



# FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

## JUNE 2020

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

### IMPORTANT DATES

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

Some posts are starting to open with COVID 19 rules in place, Please contact your post to see what the times and rules are.

June 14, 2020—Don't forget about Flag day.

June 21, 2020—Remember our fathers on Fathers Day

**NO NEWSLETTER IN JULY !!**

### 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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**FROM THE COMMANDER'S PEN**

Greetings First District American Legion Family!  
Thank You all for Honoring our Fallen Military Veterans on Memorial Day Weekend in the many ways that were done in an abbreviated or virtually in smaller ways than what we are accustomed to doing on Memorial Day. The Fallen were still Honored and Respected for their Service to this country to the very end on the battlefield.

We are still moving forward on membership to that goal of 100% renewals by June 17. The District in in a close second with 1st place with 97.04%. Thanks to everyone, we only have days to go.

All reports are due and still needed to be turned in. Officer report forms --post elections or no post elections this year must be turned in.

C P R a very important report to show National and Congress what has been done this past year to help get funding for projects from Congress.

Packet-card pickup is still planned for the end of June. The exact date and place maybe have to be changed due to the pandemic and limitations. We will be getting the information out by email or/text or phone call by the District or/and Vice-commander of your area

We have started some planning for the next year-summer picnic mid-August, rallies September-October, Christmas Party December, rally late February and other events if your post would be willing to host any of these events please let me know. Here again this is a moving target according to the pandemic and restrictions. Zoom meetings and training will be included.

The 2021 District Convention will be held at the Austin post 91 on May 15, 2021.

Pray for this pandemic, covid-19, to be under control and over. Pray for all those on the front line, medical personnel, deployed military, law enforcement, firefighters and their families to keep them safe.

THANK YOU to all that show support to those that are making life and death decisions.

JULY 4, 1776. HAPPY BIRTHDAY. USA!

Thank you for your service , support and assistance.

For God and Country

DALE WELLIK

District Commander

**(YOU WILL BE KEPT UPTODATE WITH DISTRICT EVENTS VIA E-MAIL IN JULY)**

To the 1st District Legion Family,

With all that has happened these last three months, what with the Stay in Place orders and what not we have had, maybe, more time to think about many things. I have thought that one thing people or government can't control is Mother Nature. In our area farmers had a really nice spring for putting their crops in. Some were done with planting before the 1st of May. I even saw a guy cutting 1st crop of hay on the 29th of May. Time marches on and we humans can't control it, though sometimes I wish I could; but I'd probably screw that up! So we just need to let God and nature take care of things.

The Bible says in Genesis 8:22,  
"As long as the earth endures,  
seed time and harvest,  
cold and heat,  
summer and winter,  
day and night, will never cease.

All we have to do is look around us at the end of May, 1st of June and see that God's promise to us is true. This Corona Virus didn't slow God down, and we shouldn't let it stop us. Sure, we need to be safe in what we do; but we shouldn't live in fear. Only the devil comes to steal, kill and destroy. "But I, (Jesus), have come that you may have life and have it to the fullest." (John 10:10) If we will just keep our eyes on the words in the Bible, and have faith in God and Jesus, by the Power of the Holy Spirit, we will have life and have it to the fullest.

If this pandemic is getting you down, take some time

to read in the Scriptures.



There you will find

peace.



Until next month, may the God of peace and grace be with you and yours.



Larry H. Otto  
1st District Chaplain

## The American Legion Department of Minnesota Resolution

Resolution Number: 2020-2A

Title: Cancellation of 2020 American Legion Department of Minnesota Convention in Morton MN, Jackpot Junction and awarding the next available year of the Department of Minnesota Convention to Morton MN, Jackpot Junction

Origin: Judge Advocate Department of Minnesota

Whereas, Article 5, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Department of Minnesota of the American Legion calls for a Department Convention to be held annually, and said convention was scheduled to be held on July 15-18 at Morton, Minnesota, and

Whereas, Article 5, Section 1 of the Minnesota Department Constitution provides that in the event that, due to an emergency, National or State, it is for any reason impossible to convene the annual Department Convention, and

Whereas, The American Legion Nationally has passed Resolution Number 3 cancelling the National Convention, all meetings, and all travel of the National Officers and Staff through 30 September 2020 and all National Officers elected and appointed will continue to serve until the 2021 National Convention, and

Whereas, The State of Minnesota and the United States in general are currently experiencing a pandemic associated with the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) therefore causing communities, cities, states and the federal government to enact unprecedented emergency actions in order to contain and combat the impact and risks of spreading the COVID-19; and

Whereas, The Governor of Minnesota has declared 33 Emergency Executive Orders to address the health crisis, and on March 13, 2020, Emergency Executive Order 20-01 declared a peacetime emergency in Minnesota, the Governor encouraged all Minnesotans to stay at home, to practice social distancing, and to avoid gatherings of ten or more people, and

Whereas, A gathering of the members of The American Legion of the Department of Minnesota in Morton on July 15 - 18 for our Department Convention would be in conflict with the imposed restrictions set by state and federal authorities and therefore, place our members at an unnecessary health, safety and medical risk, and

Whereas, The Department Executive Committee has thoroughly discussed the situation, weighed all options including utilizing electronic communications applications for meetings, and determined that the course of action herein recommended is the correct and prudent course for The American Legion, Department of Minnesota; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Department of Minnesota Executive Committee of The American Legion, by electronic communication, that due to the uncertainty of the duration of the disease known as the coronavirus (COVID 19), the numerous state emergency executive orders imposed to contain it and

**(Over)**

concern for the safety of all members of The American Legion Family, the Department Executive Committee agrees that present circumstances constitute an emergency making it impossible to convene a Department Convention and therefore said convention is cancelled, and be it further

RESOLVED, That all Article 7, Section 2 Department Constitution, officers elected at convention, namely: the Department Commander, the five Department Vice Commanders, the Department Chaplain, the Department Sergeant at Arms and the Department Historian continue serving in their current positions until the close of the next Department Convention in 2021, and be it further

RESOLVED, That all Department Committee Chairs and the current committee members and the Department Membership Director continue serving in their current positions unless any said member offers to resign or is reassigned or reappointed at the 2020 Department Fall Conference, and be it further

RESOLVED, That any resolutions needing to come before the Department of Minnesota Convention may be brought forth to the Department Executive Committee and subsequently be considered and voted on by electronic communication as authorized by 2019 convention resolution 2, and be it further

RESOLVED, The per capita dues for the Department of Minnesota remain at \$13.50 for 2021, and be it further

RESOLVED, That due to the numerous health and safety reasons and needs of our members, the Department of Minnesota Executive Committee strongly urges the Detachment of Minnesota Sons of the American Legion, American Legion Riders of the Department of Minnesota, the American Legion Auxiliary, all programs and foundations of The American Legion, and all Districts of the Department of Minnesota follow a similar course of action, namely: cancel their 2020 convention, elections, all gatherings and maintain their current officers until 2021, and be it further

RESOLVED, That due to the community of Morton MN, Jackpot Junction is accommodating the American Legion 2020 Department Convention's cancellation decision in such a prompt manner without penalty or other financial cost to The American Legion, the American Legion Department Executive Committee is hereby awarding the next available year for the Department Convention to the community of Morton MN, Jackpot Junction, via the American Legion Department of Minnesota Convention Corporation, and finally be it further,

RESOLVED, That this resolution shall be forwarded to the Department of Minnesota Executive Committee via electronic communication for review, and a vote for approval by electronic communication will take place on 10 April 2020.

