

FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

MAY 2018

IMPORTANT DATES

May 5, 2018 - The First District SAL convention, Exec Boards at 9am, Conention starting at 10 am in the Winona American Legion Post 9 clubrooms.

May 16th thru 20th - Vietnam moving wall coming to Austin, MN. More information in the Flyer section of this newsletter.

May 18th and 19th Is the First District Convention at Winona Post 9. More information is in the newsletter.

May 28, 3018 - Memorial Day, please and attend one of the many Memorial Day programs in your area.

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

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

Legion Contacts

Commander

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Adjutant

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Membership

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VICE—COMMANDER INFORMATION

Area One - Scott E. Ihrke
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507/259/5261

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NATIONAL CONVENTION INFORMATION

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

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

COMMEMORTIVE COINS FOR MINNESOTA

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

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



NATIONAL PARADE TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

If there are any Post that have put some thought into participating in the National Convention Parade I have checked into a 54 passenger bus out of La Crescent to take us up and back and that Sunday. It will run an estimated \$1000.00. I figured if we can get enough Posts to participate it will cost each very little. I cannot tell you if it can come out of gambling and if it can, who the check needs to be made out to. My guess is from La Crescent to the cities via Rochester. If any Post wants to go please let me know as soon as you can so that I can get a bus reserved or if there are many interested I will check on a second one.

Sy Fix

Papafix1@gmail.com

507-313-3376

FUNDRAISER FOR DODGE COUNTY COUNCIL YOUTH

On May 9, 2018 there is a community night at Wendy's south in Rochester from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. This is a fundraiser for the American Legion Dodge County Council Youth. They will get ten percent of the sales during those hours, The address of Wendy's south is 2986 Highway 63 South, Rochester, MN 55904.

Greetings First District:

It took a while but I think Spring is finally here. At least I hope so.

We are still in 3rd place in Department. It is definitely time to start knocking on doors. Telephone calls don't work at this stage of the game. It takes that face to face contact. Let's get out there and put forth a 100% effort these last few weeks before Convention.

My Testimonial was a great success. Thanks to all of you who attended and for all the personal gifts and donations to my project. It shows we are truly a Legion Family.

I attended Commander Schaffer's Testimonial April 21st. He had a very good turnout. He was happy that he didn't receive any livestock and only a few gag gifts. Past National Commander Tom Bock gave a very inspiring and humorous speech. Past Department Auxiliary President Dee Dee Buckley entertained the group with a couple of songs.

District Auxiliary President Cheryl's testimonial was postponed April 14th due to a snow storm and was rescheduled for April 27th. I hope everyone was able to attend and recognize her for a job well done.

Department Auxiliary President Donna's Testimonial was held in Willmar April 28th. I hope she had a great turnout in appreciation of her great year.

I will be giving a welcome to the SAL at their District Convention May 5th in Winona. This is the second year their convention will be held separately from the Legion Convention.

The District Convention will be held May 18th-19th in Winona. The Executive Board and the Past Commanders/Adjutants, Presidents/Secretaries, SAL/Adjutants and Past Junior Presidents banquet will be held on Friday the 18th and the Convention will be held Saturday, May 19th at the Post.

Remember to get your District Committee, Post and County reports ready to give Saturday.

My Golf Cart project is continuing to progress towards its goal. I appreciate all the donations to this point and graciously continue to accept any and all donations.

For God and Country.

1st District Commander

Les Shaunce

BLOOD CHAIRMAN REQUEST

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

Thank You!
Blood Chair,
Myron Ehrich

ATTENTION POST ADJUTANTS

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

- 1. May 19 - Recruiter of the year applications are due**
- 2. May 19 - Gold and Silver Brigade application are due**
- 3. May 30 - Community Service Reports are due.**
- 4. June 1 - Annual Military Achievement Awards are due**
- 5. June 1 - Post Consolidated (CPR) reports are due**

FROM AREA ONE

Legionnaires

Thank you for all your wonderful support this year. I have learned a lot. I have also made a new family called the American Legion that I can depend on.

By working as a team we will overcome all obstacles.

Thank you for all your help.

God Bless each and everyone, especially our POW/ MIA.s.

Area One Vice Commander - Scott Ihrke

FROM AREA TWO

Happy Spring to all!

I think Spring is finally, really here! Yippee!

I want to start by wishing all the Mothers out there a very Happy Mother's Day. I hope that you may spend some time with your loved ones.

On April 7th, I took a road trip to Albert Lea for the testimonial of 1st District Commander Les. It was an enjoyable evening with some good food and company.

On April 21st, I again hit the road. This time, I headed to Morton MN for the testimonial of Dept. Commander Mike Schaffer. This was held at Jackpot Junction and I am proud to say that I didn't lose my money!

I hope to see many of you at the District Convention that will be held in Winona here in May.

Area 2 Vice Commander,

Myron Ehrich

FROM AREA THREE

Greetings from Area Three:

Once again I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone of our upcoming 100 year anniversary. Be sure to remind the Commanders that the Posts and the cities have to coordinate our events for the anniversary. Let's make it a memorable event.

