



FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

APRIL 2018

IMPORTANT DATES

- April 1, 2018 - Easter Sunday
- April 7, 2018 - Commander Shaunce's testimonial . More information inside this newsletter
- April 14, 2018 - President Cheryl's testimonial. More information inside this newsletter
- APRIL 18,2018— The dead line for getting any resolutions for the consideration at the district convention to be ion resolution chairman Rich Gosse's hands.
- April 21, 2018 - Department Commander Mike's testimonial at Jackpot Junction Casino.
- April 28, 2018 - Department President Donna's testimonial in Willmar.

Rushford Post 94 is holding bingo every second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Wednesday of each month. With an open kitchen.

For more information contact Scuffy Paulson at 507—450—8493

Legion Contacts

Commander

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

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 115 East Cabot St
 LeRoy, MN 55951
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 Eyota, MN 55934
 507/545/2703 or
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 gmusmc32@yahoo.com

VICE—COMMANDER INFORMATION

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 ford1963si@outlook.com
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- Area Three - Carroll Hill**
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 Winona, MN 55987
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- Area Four - Roland Hanson**
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 Austin, MN 55912
 507/438/6573
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INDEX

LEGION	1 thru 12
AUXILIARY	13 thru 21
SAL	22 and 24
LEGION RIDERS	25 and 26
FLYERS	27 thru 29

NATIONAL CONVENTION INFORMATION

If your post is located on one of Minnesota's highways and byways and you want your post information put on the Minnesota American Legion website send your information to the Department of Minnesota in care of Shawn Davis. He will be making up a map of the highways and posts to put on the website.

This will be handy for people traveling through our state in route to Minneapolis for the National Convention in August. They may want to stop and visit some of the Minnesota nice American Legion Posts.

COMMEMORTIVE COINS FOR MINNESOTA

HERE ARE THE FRONT AND BACK PICTURES OF THE 100TH ANIVERSERY COIN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA.

THEY ARE TEN (10) DOLLARS EACH AND IF YOU WANT ONE OR MORE PLEASE EITHER LET BILL GOEDE OR WAYNE HAMMON JR KNOW AND SHOULD HAVE THEM AT THE FIRST DISTRICT MID-WINTER ON JANUARY 6, 2018.



!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Important !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

If any post has a resolution to come before the District Convention in May it **MUST** be in the hands of the resolution chairman (Rich Gosse) no later than thirty (30) days prior to the call to order of the District Convention which is May 18, 2018.

If you want it looked over by Rich to make sure it is correct get it to him by April 1, 2018 so there will be time to communicate back and forth.

Rich Gosse - First District Resolution Chairman.

Law Officer and/or Firefighter of the year award

Any post that has a candidate for Law Officer or Firefighter of the year needs to contact The District Chairman (Richard Skillestad) as soon as possible as the applications **HAVE TO BE IN** Department no later than April 1, 2018.

If you need an application please contact Richard and he will explain what needs to be done.

Richard Skillestad - First District Law and Order Chairman

Phone - 507 — 250 — 5329

Greetings 1st District:

We seemed to have fallen asleep on membership. We dropped to 3rd place in Department. We were next to last in weeks gain of membership. We can do better than this. Remember membership is every ones job not just the Vice Commanders. Let's hit it hard.

Our annual Department Appreciation Rally was held March 10th at Buffalo Post# 270. We had a very good turnout. Congratulations to Scott Ihrke for being selected as the First District Vice-Commander of the year.

Veterans Day on the Hill was held on March 12th at the Capital. The DAV presented a different format this year. We started out with a breakfast at the Veterans Service Bldg., We then marched to the Capital for a Rally in the Rotunda. After the Rally we went to different Regional rooms to meet with our local lawmakers. We had a fantastic turn out.

I had the honor of attending the District Jr. Conference in Leroy on March 17th. It is great to see these young ladies following in the footsteps of their peers. Unfortunately, we had a poor turn out. We need to make sure these young ladies get all the assistance they need to prosper in the future.

On March 20th, I attended the annual Spelling Bee for 3rd, 4th and fifth grade students at Hayfield High School. It was sponsored by Hayfield Post# 330 and is the only legion sponsored one in state. It was amazing to hear some of the words these kids had to spell.

Our March 24th Area Two VA&R Rally scheduled to be held at Kasson Post #333 had to be canceled due to the weather. It seemed the only ones affected were the ones around Albert Lea.

It was a busy March. Many Posts had their Legion Birthday dinners. It was great to help celebrate the 99th anniversary of the American Legion.

April weekends will be filled by testimonials. My Testimonial will be April 7th in Albert Lea, District Auxiliary President Cheryl's will in Plainview April 14th, Department Commander Schaeffer's will be at Jackpot Junction in Redwood Falls April 21st, and Department Auxiliary President Donna's will be held April 28th at Willmar Post# 167.

My golf cart project for the new Preston State Cemetery is still moving along. I am still expecting any and all donations. I want to thank all the Posts, Organizations and people who have donated so far. Your support is deeply appreciated.

It's that time of year for many of your District reports to be sent in. We need to begin getting our Consolidated Post Reports put together. Every post does something in the community. Let's have 100% participation.