**This resolution was voted via electronic communication and was passed by the Department American Legion Executive Board on April 10, 2020.**

## To whom it may concern

# THE GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MONUMENT

The CPL Curtis M Swenson Memorial Fund is excited to announce a project we are working on in conjunction with the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation. The MN Gold Star Families Memorial Monument demonstrates that a community cares for the families and appreciates their sacrifice. Today, there are 59 dedicated monuments and 65 in progress throughout the United States. Our efforts in bringing this to our area would be the first in Minnesota.

Our committee has secured the new Dodge County Courthouse grounds, 721 Main Street North, Mantorville to place this beautiful monument. Two benches have already been promised by the MN Chapter of the POW/MIA Riders and the Military Order of the Purple Heart Lloyd/Swenson Chapter. We are now starting our fundraising efforts to build and maintain the monument.

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

We are aiming to dedicate this meaningful gift on Gold Star Mother's Day on Sunday, September 27, 2020. The timeline is aggressive as we are hoping to have Woody attend the program with us.

Please send your donations to: CPL Curtis M Swenson Memorial Fund

Attention; MN Gold Star Monument Committee

4520 58<sup>th</sup> LN NW

Rochester, MN 55901

Direct questions to: Scott Eggert 507-993-2414 or

Dave Swenson 507-206-8479



**A FEW CHOICE WORDS FROM OUR DISTRICT COMMANDER.**



Show your appreciation for all of our military. FLY the FLAG!

Thank a Veteran. Donate to the poppy program, and wear one proudly, those go to support Veterans too.

Armed Forces Day is a special day for all of military and their families.

Memorial day - Honors all of the military that gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom

. These are all around the world. Read the poem "In Flanders Field" and think about it.

The Flag should be at half-staff until noon and raised to the top for the rest of the day.

We may have to be creative for our Memorial Day programs this year. Social distancing and size of groups honor the deceased somewhere. Visit the cemeteries of your choice.

For God and Country. Enjoy your Freedom.

**DALE WELLIK**  
First District Commander

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

**AMERICAN LEGION**

**This Is Hallowed Ground**

**Why You Don't Walk Between The Colors**

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

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

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

## FROM AREA TWO

Greetings from Area Two,

Commander Dale and I held a ZOOM meeting the other day for Area Two Commanders, Adjutants and membership directors.

ZOOM meetings can be used to reach members, including younger veterans that cannot make Post meetings. They can be at home, on vacation, anywhere they can have a signal. That's right; you don't need a computer with a camera. You can join via your phone and be part of the ZOOM meeting. It's new to many of us, but I can tell you it works and can be very beneficial to your Post and the Legion Family. I sent out many e-mails to join the meeting with instructions. I would be willing to help any of you to learn how to hold a ZOOM meeting to touch your membership during this Covid-19 pandemic. Feel free to contact me anytime.

Mike Parry, Area Two Vice Commander  
[Mparry57@gmail.com](mailto:Mparry57@gmail.com) 1-507-382-8447

## FROM AREA FOUR

Hello Comrades,

I hope everyone is staying safe amid these difficult times.

CPR reports are now due. This covers post activities from June 1 to May 31. They can be mailed in or entered on [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org). The CPR will need at least one activity marked on it. Reports with just a signature will not be accepted.

The Officer Reporting Form should be filled out and mailed or entered in [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org) under forms and resources. This should be done as soon as election of officers is completed, even if the officers are the same as last year.

Membership packets will be picked up at the end of June. In the 1st District, the two reports above need to be submitted before the packets will be handed out for each post. The distribution of the packets in each county is unsure at this moment. The thought is that there will be one place in each county assigned and a representative from each post will have to come and pick it up. Extra forms will be available to be in compliance of the district requirements. Please be on the lookout for more information.

I am looking forward to the next year, no matter what it ends up looking like. We are stronger together.

Mary Hanson  
 Area 4 Vice Commander

## FROM AREA ONE

As I am writing this article, I see on the news the things that are going on with the Covid-19 virus, the riots in the twins Cities. Being one of many veterans who served in harm's way it makes me sad to see rioters destroy things it took years to build. Yes, it is true that we have freedoms, we can protest against what is wrong and have free speech but it is not okay to destroy people's property. It is heart breaking when people lose their livelihood, watching it be destroyed needlessly. We also have the covid-19 virus to deal with and it is sad there as well. People who drive the trucks who bring us our supplies find the truck stops closed and restaurants wouldn't let them pick up food to eat or the rest areas doors are locked and leave no place for a fellow human to use a restroom, High school and college seniors complete school and there is no graduation ceremony . People what is wrong with this? What makes me proud is that I'm a part of the biggest family called the American Legion. To be part of an organization of people who care and go above and beyond to help. We have people who take food and water to the truckers who bring in supplies, bring water and food to the National Guard soldiers and the color guards who show up and show honor to the fallen. The Posts that put out flags for the senior class. The many Posts making masks for the area nursing homes. The Posts that use this time to remodel and deep clean their Posts so they are up to date. The districts which has made it easier and safer to make meetings. These are all examples of the growth in a positive direction. This is what being in the American Legion family is all about. Keep up the great work.

Thank you

Area 1 Vice Commander

Mark A Maloney III

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

There is a scam going around which looks like it comes from the Mighty First District asking for e-bay cards or phone cards. The First District and it's officers DO NOT ask for any kind of gift cards . Do not open this e-mail—DELETE.

25 February 2020

Dear American Legion Family,

Legionville needs your help! Our 2020 Safety Patrol Camp will be here before we know it and at this time, the camp unfortunately has very few funds to maintain its operations.

In 2018, the Legionville Board of Directors made the decision to cancel all summer sessions due to health and safety concerns for all students and staff as a result of a bog which attached itself to the camp's beach. After much effort, the bog was finally removed, but damage was already done to both equipment at camp as well as Legionville's bank account. The lack of income from not holding any 2018 summer sessions forced us to deplete practically all financial reserves to keep facilities in working order.

During the summer of 2018, Legionville did complete some much needed repairs of the main kitchen to keep the facility up to code, significant renovations to the dining hall, and equipment breakdowns to include replacing a very expensive hot water heater. However, there are still significant renovations that need to be accomplished to include replacing the ceiling. With the current shortfall of funds, we are desperately in need of help to make camp as successful as possible.

I am reaching out to our American Legion Family, Post's, SAL, and Auxiliary with the hopes that some of you could donate funds to Legionville to help us out. Gambling funds can be used. Please forward your donation to the address above with your check made out to **Legionville**. I thank you in advance for your consideration and generous donation.

