



FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

Legion Contacts

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VICE—COMMANDER INFORMATION

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Area Four - Cole Wilcox

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APRIL 2023

On the first few pages of this newsletter is the District and Department events for the 2022—2023 year, **CHECK IT OUT** .

Check out the events on the first few pages of this newsletter as I keep them updated with any changes that may come about.

April 9, 2023—Easter, don't forget the reason for the season.

April 15, 2023—Department Auxiliary Jr Convention at New Prague at 9:00 AM

April 15, 2023—Department Appreciation Rally—New Prague at 4:00 PM

April 29, 2023—President Tonia's & Commander Mary's testimonial at Owatonna Post 77, 3 PM social

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

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



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!!!!!!!!!!!!!! IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

AT THE FIRST DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION CHANGEOVER IN JUNE 2022 CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE PRICES FOR REGISTRATION AND LUNCHES.

THESE CHANGES BELOW HAVE BEEN COPIED RIGHT OUT OF THE FIRST DISTRICT BY- LAWS REGULATION GUIDELINES FOR FIRST DISTRICT FUNCTIONS.

THESE CHANGES GO IN EFFECT STARTING WITH THE DISTRICT FALL RALLY.

FALL RALLY

Shall be at the home of the First District Commander. Noon luncheon price not to exceed \$10.00. Registration; Legion \$10.00, Auxiliary \$10.00, SAL \$10.00, ALR \$10.00.

MID-WINTER

Shall be at the home of the District President. Time and Place to be known at Fall Rally. Registration; Legion \$10.00, Auxiliary \$10.00, SAL \$10.00, ALR \$10.00. Noon luncheon price not to exceed \$10.00.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Registration of all, but no charge to Department Officers, National Officers or visiting District Officers. Distinguished Guest Chairman shall provide the registration table with an updated list. Registration shall be conducted at a convenient location and shall be fixed at \$15.00 for Legionnaires, \$15.00 for Auxiliary members, \$15.00 for SAL members and \$15.00 for ALR members. (Pre- registration is \$15.00, at the door registration is \$20.00.) This shall include Convention Badge, Booklet of full admission to all entertainments and a complete packet of information of convention activities. Only one (1) registration per legion family member is required

FIRST DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION

May 20,2023 American Legion Post 333, Kasson, MN

212 West Main St, Kasson. MN

The First District American Legion Convention will be held at Post 333 in Kasson, MN. Please fill out this form and before **April 30,2023** and mail to:

**American Legion Auxiliary Unit 333
c/o Roberta Pogalz
61879 248th Ave
Mantorville, MN 55955**

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

_____ Pre-registration Fee \$15.00 registration, at the door it will be **\$20.00**

_____ Saturday lunch \$10.00

Total Amount _____

Make the checks out to "American Legion Auxiliary Unit 333" and send to the address above.

(Only pre-registered people will receive a convention book)

If anyone has any dietary needs/requests that we need to be aware of please check here _____
(Please fill out all the information below so if we need to contact you, we can)

NAME _____ PHONE _____/_____/_____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

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 Kasson

The post has blocked 20 rooms for Friday night May 19, 2023, at the following:

**BAYMONT INN
301 8TH St SE Kasson. MN
507 – 634 - 3444**

After tax the price is \$81.59 per room. You will need to call the motel and make your reservation. They are blocked under 1 District Convention . The block is good to the day of.

2023 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, Mary Hanson, do hereby call a convention of the First District to convene at Kasson, Minnesota, Saturday May 23, 2023.

The business sessions of the convention will be held at Kasson American Legion Post 333 located at 212 West Main St., Kasson, MN, commencing at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 20, 2023, 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

Mary Hanson

Delegate Certification to the First District Convention in Kasson, Minnesota, May 20, 2023, please send to the District Adjutant as soon as possible.

POST _____ MN

DELEGATES

ALTERNATES

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____

SIGNED _____

ADJUTANT, POST # _____

MEMBERSHIP RALLIES AND EVENTS

2022-2023

April 15, 2023 Department Auxiliary Jr Conference, New
Prague American Legion Post, 330 Lexington
Ave S, New Prague, MN.

April 15, 2023, **Legion Family Appreciation Party**
New Prague American Legion Post
300 Lexington Ave S New Prague MN 56071
Meal cost \$15.00 (Deadline for Reservations April 7, 2023)
DEC/ Social : 4.00 PM Dinner : 5.00 PM (Hot Beef Sandwich, Beans, Coleslaw and Dessert)
Program: 6.00 PM **Point of Contact: Linda Dvorak - 952 – 457 - 2129**

April 29, 2023 **Commander Mary and President Tonia’s Testimonial.**
See flyer on the following page for more information

May 13, 2023 Dept Comanders Testimonial
Post 45, New Prague, MN
Time, menu and program TBA

May 6, 2023 **First District SAL Convention – Kasson American Legion**
Post 333 (212 West Main Street, Kasson , MN) time TBA

May 6, 2023 **First District ALR Convention – Kasson American Legion**
Post 333 (212 West Main Street, Kasson, MN) time TBA

May 20, 2023 **First District Legion & Aux Convention – Kasson American**
Post 333 (212 West Main Street, Kasson, MN). Time TBA

July 12—15, 2023 Department Convention - Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel,
Redwood Falls, MN . More info on the MN legion website at mnlegion.org
(Department events in red and District events in Black)

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! NOTICE !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**THE AMERICAN LEGION WILL BE CHECKING MEMBERSHIP CARDS AT
THE FIRST DISTRICT CONVENTION. YOU WILL NEED TO SHOW A CUR-
RENT MEMBERSHIP CARD FOR 2023 AT THE REGISTRATION DESK TO
ATTEND THE LEGION SESSION.**



Owatonna Post #77

**Cordially invites you to join us at a Testimonial Dinner
to celebrate 1st District American Legion**

Commander Mary Hanson and Auxiliary President Tonia Bettermann

Saturday, April 29th, 2023

137 West Broadway Street, Owatonna, MN 55060

(This will be located downstairs of Legion and there is an elevator on the main floor to get to the room.)

**Menu: Salad, Marry Me Chicken Breast, Loaded Twice Baked Mashed Potato, Candied Carrots,
Waffle Cone Dessert-Oreo or Strawberry (If there are dietary needs, please contact Tonia Bettermann
or Mary Hanson and we will accommodate.) Deadline for Dinner reservations is April 21, 2023.**

\$20.00 per person

Social Hour 3 p.m.

Program 4 p.m.

Dinner to follow after program

Kindly reply by April 21st, 2023 with payment mailed to:

Tonia Bettermann (Check payable to Tonia Bettermann)

1625 Crestview Lane, Owatonna, MN 55060

Name(s) of Persons Attending _____

Phone _____

Amount Enclosed _____



FROM YOUR COMMANDERS PEN

Greetings,

I wish to wish everyone a safe and happy easter.

