



# FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

## APRIL 2022

### Legion Contacts

### VICE—COMMANDER INFORMATION

April 17, 2022 - Easter Sunday

#### Commander

Mike Parry  
601 13th Ave SE  
Waseca, MN 56093  
507—382—8447  
mparry57@gmail.com

#### Area One -

David Baer  
45 S Benson Dr - Lewiston, MN 55952  
507—279—8455  
davidbaermn@gmail.com

#### Area Two -

Gene Luedtke  
325 Hoffman Dr, Apt 305, Owatonna, MN 55060  
507—451—5731  
gene.luedtke@hotmail.com

#### Area Three -

Dale Wellik  
17941 County Highway 34 - Dodge Center MN 55927  
507-374-2766 or 507—421—5674  
treeson34@gmail.com

#### Area Four -

Wesley Halverson  
524 Milrose Cir - Albert Lea, MN - 56007  
507—383—7983  
weshalverson@gmail.com

May 7, 2022 - The First District SAL Convention (see the call to Convention elsewhere in this newsletter) 9:00 AM in Albert Lea Post 56

May 7, 2022 - First District Legion Riders Convention (see more details elsewhere in this newsletter) at 1:00 PM in Albert Lea Post 56

May 21, 2022 - First District Legion and Auxiliary Conventions (see the call to conventions elsewhere in this newsletter) in Albert Lea Post 56.

#### Adjutant

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

#### Membership

Mary Hanson  
1701 4th Ave SW  
Austin, MN 55912  
507—440—3606  
mfhanson52@charter.net

#### Chaplain

Larry Otto  
14758SW 52nd Ave  
Ellendale, MN 56026

#### INDEX

LEGION	1 thru 14
AUXILIARY	14 thru 23
SAL	24 Thru 26
LEGION RIDERS	27 and 28
FLYERS	28 thru 30



### **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.**

# Greetings 1<sup>st</sup> District Legion Family,

Greetings Comrades.

When is there only room for one Veterans organization in a community? What? Did I really ask that question? Yes, I did. In my term as Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> District, I've had the question asked of me with all sincerity. Who would make that decision? The community? The organizations members? The Veterans organization with the most members dictating that "they" should be the only one? Obviously in small communities as the memberships decline in both the VFW & American Legion, some have that question. The key is new membership created by informing the young Veterans just what our organizations do for them. Before any veteran's organization chooses to close the doors and give up their charter, they must, I'll say it again, they must do all that they can to find new members with creative ideas and the energy that many are losing. Maybe in some communities there should be a Veterans Servicemen Club, like Blooming Prairie, that houses both the American Legion Post 52 & VFW Post 878. One beautiful building shared by the two greatest service organizations in the world today.

I'm afraid the reality is, that in some small communities one organization would just as soon see the other go. Greed is the word that comes to mind. What you do today, the present, will dictate what the future brings. It's time you take a good long look at your Post. What will it be, that will insure, that we will continue to be Veterans helping Veterans today and in the future?

God Bless America! God Bless our troops!

Mike Parry, 1<sup>st</sup> District Commander

## **CHANGES COMING FOR THE DISTRICT CONVENTION**

**1. This year you will need a current American Legion Membership card on your person to be shown at the door.**

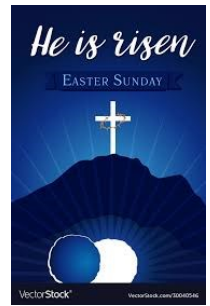
**2. The election of officers will be by written ballot.**

**A) Each post present will be able to vote it's voting strength which is set in out By- Laws And Constitution. The voting strength is based on your post membership thirty (30) days prior to the Convention.**

**B) One person from each post present will pick up the ballots for his/her post and have to sign for them. After they are filled out he/she will turn them back to the tellers.**

## FROM YOUR CHAPLAIN

News from the Chaplain  
April 2022



Greetings, 1<sup>st</sup> District American Legion Family!

April is a month of many changes. The weather starts to warm as days are longer, field work will soon begin, grass greens up, flowers start blooming, and there is rebirth all around us, not only in our natural world, but also in our spiritual world.

In the book of Exodus, chapters 7-12, the plagues occurred and Pharaoh finally agreed to let the Jewish people go after the Passover was completed. The only protection for families during the final plague where the first born would die, was the placement of blood from the sacrificial lamb on the doorpost of homes. Death passed over these households. Passover was completed and the Jewish people were freed. The Lord commanded them to celebrate as a festival to the Lord for generations to come.

As they left Egypt, the Jewish people experienced rebirth as a nation. Passover happens on April 15<sup>th</sup> this year. As Passover is happening, those of us who are Christians are experiencing Good Friday which also comes on April 15<sup>th</sup>. For one people, a lamb has to die to save them from death. For the other people a Lamb had to die to save them from their sins. Both groups received a rebirth of sorts, but a lamb had to die to set them free. For the Jews it was Passover and for Christians it is Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection from the grave 3 days later. The Jewish people still celebrate Passover every year, and we all should celebrate what Jesus the Christ has done for us at Easter.

Easter is not about bunny rabbits, colored eggs, or candy, although that's what the world would like us to believe. It is really about a Lamb without defect that came to take away the sins of the world, if we would only believe in Him and accept Him into our hearts as Lord and Savior. Let us always remember what God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit has done for us as individuals, and also for us as a nation.

God has blessed us among all the nations, and He will continue to do so, as long as we put Him first in our lives and first in this nation. Remember the Lord daily and give Him the thanks He deserves.

As we go further into this month, be careful for the farmers who will be out and about on the roads preparing the land for planting. Give them a brake; I know some of that equipment is over-sized and it can be maddening, but show a little grace to the farmers. The warmer days will also mean more bikes on the road. Watch for them, also. Do a buddy check for a fellow veteran and lend a helping hand to someone in need. National Commander, Paul E. Dillard, will be in Minnesota soon. If you have never attended one of our National Commander's Stops you will soon have opportunity to do so. He will be making several Stops throughout southern Minnesota in the month of April. This is a perfect time to ask a question and if unable to answer, I'm sure he will follow up. It's a great time to get out and meet other Legionnaires and Legion Family members. Maybe I'll see you at one of the Stops!

Until Next Month, May the Peace and Grace of our Heavenly Father be with You and Yours.

Larry H. Otto

1<sup>st</sup> District Chaplain



## 2022 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, Mike Parry, do hereby call a convention of the First District to convene at Albert Lea, Minnesota, Saturday May 21, 2022.

The business sessions of the convention will be held at Albert Lea Post 56, Albert Lea, MN, commencing at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, May 21st 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 5<sup>th</sup>.