For God and Country

Eugene Leifeld  
Vice President-Legionville  
507-319-8150

OR

Glenn Mueller  
Board Member  
507-316-3977

## FIRST DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 5/27/20

POST	LOCATION	GOAL	PREV.	TURN IN	TOTAL	PER-	LEFT	Date
9	WINONA	546	527	6	533	97.62%	13	5/27/2020
90	LEWISTON	71	67	1	68	95.77%	3	5/20/2020
190	ST CHARLES	141	132	1	133	94.33%	8	5/27/2020
<b>WINONA COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>758</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>96.83%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5/27/2020</b>
50	WABASHA	213	218	1	219	102.82%	-6	5/27/2020
110	LAKE CITY	148	154	1	155	104.73%	-7	5/20/2020
179	PLAINVIEW	171	157	1	158	92.40%	13	5/27/2020
546	KELLOGG	64	60	2	62	96.88%	2	3/18/2020
573	ELGIN	28	27	1	28	100.00%	0	3/18/2020
579	MILLVILLE	146	179	-1	178	121.92%	-32	2/12/2020
588	MAZEPPA	75	70	1	71	94.67%	4	5/20/2020
<b>WABASHA COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>845</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>103.08%</b>	<b>-26</b>	<b>5/27/2020</b>
92	ROCHESTER	887	883	18	901	101.58%	-14	5/27/2020
119	BYRON	140	130	1	131	93.57%	9	5/27/2020
164	STEWARTVILLE	292	299	2	301	103.08%	-9	5/27/2020
446	ROCHESTER	15	17	1	18	120.00%	-3	5/27/2020
551	EYOTA	185	182	1	183	98.92%	2	5/20/2020
<b>OLMSTEAD COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>1519</b>	<b>1511</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1534</b>	<b>100.99%</b>	<b>-15</b>	<b>5/27/2020</b>
<b>AREA ONE TOTALS</b>		<b>3122</b>	<b>3102</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>3139</b>	<b>100.54%</b>	<b>-17</b>	<b>5/27/2020</b>
295	WEST CONCORD	61	62	3	65	106.56%	-4	4/15/2020
330	HAYFIELD	202	197	1	198	98.02%	4	5/20/2020
333	KASSON	260	262	-1	261	100.38%	-1	5/27/2020
384	DODGE CENTER	77	76	1	77	100.00%	0	5/20/2020
422	CLAREMONT	30	26	1	27	90.00%	3	1/8/2020
<b>DODGE COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>630</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>99.68%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5/27/2020</b>
52	BLOOMING PRAIRIE	104	92	1	93	89.42%	11	2/26/2020
77	OWATONNA	468	447	7	454	97.01%	14	5/13/2020
296	ELLENDALE	35	36	2	38	108.57%	-3	3/13/2020
<b>STEELE COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>607</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>96.38%</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>5/27/2020</b>
75	NEW RICHLAND	55	46	1	47	85.45%	8	5/20/2020
228	WASECA	319	308	-1	307	96.24%	12	5/27/2020
281	JANESVILLE	93	86	1	87	93.55%	6	5/27/2020
587	WALDORF	26	23	-1	22	84.62%	4	5/27/2020
<b>WASECA COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>493</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>93.91%</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>5/27/2020</b>
<b>AREA TWO TOTALS</b>		<b>1730</b>	<b>1661</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1676</b>	<b>96.88%</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>5/27/2020</b>
40	LANESBORO	107	108	-2	106	99.07%	1	4/22/2020
68	SPRING VALLEY	77	71	4	75	97.40%	2	1/22/2020
81	HARMONY	31	30	1	31	100.00%	0	4/15/2020
94	RUSHFORD	122	114	1	115	94.26%	7	5/27/2020
166	PRESTON	66	60	1	61	92.42%	5	5/13/2020

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

Myron Ehrich - First District Membership Director

197	CHATFIELD	50	44	1	45	90.00%	5	3/4/2020
299	MABEL	159	162	2	164	103.14%	-5	2/26/2020
369	WYKOFF	18	12	4	16	88.89%	2	9/13/2019
400	CANTON	14	15	3	18	128.57%	-4	1/8/2020
492	FOUNTAIN	15	10	4	14	93.33%	1	1/8/2020
526	PETERSON	38	36	2	38	100.00%	0	3/18/2020
544	OSTRANDER	23	22	1	23	100.00%	0	2/12/2020
637	WHALEN	14	6	1	7	50.00%	7	11/26/2019
<b>FILLMORE COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>734</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>97.14%</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5/27/2020</b>
191	CALEDONIA	157	148	1	149	94.90%	8	5/6/2020
249	SPRING GROVE	160	145	2	147	91.88%	13	5/27/2020
423	HOUSTON	109	100	1	101	92.66%	8	5/27/2020
498	HOKAH	21	19	2	21	100.00%	0	1/22/2020
595	LA CRESCENT	290	269	1	270	93.10%	20	5/20/2020
<b>HOUSTON COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>737</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>93.35%</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>5/27/2020</b>
<b>AREA THREE TOTALS</b>		<b>1471</b>	<b>1371</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1401</b>	<b>95.24%</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>5/27/2020</b>
56	ALBERT LEA	576	541	1	542	94.10%	34	5/27/2020
264	GLENVILLE	79	65	4	69	87.34%	10	2/12/2020
266	HARTLAND	16	12	1	13	81.25%	3	11/26/2019
317	EMMONS	58	51	2	53	91.38%	5	1/8/2020
404	ALDEN	114	104	1	105	92.11%	9	5/13/2020
552	FREEBORN	34	29	3	32	94.12%	2	3/11/2020
<b>FREEBORN COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>877</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>92.82%</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>5/27/2020</b>
91	AUSTIN	500	494	1	495	99.00%	5	5/27/2020
105	LYLE	87	80	4	84	96.55%	3	2/19/2020
140	GRAND MEADOW	45	40	1	41	91.11%	4	1/22/2020
146	ADAMS	188	184	2	186	98.94%	2	5/13/2020
161	LEROY	51	49	1	50	98.04%	1	4/1/2020
570	AUSTIN SPAM	8	13	1	14	175.00%	-6	5/13/2020
<b>MOWER COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>879</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>98.98%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5/27/2020</b>
<b>AREA FOUR TOTALS</b>		<b>1756</b>	<b>1662</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1684</b>	<b>95.90%</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>5/27/2020</b>
1111	DAKOTA	70	0	8	8	11.43%	62	2/26/2020
<b>DISTRICT ONE TOTALS</b>		<b>8149</b>	<b>7796</b>	<b>1744</b>	<b>7908</b>	<b>97.04%</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>5/27/2020</b>

AREA	VICE	COMMANDERS						
AREA ONE			3122	3102	37	3139	100.54%	-17 5/27/2020
AREA TWO			1730	1661	15	1676	96.88%	54 5/27/2020
AREA THREE			1471	1371	30	1401	95.24%	70 5/27/2020
AREA FOUR			1756	1662	22	1684	95.90%	72 5/27/2020

### DEPARTMENT STANDINGS BY DISTRICTS

First Place	3rd District at 98.12%	Sixth Place	7th District at 95.81%
Second Place	1st District at 97.04%	Seventh Place	10th District at 95.11%
Third Place	4th district at 96.49%	Eighth Place	2nd District at 93.57 %
Fourth Place	9th District at 96.08%	Ninth Place	8th District at 93.53 %
Fifth Place	6th District at 96.01%	Tenth Place	5th District at 89.22 %



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

When we were picking up the Flags in the cemetery at LeRoy Memorial Day night we found a penny on every veteran's grave stone in the cemetery, even the Civil War ones.

## THE MEANING OF COINS ON A HEADSTONE



A penny, you stopped and paid your respects.