We are always striving to reach our membership goals but in this Anniversary year, let's make an added effort and make it our best ever.

As always, remember to keep our men and women in uniform in your thoughts and prayers.

Area Three Vice Commander - Carroll Hill

FROM AREA FOUR

Hello Comrades,

Well it's the end of the Legion year and I have been proud to serve as your Area 4 Vice Commander. I hope you have made your goals on membership, If not there is still time but it will take a lot of effort on our part.

The last rally of the year at Kasson Post 333 was canceled due to weather. What a wild April we had with the weather.

I did get to attend Commander Shaunce's testimonial at Post 56, Albert Lea. Good meal and comradeship was shared. The Commander's project, the golf cart for Preston Cemetery, is still in need of contributions. Hope you will support this endeavor.

Thank you to all the Officers I worked with and I hope we will have a full slate of new Officers this coming year.

Thank you for serving our country and the American Legion

Area 4 Vice Commander - Rollie Hanson

First district membership report for 4/26/2018

POST	LOCATION		PREV.	TURN IN	TOTAL	PERCENT	LEFT	Date
9	WINONA	597	567	-1	566	94.81%	31	4/26/2018
90	LEWISTON	78	61	8	69	88.46%	9	3/22/2018
190	ST CHARLES	144	146	2	148	102.78%	-4	3/22/2018
WINONA COUNTY TOTALS		819	774	9	783	95.60%	36	4/26/2018
50	WABASHA	242	228	-1	227	93.80%	15	4/26/2018
110	LAKE CITY	141	135	-1	134	95.04%	7	4/26/2018
179	PLAINVIEW	194	183	1	184	94.85%	10	4/18/2018
546	KELLOGG	73	63	3	66	90.41%	7	1/11/2018
573	ELGIN	37	34	-2	32	86.49%	5	4/26/2018
579	MILLVILLE	140	140	39	179	127.86%	-39	4/26/2018
588	MAZEPPA	78	71	1	72	92.31%	6	4/12/2018
WABASHA COUNTY TOTALS		905	854	40	894	98.78%	11	4/26/2018
92	ROCHESTER	988	917	2	919	93.02%	69	4/26/2018
119	BYRON	148	146	3	149	100.68%	-1	4/26/2018
164	STEWARTVILLE	305	286	1	287	94.10%	18	4/12/2018
446	ROCHESTER	17	15	2	17	100.00%	0	4/4/2018
551	EYOTA	183	179	1	180	98.36%	3	4/26/2018
OLMSTEAD COUNTY TOTALS		1641	1543	9	1552	94.58%	89	4/26/2018
AREA ONE TOTALS		3365	3171	58	3229	95.96%	136	4/26/2018
295	WEST CONCORD	57	57	5	62	108.77%	-5	3/15/2018
330	HAYFIELD	242	202	1	203	83.88%	39	3/22/2018
333	KASSON	269	256	2	258	95.91%	11	4/26/2018
384	DODGE CENTER	87	77	2	79	90.80%	8	4/26/2018
422	CLAREMONT	36	30	1	31	86.11%	5	2/8/2018
DODGE COUNTY TOTALS		691	622	11	633	91.61%	58	4/26/2018
52	BLOOMING PRAIRIE	111	102	3	105	94.59%	6	4/12/2018
77	OWATONNA	556	495	7	502	90.29%	54	4/4/2018
296	ELLENDALE	33	33	-1	32	96.97%	1	4/26/2018
STEELE COUNTY TOTALS		700	630	9	639	91.29%	61	4/26/2018
75	NEW RICHLAND	58	52	1	53	91.38%	5	2/28/2018
228	WASECA	342	317	1	318	92.98%	24	4/18/2018
281	JANESVILLE	102	95	3	98	96.08%	4	2/8/2018
587	WALDORF	22	24	2	26	118.18%	-4	4/12/2018
WASECA COUNTY TOTALS		524	488	7	495	94.47%	29	4/26/2018
AREA TWO TOTALS		1915	1740	27	1767	92.27%	148	4/26/2018
40	LANESBORO	106	102	1	103	97.17%	3	4/4/2018
68	SPRING VALLEY	85	80	1	81	95.29%	4	3/30/2018
81	HARMONY	34	32	1	33	97.06%	1	2/16/2018
94	RUSHFORD	134	119	1	120	89.55%	14	4/18/2018
166	PRESTON	76	65	2	67	88.16%	9	2/16/2018
197	CHATFIELD	50	49	1	50	100.00%	0	1/8/2018
299	MABEL	179	179	-3	176	98.32%	3	4/26/2018