For God and Country!!!

1st District Commander

BLOOD CHAIRMAN REQUEST

Just a friendly reminder: I need all Post that has not yet sent their Blood Report to me, to please do so ASAP.

Thank You!
Blood Chair,
Myron Ehrich

ATTENTION POST ADJUTANTS

Here are some important dates that forms need to be sent in;

- 1. April 15 - Post Data forms are due at Department.**
- 2. April 30 - Boy's State cards are due at Department.**
- 3. April 30 - Blood reports are due at Department. (are sent to district chairman first)**
- 4. May 19 - Recruiter of the year applications are due**
- 5. May 19 - Gold and Silver Brigade application are due**
- 6. May 30 - Community Service Reports are due.**
- 7. June 1 - Annual Military Achievement Awards are due**
- 8. June 1 - Post Consolidated (CPR) reports are due**

FROM AREA ONE

FROM AREA TWO

Is Spring ever going to arrive?

I had the wonderful opportunity to be the speaker at Facing the Challenge program. This was a Boy Scout event held at Willow Creek Elementary School in Rochester. I was able to talk about the great program that is the American Legion. It was a great experience and I got to meet a lot of wonderful people.

April is a full month for certain. I hope everyone has a great Easter and gets to spend time with the loved ones. Of course, there are a number of the testimonials that will take place in April and I am sure a good number of us will attend these.

Area 2 Vice Commander
Myron Ehrich

FROM AREA THREE

Greetings from Area Three:

Easter has come and gone, can spring be far behind. After spring, summer will soon follow and with summer, comes our 100 year anniversary. Make sure all Commanders make contact with their city officials to have recognition events planned for the event. As we all know, time goes by quickly so don't be caught unawares.

Membership, as we all know, is very important for the American Legion. I want to thank the Membership Directors of the Posts in Area Three for the outstanding job they are doing. With a little more work, we can do even better.

Be sure to remember our men in women in uniform in your daily thoughts and prayers.

Area Three Vice Commander

Carroll Hill

FROM AREA FOUR

Welcome Veterans,

Well March weather fooled us before April 1st.

Our rally at Kasson was canceled because of winter storm warnings. Weather conditions which could have been harmful to our traveling American Legion Family.

April 7th is Les's testimonial at Albert Lea. Please attend and thank him for the good job he has done.

Membership is still scarce so let's go out and get some new members and reinstate some old ones.

Have a happy and safe Easter and remember to thank a vet.

Thank you!

Area 4 Vice Commander
Rollie Hanson

TESIMONIAL DINNER FOR FIRST DISTRICT COMMANDER



LES SHAUNCE

DATE-----April 7, 2018

TIME-----SOCIAL – 5:00 TO 6:00 PM
DINNER – 6:00 PM
PROGRAM – 7:00 pm

PLACE-----LEO CAREY POST 56
142 NORTH BROADWAY
ALBERT LEA, MN

MENU-----IOWA CHOP, MASHED POTATO, SALAD,
DINNER ROLL, DESSERT, COFFEE, MILK
AND WATER

COST-----FIFTEEN (15) DOLLARS PER PLATE

-----CUT OFF AND SEND WITH PAYMENT-----

NAME _____

NUMBER ATTENDING _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO “LEO CAREY POST 56” AND MAIL TO;

LES SHAUNCE
528 ALICE AVE
ALBERT LEA, MN 56007

PLEASE RSVP BY MARCH 26, 2018



Left and below—Lake City Post honoring members for continues years of membership

Receiving the Honorary Life Member (PUFL) Certificates are: Lake City Post #110 Commander (Wabasha County Adjutant) Dan Smith, Gene Schumann, Paul Meyer, Roger Meyer, Bob Schuster, Gregg Kirkland, Art Howard, Lake City Post #110 Adjutant (Wabasha County Commander) Andru Peters, and District One Commander Les Shaunce who presented the certificates. Also receiving the certificates and not present are: Wallace Banks, Judy Burfeind, Emery Fick, Bernard Gohl, Merlyn Kohrs, David McKenzie, Leon Quarve, John Wieck, and Byron Wohlers.



American Legion District One Commander Les Shaunce (R) presenting the 45 year continuous membership certificate to Legionnaire Sandra Bendickson (L) along with Legion Post #110 Commander Dan Smith (C)

2018 First District Call To Convention

To: All Posts of the First District

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and By-Laws of the American Legion, Department of Minnesota, I, First District Commander, Lester Shaunce, do hereby call a convention of the First District to convene at Winona, Minnesota, Saturday May 19, 2018.

The business sessions of the convention will be held at Winona American Legion Post 9 clubrooms, 302 East Sarnia Street Winona, MN, commencing at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, May 19, 2018 and will continue until adjournment.

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

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

Please send certification of your Post Delegates and Alternates to Wayne Hammon Jr, PO Box 135, LeRoy, MN 55951 before May 5th.

All Members are encouraged to attend

First District Commander
Les Shaunce

Delegate Certification to the First District Convention in Winona, Minnesota, May 19, 2018; please send to the District Adjutant as soon as possible.