A nickle, you attended bootcamp with them



A dime, you served in the armed forces with them



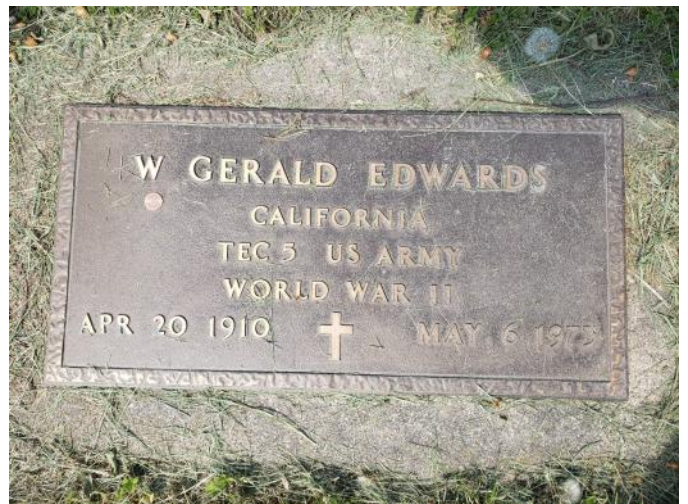
A quarter, you were with the soldier when they were killed

I was asked what that stood for so I called Ralph Schneekloth and he sent me the meanings of the coins left on grave stones.

The picture to the left of this explains what they mean.

I am sure not everyone knows this so thought I would share.

Adjutant—Wayne Hammon Jr





**The American Legion Department of Minnesota  
AN OPEN LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR OF MINNESOTA**

May 21, 2020

Dear Governor Walz:

Sir, on behalf of more than 66,000 American Legion veterans serving in 550 Minnesota communities, we stand with the professionals in the restaurant, bar and hospitality industries and dispute the restrictions placed on opening our Posts.

The American Legion of Minnesota concurs with the caution and shared sacrifice that our state must take to prevent the spread of the virus. More than 300 of our Posts operate restaurants or bars in our Minnesota hometowns, and our 101-year-old veteran service organization has always adhered to the strict standards of sanitation, cleanliness and hygiene as established by the state.

But Minnesota's American Legion Posts are more than bars or restaurants. We are proud community hubs, and contribute to civic causes, youth sports, public safety, social justice and patriotism. With Memorial Day upon us, our community tradition of gathering at our local Post to honor those who have fallen must be modified.

While we can accept changing our traditional gatherings this Memorial Day, we believe that the recently unveiled modifications that will go into effect on June 1<sup>st</sup> do not reflect the best course of action. The standard of outdoor patios only, 50 patrons at a time, a requirement for reservations and wearing masks in all circumstances are not suited for our American Legion Posts.

Governor, we are disappointed in your decision. Your fellow veterans urge you to reconsider and modify the established June 1<sup>st</sup> opening criteria. We concur with many of the restaurant and bar owners in our communities who believe we can open safely, and we assert that our veteran organization can likely set the highest standards of compliance with social distancing, sanitation and risk mitigation.

Thank you for your service to our state and nation during this difficult time. The American Legion is eager to getting back to fully serving our Minnesota communities. Your fellow veterans are counting on you to do the right thing for Minnesota.

For God & Country:

Mark Dvorak  
Commander  
The American Legion  
Department of Minnesota



May 26, 2020

To: All Legion Leadership  
From: Daniel S. Wheeler, National Adjutant; Kevin J. Bartlett, National Judge Advocate  
Re: American Legion Membership Eligibility of Personnel in the Newly Created United States Space Force

Per Title 36 of the US Code, Chapter 217, Section 21703,

An individual is eligible for membership in the corporation [The American Legion] only if the individual—

- (1) has served in the Armed Forces of—
  - (A) the United States at any time during—
    - (i) the period from April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918; or
    - (ii) any time after December 7, 1941; or
  - (B) a government associated with the United States during a period or time referred to in subclause (A) of this clause and was a citizen of the United States when the individual entered that service; and
- (2) was honorably discharged or separated from that service or continues to serve honorably during or after that period or time.

The United States Space Force was created by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2020, signed by the President on December 20, 2019. It became Public Law No: 116-92,

“§9081. The United States Space Force

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a United States Space Force as an armed force within the Department of the Air Force....

(c) SPACE FORCE AS AN ARMED FORCE.—Section 101(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting “Space Force,” after “Marine Corps,”.

Thus, as amended, Section 101(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code reads:

(4) The term “armed forces” means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard.

Therefore, as title 10 of the United States Code now includes Space Force as an “Armed Force” and our federally chartered membership criteria uses the same wording [“has served in the Armed Forces....any time after December 7, 1941”] there are no necessary acts required to extend membership to all who have served or continue to serve in the United States Space Force.

# FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY NEWS



## Auxiliary Contacts

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

### President

Wanda Prescher  
3321 Vista View Ct SW  
Rochester, MN 55902  
507-280-4027  
w.prescher@kmwb.net

### Secretary

Sharon Hammon  
115 East Cabot St  
LeRoy, MN 55951  
507-923-7205  
1stadjutant@gmail.com

### Membership / First Vice

Tonia Betterman  
1625 Crestview Lane  
Owatonna, MN 55060  
507-456-2315  
betttm88@outlook.com

### Treasurer

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

### June Newsletter

As our current year is winding down, I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy! The last 3 months have been somewhat challenging, and I want to thank everyone for staying the course. 1<sup>st</sup> District is tied with 6<sup>th</sup> District for the Carlson Hollenbeck Trophy for 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Membership at 93.49%! Let's keep turning in our membership through June!

Wouldn't that be such great recognition for our District! Been quite a while since we would have had the honor! Thank you to all our Unit Presidents, Membership Chairs, and Auxiliary members on their hard work on membership!

I want to recognize the following Units for achieving 100% or better of goal!  
**Alden, Austin, Freeborn, Glenville, Grand Meadow, Peterson, Rochester, Stewartville, and Waldorf! Congratulations!**

Your 1<sup>st</sup> District officers are staying in place for the coming 2020-2021 year. Thank you to our Unit Presidents and Officers who are planning on staying in place as well. I will be looking for anyone that might be interested on chairing one of our Auxiliary Programs.

Congratulations to those that sent their reports into Department by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Due to our Standing Rules, we can only award to those Units that met the April 15<sup>th</sup>. deadline. I received some great reports after that I wish we could have considered. Hopefully next year that will happen! Everyone, just keep up the great work you do for our Auxiliary!

Again, thank you to everyone who helped support my Project for our Veterans! We were able to raise \$3560.00 to date!! Couldn't have done without all of you!

Have a great summer! Stay safe and healthy!

Wanda Prescher - President

## FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY 2019—2020 AWARDS

With not having our District Convention in May, these are the following awards for 2019-2020.

Americanism -Betty Gartner Memorial Award - Glenville Unit 264

Miner/Isenberg Award - Hayfield Unit 330

Children and Youth- District Child Welfare Gavel - LeRoy Unit 161

Myrna- Gunderson Award - Hayfield Unit 330

Community Service – Evelyn Lyke Community Service Trophy – Stewartville Unit 164

Berenice Smith Community Service – Hayfield - 330

Education and Scholarship- Mildred Holtz Gavel Bell Trophy - Hayfield Unit 330

History- Irene Martin History Trophy - Wabasha Unit 50

Legislation-Betty Berg & Louella Gusa Trophy – La Crescent Unit 595

Junior Activities-Bev Jiardina Award-Hayfield - Unit 330

Membership-Marie Goede Membership Trophy-Alden Unit 404 - Austin Unit 91

Lynette Hillman Wolf Membership Trophy - Caledonia Unit 191-Freeborn Unit 552

Carol Kruger Membership Trophy - Alden Unit 404 - Austin Unit 91

We felt that since there were ties for all 3 membership awards, we will honor them!