The picture to the right is some of the Legion Family members who made it up the Veterans Day on the Hill. A big THANK YOU to all the First District members who made the trip.

If you want to run for a district office please send your endorsement to the District Adjutant.

Mary Hanson—First District Commander



!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! IMPORTANT !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Please fill out your Blood and Children & Youth reports ASAP. Put them in the same envelope and send them to Myron Ehrich. His mailing address is as follows:

**Myron Ehrich
PO Box 372
West Concord, MN 55985**

ENDORSEMENTS FOR OFFICERS

Commander -----Mark Maloney

Finance Officer -----Bill Goede

NATIONAL CONVENTION REQUESTS

Bill Goede



FROM YOUR CHALAINS DESK

Good morning everyone welcome to spring, yes, it is but not really feeling like

it.

Please keep our young men and women in your prayers. I also ask that we pray for those who are suffering with emotional needs, and physical needs.

The following dates are important to us this month. Gold Star Spouse Day, April 5th, please pray for these and the National Former POW recognition day, April 9th.

Now for some birthday wishes the Air Force Reserve April 14th. Now Army Reserve April 23 and National Military Brat's Day April 30.

Oops almost forgot Happy Easter to everyone. God bless everyone, Amen.

Glenn Mueller - First District Chaplain



FROM AREA FOUR

Greetings Area Four

I would like to thank Grand Meadow Post 140 for the GREAT job of hosting the Area Four Rally on Thursday night March 23.

A big thank you to Grand Meadow Auxiliary for a GREAT lunch before the meeting.

If you missed it you missed out on a lot of good information from the Mower County VSO about the PACT Act.

For you posts who have not made goal let's keep looking for members both new and in Department 1982.

My family and I want to wish everyone a very happy and safe Easter.

Cole Wilcox

Area Four Vice Commander.

FROM AREA TWO

Greetings from Area Two.

What a Fantastic event! I'm talking about Veterans Day on the Hill. I understand it was a record breaker thanks to many of you. There are many things happening at our Capital before the legislature goes on Easter break. During the break, your Department Legislative team will be working to make sure you all have the right message that you can use when you contact your legislators about the bills they need to be passed. If you haven't seen the video of Vets Day on the Hill, you'll find it on our First District Facebook Page. You'll see so many navigating the steps of the Capital. Determined to be in the rotunda together to send the message to our legislators just what needs to be done. "NOW" was the chant that echoed loud and clear throughout the halls. I want to personally shout out to Albert Lea Post 56 member Scott Jensen. He showed not only myself, but those all around him how really important it is to take part in getting our message out to the legislators. One step at a time, with determination, Scott, holding on to the railing made his way inside the Capital to let his voice be heard in unison with other veterans. Thank you, Mr. Jensen! There's still much to do...let us all take part.

God Bless America! God Bless all veterans and their families!

Mike Parry, Area Two

Vice Commander

First District American Legion Family,

Another year is upon us with new leadership throughout the 1st District. I write this short note to let you know that if you at your post has items of interest that you'd like on the 1st District Facebook page or the 1st District website please forward that information to me. I will make sure it is place in the appropriate location for all to view. As a member of the Department's Media and Communications team, it is our hope to be able to help all Districts develop a social media presence. I will do what I can to help the 1st District do just that. Events, pictures and information you can send to mparry57@gmail.com anytime.

I want also to let you know that the MN American Legion Patriots Podcast will begin broadcasting the first Thursday in September and then every Thursday thereafter at 2pm. You'll find that the podcast will be both video and audio and will be 25 minutes or less covering issues affected Veterans. Watch your e-mail and newsletter for where you'll be able to click and watch. God Bless America, the Legion Family and all our Veterans.

Mike Parry
Public Relations Committee
First District

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.

Thanks The Olmsted Committee
Commander
Mark A Maloney III

From Area One

Greetings from Area 1. After what has seemed to be a long winter, Spring has finally arrived. Just a couple of reminders.

The Consolidated Post Report (CPR) will be due soon. It is very important to be as accurate as possible when completing it, also elections are upcoming.

Congratulations to all the Posts in area 1 on your hard work on membership.

Please remember to be kind and respectful to all fellow members. YOU CAN BE THE ONE in the lives of many Veterans in so many different ways.

Robert Schmidt
Vice Commander Area 1

!!!!!!!!!!!!!! NOTICE !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Anybody that has a resolution to come before the First District Convention in May it MUST be in the hands of the First District Resolution Chairman's hands no later than April 20th (thirty days prior to convention.) The Chairman is Jim Kellogg and his info as follows:

James Kellogg

173537 10th Ave, Taopi, MN 55977

Email - jamesck@gmail.com

The American Legion, Dept of MN, First District 2023 Membership Report for March 29, 2023

Dist	Post	Location	New 2023	PUFL 2023	Online 2023	Trad 2023	Paid 2023	HQ Trans 2023	Total Membr 2023	Goal 2023	% of Goal	HQ Trans 2023	Last yr at this date
1	9	Winona	14	36	0	394	444	3	447	477	93.71%	0	0
1	90	Lewiston	3	10	0	58	71	2	73	80	91.25%	0	0
1	190	St Charles	1	16	0	86	103	0	103	140	73.57%	0	0
1		Winona County	18	62	0	538	618	5	623	697	89.38%	0	0
1	50	Wabasha	6	46	0	147	199	0	199	207	96.14%	0	0
1	110	Lake City	14	16	0	146	176	1	177	201	88.06%	0	0
1	179	Plainview	5	26	0	113	144	0	144	147	97.96%	0	0
1	546	Kellogg	0	8	0	48	56	0	56	60	93.33%	0	0
1	573	Elgin	0	3	0	22	25	0	25	27	92.59%	0	0
1	579	Millville	0	20	0	82	102	0	102	109	93.58%	0	0
1	588	Mazeppa	5	8	0	50	63	0	63	64	98.44%	0	0
1		Wabsha County	30	127	0	608	765	1	766	815	93.99%	0	0
1	92	Rochester	13	93	0	551	657	10	667	784	85.08%	0	0
1	119	Byron	2	18	0	79	99	0	99	127	77.95%	0	0
1	164	Stewartville	18	25	0	228	271	0	271	285	95.09%	0	0
1	446	Rochester	0	2	0	9	11	0	11	12	91.67%	0	0
1	551	Eyota	11	23	0	144	178	0	178	185	96.22%	0	0
1		Olmsted County	44	161	0	1011	1216	10	1226	1393	88.01%	0	0
1		Area One	92	350	0	2157	2599	16	2615	2905	90.02%	0	0
1	295	West Concord	0	7	0	30	37	0	37	43	86.05%	0	0
1	330	Hayfield	5	18	0	140	163	1	164	162	101.23%	0	0
1	333	Kasson	13	31	0	192	236	2	238	242	98.35%	0	0
1	384	Dodge Center	1	9	0	57	67	0	67	76	88.16%	0	0
1	422	Claremont	1	3	0	25	29	0	29	30	96.67%	0	0
1		Dodge County	20	68	0	444	532	3	535	553	96.75%	0	0
1	52	Blooming Prairie	1	17	0	66	84	0	84	85	98.82%	0	0
1	77	Owatonna	6	57	0	300	363	1	364	407	89.43%	0	0
1	296	Ellendale	0	3	0	26	29	0	29	34	85.29%	0	0
1		Steel County	7	77	0	392	476	1	477	526	90.68%	0	0
1	75	New Richland	0	8	0	33	41	0	41	44	93.18%	0	0
1	228	Waseca	5	23	0	235	263	3	266	275	96.73%	0	0
1	281	Janesville	4	5	0	74	83	0	83	86	96.51%	0	0
1	587	Waldorf	0	0	0	19	19	0	19	22	86.36%	0	0
1		Waseca County	9	36	0	361	406	3	409	427	95.78%	0	0
		Area Two	36	181	0	1197	1414	7	1421	1506	94.36%	0	0