All Members are encouraged to attend  
First District Commander  
Mike Parry

Delegate Certification to the First District Convention in Albert Lea, Minnesota, May 21, 2022, 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**DISTRICT AND DEPARTMENT DATES.**

**May 7, 2022 – First District SAL & ALR Conferences – Albert Lea Post 56, 142 North Broadway, Albert Lea, MN**

**May 21, 2022—The First District Legion and Auxiliary Convention - Albert Lea Post 56, 142 North Broadway, Albert Lea, MN - 8:30 AM Exec Board, 10 AM Convention call to order.**

**ENDORSEMENTS RECEIVED SO FAR**

Mary Hanson for Commander

Mark Maloney for Commander

Bill Goede for Finance Officer

**DELEGATE REQUESTS**

Mary Hanson

Dale Wellik

Gary Miller

Bill Goede

Chuck Kruger

Myron Ehrich



# FIRST DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION

**May 21,2022**

**American Legion Post 56, Albert Lea, MN**

The First District American Legion Convention will be held at Post 56 in Albert Lea, MN. Please fill out this form and before **April 30,2022** mail to:

**American Legion Post 56**

**142 North Broadway**

**Albert Lea, MN 56007**

Please make the items with an "X" and total up the amount.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pre-registration Fee \$10:00 registration, at the door it will be \$12.00.

\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday lunch \$8:00

Total Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Make the checks out to "American Legion Post 56" and send to the address above.

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_ **CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one **Delegate** **Alternate** **Guest**

Put an "X" by your organization and fill out Your organization number

**If you are a dual or triple member, you only need to register for one organization.**

**Legion** \_\_\_\_\_ **Post #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Auxiliary** \_\_\_\_\_ **Unit #** \_\_\_\_\_ **SAL** \_\_\_\_\_ **Squadron** \_\_\_\_\_

You must register as a delegate, alternate, or guest if you are attending the convention. One person per registration form please. You can make copies if needed. More than one registration and lunch fee may be put on one check.

\_\_\_\_\_ cut off \_\_\_\_\_

## **Hotel information for the First District Convention in Albert Lea**

The post has blocked some rooms for Friday night May 29,2022 at the following:

**QUALITY INN AND SUITES**

**2306 EAST MAIN STREET**

**507 – 377 - 1803**

Rooms are \$89 for two beds or \$79 for one bed plus tax. You will need to call the motel and make your reservation. They are blocked under the American Legion.

**!!!!!!!!!!!!ATTENTION !!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**If any post wants to advertise in the First District Convention Program it will be Fifty (50) dollars for a half page ad.**

**Please make the check out to “American Legion Post 56” and send that with your add to:**

**American Legion Post 56  
142 North Broadway  
Albert Lea, MN 55007**

**They would like to have these returned by April 15th so they can starting getting the book together.**

**FROM YOUR BLOOD AND CHILDREN & YOUTH CHAIRMAN**

The Blood report is due back to Myron Ehrich (our District Blood Chairman) by May 1, 2022

The Children and Youth reports are also due May 1st

Myron Ehrich—Chairman Children & Youth and Blood Chairman

Greetings all - Below is a handout that you can pass along to the posts in your districts ( I have also attached it as a google doc. ) We are in the middle of our first round of registration. We are asking all posts to contact their local softball leagues and share the flyer with them. If you have a team that is interested in playing please have them register during this round so we can start to plan. Our webpage is up and running and we will continue to expand on that as the season progresses. We are also still looking for Legion District representatives in the 3rd,4th, 5th,8th and 9th districts. Also, anyone interested in being on the state committee please contact us.If you know of a post that has charitable gambling funds they would like to use to help sponsor teams who do not have a local post or the local post is unable to provide funding please let us know. Thank you all for your continued support - Let's Play Ball and make history in 2022!



Join us in making history!!!

Registration is now open!!!! The first round of registration is to gain insight on the number of teams that are interested. The full commitment from teams will come during the next stage April 15th - Memorial Day. This is when teams will be entering rosters, completing waivers, and paying the \$500 fee. We are excited about the interest we have seen and hope to see more teams register.

Follow the link to our webpage to register!!  
<https://www.minnesotalegionsoftball.com/>

**Our goal is to make fastpitch softball accessible to softball players across the state.**

- 19U league (01/01/2003)
- Register on our website under the registration tab
- \$500 fee covers state fees and insurance
- Uniforms will require our softball logo on the left sleeve or left chest of the uniform.
- Teams are created based on school enrollment. Each player is tied directly to their high school. If two or more neighboring schools need to combine enrollment to create a team, that is acceptable as long as the enrollment does not surpass 3,600 students. If a team is created by a cooperative like this, all players in those schools would be tied to that team.
- League play will be done locally. Games will be scheduled by the teams in your district / conference.
- Playoffs will be overseen by directors.

Depending on the number of teams that register this year - we hope to have an 8 team state tournament meaning 7 qualifying teams and the host.

Please let us know if you have any questions at this time.

[mnlegionsoftball@gmail.com](mailto:mnlegionsoftball@gmail.com)

507-440-7690

701-318-0926

[MN American Legion Fastpitch Softball Facebook Page](#)

Thanks again for helping us make softball accessible to our female athletes all throughout the state!

## American Legion National Commander's Tour

Please call or email to reserve your spot.

**Location**

**Meal Time**

**Contact**

Monday, April 11 Arcade-Phalen Post 577 dinner\* 6 p.m. 651-329-7369,  
mrman48@comcast.net

Tuesday, April 12 Red Wing Post 54 breakfast 8 a.m. (see email address below)  
RWPost54NationalCmdrBreakfast@gmail.com (by April 1)

Dodge Center Post 384 lunch noon 507-259-7241

Owatonna Post 77 dinner\* 6 p.m. 507-213-7517 (Chuck Stone, leave msg.)

**Wednesday, April 13**

Austin Post 91 breakfast 8 a.m. 507-437-1151

Blue Earth Post 89 lunch noon 507-525-1052 (daytime, ask for Paul) 507-525-7713  
(between 5-8 p.m.)

Fairmont Post 36 dinner\* 6 p.m. stevefosness@gmail.com

**Thursday, April 14**

Brewster Post 464 breakfast 8 a.m. 605-310-8013 (Curt Luitjens)

Pipestone Post 6 dinner\* 6 p.m. 507-825-3211 (leave message) \* includes 5 p.m. so-  
cial hour



On left is District Vice Commander of the year, Dale Wellik with Dept Commander Tom Fernlund on his right and Dept Membership Director Paul Hassing on his left. Cngats Dale.

## FROM AREA THREE

Thank you for your service and dedication to our country and for your continued support to the American Legion.

Thank you to the American Legion Auxiliary, The Junior Auxiliary, The Sons of the American Legion, and the American Legion Riders and all friends and families for their Support of all Veterans and the Programs (and there are many of them) of the American Legion.

We have many things coming up.

The National Commander's tour April 11th - April 14th. All places and times are listed in the Legionnaire and here in the newsletter letter. Make your reservation so the Host post can make accommodations.

Veterans Day on the Hill is scheduled for APRIL 20th make plans to attend.

The Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Riders convention is at the Albert Lea post 56 on May 7, 2022.