POST _____ MN

DELEGATES

ALTERNATES

1. _____

1. _____

2. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3. _____

4. _____

4. _____

5. _____

5. _____

6. _____

6. _____

7. _____

7. _____

8. _____

8. _____

SIGNED _____

ADJUTANT, POST # _____

FIRST DISTRICT 2018 CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION
MAY 19, 2018 WINONA MN

The First District Convention will be held at American Legion Post 9 in Winona, MN.
Please fill out this form by May 5, 2018 and return to:

Leon J. Wetzel, Post #9
302 East Sarnia St
Winona MN. 55987
ATTENTION : CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Please mark the items you want, mark an "X" and total up the amount.

	Pre-Registration	\$10.00	
	Registration at door	\$12.00	
	Saturday noon lunch	\$8.00	TBD
	TOTAL	\$	

Please make checks out to Leon J. Wetzel Post #9 and send to address above.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

CIRCLE ONE- DELEGATE ALTERNATE GUEST

Please place an X by your organization and put in the number of your Post
LEGION ___ POST # ___ AUXILIARY ___ UNIT # _____ SAL ___ SQUADRON # _____

You must register as either a delegate, alternate or as a guest to attend the convention. (If Legion Riders that are not registered and plan on attending the Rider meetings, they must register under one of the organizations above.)

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

IMPORTANT—being that it is a one day convention it is important that we have pre-registration so we can get a better number of those attending for the Post. So PLEASE PRE-REGISTER.

CONVENTION HOUSING INFORMATION

Rooms have been blocked for the convention: Holiday inn Express & Suites, 1128 Homer Rd, Winona MN. 55987 Rooms will be blocked at the price of \$129.00 per room for the night of May 18, 2018 until April 18, 2018 . Blocking contract code # is (ALM). If any questions call me.

Holiday Inn Phone – 507/474/1700 Fax – 507/474/7800

Jeff Brokaw - 507/458/7501

First district membership report for 3/30/2018

POST	LOCATION	GOAL	PREV.	TURN IN	TOTAL	PERCENT	LEFT	Date
9	WINONA	597	547	9	556	93.13%	41	2/28/2018
90	LEWISTON	78	61	8	69	88.46%	9	3/22/2018
190	ST CHARLES	144	146	2	148	102.78%	-4	3/22/2018
WINONA COUNTY TOTALS		819	754	19	773	94.38%	46	3/30/2018
50	WABASHA	242	223	2	225	92.98%	17	3/15/2018
110	LAKE CITY	141	134	1	135	95.74%	6	3/22/2018
179	PLAINVIEW	194	177	6	183	94.33%	11	3/15/2018
546	KELLOGG	73	63	3	66	90.41%	7	1/11/2018
573	ELGIN	37	33	1	34	91.89%	3	2/28/2018
579	MILLVILLE	140	178	1	179	127.86%	-39	1/11/2018
588	MAZEPPA	78	69	2	71	91.03%	7	3/15/2018
WABASHA COUNTY TOTALS		905	877	16	893	98.67%	12	3/30/2018
92	ROCHESTER	988	902	9	911	92.21%	77	3/22/2018
119	BYRON	148	136	10	146	98.65%	2	2/8/2018
164	STEWARTVILLE	305	285	1	286	93.77%	19	3/15/2018
446	ROCHESTER	17	14	1	15	88.24%	2	1/8/2018
551	EYOTA	183	177	1	178	97.27%	5	3/22/2018
OLMSTEAD COUNTY TOTALS		1641	1514	22	1536	93.60%	105	3/30/2018
AREA ONE TOTALS		3365	3145	57	3202	95.16%	163	3/30/2018
295	WEST CONCORD	57	57	5	62	108.77%	-5	3/15/2018
330	HAYFIELD	242	202	1	203	83.88%	39	3/22/2018
333	KASSON	269	254	2	256	95.17%	13	3/22/2018
384	DODGE CENTER	87	76	1	77	88.51%	10	2/22/2018
422	CLAREMONT	36	30	1	31	86.11%	5	2/8/2018
DODGE COUNTY TOTALS		691	619	10	629	91.03%	62	3/22/2018
52	BLOOMING PRAIRIE	111	102	3	105	94.59%	6	2/8/2018
77	OWATONNA	556	477	18	495	89.03%	61	2/16/2018
296	ELLENDALE	33	29	4	33	100.00%	0	1/8/2018
STEELE COUNTY TOTALS		700	608	25	633	90.43%	67	3/22/2018
75	NEW RICHLAND	58	52	1	53	91.38%	5	2/28/2018
228	WASECA	342	313	4	317	92.69%	25	3/30/2018
281	JANESVILLE	102	95	3	98	96.08%	4	2/8/2018
587	WALDORF	22	25	-1	24	109.09%	-2	2/8/2018
WASECA COUNTY TOTALS		524	485	7	492	93.89%	32	3/30/2018
AREA TWO TOTALS		1915	1712	42	1754	91.59%	161	3/30/2018
40	LANESBORO	106	101	1	102	96.23%	4	3/15/2018
68	SPRING VALLEY	85	80	1	81	95.29%	4	3/30/2018
81	HARMONY	34	32	1	33	97.06%	1	2/16/2018
94	RUSHFORD	134	118	1	119	88.81%	15	2/22/2018
166	PRESTON	76	65	2	67	88.16%	9	2/16/2018
197	CHATFIELD	50	49	1	50	100.00%	0	1/8/2018
299	MABEL	179	172	1	173	96.65%	6	2/22/2018