1	1140	Lanesboro	5	14	0	85	104	0	104	107	97.20%	0	0
1	68	Spring Valley	0	8	0	54	62	0	62	67	92.54%	0	0
1	81	Harmony	0	1	0	21	22	0	22	27	81.48%	0	0
1	94	Rushford	2	9	0	73	84	0	84	94	89.36%	0	0
1	166	Preston	3	15	0	33	51	0	51	51	100.00%	0	0
1	197	Chatfield	1	1	0	35	37	0	37	38	97.37%	0	0
1	299	Mabel	4	30	0	105	139	1	140	147	95.24%	0	0
1	369	Wykoff	1	0	0	15	16	0	16	17	94.12%	0	0
1	400	Canton	0	0	0	20	20	0	20	22	90.91%	0	0
1	492	Fountain	0	0	0	10	10	0	10	12	83.33%	0	0
1	526	Peterson	0	4	0	29	33	0	33	39	84.62%	0	0
1	544	Ostrander	0	2	0	14	16	0	16	22	72.73%	0	0
1	637	Whalan	0	0	0	10	10	0	10	8	125.00%	0	0
1		Fillmore County	16	84	0	504	604	1	605	651	92.93%	0	0
1	191	Caledonia	2	15	0	108	125	0	125	132	94.70%	0	0
1	249	Spring Grove	2	12	0	113	127	0	127	138	92.03%	0	0
1	423	Houston	1	7	0	80	88	1	89	100	89.00%	0	0
1	498	Hokah	1	1	0	19	21	0	21	22	95.45%	0	0
1	595	LaCrescent	3	45	0	185	233	3	236	247	95.55%	0	0
1		Houston County	9	80	0	505	594	4	598	639	93.58%	0	0
1		Area Three	25	164	0	1009	1198	5	1203	1290	93.26%	0	0
1	56	Albert Lea	8	38	0	391	437	1	438	487	89.94%	0	0
1	264	Glenville	0	8	0	49	57	0	57	67	85.07%	0	0
1	266	Hartland	0	1	0	12	13	0	13	14	92.86%	0	0
1	317	Emmons	1	3	0	41	45	0	45	52	86.54%	0	0
1	404	Alden	1	4	0	73	78	0	78	77	101.30%	0	0
1	552	Freeborn	3	5	0	23	31	0	31	31	100.00%	0	0
1		Freeborn County	13	59	0	589	661	1	662	728	90.93%	0	0
1	91	Austin	10	49	0	325	384	0	384	456	84.21%	0	0
1	105	Lyle	2	8	0	71	81	0	81	85	95.29%	0	0
1	140	Grand Meadow	2	3	0	30	35	0	35	37	94.59%	0	0
1	146	Adams	7	20	0	125	152	0	152	175	86.86%	0	0
1	161	LeRoy	2	4	0	43	49	0	49	47	104.26%	0	0
1	570	Austin Spam	2	0	0	8	10	0	10	12	83.33%	0	0
1		Mower County	25	84	0	602	711	0	711	812	87.56%	0	0
1		Area Four	38	143	0	1191	1372	1	1373	1540	89.16%	0	0
1	1111	Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0
1		District Totals	191	838	0	5554	6583	29	6612	7241	91.31%	0	0

DISTRICT VICE COMMANDER STANDINGS

Vice Commanders												
	Area One	92	350	0	2157	2599	16	2615	2905	90.02%	0	0
	Area Two	36	181	0	1197	1414	7	1421	1506	94.36%	0	0
	Area Three	25	164	0	1009	1198	5	1203	1290	93.26%	0	0
	Area Four	38	143	0	1191	1372	1	1373	1540	89.16%	0	0

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA 2021 DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 1/25/23

Dist	Rank												
1	3rd	Mary Hanson	191	838	0	5554	6583	29	6612	7241	91.31%		
2	1st	Pam Krill	97	609	0	4459	5165	24	5189	5651	91.82%		
3	7th	Gary Richardson	262	1572	0	7175	9,009	90	9,099	10,185	89.34%		
4	8th	Dave Dahl	45	274	0	1297	1616	24	1640	1,840	89.13%		
5	10th	Lynne Nottage	12	299	0	1097	1408	8	1416	1704	83.10%		
6	2nd	Karen O'Bar	246	1098	0	7568	8912	115	9,027	9,870	91.46%		
7	5th	Karen Welander	93	670	0	4038	4801	23	4824	5,376	89.73%		
8	4th	Larry Pocrnich	129	321	0	2493	2943	29	2972	3285	90.47%		
9	6th	Terry Buaas	85	541	0	4292	4918	46	4964	5534	89.70%		
10	9th	William Gordon	203	954	0	5863	7020	95	7115	8024	88.67%		
99			13	217	0	1487	1717	0	1717	3121	55.01%		
To-			1376	7393	0	45,323	54,092	483	54,575	61,831	88.26%		

FROM YOUR DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Well, we have really lost steam in membership. we are currently at 88%, we need 4,330 to make the 95% goal on April 15. I did ask to be at 90% by April 15 and we need 1,238 to make that goal. We dropped to 15th place Nationally as of March 26.

I understand that this is a tough time of the year for membership, BUT the actual membership year doesn't end until December 31, that's 9 months away.

Some ideas:

If the post can afford it, ask a new member to pay for this year and the post will pick up next years' dues.

Contact those members that have not renewed yet, remind them that if they had the LIT Insurance, they need to be a current member to receive the benefit.

Check your Post/District Officers - have they renewed?

Get out there and work the 1982 lists, if the member has already paid for 2023, there is no money involved in the transfer, yet they will count in our goal numbers.

Let's get out there and at least get to 90% of goal.