The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary convention is at the Albert Lea post 56 on Saturday May 21st.

PLEASE ALL PRE-REGISTER SO THE HOST POST can make accommodations.

Election of officers will take place at these conventions also.

Your current membership card is required to attend.

Thank you to the posts to continue to work membership we have more hitting our targets and the 100%. Great job!

Pray for our deployed troops and their families. Call these families and use as a buddy check Maybe they would like some assistance now with Spring cleanup and lawn work.

Pray for our leaders to make the correct decisions!

For God and Country.

**Dale Wellik**

**Area 3 Vice Commander**

## A NOTE FROM YOUR RESOLUTION CHAIRMAN

Remember that any resolution that you want to come before the District Convention on May 21, 2022 needs to be in the hands of the Resolution Chairman thirty (30) days prior to the convention.

Does not hurt to have them in a little early as they might need some re-wording and that takes time to go back through the proper channels.

Richard Gosse

1136 6th St W Wabasha, MN 55981

651—565—4687

rcgosse@hbc.com

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

I am on the global war on terrorism design committee in Rochester, MN. We are asking for anyone in a 75 mile radius of Rochester to write us about any stories and or remembrance you have had. If you were one of the ones who were activated or were a fire man, policeman or first responder even if we're one of many dog handlers. What we thinking for a design is a time line even type of theme this will be an extension to the war memorial at Solders Field, so if you have any memories of that send them to [markmaloney1962@gmail.com](mailto:markmaloney1962@gmail.com). Thanks  
The Olmsted Committee

Commander  
Mark A Maloney III

## FROM AREA FOUR

Well the crazy spring weather has started. The other day it was 67 degrees and my wife and I along some friends were on the motorcycles. As I am writing this it's 16 degrees with cold weather for the next couple weeks. I am guessing that spring is here and weather day to day is a wonder. After all April 1st is April Fool's Day.... However April is known for beautiful spring weather, the start of warmer weather and right about the time when the Easter bunny will make an appearance!

I attended the First District West Side Rally held in Ellendale. We conducted Revitalization of those members that belong to 1982 and 1982 AD. I felt that it was a very successful day. The District picked a number of members wishing to transfer into a local post. Area 4 transferred 9 members with a number of messages left and call backs to do. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped with the phone calling.

The time is coming for the National Commanders Tour in the 1st District. Commander Mike stated in a letter to the District that he feels we have been honored to have Paul E. Dillard, National Commander of The American Legion visit three different Posts.

\*TUESDAY APRIL 12TH DODGE CENTER POST 384 NOON LUNCHEON CALL 1-507-259-7241

\*TUESDAY APRIL 12TH OWATONNA POST 77 DINNER 6PM 507-213-7517 LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR CHUCK STONE

\*WEDNESDAY APRIL 13TH AUSTIN POST 91 BREAKFAST 8AM 507-437-1151

Quote from Commander Mike: Let us show Commander Dillard just what the Mighty First District is all about. Veterans helping Veterans and their communities.

\*May 7, 2022 – First District SAL & ALR Conferences – Albert Lea Post 56, [142 North Broadway, Albert Lea, MN](#)

\*May 21, 2022—The First District Legion and Auxiliary Convention - Albert Lea Post 56, [142 North Broadway, Albert Lea, MN](#) - 8:30 AM Exec Board. 10:00 AM Call To Convention.

This has been posted for the upcoming Convention. Make sure your post's look at this and send your certification of your Post Delegates and Alternates to Wayne Hammon Jr, PO Box 135, LeRoy, MN 55951 before May 5th. All post membership are encouraged to attend.

FIRST DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION PRE-REGISTERING forms have also been sent out. If you are a dual or triple member, you only need to register for one organization. Please make sure you get this to your post membership.

Next month is going to be a busy time with a number of events happening. Not only do we have our 1st District meetings but May 20th is Armed Forces Day and May 30th is Memorial Day. These are all events we should have been preparing for already.

Keep the people of Ukraine in your prayers.  
Until next month everyone take care and be safe.

Wes Halverson  
Area 4 Vice Commander



# The American Legion, Dept of MN, First District 2022 Membership Report for March 23, 2022

Dist	Post	Location	New 2022	PUFL 2022	Online 2022	Trad 2022	Paid 2022	HQ Trans 2022	Total Membr 2022	Goal 2022	% of Goal	HQ Trans 2022	Last yr at this dae
1	9	Winona	5	31	0	409	445	2	447	505	88.51%	0	0
1	90	Lewiston	5	9	0	58	72	0	72	73	98.63%	0	0
1	190	St Charles	4	19	0	111	134	3	137	135	101.48	0	0
1		<b>Winona County</b>	14	59	0	578	651	5	656	713	92.01%	0	0
1	50	Wabasha	6	47	0	133	186	1	187	219	85.39%	0	0
1	110	Lake City	21	20	0	147	188	1	189	145	130.34	0	0
1	179	Plainview	1	29	0	113	143	0	143	148	96.62%	0	0
1	546	Kellogg	0	8	0	51	59	0	59	61	96.72%	0	0
1	573	Elgin	0	2	0	24	26	0	26	28	92.86%	0	0
1	579	Millville	1	20	0	88	109	0	109	151	72.19%	0	0
1	588	Mazeppa	0	9	0	51	60	0	60	69	86.96%	0	0
1		<b>Wabsha County</b>	29	135	0	607	771	2	773	821	94.15%	0	0
1	92	Rochester	6	93	0	623	722	3	725	808	89.73%	0	0
1	119	Byron	2	18	0	90	110	0	110	130	84.62%	0	0
1	164	Stewartville	6	26	0	242	274	2	276	283	97.53%	0	0
1	446	Rochester	0	2	0	9	11	0	11	16	68.75%	0	0
1	551	Eyota	6	21	0	145	172	0	172	180	95.56%	0	0
1		<b>Olmsted County</b>	20	160	0	1109	1289	5	1294	1417	91.32%	0	0
1		<b>Area One</b>	63	354	0	2294	2711	12	2723	2951	92.27%	0	0
1	295	West Concord	2	8	0	32	42	0	42	49	85.71%	0	0
1	330	Hayfield	1	19	0	139	159	0	159	178	89.33%	0	0
1	333	Kasson	8	32	0	189	229	0	229	262	87.40%	0	0
1	384	Dodge Center	2	7	0	63	72	0	72	81	88.89%	0	0
1	422	Claremont	0	3	0	26	29	0	29	31	93.55%	0	0
1		<b>Dodge County</b>	13	69	0	449	531	0	531	601	88.35%	0	0
1	52	Blooming Prairie	1	15	0	64	80	0	80	91	87.91%	0	0
1	77	Owatonna	8	54	0	318	380	1	381	429	88.81%	0	0
1	296	Ellendale	0	4	0	25	29	0	29	36	80.56%	0	0
1		<b>Steel County</b>	9	73	0	407	489	1	490	556	88.13%	0	0
1	75	New Richland	1	8	0	33	42	0	42	50	84.00%	0	0
1	228	Waseca	4	21	0	241	266	0	266	288	92.36%	0	0
1	281	Janesville	3	7	0	74	84	0	84	88	95.45%	0	0
1	587	Waldorf	1	0	0	20	21	0	21	23	91.30%	0	0
1		<b>Waseca County</b>	9	36	0	368	413	0	413	449	91.98%	0	0
		<b>Area Two</b>	31	178	0	1224	1433	1	1434	1606	89.29%	0	0