369	WYKOFF	19	1	17	18	94.74%	1	11/23/2017
400	CANTON	13	6	6	12	92.31%	1	12/14/2017
492	FOUNTAIN	15	8	7	15	100.00%	0	1/8/2018
526	PETERSON	37	35	2	37	100.00%	0	2/28/2018
544	OSTRANDER	29	25	1	26	89.66%	3	1/11/2018
637	WHALEN	15	12	1	13	86.67%	2	12/7/2017
FILLMORE COUNTY TOTALS		792	704	42	746	94.19%	46	3/30/2018
191	CALEDONIA	170	157	1	158	92.94%	12	3/15/2018
249	SPRING GROVE	162	149	1	150	92.59%	12	3/22/2018
423	HOUSTON	113	113	1	114	100.88%	-1	3/30/2018
498	HOKAH	20	16	1	17	85.00%	3	1/18/2018
595	LA CRESCENT	324	295	1	296	91.36%	28	3/22/2018
HOUSTON COUNTY TOTALS		789	730	5	735	93.16%	54	3/30/2018
AREA THREE TOTALS		1581	1434	47	1481	93.67%	100	3/30/2018
56	ALBERT LEA	678	608	5	613	90.41%	65	3/30/2018
264	GLENVILLE	87	76	1	77	88.51%	10	2/16/2018
266	HARTLAND	15	1	14	15	100.00%	0	9/14/2017
317	EMMONS	72	60	2	62	86.11%	10	12/7/2017
404	ALDEN	109	101	10	111	101.83%	-2	3/15/2018
552	FREEBORN	38	36	2	38	100.00%	0	11/9/2017
FREEBORN COUNTY TOTALS		999	882	34	916	91.69%	83	3/30/2018
91	AUSTIN	610	539	1	540	88.52%	70	3/22/2018
105	LYLE	92	85	3	88	95.65%	4	3/30/2018
140	GRAND MEADOW	50	45	1	46	92.00%	4	3/15/2018
146	ADAMS	219	197	1	198	90.41%	21	2/22/2018
161	LEROY	66	60	2	62	93.94%	4	3/15/2018
570	AUSTIN SPAM	5	5	1	6	120.00%	-1	8/23/2017
MOWER COUNTY TOTALS		1042	931	9	940	90.21%	102	3/30/2018
AREA FOUR TOTALS		2041	1813	43	1856	90.94%	185	3/30/2018
1111	DAKOTA	51	0	0	0	0.00%	0	3/22/2018
DISTRICT ONE TOTALS		8953	8104	189	8293	92.63%	660	3/30/2018

AREA	VICE	COMMANDERS							
AREA ONE			3365	3145	57	3202	95.16%	163	3/30/2018
AREA TWO			1915	1721	42	1754	91.59%	161	3/30/2018
AREA THREE			1581	1434	47	1481	93.67%	100	3/30/2018
AREA FOUR			2041	1813	43	1856	90.94%	185	3/30/2018

FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

We're going the wrong direction, we need to get back in 2nd place or better yet in 1st., were 1st Dist. should be. I know you are down to those that you have to almost beg to get them to pay their dues. If its someone that has been a member for several years tell them not to lose what they have invested into it so far and keep the information coming to them.

But at the same time we need the new members, or we won't be around many more years I know I won't see the Legion make another 100 years might see 125th I hope. Anyway that's a different story. And the only way we can even get to that point is get the members this year so we can keep going year to year to year. I still always tell them to get a life membership then you don't have to ever worry about it again.

With that being said, let's get out there and get some more Posts at goal we only have 13 now and again there are so many so close they should be there now.

The whole district has been doing great so as I said let's not stop, now get out there and get those last remaining ones that are still out there.

**FIRST DISTRICT COMMANDER
LES SHAUNCE'S
PROJECT FOR THE YEAR**



A SIX PASSENGER GOLF CART FOR THE STATE VETERANS CEMETERY IN PRESTON, MN.

TO BE USED TO TRANSPORT FAMILY MEMBERS TO THE GRAVE SITES OF THEIR LOVED ONES.

IF THE FUNDS COME FROM GAMBLING THE CHECK NEEDS TO BE MADE OUT TO THE PRESTON CEMETERY. OTHERWISE MAKE THEM OUT TO THE FIRST DISTRICT. COMMANDERS PROJECT IN MEMO

OFFICER ENDORSEMENTS

1. Gary Miller for District Commander
2. Bill Goede for District Finance Officer
3. Andru Peters for Area One Vice Commander
4. Dale Wellik for Area Two Vice Commander

DELEGATE REQUESTS RECEIVED

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Chuck Stone | 8. Rich Gosse |
| 2. Chuck Kruger | 9. Myron Ehrich |
| 3. Bill Goede | 10. Dale Wellik |
| 4. James Kellogg (Alt) | 11. Harlan Buck |
| 5. Sy Fix | 12. |
| 6. Wayne Hammon Jr | |
| 7. Les Shaunce | |

ANY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN THAT WANTS TO KEEP THEIR COMMITTEE FOR THE UP COMING YEAR OR IS INTERESTED IN HOLDING A CHAIRMAN'S POSITION IN THE DISTRICT CONTACT EITHER GARY MILLER OR WAYNE HAMMON JR. THEIR CONTACT INFO IS ON THE FRONT PAGE.