Linda Dvorak

Dept Membership Director



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

Auxiliary Contacts

President

Tonia Betterman
1625 Crestview Lane
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-456-2315
bettm88@outlook.com

Secretary

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

Membership / First Vice

Wanda Prescher
3321 Vista View Ct SW
Rochester, MN 55902
507/254/0304
w.prescher1951@gmail.com

Treasurer

Audrey Farnsworth
302 1st St E, Stewartville, MN 55976
507-319-0257
harlee@charter.net



From the President's Desk

Greetings,

I look forward to seeing all of you on May 20th at the convention or the First District. It will be informative and fun to learn more about the organization.

The Junior Auxiliary Convention for the First District was a success on March 18th in Stewartville. The juniors had a good time and we have new officers for 2023-2024 year. The Department Junior Conference is in New Prague on April 15, 2023. Please consider bringing your juniors to the conference. This is a good time for the children. There is also an Appreciation Rally that same day for the Department in New Prague.

Please don't forget to send all Unit Annual Reports to Department by April 15, 2023. 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 Mary Kuperus's testimonial is on April 22, 2023 in Spicer, Minnesota. If you are interested in coming to this, please contact me.

I also had a successful Department of Minnesota Executive Board meeting on March 25th in St. Paul. This was informative and I did learn about the organization.

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.

My project this year is a large plaque on the New Preston Veterans Home. I am having a raffle to earn more money for this plaque. Please contact me if you are interested in getting one. They are \$5.00 each.

Please let me know if you would like me to attend any meetings within your unit. I would be happy to say a few words and learn more about your unit.

Thank you,

Tonia Bettermann
1st District Auxiliary President

1st District American Legion Auxiliary President's Project



Proposed Plaque for New Veterans Home in Preston Minnesota



Raffle Ticket Prizes:

1. 6' Uncle Sam
2. Full Color Metal US Flag
3. POW/MIA Shadow Box
4. Wildlife Fire Ring

\$5.00 Per Ticket

Date of Drawing is May 20th, 2023, at Kasson American Legion

Contact: Tonia Bettermann or Chuck Stone

Auxiliary Call to Convention

The annual First District of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota is hereby called. It is to be held in Kasson, Minnesota on Saturday, May 20, 2023. Auxiliary session will be held at the American Legion Post 333 located at, 212 West Main Street, Kasson, Minnesota.

Opening session will be called on May 20, 2023 at 8:30 am.

The purpose of the convention is to:

Elect District Officers for the 2023 – 2024 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, 2023**. 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.

Trophy and Awards (Certificates) Listing

RULES GOVERNING TROPHIES AND AWARDS:

The trophy and award listing will be electronically sent in the March district newsletter.

It is the responsibility of every Unit to return all trophies to the District Convention.

Any Unit not returning or losing a trophy will be responsible for replacing said trophy.

When a trophy is full, the current District President shall ask the donor if they wish to replace it. If donor is deceased or does not care to replace it, the Unit should be asked if they would like to replace it. If not, the trophy will be retired and returned to the Unit or family of the deceased.

To be eligible for trophies and awards, annual reports and all other entries for competition must be received in the department offices by April 15 and sent to the District Chairman, except where specifically stated.

A Certificate of Recognition may be awarded annually to a Unit in each of the Auxiliary programs. This can be awarded for a particularly good project or for the overall program but not otherwise eligible for a trophy.

There shall be NO CHANGES in the wording or requirements for any changes WITHOUT the express permissions of the person who donated the trophy or if deceased, her Unit or family. If neither one wish to do so the trophy is retired and returned to the donor, her family or the Unit of person who donated it.

Unless otherwise stated, all trophies and awards will be awarded based on the annual reports from April 1 to March 31 of each auxiliary year.

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 to be awarded at the 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:

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:

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 Jardine 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:

The *Bette Berg and Louella Gusau (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:

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:

The *Lois Deco 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:

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 *Lillian Koch Trophy* 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 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 15th.

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.

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

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 Trophy* 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)

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.

Children & Youth

The American Legion was founded on four pillars. The fourth is Children and Youth. As an auxiliary, we support and assist in caring for children. Many active military and veterans families may need our help and there are many things all year that can (and we do) all year.

Our National Children & Youth Chairman has asked that we focus on the Child Welfare Foundation (<http://www.cwf-inc.org>). This foundation was created in 1954 with the purpose of improving the quality of life for children in the USA.

Consider working with local law enforcement as they are a good resource. We need our children to be comfortable approaching a police office when in need.

Safety kits are available at <https://www.kidstarsafety.com>. These are identification kits that parents keep updated and are very helpful in a situation of a missing child. They can be personalized by your unit, post or squadron.

Visit the American Legion Emblem sales site: <https://emblem.legion.org>. There is literature and teaching materials there.

The Eagles Healing Nest (<https://www.eagleshealingnest.org>) continues to assist families. While family members are seeking treatment, the kids are taken care of as well. Let the kids be kids! Please consider a donation to this facility.

Nancy Lewison

1st District Children & Youth

American Legion Auxiliary Award Form
Application for MN District or Department Award

Are you applying for a Select One: award

Thank you for completing this form to enter your report for an award. Make sure this form is completed in full and that your report is attached. When submitting for a **District Award**, mail or email your award form, report, and all attachments to your District President & Chairman. When submitting for a **Department Award**, mail or email your award form, report, and all attachments to the Department Office and the Department Chairman.

Unit: District: Other No of members in your Unit:
 Unit Name:

Personal Information:

First Name: Last Name:

Your Membership ID:

Your email address:

Preferred telephone number: - -

Are you submitting for: OtherAward?

Title of the award?

Program you are submitting the award report for? Other

Submit this form for each entry you are submitting. Attach your report, all pictures (**jpg format**), and all other attachments pertinent to your report. When submitting for both District and Department, you must submit to both separately.

Department Chairman: When submitting for a National Award refer to the "National Awards Form" on the alaforveterans.org website.

This form is for MN District or Department Awards ONLY.

***ATTENTION!!! ALL MEMBERS OF
THE FIRST DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY!
WE NEED YOU!***

As we work to finish the 2022-2023 Auxiliary year, the nominating committee is working to seek new officers for the First District for 2023-2024. If you believe in the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary and have a desire to be involved “YOU CAN DO IT! If you have held an office in your unit (President, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, etc.) you can lead the District also. You truly do not have to have been an officer but feel you would have an understanding of what the duties would entail. First District has 48 Units. We know the great things many of your Units do. We know we have great members who do wonderful things for the Veterans, their families, and their communities!!

Every office of the First District is open.

Whoever is the next President would choose the secretary, treasurer, parliamentarian, historian, and chaplain. This is in our standing rules of the First District. She/He (spouse of a female Veteran) would also work to fill the chairmanships of our ALA programs.

We have many great mentors in the District whom would help you through the year if you ask for it!

Auxiliary members---this is very important to us as an organization. Without members to step up, our district cannot function!

Again, We know there are many capable people to lead us, those who believe in our organization, and would be very successful! We would love to see an endorsement come from your Unit in regards to any open office: President, First & Second Vice- President, First & Second Executive Committee members. If you would have a desire for any other position please let us know and your name would be given to whomever runs for President!