1	13	40	Lanesboro	2	14	0	88	104	0	104	109	95.41%	0	0
1	68		Spring Valley	1	8	0	57	66	0	66	74	89.19%	0	0
1	81		Harmony	1	1	0	24	26	0	26	31	83.87%	0	0
1	94		Rushford	2	10	0	76	88	0	88	105	83.81%	0	0
1	166		Preston	0	17	0	33	50	0	50	53	94.34%	0	0
1	197		Chatfield	0	2	0	35	37	0	37	40	92.50%	0	0
1	299		Mabel	3	30	0	111	144	0	144	160	90.00%	0	0
1	369		Wykoff	0	0	0	16	16	0	16	18	88.89%	0	0
1	400		Canton	1	0	0	19	20	0	20	21	95.24%	0	0
1	492		Fountain	0	0	0	11	11	0	11	14	78.57%	0	0
1	526		Peterson	2	4	0	32	38	0	38	39	97.44%	0	0
1	544		Ostrander	0	3	0	18	21	0	21	23	91.30%	0	0
1	637		Whalan	0	0	0	7	7	0	7	11	63.64%	0	0
1			<b>Fillmore County</b>	12	89	0	527	628	0	628	698	89.97%	0	0
1	191		Caledonia	0	17	0	107	124	0	124	139	89.21%	0	0
1	249		Spring Grove	3	12	0	117	132	0	132	149	88.59%	0	0
1	423		Houston	3	7	0	87	97	0	97	102	95.10%	0	0
1	498		Hokah	0	1	0	20	21	0	21	23	91.30%	0	0
1	595		LaCrescent	0	45	0	190	235	0	235	259	90.73%	0	0
1			<b>Houston County</b>	6	82	0	521	609	0	609	672	90.63%	0	0
1			<b>Area Three</b>	18	171	0	1048	1237	0	1237	1370	90.29%	0	0
1	56		Albert Lea	7	36	0	405	448	4	452	522	86.59%	0	0
1	264		Glenville	1	8	0	56	65	0	65	70	92.86%	0	0
1	266		Hartland	0	1	0	12	13	0	13	14	92.86%	0	0
1	317		Emmons	2	3	0	43	48	0	48	48	100.00%	0	0
1	404		Alden	3	4	0	62	69	0	69	98	70.41%	0	0
1	552		Freeborn	0	5	0	24	29	0	29	32	90.63%	0	0
1			<b>Freeborn County</b>	13	57	0	602	672	4	676	784	86.22%	0	0
1	91		Austin	15	52	0	352	419	8	427	474	90.08%	0	0
1	105		Lyle	2	8	0	73	83	1	84	84	100.00%	0	0
1	140		Grand Meadow	0	2	0	32	34	0	34	42	80.95%	0	0
1	146		Adams	6	20	0	141	167	0	167	151	110.60%	0	0
1	161		LeRoy	0	4	0	40	44	0	44	56	78.57%	0	0
1	570		Austin Spam	1	0	0	12	13	0	13	16	81.25%	0	0
1			<b>Mower County</b>	24	86	0	650	760	9	769	823	93.44%	0	0
1			<b>Area Four</b>	37	143	0	1252	1432	13	1445	1607	89.92%	0	0
1	1111		Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0
1			<b>District Totals</b>	149	846	0	5818	6813	26	6839	7534	90.78%	0	0

## DISTRICT VICE COMMANDER STANDINGS

Vice Commanders												
Area One	63	354	0	2294	2711	12	2723	2951	92.21%	0	0	
Area Two	31	178	0	1224	1433	1	1434	1606	89.29%	0	0	
Area Three	18	171	0	1048	1237	0	1237	1370	90.29%	0	0	
Area Four	37	143	0	1252	1432	13	1445	1607	89.92%	0	0	

## THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA 2021 DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 12/16/21

The American Legion Department of Min- nesota 2021 District												
Rank												
6th	Mike Parry	149	846	0	5818	6813	26	6839	7534	90.78%		
4th	Steve Fosness	96	635	0	4568	5299	22	5321	5826	91.33%		
9th	Bob Hart	247	1577	0	7769	9,593	66	9,659	10,742	89.92%		
5th	Dave Dahl	36	275	0	1410	1721	26	1747	1,921	90.94%		
10th	Wade Larson	29	299	0	1280	1608	6	1614	1881	85.81%		
1st	Jim Lucas	252	1101	0	7929	9282	110	9,392	10,135	92.67%		
2nd	Chip Manson	87	682	0	4272	5041	61	5102	5,509	92.61%		
3rd	Larry Pocrnich	71	314	0	2670	3055	45	3100	3380	91.72%		
8th	Terry Buaas	99	542	0	4523	5164	64	5228	5802	90.11%		
7th	Daryl Harmon	187	933	0	6399	7519	52	7571	8376	90.39%		
		3	221	0	1809	2033	0	2033	3469	58.60%		
		1256	7425	0	48,447	57,128	478	57,606	64,575	89.21%		

Hello All,

Our next target date is 4-13-2022 at 95%. Currently, the 1st District is at 90.78%. There are 15 posts at 95% or higher.

We now have 5 posts at 100%. Adams, Lake City, Lyle and St. Charles was joined by Emmons. Great job!

I would like the Area Vice Commanders to continue their post visits. Help the posts not on mylegion, check to see if valid email addresses are on file. We need to start training and that is the first step. Encourage the posts to work on the rosters and contact members that have not renewed. Get them copies of the 1982 and 1982 AD lists. Reach out to Wayne or myself if you need help. We need to stop the complacency if we are going to get anywhere.

Don't be afraid to send a post my way with membership issues or mylegion issues. I am available to make post visits in the evenings during the week or on the weekends. There is no reason a post should not have the information they need to grow. We are in this together.

Mary Hanson  
1st District Membership Director  
507-440-3606



## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

### Auxiliary Contacts

#### President

Tonia Betterman  
1625 Crestview Lane  
Owatonna, MN 55060  
507-456-2315  
[bettm88@outlook.com](mailto:bettm88@outlook.com)

#### Secretary

Sandy Fredrickson  
771 2nd St SW  
Glenville, MN 56036  
(507) 383-3776  
[dsfredrick@gmail.com](mailto:dsfredrick@gmail.com)

#### Membership / First Vic

Kathryn Fredrickson  
709 Johnson St  
Albert Lea, MN 56007  
(507) 438-1568  
[dabuker52@gmail.com](mailto:dabuker52@gmail.com)

#### Treasurer

Audrey Farnsworth  
302 1st St E, Stewartville, MN 55976  
507-319-0257  
[harlee@charter.net](mailto:harlee@charter.net)

### From the President's Desk

It is great to say that the Department of Minnesota has made their goal for April 1<sup>st</sup>. The goal was to make it to 90% by April first and we did it at 90.19%. The First District is sitting at 6<sup>th</sup> place at 86.95% as of March 12<sup>th</sup>. Let's keep working and trying to make the 100% for each Unit. I want to say thank you to all the hard work all the Units have been doing.