DELEGATE INFORMATION FOR THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

I have received a couple of questions from posts in our district on how the delegates are selected so here is a short explanation.

We have a limited number of delegate and alternates than can go to the National Convention set by our membership numbers. Some of the delegates are automatic selections but everyone planning on going must send a request letter to the district adjutant and a committee appointed at the district convention will pick the delegates and alternates.

But anyone can go as a quest, there is no limit on how many quests that can go. As a quest you still have to pay the registration fee but you do not have to stay in the convention hotel which the delegates and alternates have to. As a quest you still need to send a letter to the district adjutant so your name can be forwarded to Department. The quests will be issued a name badge which allows you to get into the exhibition hall and convention hall.

I hope this short explanation helps with some of the questions that are out there and if you want to contact me that is fine also. My contact information is on the front page of this newsletter.

First District Adjutant - Wayne Hammon Jr.

FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY NEWS



Auxiliary Contacts

President

Cheryl Nymann
130 1st St SW
Plainview, MN 55964
507-202-0115
cheryljnymann@gmail.com

Secretary

Jill Mueller
548 East 10th St
St Charles, MN 55972
507-932-4301
jilly10262Gmail.com

Membership / First Vice

Michelle Weaver
1303 Kane St
La Crosse, WI 54603
608-615-1076
weaver.michelle595@gmail.com

Treasurer

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



FROM THE FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY SECRETARY

First District Chairman: Annual report forms have been sent to units and will be coming to you in the mail from the Department of Minnesota. Please get your reports done by due dates and send me a copy so I can compile into the book of annual reports. If you have any questions please feel free to ask me or any member of our team. Past Presidents are very good resources. thank you...Jill Mueller [5072696316](tel:5072696316) (Cell) [5079324301](tel:5079324301) (Home) and jilly1026@gmail.com. or Mail to—548 East 10th street. St. Charles, MN 55972





American Legion Auxiliary

Media Release

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

WASECA UNIT #228

700 SOUTH STATE STREET, WASECA 56093

www.ALAforVeterans.org

Contact: MARY JO KNUDSON, 507-521-4761, mjknudson44@gmail.com

MARCH 26, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Legion Auxiliary National President to Visit Waseca Community

WASECA – American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit 228 will host [ALA National President Diane Duscheck](#) Monday, April 16, 2018 during a stopover in her year-long nationwide tour to call on community members. Duscheck will have the opportunity to learn about veteran support efforts in southern Minnesota.

Unit President Mary Jo Knudson said “It’s quite an honor to have our National President visit Waseca. We are excited to hear her message about her projects this year, the 5-year ALA Strategic Plan, and the ALA Foundation programs. We hosted the Legion National Commander earlier this year and it will be great to have another leader of the American Legion Family come to Waseca.”

During her visit, the leader of the world’s largest women's patriotic service organization will bring her message to those in attendance, take pictures and entertain interviews. Social begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch being served at 12 noon. Cost for lunch is \$8 and includes a hot beef sandwich, potato salad and dessert. Please call the Waseca American Legion Club (507-833-9935) or Unit President, Mary Jo Knudson (507-521-4761 or mjknudson44@gmail.com) by noon Friday, April 13th to reserve a spot.

Duscheck, of Markesan, Wisc., was elected national president of the ALA during the 97th ALA National Convention in August 2017. During her term, Duscheck has chosen to highlight ALA projects that will make a difference in the lives of veterans, military, and their families both today and in the future, including support for the ALA Foundation Endowment Fund. The ALA Foundation, which celebrates its 10 year anniversary this year, is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization of the ALA.

Duscheck, an ALA member for 56 years, is eligible for membership through her father Roland Duscheck, a World War II Army veteran, who was a survivor of the Battle of the Bulge.

Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) helps to advance the mission of The American Legion. With nearly three-quarters of a million members, it is the world’s largest women’s patriotic service organization and one of the nation’s most prominent supporters of veterans, military, and their families. ALA members volunteer millions of hours annually, with a value averaging \$2 billion each year. From helping to draft the GI Bill in 1944 to advocating for veterans on Capitol Hill, The American Legion Family has been instrumental in advancing legislation that improves the quality of life for our nation’s veterans. To learn more and get involved, visit www.ALAforVeterans.org.

National President Diane Duscheck



Monday, April 16th

11:30 Social, 12 noon Lunch

President's address to follow meal.