Again, we need you! Every unit member is a leader, you matter!

Please send your endorsement to one of us on the nominating committee: Sandra Fredrickson, Wanda Prescher or Audrey Farnsworth

Unit	Location	Goal	Previous Turn	Total	Precent	Left
9	Winona	124		103	83.06%	21
90	Lewiston	35		30	85.71%	5
190	St Charles	10		10	100.00%	0
50	Wabasha	103		91	88.35%	12
110	Lake City	70		41	58.57%	29
179	Plainview	127		98	77.17%	29
546	Kellogg	101		80	79.21%	21
573	Elgin	14		7	50.00%	7
579	Millville	45		41	91.11%	4
588	Mazeppa	37		35	94.59%	2
92	Rochester	130		105	80.77%	25
119	Byron	22		16	72.73%	6
164	Stewartville	164		149	90.85%	15
551	Eyota	102		95	93.14%	7
Pod One Total		1084	0	901	83.12%	183
295	West Concord	34		28	82.35%	6
330	Hayfield	175		150	85.71%	25
333	Kasson	142		130	91.55%	12
384	Dodge Center	57		53	92.98%	4
422	Claremont	21		19	90.48%	2
52	Blooming Prairie	92		81	88.04%	11
77	Owatonna	103		87	84.47%	16
75	New Richland	41		35	85.37%	6
228	Waseca	225		205	91.11%	20
587	Waldorf	19		15	78.95%	4
Pod Two Totals		909		803	88.34%	106

40	Lanesboro	92	87	94.57%	5
68	Spring Valley	46	42	91.30%	4
81	Harmony	53	42	79.25%	11
94	Rushford	44	44	100.00%	0
197	Chatfield	26	18	69.23%	8
299	Mabel	120	98	81.67%	22
369	Wykoff	19	17	89.47%	2
526	Peterson	49	43	87.76%	6
544	Ostrander	12	9	75.00%	3
637	Whalen	18	14	77.78%	4
191	Caledonia	71	62	87.32%	9
249	Spring Grove	94	75	79.79%	19
423	Houston	116	99	85.34%	17
498	Hokah	17	17	100.00%	0
595	LaCrescent	160	147	91.88%	13

Pod Three	937	814	86.87%	123
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56	Albert Lea	265	201	75.85%	64
264	Glenville	96	82	85.42%	14
404	Alden	42	35	83.33%	7
552	Freeborn	58	56	96.55%	2
91	Austin	122	85	69.67%	37
105	Lyle	52	44	84.62%	8
140	Grand Meadow	66	60	90.91%	6
146	Adams	130	123	94.62%	7
161	Leroy	49	28	57.14%	21

Pod Four	880	714	81.14%	166
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Total	3810	3232	84.83%	578
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FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Mighty Minnesota Membership – April 2023

Membership to date 3/27/23 is 3232 members 84.83% pickup of only 57 members since the end of February. We are currently in 6th place. Our goal is 3810, 578 members to go!

We are now in that home stretch where it is tough. On the pod sheet, look at your unit see where you are in your numbers, we have units so close to 100%, we have a couple units struggling, have we made phone calls, sent a notecard or letter to these members that haven't renewed? We now need to do this if we haven't.

Our last department goal was 85% by March 13th. As you can see we haven't reached it yet, but close!

The district lottery drawing for reaching 85% by March 11th, goes to Adams Unit 146 at 94.62% Congratulations to the members of Adams Unit 146! 27 units have reached the goal!

Those that do membership, just know that it is not the easiest job in our units, our membership chairs should be commended for the job they have been doing all year long!

Wanda Prescher Membership

FROM YOUR HONORARY AUXILIARY JR PRESIDENT

My name is Bailey Anderson. I am the 1st District Junior Auxiliary president. I wanted to introduce myself and tell you a little about my project. I am 14 years old, and I am a freshman at Lourdes High School in Rochester, MN. I enjoy spending time with my friends, dance, and softball. I have been an active member of the Stewartville American Legion for 11 years. My favorite thing that we do in the junior auxiliary group is when we go to the nursing home and visit the veterans there. I also enjoy being a role model and mentor to the younger kids that are in juniors. For my project, I plan to raise money and support the organization called "Believet". "Believet" is a non-profit program that's goal is to provide disabled veterans with fully trained service dogs, free of charge. If you would like to learn more about this program, please visit believet.org. If you are interested in donating, please feel free to email me at bailey.anderson@rcsedu.org



FROM YOUR HONORARY JR AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

SOME INFORMATION ON BELIEVET SERVICE DOGS

OUR PROGRAM

The Need

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs conducted a broad survey of recent veterans to gain better insight on their overall health. In raw numbers, it is estimated that a sobering 500,000 troops from the Gulf Wars alone have been diagnosed with PTSD, according to Miriam Reisman (“PTSD Treatment for Veterans: What’s Working, What’s New, and What’s Next,” U.S. National Library of Medicine, 2016).

PTSD can be described as a mental health condition that may result from experiencing or witnessing trauma. Symptoms include flashbacks, nightmares, severe anxiety, depression, and confusion. This condition—often accompanied by major depression and/or traumatic brain injury (TBI)—can make it difficult, if not impossible, to meet the normal demands of daily life. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 20 deployed veterans die by suicide every day in the United States (Office of Suicide Prevention, “Suicide Among Veterans and Other Americans, 2001–2014,” 2016).

Our Response

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

There is a growing body of research and clinical evidence supporting the value of service dogs. Despite this, neither the Veterans Health Administration nor most private insurers pay for or provide reimbursement for psychiatric service dogs for people diagnosed with PTSD.

Believet™ provides highly trained service dogs, free of charge, to disabled veterans, helping them to lead more productive, independent lives. A service dog provides a sense of security, greater independence, non-judgmental acceptance, affection, physical assistance, and peace of mind.

Our Dogs

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

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

Our Facility

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

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

LEADERSHIP BASICS

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY---

BACK TO THE BASICS

THIS IS NOT JUST FOR OFFICERS---IT IS FOR EVERY MEMBER TO BE A PART OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY!!

IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE AND GET INVOLVED AND BE SUCCESSFUL, WE HAVE A MISCONCEPTION OF OUR ORGANIZATION.

EACH OF YOU ARE VALUABLE, EACH OF YOU HAVE A SAY---make your membership count!!

Some basic information:

Our ALA mission:

In the spirit of Service, not self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support the American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

If we believe in this statement and work for the good of the organization we can accomplish anything we set out to do!

How many units have the Department Unit Guide? How many units have read and follow the protocol set before us by the National and Department guidelines? How many units have standing rules (the specifics to your unit)? How many units actually run their meetings by these guidelines (oh you may be relaxed abit)?

Plain and simple---If you don't follow what has been set forth by the American Legion Auxiliary your unit is not operating by the IRS rules and regulations for nonprofit organizations!!