Memorial-Audrey Erwin Memorial Award - Hayfield Unit 330

Music-Lois Deyo Music Award - Hayfield Unit 330

National Security Award - not given

Poppy-Lillian Koch Trophy - not given

Marge Schreiber Traveling District Poppy Queen Trophy - not given

Carol Kruger Traveling Poppy Queen Crown - not given

Public Relations-Anna Schmitz Trophy - not given

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation-District Rehabilitation Gavel Trophy - Elgin Unit 573

Gladys Johnson Gavel Bell Trophy - Hayfield Unit 330

Service to Veterans- Loretta Lechner-Service to Veterans Trophy - Stewartville Unit 164

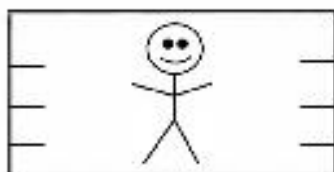
We have to do these awards as certificates for this year, due to COVID 19 and our clubs being closed. Certificates will be mailed to Unit Presidents.

# How to make a *Face Mask*

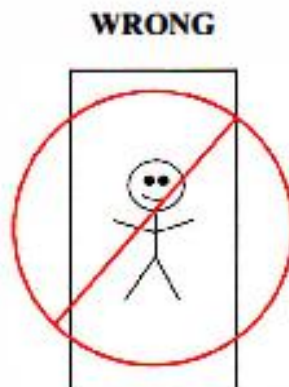
You will need a cotton fabric, any print for adult: 100% cotton, tightly woven fabric is preferred. Cotton flannel for the backing is preferred, though a different print of standard cotton is accepted.  
 1/8" flat braided elastic  
 Cut the elastic 7" long

## Adult face mask (9"x6")

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



**RIGHT**



adapted from pattern by

**THE TURBAN PROJECT** 501 c3



Full Tutorial on their Facebook and Website

## 1st District American Legion Auxiliary Membership As of May 20, 2020

Unit	Location	Goal	Previous	Turn In	Total	Percent	Left
9	Winona	137	135		135	98.54%	2
90	Lewiston	37	35		35	94.59%	2
190	St Charles	53	44		44	83.02%	9
50	Wabasha	113	108		108	95.58%	5
110	Lake City	72	63		63	87.50%	9
179	Plainview	139	119		119	85.61%	20
546	Kellogg	124	108		108	87.10%	16
573	Elgin	18	12		12	66.67%	6
579	Millville	53	50		50	94.34%	3
588	Mazeppa	37	36		36	97.30%	1
92	Rochester	135	135		135	100.00%	0
119	Byron	75	40		40	53.33%	35
164	Stewartville	173	173		173	100.00%	0
551	Eyota	100	96		96	96.00%	4
<b>Pod One Total</b>		<b>1266</b>	<b>1154</b>		<b>1154</b>	<b>91.15%</b>	<b>112</b>
295	West Concord	34	31		31	91.18%	3
330	Hayfield	182	171		171	93.96%	11
333	Kasson	133	133		133	100.00%	0
384	Dodge Center	75	63		63	84.00%	12
422	Claremont	21	19		19	90.48%	2
52	Blooming Prairie	104	90		90	86.54%	14
77	Owatonna	113	109		109	96.46%	4
75	New Richland	49	44		44	89.80%	5
228	Waseca	243	233		233	95.88%	10
587	Waldorf	19	20		20	105.26%	-1
<b>Pod Two Totals</b>		<b>973</b>	<b>913</b>		<b>913</b>	<b>93.83%</b>	<b>60</b>
40	Lanesboro	103	93		93	90.29%	10
68	Spring Valley	42	38		38	90.48%	4
81	Harmony	53	51		51	96.23%	2
94	Rushford	55	44		44	80.00%	11
197	Chatfield	32	29		29	90.63%	3
299	Mabel	123	109		109	88.62%	14
369	Wykoff	17	16		16	94.12%	1
526	Peterson	43	45		45	104.65%	-2

544	Ostrander	15	13	13	86.67%	2
637	Whalan	22	20	20	90.91%	2
191	Caledonia	75	74	74	98.67%	1
249	Spring Grove	122	107	107	87.70%	15
423	Houston	138	125	125	90.58%	13
498	Hokah	18	17	17	94.44%	1
595	La Crescent	181	169	169	93.37%	12
<b>Pod Three Totals</b>		<b>1039</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>91.43%</b>	<b>89</b>
56	Albert Lea	289	282	282	97.58%	7
264	Glenville	87	89	89	102.30%	-2
404	Alden	37	42	42	113.51%	-5
552	Freeborn	61	61	61	100.00%	0
91	Austin	128	133	133	103.91%	-5
105	Lyle	56	51	51	91.07%	5
140	Grand Meadow	63	64	64	101.59%	-1
146	Adams	132	123	123	93.18%	9
161	Leroy	46	43	43	93.48%	3
<b>Pod Four Totals</b>		<b>899</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>98.78%</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>4177</b>	<b>3905</b>	<b>3905</b>	<b>93.49%</b>	<b>272</b>

**\*Note:**

Green Highlight = Greater than 100%

### **Mining for Members...Each One is a Gem**

There has been much deserved on the hard work that has been done in the First District for membership this year. First District is tied for first place in the department with 93.49% with Sixth District. This would be an honor for the First District to receive the Carlson Hollenbeck trophy from Department. This is amazing with the Covid-19 breakout to still have this kind of turn out.

**I am going to award the unit with the greatest increase in membership by giving an award to the unit that has the most increased membership in the month of June. Please work on contacting the people that have not yet had membership for this year. The First District is doing an amazing job and let's show the Department what we can do.**

I would like to recognize all the units that have exceeded their membership this year. This is great to see this accomplishment. Keep up the amazing work.

Unit 404 – Alden with 113.51%

Unit 587 – Waldorf with 105.26%

Unit 526 – Peterson with 104.65%

Unit 91 – Austin with 103.91%

Unit 264 – Glenville with 102.30%

Unit 140 – Grand Meadow with 101.59%

Thank you for all your hard work.

Tonia Bettermann, Membership Chairman

## **American Legion Auxiliary Members:**

Recently Dept. of MN American Legion Commander, Mark Dvorak, appointed a COVID-19 Response Ad Hoc Committee, whose purpose is to assist and guide The American Legion Family during this challenging time. This committee will field calls and questions that may under normal circumstances be directed to our resources at the Dept. Office who at this time are primarily working remotely and are very busy keeping everything on track and as "normal" as possible for our members. I (Patti) have been asked to serve as the ALA Representative on this Ad Hoc Committee at the request of President Mary Hendrickson.

### **This committee in no way replaces any of our American Legion Auxiliary Chairmen/Committees or their responsibilities.**

It is a genuine effort to work together for the good of those who we serve. The Ad Hoc Committee is open to suggestions and ideas that will assist our American Legion Family moving forward in working our mission to serve veterans, their families, active duty military, reservists and our communities.

The members of the committee are listed below with their primary areas of focus:

**Teresa Ash-** Dept. Vice Commander of the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Districts is the Chair of the committee and will be the bridge between the committee and The American Legion Department of Minnesota Officers and staff.