369	WYKOFF	19	1	17	18	94.74%	1	11/23/2017
400	CANTON	13	6	6	12	92.31%	1	12/14/2017
492	FOUNTAIN	15	8	7	15	100.00%	0	1/8/2018
526	PETERSON	37	37	1	38	102.70%	-1	4/18/2018
544	OSTRANDER	29	25	1	26	89.66%	3	1/11/2018
637	WHALEN	15	12	1	13	86.67%	2	12/7/2017
FILLMORE COUNTY TOTALS		792	715	37	752	94.95%	40	4/26/2018
191	CALEDONIA	170	158	3	161	94.71%	9	4/18/2018
249	SPRING GROVE	162	151	4	155	95.68%	7	4/26/2018
423	HOUSTON	113	113	1	114	100.88%	-1	3/30/2018
498	HOKAH	20	17	3	20	100.00%	0	4/26/2018
595	LA CRESCENT	324	296	2	298	91.98%	26	4/18/2018
HOUSTON COUNTY TOTALS		789	735	13	748	94.80%	41	4/26/2018
AREA THREE TOTALS		1581	1450	50	1500	94.88%	81	4/26/2018
56	ALBERT LEA	678	613	6	619	91.30%	59	4/26/2018
264	GLENVILLE	87	77	1	78	89.66%	9	4/4/2018
266	HARTLAND	15	1	14	15	100.00%	0	9/14/2017
317	EMMONS	72	60	2	62	86.11%	10	12/7/2017
404	ALDEN	109	101	10	111	101.83%	-2	3/15/2018
552	FREEBORN	38	36	2	38	100.00%	0	11/9/2017
FREEBORN COUNTY TOTALS		999	888	35	923	92.39%	76	4/26/2018
91	AUSTIN	610	540	2	542	88.85%	68	4/18/2018
105	LYLE	92	88	1	89	96.74%	3	4/12/2018
140	GRAND MEADOW	50	45	1	46	92.00%	4	3/15/2018
146	ADAMS	219	198	7	205	93.61%	14	4/26/2018
161	LEROY	66	62	-1	61	92.42%	5	4/26/2018
570	AUSTIN SPAM	5	5	1	6	120.00%	-1	8/23/2017
MOWER COUNTY TOTALS		1042	938	11	949	91.07%	93	4/26/2018
AREA FOUR TOTALS		2041	1826	46	1872	91.72%	169	4/26/2018
1111	DAKOTA	51	39	-39	0	0.00%	0	4/26/2018
DISTRICT ONE TOTALS		8953	8187	181	8368	93.47%	585	4/26/2018

AREA	VICE	COM-							
AREA ONE			3365	3171	58	3229	95.96%	136	4/26/2018
AREA TWO			1915	1740	27	1767	92.27%	148	4/26/2018
AREA THREE			1581	1450	50	1500	94.88%	81	4/26/2018
AREA FOUR			2041	1826	46	1872	91.72%	169	4/26/2018

Legionaries;

This year is coming to the end very soon. But there are several posts that have went backwards and were at goal but now are not. That is one reason you should never stop getting members. You maybe at goal but the District isn't, and if the District is at goal the State is not. That is the simple way to put it why you should never stop getting new members.

I'm not sure where we are at on getting the number we need to get our delegate number up the last I knew the District needs over 150 + members, we had 12 last week @ 20 this week that's 118 + short of the 150 and only a few weeks to go. Right now we are 93.47% we have been in the 93% for a couple of weeks, so the Posts that went backwards get that number back and to goal, plus like I said you never quit getting that new member. Lets try and get to 95%(1.53%) by the District Conv. or more. Then we will see how much more we need by State Conv. to get to an all time high,

Gary Miller
Membership Director

2018 First District Call To Convention

To: All Posts of the First District

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

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

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

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

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

All Members are encouraged to attend

First District Commander
Les Shaunce

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

POST _____ MN

DELEGATES

ALTERNATES

1. _____

1. _____

2. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3. _____

4. _____

4. _____

5. _____

5. _____

6. _____

6. _____

7. _____

7. _____

8. _____

8. _____

SIGNED _____

ADJUTANT, POST # _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

CIRCLE ONE- DELEGATE ALTERNATE GUEST

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

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

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

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

CONVENTION HOUSING INFORMATION

Rooms have been blocked for the convention: Holiday inn Express & Suites, 1128 Homer Rd, Winona MN. 55987 Rooms will be blocked at the price of \$129.00 per room for the night of May 18, 2018 until April 18, 2018 . Blocking contract code # is (ALM). If any questions call me.
Holiday Inn Phone – 507/474/1700 Fax – 507/474/7800

Jeff Brokaw - 507/458/7501

NATIONAL ORATORICAL CONTEST INFORMATION

(look at the scholarship money that is available for those who enter this program and get to the final three at the National level)

The top 3 contestants that competed today Sunday in the finals in Indianapolis were as follows in the order which they presented their oration:
Emily Parker Lino Lakes, Minnesota

Carlissa Frederich Paducah Kentucky
Nathan York National City, California

Outcome:

1st place Carlissa Fredrich \$18,000.00
2nd Place Emily Parker \$16,000.00
3rd place Nathan York \$14,000.00

Emily received a \$1500.00 scholarship for being the Department of Minnesota winner.