Are you nonprofit? Are you current in filing the 990 status for your unit? If not, you legally cannot operate as a nonprofit UNIT!

Did you know?---Membership---are you following the guidelines of the changes done a year ago (set by the IRS standards)? Anyone that has previously been a member as a great granddaughter is grandfathered in, but---we can no longer sign up great granddaughters!

Did you know September is Junior Activities Month? Are you doing anything special to sign up junior members or involving the community to make people aware we have a Junior program?

October is Education and Constitution and Bylaws. Does your unit get involved with your American Legion for National Education Week in November? Do you do anything special to recognize educators---not just your schools but even your spiritual educators (Sunday School teachers/partner up)! Do you review your unit constitution (which is in the Department Unit guide) and your standing rules? These should be reviewed annually.

These are just a few items for this month. I don't want you to go on overload (mentally). You all have a say in your UNIT! You all are vitally important to the success of your UNIT! Your unit is only as good as those whom want to get involved/participate in what happens within your UNIT! **Again, the ALA is all of you---not just the officers!!**

Many of you do not attend Department Fall Conference. I ask why?? as this is the time for learning what our programs are all about!! Even if it is to enhance one or two programs you do well with.

Look for upcoming details for our annual District Fall Rally in October (see the calendar). For those of you whom have questions on any of our programs---please come. Come see what prize you could actually win for either you or your unit!!! If we don't know the answers---we will get the answer from someone who knows!

District Leadership Chairman,

Sandy Fredrickson

JUNIORS

Junior Conference was held on Saturday, March 19th in Stewartville. In attendance were Glenville, LeRoy and Stewartville with 10 Juniors being present. In the District we have according to membership 190 Juniors. We have 30 Units that have Junior members, sad to see hardly any participation with our future young ladies.

Elections were held and the following were elected for 2023-2024

President: Bailey Anderson

1st Vice President: Regan McElroy

2nd Vice President: Izzy Slovinski-Zipperer

Secretary: Lauren Hajek

Treasurer: Lincoln Williamson

Chaplain: Brennyn Tweed

Sgt at Arms: Ashlyn Anderson

Believet joined us and President Bailey presented them with a check for \$3162. Thank you to the Stewartville American Legion Family, VFW and Trivent for supporting by sponsoring a breakfast on March 12th. \$2447 was made from the breakfast and donations for Bailey's project.

Past District President Taylor McElroy will be installed as Department Honorary Junior President during the Department Junior Conference April 14-15 in New Prague. Congratulations to Taylor!

Let's make sure we are having our Juniors with Poppy Distribution and Memorial Day.

Wanda Prescher – Jr. Activities Chair



FROM YOUR POPPY CHAIRMAN

May is fast approaching, units should have their poppies by now! National Poppy Day is Friday, May 26. Contact your mayor and have them sign a proclamation for National Poppy Day, or maybe for the entire month of May! Have your newspaper there as well, getting pictures for the newspaper. If you mail letters to your American Legion Family members and business's mail in by the 3rd week of April. Start recruiting members who want to help with distribution and maybe enlist a veteran to help as well, let's get our Junior's to help in with distribution as well! Remember if you are making the poppy corsage or centerpiece using President Mary's theme "Serve and Honor Everyday". Please bring to our District Convention Saturday, May 20th in Kasson for judging.

Wanda Prescher
Poppy Chair



FROM YOUR GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN

Girls State

You still have time to recruit and get applications into Department for Girls State at Bethel University, June 11th-17th. The deadline has been extended to April 15th. Applications are coming in slowly this year compared to recent years. We all have to ask ourselves, are we doing enough to get this information into the schools other than the principal receiving a letter from department that isn't going to the right people? Please follow-up with the guidance counselor and/or teacher now. Maybe you know a junior girl who might be interested, talk to them. Recently Girls State info was sent to all Unit Presidents with video links to help with recruiting. If you have questions call me at 507-254-0304 or w.prescher1951@gmail.com

Wanda Prescher
Girls State Chair

National Poppy Day

MAY 26, 2023

Start Planning

As the time comes nearer to use the Media and Public Service templates from the National website <https://www.legion-aux.org> under **Poppy Program** use **this message from Communication Specialist Jennifer Donovan.**

The templates on this page <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/poppy/poppy-days> are word documents, so they can be saved to a computer and edited.

If you are using a PDF, there is no need to re-type documents. They can be copied into a word document by copy and pasting.

To do this, the member will need to open a word document, go to the template, copy the template by highlighting with their mouse or hitting control a. Then select copy or control c. Go to the word document and select paste or control v.

Share Your Poppy Story

Join the Poppy Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALA Poppy> and share ways that the Poppy and our Poppy program are promoted, how members participate in sharing the Poppy story and other Poppy activities and how the Veterans and their families are supported by Poppy Funds. Send pictures and information of your Poppy activities to you Division Chair throughout the year.



THE POPPY PAGE

2022-2023



Jeanne Haas, Chairman

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66839

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Email:

debra.j.haas@gmail.com

Bonnie Jakubczyk, Vice Chairman

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Central Division

Chairman

Cathie Goth

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Eastern Division

Chairman

Joyce (Jacy)

Cooper

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104

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Phone: (443) 590-7114

Email: jaye0713@gmail.com

Northwestern Division Chairman

Sandra Fredrickson

771 2nd St. SW

Glennville, MN 56036

Phone: (507) 448-3438

Email: dsfredrick@gmail.com

Southern Division Chairman

Sharon Atkins

1305 4th Ave. SE

Cullman, AL 35055

Phone: (256) 507-3954

Email: [sat-](mailto:satkins3954@gmail.com)

kins3954@gmail.com

Jan 2023

Use the National
Poppy website to promote the
Poppy
Program

[Poppy \(legion-aux.org\)](http://legion-aux.org)

Post picture, activities and
questions on the
Poppy Facebook page Ameri-
can

Legion Auxiliary

Poppy Program |

Facebook

National Poppy Day
May 26, 2023
Use

[National Poppy Day® | The American
Legion](http://NationalPoppyDay.org)



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



COMMANDER

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63106 240th S Brownsdale, MN 55918Gs
Phone - 507-438-5804
EMAIL - roe.land@yahoo.com

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Sgt at ARMS

Mark Maloney
845 54th Ave APT E Winona, MN 55987
Phone - 507-513-1582
EMAIL - markmaloney1962@gmail.com

FROM YOUR SAL ADVISOR

Notes from District SAL Advisor Brian:

1. The 1st District SAL Convention will be held at Kasson Legion Post 333 on May 6th, 2023. Executive Board at 9 am. The Convention starts at 10 am. All members of the 1st District SAL are invited to attend.

2. The District SAL is looking for members to fill the following positions:

District Commander

East Vice-Areas 1 and 3-Winona, Olmsted, Wabasha, Fillmore, Houston (Counties)

West Vice-Areas 2 and 4-Dodge, Freeborn, Steele, Mower, Waseca (Counties)

Adjutant

Chaplin

Historian

No experience necessary-just a willingness to serve.