**Jennifer Havlick-** Technology component lead assisting Districts, Posts & Units with learning about and obtaining the technology necessary to effectively communicate and hold meetings.

**Linda Dvorak & Mike Ash-** Will provide training in all areas of The American Legion, including MyLegion.org and focus on online education for Districts and Posts.

**Randy Olson-** Will field questions related to grants, employment, legislation and resources resulting from and related to COVID-19.

He will also keep track of requests for COVID-19 related supplies from the Minnesota Veterans Homes and VAHCS facilities. The idea is to minimize the number of calls to the facilities, the volunteer coordinators and the Dept. Offices.

The ALA will continue to work with our Hospital & Home Reps as we have always done and be our worker bees just like always. Randy will assist with the logistics and facilitating delivery of the needed items to the hospitals and homes. He has distribution leads throughout the state willing to travel and pick up items for delivery. The distribution leads are listed at the bottom of this page with their phone numbers.

**Patti Coleman-** American Legion Auxiliary Liaison- cell: 763-354-8644 email: pjc3555@aol.com

**Lloyd Schaeffer-** Sons of The American Legion Liaison

**Paul Hassing** – American Legion Riders Liaison

**Tom Fernlund-** Chairman of the American Legion Strategic Planning Committee

**Mark Dvorak-** Department Commander-Ex-Officio member as it is an American Legion Committee

**Mike Maxa-** Department Adjutant- Ex-Officio member as it is an American Legion Committee

If you have any questions about this committee, or how we are trying to assist you in continuing our mission of helping veterans and helping our members navigate through COVID-19 and getting the mission accomplished, please contact me. I will help where I can or find an answer for you. These are trying times and we will get through them together as The American Legion Family.

### **Distribution Leads:**

Luverne Veterans Home & Sioux Falls VAHCS- Randy Olson 507-525-6532

Silver Bay Veterans Home- Jennifer Havlick 218-834-4975

Hasting Veterans Home- Mike Ash 612-499-1404

Fergus Falls Veterans Home & Fargo VAHCS- Bill Barbknecht 218-770-6264

Minneapolis Veterans Home and Minneapolis VAHCS- Ken Gibson 651-329-8220

St. Cloud VAHCS- Sue & Paul Edwards 206-459-7070/218-820-6086

**Thank you for ALL YOU DO!** Patti Coleman, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

## FIRST DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 1, Subject: Cancellation of the 2020 American Legion Auxiliary First District, Department of Minnesota Convention in Austin, Minnesota.

The American Legion Auxiliary, First District submits the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, Article 7, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Department of Minnesota of the American Legion Auxiliary, the legislative body of the Department of Minnesota, shall hold a Department Convention to be held annually. The said Convention was scheduled to be held on July 15-18, 2020 at Morton, Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Minnesota and American Legion Auxiliary hold their annual Department Convention at the same place and dates, and

WHEREAS, The State of Minnesota and the United States in general are currently experiencing a pandemic associated with the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) therefore causing communities, cities, states and the federal government to enact unprecedented emergency actions in order to contain and combat the impact and risks of spreading the COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, The Governor of Minnesota has declared 33 Emergency Executive Orders to address the health crisis, and on March 13, 2020, Emergency Executive Order 20-01 declared a peacetime emergency in Minnesota, the Governor encouraged all Minnesotans to stay at home, to practice social distancing, and to avoid gatherings of ten or more people,

WHEREAS, A gathering of the members of The American Legion of the Department of Minnesota in Morton on July 15 – 18, 2020 for our Department Convention would be in conflict with the imposed restrictions set by state and federal authorities and therefore, place our members at an unnecessary health, safety and medical risk, and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Minnesota Executive Committee in Resolution Number 2020-2A which passed on April 10, 2020 "strongly urges the Detachment of Minnesota Sons of the American Legion, American Legion Riders of the Department of Minnesota, the American Legion Auxiliary; all programs and foundations of the American Legion, and all the Districts of the Department of Minnesota follow a similar course of action, namely: cancel their 2020 convention, elections, all gatherings and maintain their current officers until 2021", and

WHEREAS, the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota Executive Committee by electronic communication, voted on April 13, 2020 in agreement that present circumstances constitute an emergency making it impossible to convene a Department Convention and therefore said convention is cancelled, and

WHEREAS, American Legion Auxiliary District Constitution Article IV Section 1 – Officers and Their Elections state: Each District at its annual Convention meeting of delegates shall elect by plurality a President, First Vice President, a Second Vice President and two members of the Executive Committee. The Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-At-Arms, Chaplain, Historian, Parliamentarian and District Chairmen shall be named by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee, and

**(OVER)**

**FIRST DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY RESOLUTION CONTINUED**

WHEREAS, the First District of The American Legion Department voted to cancel their District Convention, and

WHEREAS, the District Conventions of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary are held at the same place and time, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2019-2020 District Officers of the American Legion Auxiliary will retain their current offices or appointments, unless said member chooses to resign or is reassigned or reappointed, until the close of the 2021 Department Convention, and be it further

RESOLVED, that because the District Junior officers were elected at their Junior Conference on March 14, 2020, held in Stewartville, MN, which was prior to the pandemic they will assume their office on July 18, 2020, and be it further

RESOLVED, that any Units within the First District American Legion Auxiliary that choose not to hold an election due to the current pandemic may also maintain their current officers until the close of the 2021 Department Convention, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the First District of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary Executive Committee via electronic communication for review, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the vote for approval of this resolution will take place on April 19, 2020.

Signed      Wanda Prescher  
                 District President

Sharon Hammon  
District Secretary

**This resolution was voted on via electronic communication and was passed.**

## CALL TO ACTION

TO: National Executive Committee Members, National Officers, National Chairmen, Past National Presidents

CC: Department Presidents; Department Secretaries, NHQ Staff

From: Kelly Circle, Executive Director

Re: **Call to Action 5-21-2020**

***The Legion has asked for our help in spreading the word and contacting our Representatives on the Senate and House Armed Services Committees regarding the issue below. This is a chance to work our Mission while at home and a chance to show our support for ALL our military!***

***If your Representative is not on the committee, you will receive a message that your message could not be sent. Feel free to reach out to your Senator and Representative and let them know how you feel. I included locator links at the bottom. Thank you for your time and efforts!***

***Here is the entire Call to Action message sent out yesterday evening:***

Legislative Commission and Legislative Council Vice Chairmen,

As the nation's largest veterans organization made up of nearly 2 million members, we are calling on the Legislative Commission and Legislative Council Vice Chairmen to disseminate the following Call to Action to your respective Legionnaires and Legislative Council members.

Please distribute the following message as well as the link provided so that our members can contact Congress directly!

Currently, more than 40,000 National Guard members have answered the call to service to help our nation fight this unprecedented pandemic. When these service members report to duty, they do so knowing they are putting themselves in harm's way for the greater good of our nation. Part of the promise we make to our National Guard is when they are called to duty, they will earn certain retirement and Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for their service.

Unfortunately, our nations service members are being treated like numbers on a spreadsheet instead of the heroes that they are. The Department of Defense has enacted a policy of issuing a "hard stop" for National Guard orders at 89 days, 1-day shy of the 90-day threshold required to earn many retirement and educational benefits.