\$8 includes lunch

Hot beef sandwich, potato salad & dessert

Call or e-mail to RSVP by Friday, April 13th

Mary Jo Knudson 507-521-4761 mjknudson44@gmail.com

Or call the club - 507-833-9935

Waseca American Legion
700 South State St ~ 507-833-9935

PITCURES OF THE FIRST DISTRICT JR CONFERENCE IN LEROY



Left - President Cheryl along with the Jr's and others making tie blankets for the Jr Presidents project.

Below - the finished blankets being held up by Jr members.



Left - The new First District Jr Auxiliary Officers for 2018 - 2019

Flutter on over and help us celebrate President Cheryl's year!



Saturday April 14th 2018
At Plainview American Legion
in Plainview Minnesota
Social Hour at 5pm
Dinner at 6pm
Toasting to start at 7pm



Dinner will be Roast Beef, mash potatoes, gravy, squash, corn and desert.
Please respond by April 10th 2018



Name _____

Post/Unit/Squad/ALR _____

Number of Tickets needed _____

Cost per ticket= 15.00 x _____ = Total enclosed _____

Tickets will be at check in when you arrive.



Unit	Location	Goal	Previous	Turn In	Total	Precent	Left
	9 Winona	181	0		144	79.56%	37
	90 Lewiston	42	0		34	80.95%	8
	190 St Charles	81	0		61	75.31%	20
	50 Wabasha	142	0		107	75.35%	35
	110 Lake City	88	0		70	79.55%	18
	179 Plainview	185	0		144	77.84%	41
	546 Kellogg	141	0		125	88.65%	16
	573 Elgin	24	0		16	66.67%	8
	579 Millville	50	0		51	102.00%	-1
	588 Mazeppa	54	0		41	75.93%	13
	92 Rochester	183	0		143	78.14%	40
	119 Byron	95	0		81	85.26%	14
	164 Stewartville	188	0		181	96.28%	7
	551 Eyota	109	0		98	89.91%	11
Pod One Total		1563	0	0	1296	82.92%	267
	295 West Concord	37	0		31	83.78%	6
	330 Hayfield	198	0		173	87.37%	25
	333 Kasson	151	0		137	90.73%	14
	384 Dodge Center	81	0		75	92.59%	6
	422 Claremont	22	0		21	95.45%	1
	52 Blooming Prairie	118	0		106	89.83%	12
	77 Owatonna	138	0		99	71.74%	39
	75 New Richland	66	0		54	81.82%	12
	228 Waseca	237	0		231	97.47%	6
	281 Janesville	61	0		37	60.66%	24
	587 Waldorf	30	0		23	76.67%	7
Pod Two Totals		1139	0	0	987	86.65%	152
	40 Lanesboro	104	0		98	94.23%	6
	68 Spring Valley	47	0		43	91.49%	4
	81 Harmony	53	0		52	98.11%	1
	94 Rushford	78	0		68	87.18%	10
	197 Chatfield	40	0		37	92.50%	3
	299 Mabel	139	0		107	76.98%	32
	369 Wykoff	17	0		18	105.88%	-1
	526 Peterson	38	0		37	97.37%	1
	544 Ostrander	18	0		13	72.22%	5
	637 Whalen	25	0		20	80.00%	5
	191 Caledonia	79	0		76	96.20%	3
	249 Spring Grove	144	0		116	80.56%	28
	423 Houston	144	0		141	97.92%	3
	498 Hokah	21	0		19	90.48%	2
	595 LaCrescent	233	0		194	83.26%	39

Pod Three Totals	1180	0	0	1039	88.05%	141
56 Albert Lea	342	0		289	84.50%	53
264 Glenville	111	0		98	88.29%	13
317 Emmons	32	0		25	78.13%	7
404 Alden	49	0		43	87.76%	6
552 Freeborn	65	0		61	93.85%	4
91 Austin	169	0		132	78.11%	37
105 Lyle	55	0		52	94.55%	3
140 Grand Meadow	79	0		62	78.48%	17
146 Adams	148	0		122	82.43%	26
161 Leroy	68	0		49	72.06%	19
Pod Four Totals	1118	0	0	933	83.45%	185
Total	5000	0	0	4255	85.10%	745

Hello Members of the 1st District;

So happy spring seems to have finally arrived and knock on wood we are done with snow. The 1st District is currently in 6th place in the state with 85.10% that is as of the last report I received on the 21st. If some have been added since then thank you for working on getting the late ones. I know everyone gets busy and forgets. Our unit Membership chairmen are doing a great job you all deserve a big applause. As far as our 4 pods in the district Pod 1 = 82.92%; Pod 2 = 86.65%; Pod 3 = 88.02%; and Pod 4 = 83.45%. You are all so close it will be a tight race to see who gets the prize at District Convention. Special shout out to Wykoff Unit 369 at 105.88%, Millville Unit 579 at 102.00%, some of you are very close to goal let's get to the 100% for convention.

I will be needing Chairmen for the various programs if elected President at convention. If there are any members that are interested and would be willing to step up, please let me know. Happy to have you working with us next year.

Until next month Thank you for all you do for our Veterans and our communities. Everyone have a safe and happy Easter.