Brian Medinnus

1st District SAL Advisor

Good evening all - attached is the current membership report as of 3/31/2023.

First, I want to thank you all for your help and support this year in growing the Detachment of Minnesota and supporting our members. We have stayed on top of our goals so far, and I look forward to seeing that continue through the rest of the year.

In closing, as many of you already know, I have resigned from my positions as Membership Director and Program Administrator for the Detachment of Minnesota as of April 1, 2023. Moving forward, please contact the following individuals:

Gary Weaver (Interim Membership Director): gweaver@acegroup.cc

Doug Bible (Detachment Adjutant): saladjmn@gmail.com

It has been an honor and a privilege working with you all, and I look forward to seeing you at our various events. Have a great weekend!

MV

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, Roe Naylor, First District SAL Commander, do here by call a Convention of the First District Sons of the American Legion to convene at the Kasson American Legion Post 333 located at 212 West Main Street, Kasson MN on Saturday May 6, 2023, 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:

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

All District SAL Members are urged to attend.
Roe Naylor
1st 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 # _____

First District SAL Membership for 3/15/2023

Sqdrn.	Location	(7/31/2022)	2023 Goal	Dept	In	Total	% of Goal	Reach
9	Winona	148	154	135		135	87.66%	
40	Lanesboro	58	59	62		62	105.08%	
50	Wabasha	15	21	20		20	95.24%	
52	Blooming Prairie	35	41	35		35	85.37%	
56	Albert Lea	124	130	99		99	76.15%	
75	New Richland	0	1A	0	0	0	#VALUE!	
77	Owatonna	98	99	87		87	87.88%	
90	Lewiston	47	48	46		46	95.83%	
91	Austin	59	60	60		60	100.00%	
92	Rochester	78	79	71		71	89.87%	
94	Rushford	33	39	13		13	33.33%	
105	Lyle	28	34	31		31	91.18%	
119	Byron	25	26	25		25	96.15%	
140	Grand Meadow	0	1A	0	0	0	#VALUE!	
146	Adams	107	108	93		93	86.11%	
161	Leroy	33	34	37		37	108.82%	
164	Stewartville	115	121	97		97	80.17%	
166	Preston	39	40	42		42	105.00%	
179	Plainview	10	11	4		4	36.36%	
190	St Charles	9	10	3		3	30.00%	
191	Caledonia	7	13	0		0	0.00%	
228	Waseca	121	127	118		118	92.91%	
249	Spring Grove	0	1A	0	0	0	#VALUE!	
264	Glenville	59	65	43		43	66.15%	
266	Hartland	11	12	11		11	91.67%	
281	Janesville	7	8	7		7	87.50%	
299	Mabel	13	19	16		16	84.21%	
317	Emmons	41	47	25		25	53.19%	
330	Hayfield	36	42	30		30	71.43%	
333	Kasson	47	53	41		41	77.36%	
384	Dodge Center	8	9	5		5	55.56%	
400	Canton	0	1A	0	0	0	#VALUE!	
404	Alden	57	58	46		46	79.31%	
423	Houston	13	14	15		15	107.14%	
446	Rochester	36	42	26		26	61.90%	
546	Kellogg	12	13	12		12	92.31%	
551	Eyota	35	41	36		36	87.80%	
552	Freeborn	24	30	23		23	76.67%	
573	Elgin	0	1A	0	0	0	#VALUE!	
579	Millville	24	30	23		23	76.67%	
595	La Crescent	64	70	75		75	107.14%	
637	Whalan	0	1A	0	0	0	#VALUE!	
1111	Dakota	0	1A	0	0	0	#VALUE!	
1st District Totals		1676	1807	1512		1512	83.67%	

DIRECTOR - ROE NAYLOR
 63106 240TH ST
 BROWNSDALE, MN 55918
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 EMAIL - roe.land@yahoo.com



VICE DIRECTOR - CHUCK STONE
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 1625 Crestview Lane
 Owatonna, MN 55060
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GREETINGS ALL

We held a meeting on Sunday, February 19 to discuss events for the upcoming year and nominations of officers.

Tentative date for the 2023 Tour of the 1st District is Saturday, July 22. The hope is to have the 1st District American Legion Family participate as this is open to all street legal vehicles, not just Legion Riders.

Nominations of Officers were as follows:

Director – Karla Miller Maloney
 Vice Director – Chuck Stone
 Secretary – Tonia Bettermann
 Finance Officer – Mark Maloney
 Chaplain – Dick Skillestad
 Historian – open

Sgt at Arms – is appointed by the Director

We will be taking further nominations and holding elections at the Spring Convention. Anyone who is interested in being nominated for an office or would like to be Sgt at Arms please reach out to Sunshine or Roe.

Please see the flyers in this newsletter for upcoming events hosted by the Riders

Next Meeting is the Spring Convention at the Kasson Legion on May 6, 2023.

2023 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 Kasson American Legion at 1 PM, on Saturday, May 6th, 2023.

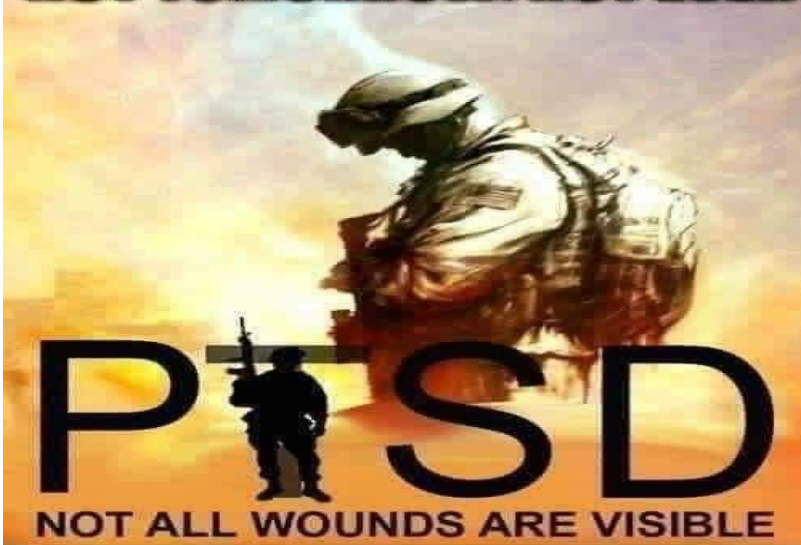
The purpose of this convention meeting is to elect District Officers and to conduct such business of the First District ALR that may properly come before this meeting.