Sy Fix
District Oratorical Chairman



L-R: Brian Gohl, Wabasha County Board Chair, Jim Noll, Commander Purple Heart Chapter # 1977, Andru Peters, American Legion Commander Wabasha County, and Nathan Pelz, Wabasha County Veteran Service officer.

Wabasha County Purple Heart Designation by Proclamation – April 17, 2018, at Wabasha County Commissioners meeting.

PICTURES OF COMMANDER LES'S TESTIMONIAL



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



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

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

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

OFFICER ENDORSEMENTS

1. Gary Miller for District Commander
2. Bill Goede for District Finance Officer
3. Andru Peters for Area One Vice Commander
4. Dale Wellik for Area Two Vice Commander
5. Larry Otto for Chaplain
6. Ralph Schneekloth for Area Three Vice Cmdr.
7. Roland Hanson for Area Four Vice Cmdr.

DELEGATE REQUESTS RECEIVED

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Chuck Stone | 8. Rich Gosse |
| 2. Chuck Kruger | 9. Myron Ehrich |
| 3. Bill Goede | 10. Dale Wellik |
| 4. James Kellogg (Alt) | 11. Harlan Buck |
| 5. Sy Fix | 12. Gary Miller |
| 6. Wayne Hammon Jr | 13. Richard Skillestad |
| 7. Les Shaunce | 14. Mary Hanson |

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

DELEGATE INFORMATION FOR THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

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

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

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

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

First District Adjutant - Wayne Hammon Jr.

FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY NEWS



Auxiliary Contacts

President

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jilly1026@Gmail.com

Membership / First Vice

Michelle Weaver
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La Crosse, WI 54603
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Treasurer

Audrey Farnsworth
302 1st St E
Stewartville, MN 55976
507-533-4454

Yay...Spring has finally arrived!! And, District Convention is just around the corner. Please plan to attend this year's convention which will be held in Winona. They have a beautiful facility. I'm looking forward to hearing all the reports – from the Unit Presidents, and the Committee Chairs. You can really gain some great insights into the wonderful programs for our veterans which other Units have been busily engaged in. Here are some reminders for that District Convention:

The District Executive meeting is Fri., May 18th @

The District Convention will convene at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning.

UNIT PRESIDENTS: Please have prepared a 1 minute presentation on the year in your Unit.

If unable to attend, please forward this to District Secretary Jill or myself. ALSO.....make sure that all trophies are returned this day so they can be distributed this year too! And, if you are unable to attend and have a trophy, make arrangements to get it there please!

DISTRICT COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Your oral presentation to the convention has a limit of 3 minutes. Also, be prepared to distribute your awards.

I was very honored to visit with ALA National president Dianne Duscheck from Markesan, Wisconsin when she toured the Hastings Veterans Home in April. What a beautiful and just down to Earth individual she is. Of course Sue Register did a fabulous job with the tour, including the Greenhouse, which is part of my projects this year, and where we had our photo taken.



L to R: Mary Kuipers, Dept. Membership Chair, National President Dianne Duscheck, Sandie Deutsch Department Executive Secretary, Department President Donna Arends, and myself. This was such a fun morning with lots of

FROM THE FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY SECRETARY

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



Hey look, President Donna found a lighthouse!



THE MONTH OF MAY IS POPPY MONTH:

The American Legion Poppy flower is a visual emblem, to remember the sacrifices made by service men and women who have gave all. The poppy flower parts have adopted different meanings:

The red petals stand for the vast outpouring of blood;

The green and black center, the mud and desolation of all battlefields.

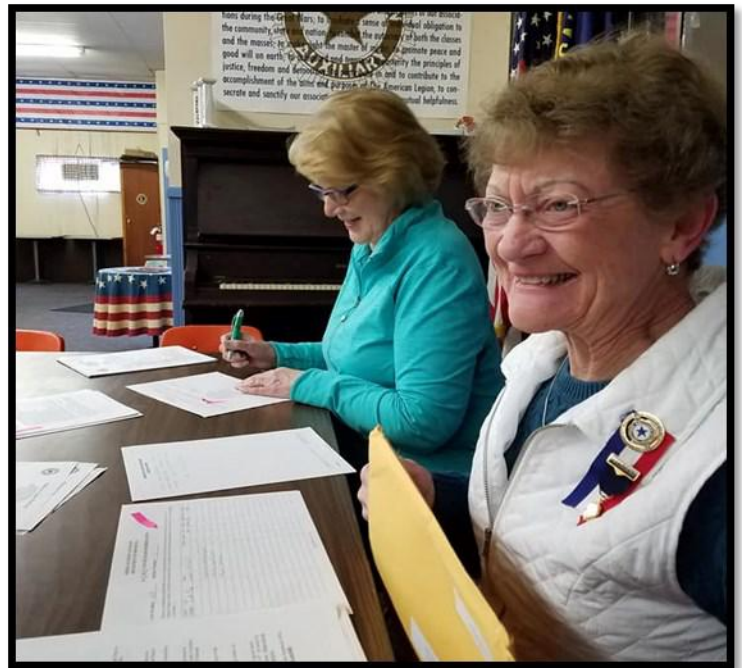
The green of the stem is symbolic of the forests, meadows and fields where generations of American have perished to make this land free.