The Junior Auxiliary Convention for the First District was a success on March 19<sup>th</sup>. The juniors had a good time and we have new officers for 2022-2023 year. The Department Junior Conference is in Willmar on April 8-9, 2022. Please consider bringing your juniors to the conference. This is a good time for the children.

**Please don't forget to send all Unit Annual Reports to Department by April 15, 2022.** This is important because these reports are good for the organization so we can see what is happening within the district. These reports are also given at the First District Convention in May by each chairman. There is a trophy list attached in this newsletter.

The Department of Minnesota President Patti Coleman's testimonial is on April 23, 2022 in Osseo, Minnesota. If you are interested in coming to this please RSVP by April 9, 2022.

Please review the Call to Convention in the detail below. Each unit attending will need to have a report stating what they have done for the year and their flags. If you are not attending the convention, please send me a report for the unit. People really like to hear what is going on at other units to give them ideas and to help the organization succeed.

This is Children and Youth month. Please continue to help these children in your communities and throughout the nation.

Thank you for all you do and please continue to move forward.

Thank you,

Tonia Bettermann  
1<sup>st</sup> District Auxiliary President

## ALA Minnesota Girl's State – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Hello Everyone! Hopefully we are all working on getting our High School Juniors signed up for Girls State. Not sure how everyone has been able to get into the schools, if at all. I'm sending this media info that the Girls State Committee put together to help! Please use this with your school council or teachers. To date only 22 units in the state have sent in applications! I know, we in 1<sup>st</sup> District have always been well represented and I'm sure we will again this year! Deadline is March 30<sup>th</sup>, if we get later, do not worry. If you have questions please let me know! [w.prescher@kmwb.net](mailto:w.prescher@kmwb.net) or 507-254-0304.

### Americanism

Remember the American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Essay is due March 15<sup>th</sup>! **“How can we support families who provide care to their Veterans?”** As Department Chair as well as your District Chair, you can send directly to me at 3321 Vista View Ct SW, Rochester 55902. I look forward to reading your essays! Remember to have the Americanism Essay 2022 cover sheet with your essay!

Thank you to everyone in 1<sup>st</sup> District who do so much for our Auxiliary! We can't do what we do for our Veterans, Community and Youth without all of YOU!

Wanda Prescher

Americanism and Girls State Chair

## GIRLS STATE Media Toolkit Materials

Hi Here is the tool kit. Pass in on to schools and Units



Empowered  
Women  
Empower  
Women

**INTERESTED IN SETTING UP YOUR OWN  
MOCK GOVERNMENT? CONTACT YOUR  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT TO  
LEARN ABOUT ALA MN GIRLS STATE**



Empowered  
Women  
Empower  
Women

**INTERESTED IN HOW GOVERNMENT  
WORKS? ASK YOUR COUNSELOR  
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
ALA MN GIRLS STATE**



**INTERESTED IN HOW GOVERNMENT  
WORKS? ASK YOUR COUNSELOR  
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
ALA MN GIRLS STATE**



Empowered  
Women  
Empower  
Women

**INTERESTED IN LEARNING HOW  
GOVERNMENT WORKS? ASK YOUR  
COUNSELOR FOR MORE  
INFORMATION ABOUT ALA MN  
GIRLS STATE**

Video: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1B3XGXA9yRA3R5riYyK4mVhXAArDFdeSE/view?usp=sharing>

## Call to Convention

The annual First District of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota is hereby called. It is to be held in Albert Lea, Minnesota on Saturday May 21, 2022. Auxiliary session will be held at the American Legion Post 56 located at, 142 North Broadway Avenue, Albert Lea, Minnesota.

Opening session will be called on May 21, 2022 at 8:30 am.

The purpose of the convention is to:

Elect District Officers for the 2022 – 2023 year

Receive reports of Unit Presidents

Receive reports of District Chairman's

Elect delegates and alternates to the National Convention

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 distributed 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 15, 2022**. If possible, reports should be typewritten and ready to print.

**District Chairmen are also responsible to judge the 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.

### 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.

**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.

## PART 2 Trophy and Awards (Certificates) Listing

### AMERICANISM:

The *Betty Gartner Memorial Award* is to be awarded at the District Convention to the Unit reporting the best all-around Americanism program each year.

The *Miner/Isenberg First District Americanism Award* is to be awarded at the District Convention to the Unit submitting the most all-around Americanism program. This must be a narrative report of 250 words or less on one project only. This must be attached to the annual report. Pictures or clippings may be attached.

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH:

The *District Child Welfare Gavel Trophy* is to be awarded at the District Convention to the Unit having a membership of from 15 to 75 members judged to have the most outstanding Children and Youth report.

The *Myrna Gunderson Trophy* is to be awarded at the District Convention to the Unit having a membership of from 76 to 200 members, judged to have the most outstanding Children and Youth report.

The *Cindy Nelson Certificate* is awarded at District convention to the Unit of the First District judged to have the most outstanding, well-rounded Children and Youth report

### COMMUNITY SERVICE:

The *Evelyn Lyke Community Service Trophy* will be awarded to the Unit judged to have the best all-around Community Service project.

The *Berenice Smith Community Service Award* is to be awarded annually at the District Convention based on the size of the unit, to the Unit judged to have the most outstanding piece of work in Community Service. **A narrative report** of 500 words or less on this one project is to be attached to the Unit annual report. Pictures and clippings may be included.

### EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIP:

1. The *Mildred Holtz Gavel Bell Trophy* is to be awarded at the District Convention to the Unit judged to have the best all-around Education and Scholarship report.

### HISTORY:

1. The *Irene Martin History Trophy* will be awarded at the District Convention to the Unit that is judged to have the best all-around typed History report.

### JUNIOR ACTIVITIES:

The *Bev Jiardina Trophy* is to be awarded at each annual First District Convention to the Unit which best encourages and supports their junior group. A narrative report describing how the Unit encourages and supports their junior group is to be attached to the Unit annual report. Pictures and clippings may be included.

### LEADERSHIP:

The *Cheryl Nymann* leadership award will be awarded to the Unit who has the best all-around Leadership Annual Report.

### LEGISLATION:

1. The *Bette Berg and Louella Gusa (B & L) Trophy* will be awarded annually at the District Convention to the Unit judged to have the best all-around Legislative program.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

The *Marie Goede Membership Trophy* is awarded at the District Convention to the Unit attaining the greatest increase in number of members by the previous year; based on the Department Membership Bulletin prior to the district convention.