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

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



An app for on line mental health

[https://](https://www.facebook.com/100019040483031/posts/1054342938543712/?sfnsn=mo&mibextid=LROouL)

[www.facebook.com/1000190404830](https://www.facebook.com/100019040483031/posts/1054342938543712/?sfnsn=mo&mibextid=LROouL)

[31/posts/1054342938543712/?](https://www.facebook.com/100019040483031/posts/1054342938543712/?sfnsn=mo&mibextid=LROouL)

[sfnsn=mo&mibextid=LROouL](https://www.facebook.com/100019040483031/posts/1054342938543712/?sfnsn=mo&mibextid=LROouL)

**Veterans in crisis now eligible for
free care nationwide**

[https://www.google.com/amp/s/](https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.kttc.com/2023/01/17/veterans-crisis-now-eligible-free-care-)

[www.kttc.com/2023/01/17/veterans-](https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.kttc.com/2023/01/17/veterans-crisis-now-eligible-free-care-)

[crisis-now-eligible-free-care-](https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.kttc.com/2023/01/17/veterans-crisis-now-eligible-free-care-)

New resources are available for American Legion Family members to use in support of the **[“Be the One” initiative](#)** to reduce the rate of veteran suicide.

The web page (**betheone.org**) has been updated with a variety of resources. Among them:

A set of brochures available for download. One brochure is a PDF that can be used to educate agencies with mental health services, community partners, local government leaders and others about Be the One. The other brochure is a Word document that can be downloaded and customized for posts to use at suicide awareness events. The entire back page of the trifold is intentionally left blank (other than directions, which can be deleted) so that posts can fill it with local resources.

Branding materials: A variety of approved American Legion Be the One promotional materials that posts can use to promote the initiative.

Content, including the special two-part magazine series on Be the One. The series includes stories and snippets about how American Legion members and posts are actively participating in events geared toward reducing the stigma associated with mental health counseling.

Video links: Vimeo playlist includes videos that can be downloaded and played while offline. They can be shared on social media, posted to the web and played at post events. Additionally, headquarters staff has created **[a QR Code](#)** for the Be the One page. This can be used to direct others to find information and resources related to the campaign.

How to scan a QR code:

1. Open the Camera app on your phone.
2. Make sure you are using the rear facing camera.
3. Hold your device so the QR code appears in the viewfinder in the Camera app.
4. Once steady, your device will recognize the QR code and show a notification.
5. Tap the notification to open the link.



VETERANS APPRECIATION WEEKEND

Saturday and Sunday

April 22 and 23, 2023

Two Events, Two Locations

Saturday, April 22

Women Veteran Appreciation Event

LC's Venue

316 Broadway Ave S

Rochester, MN

An evening of camaraderie, socializing, and fun with our women veterans.

4:30 PM Registration

5 - 6 PM Happy hour, appetizers, mingling

6 - 7 PM Pampering with chair massages and essential oils

7 - 8 PM Guest speaker

Register on Event Brite

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/women-veteran-appreciation-event-tickets-513295309087>



PRESENTED BY:

Mayo Southeast DAV Chapter 28 and Auxiliary Unit 28

Sunday, April 23

Veteran Appreciation and Benefit
Open to All Veterans

Eagles Club

917 15th Ave SE

Rochester, MN

- Military-Related Service Providers
- Prizes and Gifts
- State and National Recognized Speakers

12:00 Noon- Doors open, vendor and veteran service providers available. Complementary appetizers and munchies provided to our veterans throughout the event.

1:00 PM- National DAV Service Officers Presentations on veteran benefits available to you

3:30 PM- Encore presentation by National DAV Service Officer on veteran benefits available to you

During the event, there will be veteran-related vendors and service providers available for group and individual questions.

Jim Kellogg



Candidate For
National Vice Commander
Department Of Minnesota
2024-2025

Endorsed By District 1
& Adams American Legion Post 146



An Air Force Veteran of the Vietnam War from 1969-1973, James "Jim" Kellogg has been a member of his Post for over 46 years. His service to The American Legion includes:

Adams Legion Post 146

- Commander
- Chaplain
- Gambling Manager
- Exec. Board
- Sgt.-at-arms Marching Unit

District 1

- Commander
- Adjutant
- Vice-Commander
- Parade Chairman
- S.F.L. Advisor
- Historian
- NS/FR representative
- Membership Director
- County Commander

Department

- Sgt.-at-arms
- Historian
- Department Vice
- Department Chairman NS/FR
- Past Chair Brain Science
- Parade Participant
- Executive Committee
- 100 Yr. Celebration Committee
- NTTBNTI Commander

National

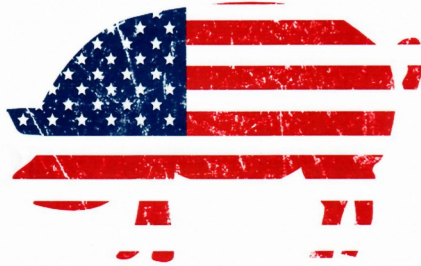
- National Foreign Relations Committee
- National Security Council
- Parade Committee MN
- Life Member:
 - American Legion
 - VFW
 - DAV
 - Member of 40 & 8
 - ANNVICGS
 - National Past Dept. Historian Club
 - National Past Dept. Commander Club

Community/Personal

- Northern Country Coop Board
- Soil & Water Board - Mower Co.
- Member MN Corn & Soybean Growers Assn.
- Member Sacred Heart Church & Knights of Columbus
- Married to Brenda - 53 Years
- 4 Children
- 12 Grand Children
- All Legion Family Members
- Proud American Farmer

Eyota American Legion Riders

PORK CHOP DINNER



Thickcut pork chop, mashed potatoes & gravy
green beans & side salad

Saturday - APRIL 15

4:30pm - 6:30pm or until gone

\$12.50 - Adult \$7.50 - Children 6-10 years old
Free - Children 5 & younger

Eyota American Legion Post 551



Proceeds will go to BELIEVET - A MN based nonprofit organization providing trained service dogs to Veterans



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO THE 16TH ANNUAL MILITARY BALL
HOSTED BY THE MILITARY FAMILY

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

PLACE: SPRING GROVE FEST BUILDING

110 NORTH DIVISION

DATE: APRIL 22, 2023

TIME: COCKTAILS & PHOTOS 4:30 P.M.

(ONE PHOTO INCLUDED)

DINNER: 5:45 P.M.

PLATE INCLUDES PORK AND CHICKEN

DANCING: 8:00 PM-10:30 P.M.

\$30 / PER PERSON

PLEASE RSVP BY APRIL 11, 2023

FEEL FREE TO COPY AND SHARE THIS INVITATION
DIRECT QUESTIONS TO:
GARY OR JAN LEE BUXENGARD AT 507-498-3461
OR JANLEEBUXENGARD@GMAIL.COM

Cut along dotted line

16TH ANNUAL MILITARY BALL ATTENDEES

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

NUMBER IN YOUR PARTY _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

PLEASE LIST NAME OF OTHER GUESTS ON BACK OF THIS PORTION.

IF YOU HAVE SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS PLEASE EXPLAIN ON BACK

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: MILITARY BALL

MAIL TO:

MILITARY BALL
21465 SOUTH VIEW ROAD
SPRING GROVE, MN 55974