Michelle Weaver

1st District Membership Chairman

608-615-1076-home

608-881-9049-cell

Weaver.michelle595@gmail.com

Call to Convention

The annual First District Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota is hereby called. It is to be held at Winona American Legion Post 9, 302 East Sarina St, Winona, Minnesota on **Saturday May 19, 2018**. Auxiliary sessions will be held in American Legion Post 9 Club Rooms, Winona, MN
Opening session will be called on May 19, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

The purpose of the Convention is to:

Elect District Officers for the 2018-2019 year.

Receive reports of Unit Presidents.

Receive reports of District Chairmen.

Elect delegates and alternates to the National Convention (Minneapolis, MN)

Conduct such other business as may be brought before the Convention in conformity with the provisions of the Department and National Constitutions.

DISTRICT CHAIRMEN

ALL DISTRICT CHAIRMEN MUST FILE/TYPE A REPORT FOR THE DISTRICT BOOK OF ANNUAL REPORTS, which will be available at the Convention. Reports should include information from the Unit annual reports forwarded to each respective Chairman by the Department office shortly after April 15 and any pertinent information regarding District projects or activities in your program area. Reports should be forwarded to the First District President **NO LATER THAN APRIL 30, 2018**. If possible, reports should be typewritten and ready to print.

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

UNIT COLOR BEARERS

Units are encouraged to bring their flags to the Convention to be presented as part of the opening ceremonies, posted during the Auxiliary sessions and retired at the close of the Convention. Auxiliary members who are carrying their flags at the District Convention are asked to meet at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday May 19, 2018 to rehearse.

PAGES AND COLOR BEARERS

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

UNIT PRESIDENTS

ALL Unit Presidents are asked to take part in the **Opening Ceremonies** at the District Convention regardless of whether or not their Unit Colors will be present. Please be there by 7:30 A.M. to rehearse.

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

COUNTY COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

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

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



COMMANDER

Dave Nelson

Albert Lea, MN
507-383-1115
Didavemn@gmail.com

ADJUTANT

Gary Weaver
29 North Elm St
LaCrescent, MN 55947
507-450-9580
gweaver@acegroup.cc

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

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

Greetings First District!

I hope everyone has a Happy Easter.
Information on the SAL Dart Tournament will be forthcoming so watch for future e-mails.
First District SAL Commander - Dave Nelson



SQUADRON 92, ROCHESTER, MN MONTHLY EVENT

SAL Fish and Chicken Dinner.

The Third Friday of each month - September thru May.

At the Legion Post 92 Club in Rochester.

\$11.00 for all you can eat.

2018 FIRST DISTRICT SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION CALL TO CONFERENCE

To all Squadrons of the First District.

By the virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Minnesota, I David Nelson, First District Commander, do here by call a Convention of the First District Sons of The American Legion to convene at American Legion Post 9, located at 302 East Sarina Street, Winona, MN on Saturday May 5, 2018 at 9 AM. As per last year's convention this year we are meeting one (1) week before the Legion, Auxiliary and ALR.

The purpose of this convention is to elect a District Commander, Two (2) District Vice Commanders, a District Chaplain, a District Finance Officer and to conduct such business of the First District Sons of The American Legion that may come before the convention.

The voting strength of each Squadron will be, as provided in the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws, based upon the membership certified to the District Commander by the Detachment Adjutant.

Please send certification of your Squadron Delegates and Alternates to:

1st District SAL Adjutant
Gary Weaver
29 N Elm St.
LaCrescent, MN 55947
gweaver@acegroup.cc

All District SAL members are urged to attend
Dave Nelson
1st District Commander

SAL Delegate certification to the First District SAL Convention in Winona, MN on Saturday May 5, 2018

Squadron _____, MN

Delegates

Alternates

6 _____



2017 - 2018 Individual Recruitment Award

The National Membership Committee offers a recruitment pin award for those members recruiting five (5) new members into the Sons of The American Legion within a membership year. This pin is suitable to wear upon your cover or lapel. You must meet the requirements and directions listed below:

- Recruit five (5) new members to S.A.L. **Must be new members only**, no renewals.
- All information must be legible. Un-readable forms will not be accepted.
- The new members membership record must be available on the national database.
- This form must be sent prior to midnight of August 31, 2018.
- Only one (1) award pin per member regardless of the total new members recruited.
- American Legion Family members are also eligible for this award.
- Information must be spelled out and complete. **No Abbreviations.**

Recruiter Information

Name _____ Member ID# _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Full Squadron Name/Number _____ Detachment _____
 Email _____ Phone _____

Unless specified different, the pin will be sent to the above address

New Member Information

#1 Name _____ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # _____
 #2 Name _____ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # _____
 #3 Name _____ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # _____
 #4 Name _____ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # _____
 #5 Name _____ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # _____

VERIFYING SIGNATURES

(Underline) SQUAD / POST COMMANDER _____ DATE _____
 (Underline) SQUAD / POST ADJUTANT _____ DATE _____
 (Required) SQUADRON ADVISOR _____ DATE _____

RETURN COMPLETED FORMS TO: (Regional Membership Chairman)