The stem represents the courage and determination of our fallen warriors.

The assembled product, a flower, is a symbol of resurrection which is sure to follow.

So, what is your Unit doing to promote Poppy Days in your community? Here a few suggestions: 1) Educate them, whether it's a press release in your local paper, word of mouth, or flyers about how funds collected help veterans; 2) Contact local businesses for permission to distribute poppies on their premises; 3) Create a community window display; 4) Hand out poppy literature along with membership information in various locations; 5)

so pleased to attend this Unit meeting, where I was thoroughly impressed!! I always enjoy going to the Unit meetings around the District, because I enjoy hearing about the services which they provide. As the meeting progressed, I was impressed with the input from all the members present, and their reports on projects which they have been working on. I learned something new about pillows. Yes, pillows. They provide a pillow cleaning day for their community. A company comes in and does the cleaning – community members drop them off, and wait or pick them up later that day. Not only do they provide this service for their community, but they raise money (a portion of each pillow cleaned goes into their coffers). That meeting was inspiring because so many of the members are involved in their different projects,



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The red petals stand for the vast outpouring of blood;

The green and black center, the mud and desolation of all battlefields.

The green of the stem is symbolic of the forests, meadows and fields where generations of American have perished to make this land free.

The stem represents the courage and determination of our fallen warriors.

The assembled product, a flower, is a symbol of resurrection which is sure to follow.

So, what is your Unit doing to promote Poppy Days in your community? Here a few suggestions: 1) Educate them, whether it's a press release in your local paper, word of mouth, or flyers about how funds collected help veterans; 2) Contact local businesses for permission to distribute poppies on their premises; 3) Create a community window display; 4) Hand out poppy literature along with membership information in various locations; 5)

I really enjoyed attending Commander Les' Testimonial in Albert Lea. I zoomed over there after the church service thee that night, and arrived just before the dinner was served (and even had some time to eat my salad before. What a fabulous night, there was a lot of laughter and Les received some very nice and very thoughtful gift. He's done such a great job as Commander for the District this year. Although I couldn't attend many of the rallies because of the time (I have church service on Saturday evenings), it sounds like the rallies and the 'fun times' before them were valuable to the District; and, I appreciate Les' and everyone's understanding of my



I also had the pleasurable opportunity to visit with my home Unit in Plainview in March. What a great bunch of gals that were present. They were so hospitable as I spoke on the value of goodwill, and mentoring those who are fairly new to the Auxiliary, or even young, but have a deep down desire to help our veterans through the leadership which they are interested in. Mentoring is a gentle guidance from others, answering their questions, and being helpful (not hurtful or cutting that new person to others in the Unit). We are all so blessed to have such wonderful individuals throughout the district and units who are encouragers and just jump right in when they are needed!

PICTURES OF PRESIDENT CHERYL'S TESTIMONIAL



Unit	Location	Goal	Previous	Turn In	Total	Precent	Left
	9 Winona	181	106	38	144	79.56%	37
	90 Lewiston	42	17	17	34	80.95%	8
	190 St Charles	81	46	16	62	76.54%	19
	50 Wabasha	142	91	18	109	76.76%	33
	110 Lake City	88	67	7	74	84.09%	14
	179 Plainview	185	117	33	150	81.08%	35
	546 Kellogg	141	103	26	129	91.49%	12
	573 Elgin	24	14	2	16	66.67%	8
	579 Millville	50	35	16	51	102.00%	-1
	588 Mazeppa	54	36	5	41	75.93%	13
	92 Rochester	183	109	39	148	80.87%	35
	119 Byron	95	45	36	81	85.26%	14
	164 Stewartville	188	148	34	182	96.81%	6
	551 Eyota	109	74	25	99	90.83%	10
Pod One Total		1563	1008	312	1320	84.45%	243
	295 West Concord	37	2	32	34	91.89%	3
	330 Hayfield	198	143	45	188	94.95%	10
	333 Kasson	151	104	35	139	92.05%	12
	384 Dodge Center	81	43	32	75	92.59%	6
	422 Claremont	22	21	0	21	95.45%	1
	52 Blooming Prairie	118	82	24	106	89.83%	12
	77 Owatonna	138	67	43	110	79.71%	28
	75 New Richland	66	46	9	55	83.33%	11
	228 Waseca	237	188	51	239	100.84%	-2
	281 Janesville	61	35	2	37	60.66%	24
	587 Waldorf	30	22	1	23	76.67%	7
Pod Two Totals		1139	753	274	1027	90.17%	112

Hello Ladies;

I am so proud of you all as of 25th the 1st District was in 5th place. With convention coming up May 19th we need a big finish to come out on top we can do it!!!!

You will on the report that the pods are very close so looking forward to see how the standings end up and who is in 1st place at convention.

I still have some chairmanships to fill if I'm elected in May if you are interested in one please let me know. Hope to see you all at convention.