## **CALL TO ACTION CONTINUED**

“The coronavirus pandemic has been devastating for many people. We would be far worse off if we did not have the National Guard setting up field hospitals, cleaning nursing homes and delivering emergency supplies. An 89-day deployment strongly suggests a decision based on accounting rather than what’s needed to truly respond to this emergency. The American Legion is calling for the president to fix this,” said American Legion National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford.

***Contact your Representatives on the Senate and House Armed Services Committees today to urge them to tell DoD to extend our Guardsman’s orders so they can earn the benefits they deserve!***

<https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/campaigns/74588/respond>

Thank you,

National Legislative Division

[grassroots@legion.org](mailto:grassroots@legion.org)

To find your Senator:

[https://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm?OrderBy=state&Sort=ASC](https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?OrderBy=state&Sort=ASC)

To find your Representative:

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

### **Note from President Wanda.**

I received this note from Department Secretary Sandie and thought it needed to be shared with the District.

**\*\*Service Update\*\*** First I want to thank all of you making the items for our VA Facilities. It is greatly appreciated by all 9 that we in MN support. Unfortunately, the rumor mill is alive and doing well in this pandemic. The masks and items you are making are worn, laundered, worn, laundered and worn, laundered until they wear out (elastic no longer stretches, fabric too thin etc.) and are deemed no longer effective. All 9 facilities verified this. Please, if you hear differently let the person(s) know that these masks are used again and again. The reason for the need of more is that they wear out and are not discarded after one use. Thank You.

Linda Kropuenske, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Department of MN

# CHANGES TO THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ELIGIBILITY

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

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

**Question:** Why change ALA membership eligibility?

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

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

**Q: How can this change help ALA membership?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**A:** We anticipate taking applications on Sept. 1.

# AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**THIS IS THE NEW APPLICATION FORM FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**



## American Legion Auxiliary MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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

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



## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

### COMMANDER

Greg Lemmer  
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### ADJUTANT

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### EAST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

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### WEST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

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### MEMBERSHIP

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### FINANCE OFFICER

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### Greeting SAL Members,

Hoping everyone is safe and staying healthy. These are certainly trying times that we are going through. With the stay home order I'm sure many of you are going crazy being locked down. I know I miss going down to our local Legion and meeting all the friends and Legion family members.

Memorial Day events are canceled and that certainly impacts that special day we honor all those who have given their lives for our beautiful country. Please do what you can to still show your honor for those who died while serving, and keep their families in your prayers.

There is some good news; the District is offering all of the Minnesota Posts the ability to use Zoom for meetings. Each Post is to have an account they can use. If you're interested in holding a virtual meeting please reach out to your Post as they should have the details. You can also reach out to this contact for help with Zoom. Jennifer Havlick at [Jennifer.Havlick@outlook.com](mailto:Jennifer.Havlick@outlook.com) Or use her cell 218-206-5796.

On a recent call there was a lot of discussion on "buddy checks". These are basically checks all of us can do for our Veterans and their families. We want to ensure everyone is being cared for and checked on. This could be as simple as a walk by, text, phone call etc.

Have you done anything to help others in your community? What can you and your Squadron do to help the community? Winona Squadron 9 recently donated \$500.00 to the local food shelf and another \$500.00 to the local nursing home who has had so many struggles with Covid-19. I know of at least two Veterans who recently passed away while in that nursing home. I know some of you are struggling yourself, but for those who can, please lend a hand where ever you and your Squadron can. Now is a good time to reach out to your members and get their memberships updated, and to look for new members. Minnesota ranks 26 amongst states in reaching their membership goal. We currently sit a little over 89%. Surrounding states such as Wisconsin, Iowa and South Dakota have all reached goal. Let's show them we can stand toe to toe with them.

When our Posts do open up they will need our help as they have all gone through some financial setbacks due to Covid-19. Do what you can to support your local Legion.

In closing I want to personally thank those currently serving and those that have served for your service to our country.  
God Bless our Troops and God Bless the USA.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Lemmer

### JUDGE ADVOCATE

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### HISTORIAN

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### SGT AT ARMS

Clint Betterman  
1625 Crestview Ln  
Owatonna, MN 55060

## SAL MEMBERSHIP FOR 5/26/2020

SQUAD	LOCATION	GQAL	PREVIOUS	TURN IN	TOTAL	PERCENT	LEFT	DATE
9	WINONA	80	83	1	84	105.00%	-4	5/6/2020
40	LANESBORO	60	53	9	62	103.33%	-2	3/10/2020
50	WABASHA	10	7	3	10	100.00%	0	12/10/2019
90	LEWISTON	48	0	47	47	97.92%	1	11/20/2019
92	ROCHESTER	122	125	-3	122	100.00%	0	3/10/2020
94	RUSHFORD	35	23	1	24	68.57%	11	3/10/2020
119	BYRON	39	38	1	39	100.00%	0	3/25/2020
164	STEWARTVILLE	109	105	1	106	97.25%	3	3/25/2020
166	PRESTON	41	42	2	44	107.32%	-3	5/19/2020
179	PLAINVIEW	14	11	2	13	92.86%	1	5/19/2020
190	ST CHARLES	10	13	-1	12	120.00%	-2	3/10/2020
191	CALEDONIA	10	0	0	0	0.00%	10	8/19/2019
249	SPRING GROVE	10	0	0	0	0.00%	10	8/19/2019
299	MABEL	20	12	3	15	75.00%	5	2/11/2020
423	HOUSTON	10	0	15	15	150.00%	-5	11/12/2019
446	ROCHESTER	10	0	10	10	100.00%	0	3/25/2020
546	KELLOGG	20	8	9	17	85.00%	3	1/15/2020
551	EYOTA	40	30	5	35	87.50%	5	2/11/2020
573	ELGIN	10	0	3	3	30.00%	7	9/12/2019
579	MILLVILLE	26	25	3	28	107.69%	-2	4/22/2020
595	LA CRESCENT	72	60	14	74	102.78%	-2	4/22/2020
TOTAL FOR EAST SIDE		796	0	125	760	95.48%	36	5/19/2020
52	BLOOMING PRAIRIE	40	0	41	41	102.50%	-1	2/11/2020
56	ALBERT LEA	112	120	1	121	108.04%	-9	4/22/2020
75	NEW RICHLAND	10	0	0	0	0.00%	10	8/19/2019
77	OWATONNA	139	114	-1	113	81.29%	26	3/10/2020
91	AUSTIN	71	62	-1	61	85.92%	10	5/6/2020
105	LYLE	35	1	25	26	74.29%	9	2/20/2020
140	GRAND MEADOW	13	0	0	0	0.00%	13	8/19/2019
146	ADAMS	93	79	14	93	100.00%	0	4/22/2020
161	LEROY	39	37	3	40	102.56%	-1	12/16/2019
228	WASECA	118	103	-2	101	85.59%	17	5/6/2020
264	GLENVILLE	46	47	-1	46	100.00%	0	4/22/2020
266	HARTLAND	12	0	10	10	83.33%	2	11/12/2019
281	JANESVILLE	10	0	7	7	70.00%	3	2/11/2020
317	EMMONS	16	1	24	25	156.25%	-9	12/10/2019
330	HAYFIELD	39	33	1	34	87.18%	5	3/25/2020
333	KASSON	43	34	3	37	86.05%	6	12/16/2019
384	DODGE CENTER	14	8	1	9	64.29%	5	3/25/2020
404	ALDEN	58	58	-1	57	98.28%	1	4/22/2020
552	FREEBORN	29	23	4	27	93.10%	2	3/10/2020
TOTAL FOR WEST		937	0	128	848	90.50%	89	5/19/2020
1111	DAKOTA	75	53	6	59	78.67%	16	5/6/2020
TOTAL FOR DISTRICT		1808	53	259	1667	92.20%	141	5/19/2020

## AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



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Greetings Legion Family,

With COVID 19 still affecting all of us, most (if not all!!) fun events have been cancelled.

