



**FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER**  
THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

**SEPTEMBER 2019**

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

September 7, 2019—The Department Harvest Rally at Legionville. It will be part of "Camp-O-Ree".

October 5, 2019 - 1st & 3rd district membership training in Blooming Prairie Post 52 at 10:00 AM. This is open to one and all legionnaires.

October 12, 2019 - The First District Fall Rally. See the insert at the bottom of the page

October 25 & 26, 2019 - The Department Fall Conference at Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen, MN

**DISTRICT FALL RALLY AT DODGE CENTER POST 384**

Executive Boards at 9:00 AM with coffee and rolls available.

Session to start at 10:00 AM.

Registration is five (5) dollars and a lunch ticket is eight (8) dollars.

Please pay registration and for lunch at the registration table.

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## FROM THE COMMANDER'S PEN

Greetings American legion family!

The National American Legion convention is now in the history books for 2019.

We now have a new National Commander, James W. Oxford, and 5 Vice Commanders. These have been installed and now in office as of noon on Thursday.

It was a great convention and met many new people that had a lot of information. It would be great if more people could attend and see more what the American legion is about.

Dodge county was designated as a Purple Heart county as of Tuesday August 13, 2019 at the Dodge county commissioners meeting. Several Dodge county Purple Heart recipients were in attendance to witness this event. THANK You for your service!!

The district picnic was very well attended with 23 or more posts represented. Thank you.

October 5, 2019 at 10:00 AM the Blooming Prairie service-men's club we are going to have a membership training seminar. ALL commanders and membership officers and others are invited to attend to get this very important information. Coffee and rolls before and food for purchase afterwards. Let's fill the room!!!!

My project this year is going to be PTSD and Legionville all funds will be divided 50/50.

MEMBERSHIP turn in, make sure it is at Department by the Thursday before rallies so it can be counted for the rally.

DO NOT HOLD them, mail them in !!!

District Convention Post!! We still need a post and place to have our convention in May 2020. Call Dale Welik at 507-421-5674. Wayne Hammon Jr. At 507-696-2707!

Pray for our deployed troops and all service personnel that are so proudly serving our country to preserve our Freedoms.

The Minnesota American Legion Riders with National Commander Brett Riestad after the 175,000 dollar donation to the Legacy Scholarship which puts Minnesota over the one million dollar mark of money donated.

At the National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.



## From your 1<sup>st</sup> District Legion Chaplain

Greetings to the 1<sup>st</sup> District!

My, how this month has gone by; seems like I was just writing for last month's newsletter and here it is time for another submission.

I hope and pray that everyone has had a great summer with family get-togethers, vacations, reunions, etc. Summer can pass by way too fast. I know mine has—not enough of the “honey-do-list” has been completed!

By the time you read this, the National Convention will have been completed and a new slate of officers will have been installed. If you would, lift them up in prayers as they start this new adventure in their lives, which will undoubtedly bring important challenges and victories while serving at the national level.

The Bible tells us in 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:1-3 that we are to “offer prayers and intercessions and give thanks for those who are in authority”. So let us not only pray and intercede for our new national Legion Commander, but also for all those in leadership positions from the President of the United States down to our local councils, and school and township boards, including our own state, district, and local American Legion Post commanders and officers. All are in need of our prayers.

We are losing day light fast; soon the time for harvest will be upon us. It's my favorite time of year, as we get to see how the hard work of planting and caring for crops turns out. My garden is really producing tomatoes, green peppers and soon we'll see what the potatoes will do. Hopefully, the popcorn crop will be just as good as the rest of the garden. Caring for our land is a privilege and responsibility made possible by service men and women who made and are making personal investment into its safe-keeping. We are “One Nation under God”, and I thank God for our military who work hard every day to keep it that way. I thank God for this country.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us “there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven.” May your season and activities be a blessing unto you from Our Heavenly Father.

Until next time, for God and Country,

Larry H. Otto

1<sup>st</sup> District Chaplain

### 3 FROM AREA ONE

Hello Area One – 1st District:

As the summer comes to an end, I will begin working on visiting all of the Posts in Area One. My plan is to attend a regular post meeting to help support your projects and offer help with concerns that you may have.

