11	84.62%	
191	Caledonia	0	5	6	0		0	0.00%	
228	Waseca	105	109	115	2		2	1.83%	
249	Spring Grove	0	5	6	0		0	0.00%	
264	Glenville	46	48	51	41		41	85.42%	
266	Hartland	10	11	12	12		12	109.09%	8/18/2020
281	Janesville	7	8	9	0		0	0.00%	
299	Mabel	15	16	17	10		10	62.50%	
317	Emmons	41	43	46	1		1	2.33%	
330	Hayfield	34	36	38	22		22	61.11%	
333	Kasson	37	39	41	38		38	97.44%	
384	Dodge Center	10	11	12	2		2	18.18%	
404	Alden	57	60	63	31		31	51.67%	
423	Houston	15	16	17	16		16	100.00%	10/27/2020
446	Rochester	10	16	17	34		34	212.50%	10/21/2020
546	Kellogg	17	18	19	0		0	0.00%	
551	Eyota	35	37	39	14		14	37.84%	
552	Freeborn	27	29	31	24		24	82.76%	
573	Elgin	3	5	6	0		0	0.00%	
579	Millville	28	30	32	1		1	3.33%	
595	La Crescent	74	76	80	33		33	43.42%	
1111	Dakota	59	75	79	0		0	0.00%	
Totals		1703	1818	1929	808	0	808	44.44%	

INFORMATION FROM YOUR SAL ADVISOR

Just a quick update for everyone....

1. Chuck Stone will be running for 1st District SAL Commander for 2021-2022.
2. Brian Tomasheck is running for East Side Vice Commander 2021-2022.
3. Bill Goede is running for Finance Officer 2021-2022.
4. Tim Weaver is running for Detachment Commander 2021-2022.
5. Gary Weaver is running for Department 1st and 3rd Vice Commander 2021-2022.
6. I have asked to be reappointed District SAL Advisor-2021-2022.

One thing we need to explain to Squadrons is if they don't meet on a regular basis or don't elect officers, we need one contact person for the Squadron. That way if District, Detachment, or National have questions, there is someone they can contact. It also gives us someone we can send Detachment and District mailings to.

Right now, we are still looking for the following Elected Offices: Westside Vice Commander and Chaplain. As far as I know, no one to my knowledge has stepped up for the Appointed positions- (Chuck -correct me if I am wrong.) Adjutant, Historian, Judge Advocate, Sgt at Arms, and Membership Director.

If anyone is interested in staying on or is interested in being considered, please let Chuck know. Any member who is in Good Standing can run for an Elected Office or be appointed to a position.

Thank you for all the hard work everyone is doing in these trying times.

If I can be of assistance, please let me know.

Happy New Year to all-hopefully next year will be better than this one was.

Brian
1st District SAL Advisor
2019-2021





Happy Valentine's Day to all!!

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 27th at 3pm at the Eyota American Legion Post.

We will be discussing new officers, May 1st Convention (Austin) and other activities we may be able to move ahead with.

Please pass the word to your fellow ALR members!