The *Lynette Hillman Wolff Membership Trophy* is to be awarded at the District Convention to the Unit attaining the greatest percentage of increase in Junior Membership of the previous year, as of Wednesday the week of District Convention.

The *Carol Kruger Membership Trophy* is to be awarded to the first Unit to reach Goal.

**MEMORIAL:**

1. The *Audrey Erwin Memorial Trophy* is to be awarded at District Convention to the Unit judged to have the single, most outstanding memorial project for the year. Pictures and clippings may be included, but are not required.

**MUSIC:**

1. The *Lois Deyo Music Trophy* is to be awarded at the District Convention to the Unit who submits the best **narrative report** (not more than 300 words) stating how they used and promoted music within the Unit and community. Report is to be sent to the current First District Music Chairman.

**NATIONAL SECURITY:**

1. The *National Security Trophy* will be awarded to the Unit who submits the best all-around **narrative report** not to exceed 500 words. Pictures and clippings may be included.

**PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY:**

The *Pat Johannsen Trophy* is to be awarded at the District Convention to the Unit who submits the best all-around **narrative report** written by the Chairman of the Past Presidents Parley in 300 words or less. Report to be sent to the current First District Past Presidents Parley Chairman.

**POPPY:**

The *Lillian Koch Trophy* is to be awarded annually at the District Convention to the Unit with the greatest percentage of increase over their previous year of poppy proceeds. **To be eligible for this trophy, a unit MUST include the dollar amount of poppies from each of the last two years on the Unit annual report.**

The *Marge Schreiber Traveling District Poppy Queen Trophy* is to be presented at the District Convention to the Unit judged to have submitted the most outstanding **narrative entry** for First District Poppy Queen. Entry to be sent to the current First District Poppy Chairman by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

District awards for Poppy posters shall be \$10.00 for first prize, \$5.00 for second prize, and \$3.00 for third prize in each class. The classes for the Poppy Poster contest are as follows:

Class 1 – Grades 2 and 3	Class II – Grades 4 and 5
Class III – Grades 6 and 7	Class IV – Grades 8 and 9
Class V – Grades 10 and 11	Class VI – Grade 12
Class VII – Students with special needs*	

\*Special needs are defined as those students in special education classes or on a waiting list to enter such a class; a student with an identified disability but not in a special education class for reasons other than wait listing.

Poppy Queen at the District Convention. Crown must be returned before the District Convention each year.  
**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** The *Carol Kruger Traveling Poppy Queen Crown* to be used annually to crown the District

1. The *Anna Schmitz Public Relations Trophy* is to be awarded at the District Convention to the Unit judged to have the best all-around Public Relations report.

**VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION:**

The *District Rehabilitation Gavel Certificate* is to be awarded at the District Convention to the Unit having membership of 15 to 75 members, judged to have the most outstanding Rehabilitation report. (LOST, now replaced with a certificate)

The *Gladys Johnson Gavel Bell Trophy* is to be awarded at the District Convention to the Unit having a membership of from 75-200 members, judged to have the most outstanding Rehabilitation report.

**SERVICE TO VETERANS:**

The *Loretta Lechner Service to Veterans Trophy* is awarded each year at District Convention to the unit that has the best overall report concerning Service to Veterans. A narrative should be written along with pictures of your unit accomplish

## FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Officers and Members of the GREAT American Legion Auxiliary

Congratulations Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary on making 90.19% of our goal!!! We only need 9.81% more to make 100%!! I'm still learning this position, but I do know that is great news. Thank you every single person for working the program and getting those paid up memberships in. Together We Will Do This!!!

In District 1, we still have lots of work to do, as we are still in 6<sup>th</sup> place with 86.95% of our members paid. However, we only have 6 units who are under the 80% mark. All members can help by: keep working on those who haven't paid their 2022 dues yet, work on former members asking them to rejoin, keep talking about the American Legion Auxiliary, invite others to join and help serve our mission, and listen to tips from other units/department as to what worked for them. Do you need help?? Please ask and if I can't help, I will find someone who can. Congratulations to Spring Valley, who has joined the 100% club.

Linda Kelly, our State Membership Chair, has issued a new challenge—The challenge of “We Miss You” calls. I'm sure you will see this message from many, but just in case here it is again. We don't have much time to meet our goal of 90% by April 1<sup>st</sup>, so hope this helps.

WHAT: *The challenge of “WE MISS YOU” calls*

HOW: Make calls to all of your unpaid members. Tell them you missed them and ask them to renew their membership. Ask them to mail them in right away or volunteer to stop by if they are close. IMPORTANT: Be sure to send your memberships into the Department on a regular basis. We still would like to make the Northwestern Division goal of 90% by April 1, so we can continue to make the National 95% goal by Poppy Day – wouldn't that be a great way to celebrate Poppy Day. Be sure to send in any memberships you have on May 2<sup>nd</sup> so we can see how successful we are.

WHEN: March 14 – April 30

WHO: All units. If you have already met goal – do you still have some unpaid members from your roster and if not, why not check your Legion's roster and see if some of their spouses/daughters can belong and give them a call. Do you have any female veterans in your post that don't belong to your auxiliary?

EXTRA: I hope that you share any experiences with me – just e-mail to [lkkauiliary@gmail.com](mailto:lkkauiliary@gmail.com).

Again, thank you for all you are doing to get and keep your members. Without members, there will be no American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary and without the American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary there would be no amazing programs to help our Veterans.

## RENEW - RECRUIT - REJOIN

Together, We Can Do It!

DISTRICT	# of Units	Goal	Period Gain	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	3/8/2020 Membership Last Year	Difference from Last Year
One	48	3,802	72	3,306	86.95%	3505	199
Two	72	3,745	68	3,356	89.61%	3474	118
Three	46	3,671	66	3,386	92.24%	3286	-100
Four	7	563	14	462	82.06%	499	37
Five	7	509	7	418	82.12%	449	31
Six	62	4,855	85	4,439	91.43%	4452	13
Seven	60	2,970	28	2,660	89.56%	2708	48
Eight	25	1,214	11	1,046	86.16%	1117	71
Nine	49	3,239	60	2,883	89.01%	2939	56
Ten	44	3,765	92	3,226	85.68%	3475	249
1982 Dept	1	203	2	179	88.18%	201	22
<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>28,536</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>25,361</b>	<b>88.87%</b>	<b>26105</b>	<b>744</b>
<b>Group 1 (Even)</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>14,142</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>12,529</b>	<b>88.59%</b>	<b>13,017</b>	<b>488</b>
<i>Sharon Thiemecke</i>							
<b>Group 2 (Odd)</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>14,191</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>12,653</b>	<b>89.16%</b>	<b>12,887</b>	<b>234</b>
<i>Mary Kuperus</i>							