A special thank you to all who participated in the 1st District Legion Picnic at Dodge Center. It was a beautiful day filled with great food and fellowship, another reminder that we are a family and when we come together great things happen.

Taking care of our Veterans is not charity... It's our duty.

Area 1 Vice Commander, Mark Maloney

### FROM AREA FOUR

The summer is winding down, we will be sad to see it leave. Again. We had a great turnout for the district picnic on August 18th in Dodge Center. The weather was a little iffy, but it held out and we had a great day. Good food and good company. Special thanks to Jim Kellogg for his hard work preparing the food.

The National Convention is now over. What a great time. With the color guard and band competitions, the parade, with departments from all over represented and the Commander's Dinner, there was plenty to do. Indianapolis was a great host. At the convention, there were plenty of awards given and speakers. Vice President Mike Pence addressed the body with plenty of assurances that the current administration is behind veterans all of the way.

We now have a new national commander. James W. "Bill" Oxford from North Carolina was elected for 2019-2020. With his experience in The American Legion from the post level to the national level, and I am sure he will represent us well.

### FROM AREA TWO

Greetings,

With September now here and most vacations are over and kids heading back to school, it's time for your Vice Commander to hit the road and visit all Area 2 Posts. I'm looking forward to visiting and learning more about what you've got going on in your area. I can then share stories and successes with other Posts. I would like to point out as success that my home Post 228 has had in the last 3 weeks. Waseca Post 228 was finally able to purchase the old abandon house on the south side of their building. After working with the local Fire Department, a controlled burn was held and the property has now been changed into a parking lot and grasses picnic area. If you are traveling around, stop by and see the difference. Congratulations to Waseca Post 228 for ridding the city of an eye sore. That's it for now. Looking forward to my travels to visit your Post.

Mike Parry  
Area 2 Vice Commander  
1-507-382-8447

### AREA FOUR CONTINUED

To the posts in my area: I will be calling. Now is the time to work on membership. Keeping the members we have, connecting with the ones we have lost and transferring the members in 1982. Please send in any dues you have received. We are a little behind the other districts. We need to get to number one. Working together we can do this. We are not called the Mighty First for nothing.

Mary Hanson  
Area 4 Vice Commander

### FROM AREA THREE

Greetings to everyone,

Legion baseball once again Minnesota is Number 1 in the Nation with 366 team. I want to thank all the team in District 1 for participating. Congratulations goes out to Caledonia Post 191 for placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division II.

Things happening in the District:

October 5, 2019- 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> membership training, Blooming Prairie Post 52- 10:00 AM

October 12, 2019- District Fall Rally Dodge Center Post 384 10:00 AM

October 25-26, 2019 department fall conference Mahnommen MN at Shooting Star Casino.

Myself and the rest of the District officers are here to assist in any way possible.

Time is here Legion Act has been past. It's time to recruit new members. Just reminded that we set our dates, Congress did! We need to bring them in and welcome them to the legion post. We need a plan for transitioning our annual members to life members. Keep, keep, keep recruiting!

Keep up the good work and get your report in on time.

Thank you for your service,  
James Westby Semper Fi

### 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.**

# LEGION COMMITTEE CHAIRMANS

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## DISTRICT AND DEPARTMENT RALLYS 2019 – 2020

September 5,6,7,& 8 2019 - Department Camp-O-Ree – Legionville

September 7, 2019 - Department Harvest Rally – Legionville – 4 PM

October 5, 2019 – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Membership Training – Blooming Prairie Post 52 –10 AM

October 12, 2019 – District Fall Rally – Dodge Center Post 384 – 10 AM

October 25 & 26, 2019 – Department Fall Conference – Mahnomen, MN  
at Shooting Star Casino.

November 23, 2019 – Area 1 & 3 Educational/ Membership Rally, Winona Post  
9 at 2 PM.