Once our Legion Posts are open for business, they will need our support.

Ride safe and responsible. Stay healthy and we will be together soon!

First District ALR President

Roe Naylor

It is with heavy heart that I must announce another cancellation. The 2020 Minnesota Legacy Run will be canceled. We will ask the Legions currently committed to the Kickoff Party, Ending Party, and overnights to consider committing to the same for the 2021 Legacy Run. Stay Healthy and stay safe

Due to health concerns amidst the coronavirus pandemic, American Legion leadership has decided to cancel the 2020 National American Legion Legacy Run.



*We've missed you!*

**THE KASSON AMERICAN LEGION PATIO  
IS OPENING JUNE 1 AT 3 P.M.**

*Join us on the patio for*

- \* *Beer Specials*
- \* *E-tabs, pull tabs and e-bingo*
- \* *Taco Tuesday's are back!*
- \* *Pizza available*
- \* *Wait staff outside*

*We're looking forward to seeing you again!*

## EYOTA POST 551 INFORMATION

The bar will reopen on June 1st at 4:00. We have missed our customers (friends), but please be patient with the new rules.

- \* Boston Dawn will be our bartender for the 1st week or so.
- \* Customers cannot enter the building.
- \* Patio service only.
- \* Recycling and garbage containers will be available on the patio.
- \* Pizza and snacks will be available for purchase.

The bar will be learning how to best serve our customers (friends) on a daily basis. Your business will be appreciated. Thanks

# STEWARTVILLE POST 164 OPENING CALENDAR

## June 2020

### American Legion Post 164 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> <u>VFW Mtg 7pm</u> Bar Open 3-8:30pm Outside Service Burger Nite 5:30-7pm	<b>2</b> Bar Open 3-8:30pm Outside Service \$1 Off Large Heggies Pizza No Tacos	<b>3</b> Bar Open 3-8:30pm Outside Service Bar Menu 5-7pm No Bingo	<b>4</b> Bar Open 3-8:30pm Outside Service \$1 Off Large Heggies Pizza	<b>5</b> Bar Open 3-10pm Outside Service Grilled Food Outside 5pm	<b>6</b> Bar Open 3-10pm Outside Service Happy Hour 3-6pm Bar Menu 5pm
<b>7</b> Bar Open 3-7pm <b>Happy Hour All Day</b>	<b>8</b> <u>Legion Board 7pm</u> Bar Open 3-8:30pm Burger Nite 5:30-7pm	<b>9</b> Bar Open 3-8:30pm \$1 Off Large Heggies Pizza No Tacos	<b>10</b> Bar Open 3-8:30pm Bar Menu 5-7pm No Bingo	<b>11</b> Bar Open 3-8:30pm \$1 Off Large Heggies Pizza	<b>12</b> Bar Open 3-10pm Grilled Food 5pm Meat Raffle 6pm	<b>13</b> Bar Open 3-10pm Happy Hour 3-6pm Bar Menu 5pm-7pm
<b>14</b> Bar Open 3-7pm <b>Happy Hour All Day</b>	<b>15</b> <u>Aux Mtg 6:30</u> <u>SAL Mtg 6:30</u> <u>Legion Mtg 7:30</u> Bar Open 3-8:30pm Burger Nite	<b>16</b> Bar Open 3-8:30pm \$1 Off Large Heggies Pizza No Tacos	<b>17</b> Bar Open 3-8:30pm Bar Menu 5-7pm No Bingo	<b>18</b> Bar Open 3-8:30pm \$1 Off Large Heggies Pizza	<b>19</b> Bar Open 3-10pm Grilled Food 5pm Meat Raffle 6pm	<b>20</b> Bar Open 3-10pm Happy Hour 3-6pm Bar Menu 5pm-7pm
<b>21</b> Bar Open 3-7pm <b>Happy Hour All Day</b>	<b>22</b> <u>NO Legion Riders Mtg</u> Bar Open 3-8:30pm Burger Nite	<b>23</b> Bar Open 3-8:30pm \$1 Off Large Heggies Pizza No Tacos	<b>24</b> Bar Open 3-8:30pm Bar Menu 5-7pm No Bingo	<b>25</b> Bar Open 3-8:30pm \$1 Off Large Heggies Pizza	<b>26</b> Bar Open 3-10pm Grilled Food 5pm Meat Raffle 6pm	<b>27</b> Bar Open 3-10pm Happy Hour 3-6pm Bar Menu 5pm-7pm
<b>28</b> Bar Open 3-7pm <b>Happy Hour All Day</b>	<b>29</b> Bar Open 3-8:30pm Burger Nite 5:30-7pm	<b>30</b> Bar Open 3-8:30pm \$1 Off Large Heggies Pizza No Tacos				

**\*\* Meetings may be held outside or by Zoom. Contact your coordinator.**

**\*\* Bar hours will fluctuate with the ever changing regulations.**

**\*\* Pull Tabs and E Tabs will be available all hours that the bar is open.**

**THIS PROGRAM IS STILL ACTIVE AND SUPPLIES ARE NEEDED BUT RIGHT NOW THE ITEMS ARE BEING SENT TO THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD IN MINNEAPOLIS DOING SECURITY.**



The Eyota Legion Riders are asking for donations to put care packages together for local soldiers who are deployed.

Please see the list of items that are needed.

Drop off locations are at:

- ❖ Eyota American Legion
- ❖ Little Eagles Childcare Center/Eyota
- ❖ Olmsted County Veteran Services Office
- ❖ Anytime Fitness/Byron



**CANDY**

- Candy (heat resistant)
- Fruit Breezes (throat drops)
- Twizzlers

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Writing Paper and Envelopes
- Pens/Pencils

**DENTAL**

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Floss
- Mouthwash

**DRINK**

- Coffee (instant)
- Coffee Creamer
- Individual Size Drink Mixes

**FOOD (including dry goods, snacks)**

- Oatmeal (instant)
- Ramen Noodles-any flavor
- Bars (Clif or Balance)
- Beef Jerky or SlimJims
- Granola Bars
- Individual Crackers or Cookies
- Canned Fruit (pop top cans)
- Gum
- Sugar packets
- Ravioli (pop top cans)
- Tuna Kits

**TOILETRIES/HYGIENE**

- Baby Wipes
- Feminine Hygiene Products (for female soldiers)
- Travel size body wash
- Deodorant
- Foot Powder
- Hand Lotion
- Q-Tips
- Razors (disposable)
- Shampoo
- Sunscreen
- Tylenol (individual packets)

**Other**

- Batteries (AA, D, ....)
- Bug Spray (must be packaged in zip-lock bag)
- Duct Tape
- Flashlights (mini/mag lite, extra bulbs, lots of batteries)
- Fans (battery powered – small – with extra batteries)
- Fly Strips
- Fly Swatters
- Socks

**ENTERTAINMENT**

- Playing Cards
- Crossword Puzzles
- Hand held electronic games
- Soduko books