### RANKINGS

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
92.24%	91.43%	89.61%	89.56%	89.01%	86.95%	86.16%	85.68%	82.12%	82.06%
District #3	District #6	District #2	District #7	District #9	District #1	District #8	District #10	District #5	District #4



## 1st District American Legion Auxiliary Membership

As of March 12, 2022

Unit	Location	Goal	Previous	Turn In	Total	Percent	Left
9	Winona	119	113		113	94.96%	6
90	Lewiston	36	32		32	88.89%	4
190	St Charles	46	3		3	6.52%	43
50	Wabasha	104	90		90	86.54%	14
110	Lake City	70	47		47	67.14%	23
179	Plainview	127	108		108	85.04%	19
546	Kellogg	100	96		96	96.00%	4
573	Elgin	14	7		7	50.00%	7
579	Millville	45	41		41	91.11%	4
588	Mazeppa	37	33		33	89.19%	4
92	Rochester	130	107		107	82.31%	23
119	Byron	23	16		16	69.57%	7
164	Stewartville	164	155		155	94.51%	9
551	Eyota	95	95		95	100.00%	0
<b>Pod One Total</b>		<b>1110</b>	<b>943</b>		<b>943</b>	<b>84.95%</b>	<b>167</b>

295	West Concord	29	31	31	106.90%	-2
330	Hayfield	171	153	153	89.47%	18
333	Kasson	143	131	131	91.61%	12
384	Dodge Center	57	53	53	92.98%	4
422	Claremont	21	19	19	90.48%	2
52	Blooming Prairie	89	82	82	92.13%	7
77	Owatonna	104	94	94	90.38%	10
75	New Richland	41	36	36	87.80%	5
228	Waseca	225	196	196	87.11%	29
587	Waldorf	19	14	14	73.68%	5
<b>Pod Two Totals</b>		<b>899</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>89.99%</b>	<b>90</b>

40	Lanesboro	84	69	69	82.14%	15
68	Spring Valley	40	42	42	105.00%	-2
81	Harmony	53	47	47	88.68%	6
94	Rushford	39	29	29	74.36%	10
197	Chatfield	26	19	19	73.08%	7
299	Mabel	120	99	99	82.50%	21
369	Wykoff	17	17	17	100.00%	0
526	Peterson	45	40	40	88.89%	5
544	Ostrander	13	10	10	76.92%	3
637	Whalan	18	16	16	88.89%	2
191	Caledonia	71	62	62	87.32%	9
249	Spring Grove	94	81	81	86.17%	13
423	Houston	117	111	111	94.87%	6
498	Hokah	18	15	15	83.33%	3
595	La Crescent	160	141	141	88.13%	19
<b>Pod Three Totals</b>		<b>915</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>87.21%</b>	<b>117</b>
56	Albert Lea	266	224	224	84.21%	42
264	Glenville	96	89	89	92.71%	7
404	Alden	42	28	28	66.67%	14
552	Freeborn	58	55	55	94.83%	3
91	Austin	122	100	100	81.97%	22
105	Lyle	53	46	46	86.79%	7
140	Grand Meadow	62	62	62	100.00%	0
146	Adams	130	113	113	86.92%	17
161	Leroy	49	39	39	79.59%	10
<b>Pod Four Totals</b>		<b>878</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>86.10%</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>3802</b>	<b>3306</b>	<b>3306</b>	<b>86.95%</b>	<b>496</b>

## 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](http://believet.org)



## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

### COMMANDER

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

### ADJUTANT

Dave Bilderback  
4409 22 Ave NW Rochester, MN 55901  
507—250—1057  
dbilderbackb@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

Clint Bettermann  
1625 Crestview Lane—Owatonna, MN 55060  
507-213-7517  
castoney@hotmail.com

### MEMBERSHIP

### FINANCE OFFICER

Gene Luedtke  
325 Hoffman Dr, Apt 305 Owatonna, MN 55060  
507 -451—5731  
gene.luedtke@hotmail.com

### JUDGE ADVOCATE

Bill Goede  
630 3rd Avenue NW Plainview, MN 55964  
507—259—7595  
wgoede62@embarqmail.com

### CHAPLAIN

Ron Wolff  
901 8th Ave SW - Waseca, MN 56093  
ronwolff5@gmail.com

## FROM YOUR COMMANDER'S DESK

Greetings First District American Legion Family,

Convention time is almost upon us. Look to fellow members of your squadron or a neighboring squadron whom haven't attended a District Convention and try to get one or two members to attend this year.

Also now is the time to start putting together data relating to all things your squadron has done this legion year. Yes, that awful word, reports. There is the Squadron Consolidated Report, the Squadron Data Report and the Squadron New Officer List. If you have any questions on any of these reports please ask, we are here to assist you.

Also take a look at your Squadron By-Laws. Do they need a tune up? Are they outdated? Can you find them? Hope to see you in Albert Lea on May 7th.

Chuck Stone  
District Commander

The American Legion National Commander will be at Owatonna Post 77 on Tuesday evening April 12 at 5pm. Dinner will be at 6pm. Cost is \$20 per person. Reservations can be made by calling Chuck Stone at (507) 213-7517. Please leave a message.

Chuck Stone

### SGT AT ARMS

Austin Schram  
LaCrescent, MN



# 2022 FIRST DISTRICT SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION CALL TO CONVENTION

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, Chuck Stone, First District SAL Commander, do here by call a Convention of the First District Sons of the American Legion to convene at Albert Lea American Legion Post 56 located at 142 North Broadway, Albert Lea, MN on Saturday May 7, 2022, at 9 AM.

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 properly 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:

1<sup>st</sup> District SAL Adjutant  
Dave Bilderback  
4409 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave NW  
Rochester, MN 55901

All District SAL Members are urged to attend.

Chuck Stone  
1<sup>st</sup> District SAL Commander

SAL Delegate certification to the First District SAL Convention in Albert Lea, MN on Saturday, May 7, 2022.

Squadron \_\_\_\_\_ MN

Delegates

Alternates

- |       |          |
|-------|----------|
| _____ | 1. _____ |
| _____ | 2. _____ |
| _____ | 3. _____ |
| _____ | 4. _____ |
| _____ | 5. _____ |
| _____ | 6. _____ |

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Adjutant Squadron # \_\_\_\_\_

## IMPORTANT SAL INFORMATION – PLEASE READ

"The SAL By-Laws and Constitution have been approved minus this one job description. This will be voted on at the SAL District Convention in Albert Lea, MN on May 7, 2022. If approved, it will go before the District Legion Executive Board for final approval at their meeting in Albert Lea, MN on May 21st, 2022."

### Section 4. Finance Officer

The District Finance Officer shall be responsible for transporting funds received by the organization to the Legion District Finance Officer and providing the Legion District Finance Officer any approved vouchers to be paid as approved by the Executive Committee of this organization and the First District American Legion. He shall report the balance of the organization's accounts at all meetings of the Executive Committee and to the membership body at the District Convention. At the District Convention, and any other time as may be requested by the District Commander, he shall make available a report of all deposits and disbursements made since the preceding District Convention. The District Finance Officer is also responsible, with two (2) other members appointed by the Commander, to propose an annual budget based on previous years income, and report said budget at the Annual District Convention.