December 7, 2019 – Department Pearl Harbor Rally – Rosetown Post 542  
Roseville, MN - 11 AM

December 15, 2019 – First District Christmas Party – Mabel Post 299 – 1 PM

January 4, 2020 – District Mid-Winter – Stewartville Post 164 – 10 AM

February 8, 2020 – Department Sweetheart Rally – Montgomery Post 79  
11 AM

February 22, 2020 – Area 2 & 4 Educational/ Membership Rally – Austin Post  
91 – 2PM.

March 21, 2020 – Department Appreciation Rally – LaCrescent Post 595  
4 PM. (time subject to change)

\_\_\_\_\_ District Jr Conference – TBA

April 25, 2020 - Commander Wellik's testimonial – Dodge Center Post 384  
5 PM social, 6 PM dinner with the program to follow.

May 2, 2020 – President Prescher's Testimonial – Stewartville Post 164  
5 PM social, 6 PM dinner with the program to follow.

May 15 & 16, 2020 – First District Convention - TBA

## FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Please do not hold on to your membership, send it in as soon as possible.

We need to get going, we are in ninth place and should be at the top of the standings.

I hope you had a great summer and I will see everyone down the road this fall sometime.

Please remember the 1st & 3rd Membership Training in Blooming Prairie Post 52 on October 5th at 10:00 AM. This is open to any and all legion members.

Myron Ehrich

Membership Director



In a significant legislative victory for The American Legion, President Trump signed a bill July 30 that declares the United States has been in a state of war since Dec. 7, 1941.

The American Legion sought the declaration as a way to honor approximately 1,600 U.S. servicemembers who were killed or wounded during previously undeclared periods of war.

The LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act) also opens the door for approximately 6 million veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible.

“Recognizing the service of these wartime veterans is the right thing to do and it is long overdue,” National Commander Brett Reistad said. “The families of those who were killed or wounded during these wartime acts should take pride in knowing that we recognize their sacrifice and service. Moreover, we are proud to welcome any of the six million living veterans from the previously unrecognized periods into our organization and call them ‘Legionnaires.’”

Now that the legislation has been signed, The American Legion’s eligibility criteria immediately changes from seven war eras to two: April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941 to a time later determined by the federal government. No other restrictions to American Legion membership are changed.

The law’s journey began on Feb. 14 when Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., introduced S. 504, along with Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C. A companion measure, H.R. 1641, was introduced in the House by Reps. Lou Correa, D-Calif., and Ben Cline, R-Va.

Reistad expressed gratitude to the bipartisan members of Congress for passing the legislation.

“We are grateful that President Trump fully acknowledges the importance of The American Legion by signing the LEGION Act in the White House today – just one week after it passed the House of Representatives,” Reistad said. “In an era of partisan gridlock, Republicans and Democrats in Congress overwhelmingly recognized the importance of allowing thousands of honorable but previously ineligible veterans the right to join the largest and most influential veterans organization in the country.”

Reistad pointed out that existing American Legion membership applications are in the process of being updated but can still be used. “In the meantime, I recommend that prospective Legionnaires and recruiters write ‘LEGION Act’ in the eligibility date section of American Legion membership applications if they fall outside the previous war eras,” Reistad said. “The larger pool of veterans now eligible for The American Legion will also open their family members to eligibility in the Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary as well.”

### ADJUTANT’S COMMENTS

To the right is a picture of the President signing the “LEGION ACT BILL”.

Please take time to read the article below the picture and on the following page as this is very important information for the entire legion family as it has to do with changing the eligibility for membership in the legion which will also affect the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion.

## MORE INFORMATION ON THE LEGION ACT SIGNED BY PRESIDENT TRUMP

With President Trump's [signature on the LEGION Act](#), the extension of the ongoing declared period of war was extended back to Dec. 7, 1941. The congressionally approved act is a way to honor thousands of veterans who were killed or wounded on duty during periods not previously considered a time of war.

"Finally Congress has acknowledged the service and sacrifice of at least 1,600 veterans who died or were wounded in previously undeclared periods of war," said American Legion National Judge Advocate Kevin Bartlett. "This new law honors the memories of those veterans while allowing other veterans from those previously undeclared eras to receive all the American Legion benefits they have earned through their service."