40 Lanesboro	104	5	93	98	94.23%	6
68 Spring Valley	47	37	6	43	91.49%	4
81 Harmony	53	39	13	52	98.11%	1
94 Rushford	78	43	28	71	91.03%	7
197 Chatfield	40	37	0	37	92.50%	3
299 Mabel	139	93	14	107	76.98%	32
369 Wykoff	17	17	1	18	105.88%	-1
526 Peterson	38	37	0	37	97.37%	1
544 Ostrander	18	10	3	13	72.22%	5
637 Whalen	25	14	6	20	80.00%	5
191 Caledonia	79	70	6	76	96.20%	3
249 Spring Grove	144	105	23	128	88.89%	16
423 Houston	144	122	19	141	97.92%	3
498 Hokah	21	19	0	19	90.48%	2
595 LaCrescent	233	146	49	195	83.69%	38
Pod Three Totals	898	232	121	353	39.31%	545
56 Albert Lea	342	240	61	301	88.01%	41
264 Glenville	111	75	25	100	90.09%	11
317 Emmons	32	1	24	25	78.13%	7
404 Alden	49	32	12	44	89.80%	5
552 Freeborn	65	60	2	62	95.38%	3
91 Austin	169	97	35	132	78.11%	37
105 Lyle	55	1	51	52	94.55%	3
140 Grand Meadow	79	55	11	66	83.54%	13
146 Adams	148	90	32	122	82.43%	26
161 Leroy	68	26	26	52	76.47%	16
Pod Four Totals	1266	306	279	585	46.21%	681
Total	5000	3232	1125	4357	87.14%	643

Veterans Affairs:

As Memorial Day is soon approaching, let's all honor our Veterans past and present.

You can help our Veterans by helping with your Post Poppy Campaign, which helps our Veterans.

It will be greatly appreciated by your Poppy Chairs. Get involved with your American Legion Family for the upcoming Memorial Day activities your club will be doing to honor our Veterans.

Our Nation's Heroes

Bless our nation's veterans,

Protectors of this land.

Despite how hard the mission,

Side by side they took a stand.

They fought with faith and honor,

Hearts filled with country pride.

Defenders of our freedom.

Some were wounded, and others died.

God Bless our Veterans and their Families

Wanda Prescher-Veterans Affairs Chair

First District American Legion Family
 Legionnaires
 Ladies Auxiliary
 Sons of the American Legion
 Legion Riders

I am writing to give an update on my parents Marvin and Pat Miner. On August 1st of 2017 they moved from their home in Rose Creek to the independent living area "Evergreens" in Spring Valley. They both had experienced falls at home.

Mom had surgery the end of October and when released from the hospital went to the Spring Valley nursing home. She has never been a good patient. Because of the surgery she lost weight and was not eating or drinking much. She was extremely dehydrated when she returned for a doctors appointment just before Thanksgiving. So another hospital stay. She was dismissed to the St. Mark's facility in Austin until sometime in December. While she was at the hospital and the nursing home facilities dad was still at the apartment in Spring Valley (not by himself). We as a family took turns with dad, but since Wayne and I live in Spring Valley we took turns staying at the apartment with him. Wayne would do the overnight shift (he purchased a camping cot and sleeping bag). I would return in the morning make breakfast, take dad to visit mom and do the daily chores.

The true meaning of love was shown when dad would ask about "momma" and when she'd be coming home. When it came time for mom to be dismissed from St. Mark's they asked each where they wanted to live, dad's response " wherever momma is".

Their health has remained stable but dad has dementia and doesn't always remember who he's talking to. He took a fall in their apartment the end of March (nothing was broken) and is now in the Spring Valley nursing home. We are hoping he'll be able to return to the apartment with mom.

In January our son Matthew sent dad's name to the Minnesota Twins to do the flag raising before a game. He was notified that dad was chosen for the May 31st game (weather permitting). Some of the grandkids that have served in the military will be assisting.

Matthew has always been proud of his grandpa's military service, he took the time to organize the ribbons and things dad had packed away years ago. He found many treasures and historical items that he wouldn't let his boys touch.

I know mom misses attending District functions. She's hoping to attend the District convention in Winona and maybe Department convention in Rochester.

They would enjoy hearing from District members.

Marvin and Pat Miner
 820 Memorial Dr.
 Apt. 141
 Spring Valley, MN
 55975

As District convention is fast approaching we will have a **DISTRICT CONVENTION POPPY CONTEST!**

Contest will be the same as Department Convention contest. Winners may be used at Department Convention.

Award Criteria: Table Center Piece and/or Poppy Wreath

Award Criteria: Table Center Piece and/or Poppy Wreath



Award Guidelines: Using Department President Donna's theme, "Lighting Veterans Paths" her symbol is the "Lighthouse" if you wish to incorporate it into your creation but, must have at least one American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Flower included. The label "In Memoriam" from poppy flowers **must** be removed. You may also create one for District President Cheryl's theme but this would not qualify for Department unless you tied the 2 themes together—which is very possible!

Entries will be judged on originality, creativity and workmanship.