East- Mark Nave (PA)	coolcameo@aol.com	10 N 50th St, Philadelphia, PA 19139
South- Raymond Rollins (GA)	raymondrollins@yahoo.com	9685 Reinhardt College Pkwy, Waleska, GA 30183
Central- Brian Kessler (IA)	kesslerb@mchsi.com	PO Box 624, Lake Park, IA 51347
Midwest-Charles Keith (WY)	crkeith@hotmail.com	PO Box 433, Lander, WY 82520
West- Joseph Roberts (AZ)	azmembership@yahoo.com	6501 E Calle La Paz, Unit A, Tucson, AZ 85715

PINS WILL MAILED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH

**DIRECTOR**

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

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Dale Nicholson
Glenville, MN 56036

SECRETARY

Tonia Bettermann
1625 Crestview Lane
Owatonna, MN
507/456/2315

SGT AT ARMS

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

HISTORIAN

Kassy Bettermann
1625 Crestview Lane
Owatonna, MN

CHAPLAIN

Dan Klingfus
Austin, MN
507/573/2329

ROAD CAPTAIN

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

ALR Chapter News & Events

The weather is changing and it is time to clean up the bikes and trikes.

Plans continue for the First District Tour of the First District. The dates for this are July 14-15th, 2018. Please consider being a stop if asked. We appreciate your support.

We would also ask you to add this event to your budget. The National American Legion Convention will be held here in Minnesota and it would be great to have a record donation from Minnesota!

PLEASE-provide your chapter reports to Dennis Lewison by April, 15, 2018 as he will provide a report to the American Legion at the convention.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, May 19th, 2018 1:00 PM in conjunction with the First District Convention in Winona. The American Legion Family memorial service is at 11am.

FIRST DISTRICT ALR RIDER OF THE YEAR WILL BE PRESENTED!

ELECTION of OFFICERS will be held at this meeting. It is important to have participation from all chapters. Please consider taking an office.

Reminder-The First District American Legion Family Convention is open to all ALR members. We are Legion, Auxiliary & S.A.L members first. This is a good way to learn more about the organization and the programs we support.

More information will be provided in the next newsletter-location of meetings, registration etc.

The Department American Legion Family convention will be held in Rochester this year. The convention parade will be Friday, July 20th, 2018. Please plan to participate. The Rochester ALR may ask for road guard assistance as the event approaches.

We enjoyed visiting with ALR members at the Glenville ALR Breakfast, Austin's event and the Stewartville St Patrick's day event.



2018 First District American Legion Rider Convention Call

To all American Legion Rider Chapters of the First District:

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the constitution and by-laws of the American Legion Riders, Department of Minnesota, I Dennis Lewison, First District ALR Director, do hereby call a convention meeting of the First District ALR to be held at the Winona American Legion at 1 PM, on Saturday, May 19th, 2018 in conjunction with the First District American Legion Family convention.

The purpose of this convention meeting is to elect District Officers and to conduct such business of the First District ALR that may properly come before this meeting.

The voting strength of each ALR Chapter will be, as provided in the First District ALR by-laws.

All ALR members are encouraged to attend and register at the convention to support the American Legion Family.

First District ALR Director

Dennis A Lewison

THE AVTT TRAVELING VIETNAM WALL IS COMING TO AUSTIN, MINNESOTA

Resist
Respect
Remember



May 17-20, 2018
MOWER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
Opens at noon on May 17th

Opening Ceremony Friday, May 18th at 6:00 p.m.
Closing Ceremony Sunday, May 20th at 12:00 p.m.
Viewing is free and open 24 hours a day to the public.

Special Tribute to Mower County Vietnam Veterans.



Hosted by Beyond the Yellow Ribbon - Austin

www.americanveteranstravelingtribute.com



CHIC - N - NIC

Time: 3:00 - 7:00

Date: April 21st

**Place: Stewartville
American Legion
Post 164**

**Grilled Half Chicken,
Baked Beans,
Chips, Cole Slaw,
and Dinner Roll**



**\$13 @ door
\$11 pre-sale**

Tickets Available @ Legion Bar





Paralyzed Veterans
of America



HUNTING/FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS

There ARE several opportunities for Disabled Veterans to hunt and fish this year all sponsored by MN Veterans Outdoor Programs and the organizations indicated here.

Keep in mind that there are deadlines for registering for these events, the deadline dates are noted in parenthesis behind each event. Registration forms and more information are available by contacting Dennis Erie, coordinator, at 320.380.4569 or via e-mail to mn.service.orgs@gmail.com.

You can also find more information by going on Facebook and searching "Camp Ripley Veterans Outdoor Programs" and by logging onto one of the following websites: www.davmn.org; www.mnlegion.org; www.mnpva.org; or www.mnvfw.org.

- 1-3May - Physically Disabled Veteran's Wild Turkey Hunt, Camp Ripley, MN (*Deadline 23Mar*)
- 21-24May - Ely Fishing Trip, (*Deadline 6Apr*)
- 31May-1Jun - Trolling for the Troops, 2 locations! (*Deadline 13Apr*)
- 9-11Oct - Physically Disabled Veteran's Deer Hunt, Camp Ripley, MN (*Deadline 17Aug*)



Minnesota
Department of Veterans Affairs