**DIRECTOR - ROE NAYLOR**  
 63106240TH ST  
 BROWNSDALE, MN 55918  
 Phone - 507-438-5804  
 EMAIL - roe.land@yahoo.com



## FROM YOUR AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

**VICE DIRECTOR - CHUCK STONE**  
 1625 Crestview Lane  
 Owatonna, MN 55060  
 Phone - 507 213-7517  
 EMAIL - castoney@hotmail.com

**SGT at ARMS - JOE SMILLIE**  
 1001 7th St NW  
 Austin, MN 55912  
 Phone - 641-590-3522  
 EMAIL - joesmillie.js@gmail.com

**SECRETARY - SUNSHINE MILLER**  
 845 54th Avenue, Apt E  
 Winona, MN 55987  
 Phone 507-459-5962  
 EMAIL - 928sunshine@gmail.com

**FINANCIAL ADVISOR - MARK MALONEY**  
 845 54th Avenue, Apt E  
 Winona, MN 55987  
 Phone - 507-513-1582  
 EMAIL - mark-maloney1962@gmail.com

**CHAPLAIN - SCUFFY PAULSON**  
 26043 St Hwy 43  
 Rushford, MN 55971  
 Phone - 507-450-8493  
 EMAIL - scuffypaulson888@yahoo.com

**HISTORIAN - TONIA BETTERMAN**  
 1625 Crestview Lane  
 Owatonna, MN 55060  
 PHONE - 507-456-2315  
 EMAIL— betttm88@outlook.com

### 2022 First District American Legion Rider Convention Call

To all American Legion Rider Chapters of the First District:

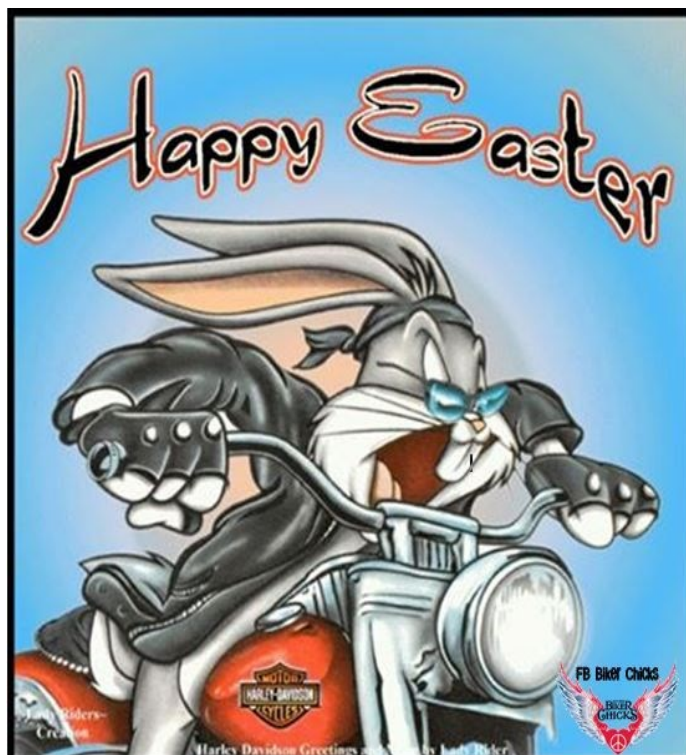
By virtue of the authority vested in me by the constitution and by-laws of the American Legion Riders, Department of Minnesota, I Roe Naylor, First District ALR Director, do hereby call a convention meeting of the First District ALR to be held at the Albert Lea American Legion at 1 PM, on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

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  
 Roe Naylor



First District ALR Meeting was held on Sunday, February 20, 2022 at Stewartville American Legion. First District Legion Commander, Mike Parry spoke in appreciation of all that the riders do by helping veterans and encouraging membership in the American Legion Family.

Sick call: Jenni Peterson/Albert Lea/ is currently hospitalized at Mayo  
 Dan Volkmann/Rushford/at home recuperating from COVID  
 James 'Grinder' Grein/Austin/at home recuperating from COVID  
 Ted Herman/Albert Lea/at home recuperating from brain bleed

Thank you from Roe Naylor on behalf of the Wagoner Family to those that attended the Celebration of Life for Austin ALR member Big Jim.

The First District "Tour of the 1<sup>st</sup> District" will be returning this summer 2022. The following have agreed to be on the committee: Karla Miller, Roe Naylor, Nancy Lewison, Lesley Heimer & Joe Smilie. The tour will be scaled back this year to one day/Saturday. Donations will be divided between VA Home in Preston; Toys for Tots & Global War on Terrorism Memorial at Soldier's Field in Rochester.

Upcoming Events hosted by ALR Chapters of the 1<sup>st</sup> District

Albert Lea- Nation of Patriots (NOP) American Flag escort-will receive on Sept 3 & ride to Mason City, IA on Sept 4

Austin –Prevent 22 Ride July 9 & Kvaam Scholarship Ride Aug 27

Eyota –Spaghetti Dinner Mar 19 & PTSD Ride July 9

Winona –September ride being planned

1<sup>st</sup> District ALR Officer nominations are as follows. Additional Nominations, Election & Installation of 2022-2023 Officers will be on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> – 1300 at the 1<sup>st</sup> District Convention in Albert Lea.

Nominations for Vice Director: Chuck Stone

Nominations for Secretary: Karla Miller

Nominations for Chaplain: Jeff "Scuffy" Paulson

Nominations for Historian: open

Nominations for Treasurer: Mark Maloney

Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 1300 in Albert Lea.

**DON'T YOU DARE GIVE UP  
ON THIS LIFE. NOT TONIGHT.  
NOT TOMORROW. NOT EVER**



**POST**

**NOT ALL WOUNDS ARE VISIBLE**

*If you served our Nation.*

*Come find out about some of the resources available to you!!!!!!*

**VETERANS  
RESOURCE  
FAIR**

Brought to you by

**Dodge Center**

**American Legion**



When:

Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup>

2:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Where:

Dodge Center American  
Legion

Post 384 Wells-Peterson

401 Hwy St W Dodge Center,

MN 55927

507-633-6420

DCAL.Post384@gmail.com

Organizations Attending

- American Legion
- Veteran Service Officer
- MACV
- MN Department of Veterans Affairs – Higher Education
- Disabled American Veterans
- Veterans Court
- Minnesota State Parks
- Plus More!!!!

# ATTENTION

## Albert Lea National Guard “Reunion”

April 16, 2022  
4:00-7:00 p.m.

Past/Present Members of Company G,  
Company A, Company D & guest

Albert Lea American Legion  
Please bring any pictures you wish to share!