Both contests will be open to all Auxiliary members. All entries must include a card in an envelope containing your name, Unit number, District number and location. Small or large poppies may be used with the white tags removed. Voting for People's Choice will be by donation, with one half the funds going to the District President's Projects.

Award: Cash Prizes for each contest will be as listed in the District standing rules.

New this year will be the Peoples Choice – "half the pot" \$1.00 per vote to the winner the other half to District President Cheryl's project.

Rules:

Use at least one poppy.

Use the Department President's theme (her symbol is a lighthouse if you wish to incorporate that into your creation) or you may also make them to fit President Cheryl's theme ***her symbol is the butterfly.

Must have a white envelope under your creation. Do not attach the envelope. Inside the envelope include your name, Unit and District numbers. Please print clearly.

****Do enjoy this activity.

Please let's have some beautiful arrangements and let's see the talents of our auxiliary members!

Poppy chairman,

Sandy Fredrickson

Call to Convention

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

The purpose of the Convention is to:

Elect District Officers for the 2018-2019 year.

Receive reports of Unit Presidents.

Receive reports of District Chairmen.

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

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

DISTRICT CHAIRMEN

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

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

UNIT COLOR BEARERS

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

PAGES AND COLOR BEARERS

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

UNIT PRESIDENTS

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

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

COUNTY COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

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

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



COMMANDER

Dave Nelson

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

ADJUTANT

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

EAST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

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

WEST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

Greetings First District!

May is here, and so are conventions. The SAL convention will be held Saturday the 5th in Winona. Exc board at 9, and general session at 10. All members and dual members are requested to attend. You also receive mileage for the driver from your post home to the convention and back. Only 1 driver per squadron. We are also looking for some new officers as well. Do not feel that if you come to the meetings, you will be put into office. That is not the case. We want everyone there too see what we do as a district.

We had a good turnout out for the first annual dart tournament. We will be donating \$200 to brain science, and \$200 to the legacy ride. Thanks to all who attended and donated. If you have any donations for brain science, please bring them with to either the SAL convention, or to the Legion and Auxiliary convention.

First District SAL Commander - Dave Nelson

SQUADRON 92, ROCHESTER, MN MONTHLY EVENT

SAL Fish and Chicken Dinner.

The Third Friday of each month - September thru May.

At the Legion Post 92 Club in Rochester.

\$11.00 for all you can eat.

2018 FIRST DISTRICT SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION CALL TO CONFERENCE

To all Squadrons of the First District.

By the virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Minnesota, I David Nelson, First District Commander, do here by call a Convention of the First District Sons of The American Legion to convene at American Legion Post 9, located at 302 East Sarina Street, Winona, MN on Saturday May 5, 2018 at 9 AM. As per last year's convention this year we are meeting two (2) week before the Legion, Auxiliary and ALR.

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

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

Please send certification of your Squadron Delegates and Alternates to:

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

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

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

Squadron _____, MN

Delegates

Alternates

6 _____



2017 - 2018 Individual Recruitment Award

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

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

Recruiter Information

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

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

New Member Information

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

VERIFYING SIGNATURES

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

RETURN COMPLETED FORMS TO: (Regional Membership Chairman)

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

PINS WILL MAILED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH

**DIRECTOR**

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

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Dale Nicholson
Glenville, MN 56036

SECRETARY

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

SGT AT ARMS

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

HISTORIAN

Kassy Bettermann
1625 Crestview Lane
Owatonna, MN

CHAPLAIN

Dan Klingfus
Austin, MN
507/573/2329

ROAD CAPTAIN

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

ALR Chapter News & Events

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

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

We hope to have a good turnout at our next meeting on Saturday, May 19th, 2018 1:00 PM in conjunction with the First District Convention in Winona. The American Legion Family memorial service is at 11am. Please bring your current membership card as the District ALR SGT-At-Arms will be requesting them as you come to the meeting.

FIRST DISTRICT ALR RIDER OF THE YEAR WILL BE PRESENTED!

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

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

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

The First District SAL team hosted the First District Dart Tournament on Saturday, April 21st at the Stewartville American Legion. I could see that those attending were having an enjoyable time. SAL Commander David Nelson and his team did a great job putting this together and I hope it will be an annual event.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the First District ALR Director. Best Wishes to the new officers.

Dennis Lewison First District ALR Director

2018 First District American Legion Rider Convention Call

To all American Legion Rider Chapters of the First District:

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

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

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

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

First District ALR Director

Dennis A Lewison

THE AVTT TRAVELING VIETNAM WALL IS COMING TO AUSTIN, MINNESOTA

Respect
Remember



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

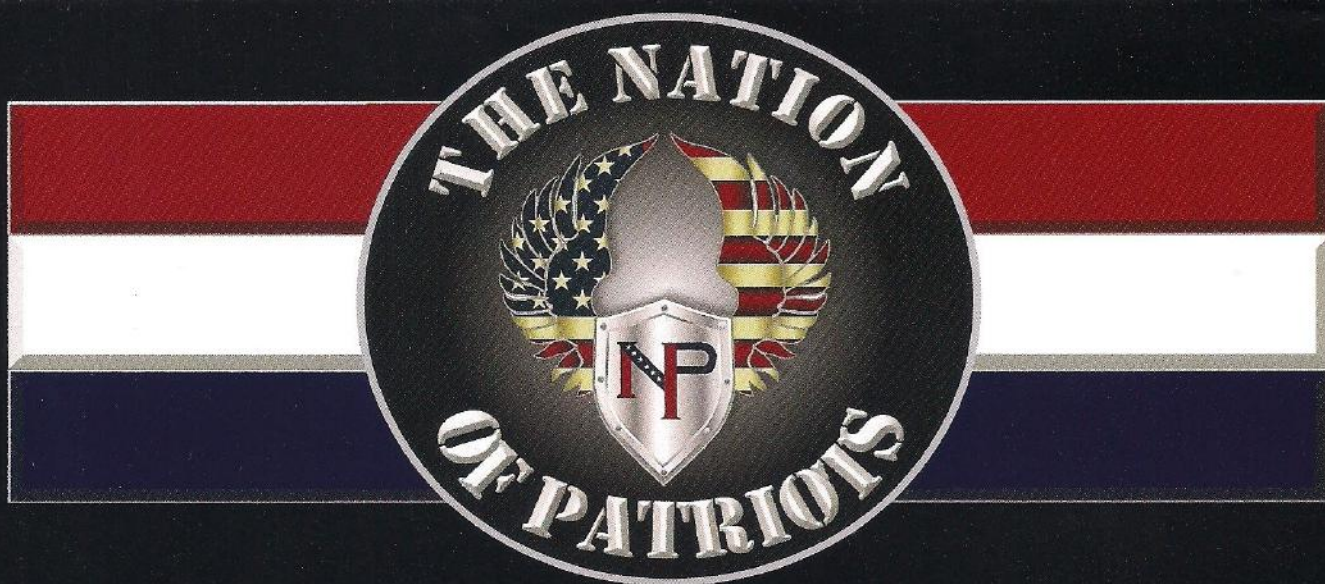
Opening Ceremony Friday, May 18th at 6:00 p.m.
Closing Ceremony Sunday, May 20th at 12:00 p.m.
Viewing is free and open 24 hours a day to the public.

Special Tribute to Mower County Vietnam Veterans.



Hosted by Beyond the Yellow Ribbon - Austin

www.americanveteranstravelingtribute.com



2018 PATRIOT TOUR



One Flag 48 States 100 Days

Supporting Families of Wounded Veterans

May 24th, 2018 - 5 pm

**Flag arrives at
Albert Lea American Legion**

May 25th, 2018

8am - Ride Registration

**9am - Flag departs from Al American Legion
for Crow River HD, Delano, MN**

Waivers Required - ALL Donations Accepted



Paralyzed Veterans
of America



HUNTING/FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS

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

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

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

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



Minnesota
Department of Veterans Affairs

Adams American Legion

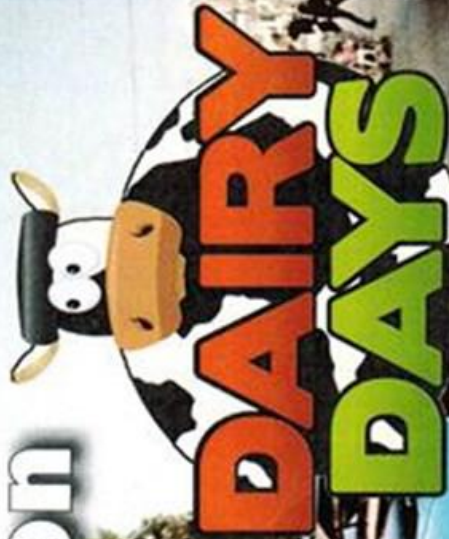
SATURDAY, JUNE 9

11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Registration

10:00-11:00 a.m.

ADAMS, MN



DAIRY DAYS

CAR SHOW



CLASSES:

- GM
- Ford
- Chrysler
- Pre-1940
- Hotrod
- Pickup Trucks
- Motorcycles

**Best of Show &
Commander's Choice**

Tom Fargusson • 507-433-5072 • r859ma@msn.com



LeRoy Sons Of The American Legion
Kenny McRoberts
16th Annual

**CAR &
 MOTORCYCLE
 SHOW**

Saturday, July 21, 2018

REGISTRATION: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

CAR SHOW: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

AWARDS AT: 2:30 p.m.

South Park on South Broadway

LeRoy, MN

- WATCH FOR SIGNS! -



CLASSES TO BE SHOWN:

- Chevy • GM • Ford • Mopar • Hot Rod
- Foreign • Motorcycles • Open • Pickups

Also: • People's Choice

- Rick Ring Memorial (Legion's Choice)
- Stan Bergan Memorial
(Driver's Choice)

**Only
 \$10
 ENTRY
 FEE!**



Contact Wayne Hammon

507-696-2707

Sponsored by the LeRoy Commercial Club