The LEGION Act - Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act — also redefines The American Legion's membership eligibility dates. The eligibility now span from Dec. 7, 1941, until a time when the U.S. is no longer at war, as determined by Congress.

Here are answers to 11 key questions about the new law and what it means for The American Legion.

**Question:** *How does this change the eligibility requirements for The American Legion?*

**Answer:** The only change is that Congress has reduced the number of eligibility periods from seven to two. They are April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941, and continuing. No other restrictions are changed.

**Question:** *What's the impact on veterans who previously were not eligible for American Legion membership?*

**Answer:** Veterans who were honorably discharged but whose service did not fall into the previous defined war eras may now join The American Legion immediately. To do so, eligible members may sign up at [www.legion.org/join](http://www.legion.org/join).

**Question:** *I am among the veterans who were not allowed to join previously, so why do you want me now?*

**Answer:** The American Legion's founding fathers believed, "a veteran is a veteran," an axiom that has held true throughout the organization's more than century of service. Some veterans were ineligible to join because of the war eras that were defined by Congress. The recent bill passage and president's signature changed that.

**Question:** *So how does this differentiate The American Legion from AMVETS?*

**Answer:** The American Legion's eligibility criteria states that veterans must have served during "wartime." When Congress decides the U.S. is no longer in a state of war, the Legion's membership eligibility period will close, while AMVETS will still be open to those who served.

**Question:** *How does this affect the Sons of The American Legion (SAL)?*

**Answer:** The Sons' eligibility criteria will change along with that of The American Legion. Any son or grandson of a living American Legion member will be able to join the SAL program. (Sons and grandsons of deceased veterans are also eligible.) For example, a son of a veteran who served between 1985 and 1988 previously would not have been eligible. With the extension of the war period, that veteran would immediately be eligible for The American Legion and the son would be able to join the SAL.

**Question:** *How does this affect the eligibility for the American Legion Auxiliary?*

**Answer:** This follows the same concept as the SAL, as noted previously. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is currently open to grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and adopted female descendants of eligible veterans.

**Question:** *How does this affect membership for departments, districts and posts?*

**Answer:** This change opens up American Legion membership to thousands more veterans who likely live in your communities. They may become members immediately.

**Question:** *The current membership applications don't address the eligibility change. How do we process those members?*

**Answer:** New membership materials will be developed and provided as quickly as possible. Until then, it is recommended that prospective members from a previously undocumented war era write "Other Conflicts" in the eligibility date section and send it in to their department with the appropriate dues.

**Question:** *What steps should departments, districts and posts focus on?*

**Answer:** A good first step would be to review all recruiting materials to look for eligibility dates. Information on electronic media (websites, social media channels, etc.) should be changed immediately. It is up to departments to decide on the best way to handle printed materials, while updated ones are being produced.

**Question:** *How does this change the Paid Up For Life program?*

**Answer:** There are no changes to the PUFL program, though the newly eligible members would be able to become PUFLs. To learn more about the program, visit <https://www.legion.org/PUFL>

**Question:** *Who can I contact for more information about this change as it applies to membership and recruiting?*

**Answer:** Contact the national Membership Division. Visit this web page to find the representative in your state. <https://>

## FIRST DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 8/28/2019

POST	LOCATION	GOAL	PREV.	TURN IN	TOTAL	PERCENT	LEFT	Date
9	WINONA	546	255	51	306	56.04%	240	8/28/2019
90	LEWISTON	71	2	1	3	4.23%	68	8/7/2019
190	ST CHARLES	141	70	2	72	51.06%	69	8/21/2019
<b>WINONA COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>758</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>50.26%</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>8/28/2019</b>
50	WABASHA	213	95	4	99	46.48%	114	8/28/2019
110	LAKE CITY	148	66	5	71	47.97%	77	8/28/2019
179	PLAINVIEW	171	69	5	74	43.27%	97	8/28/2019
546	KELLOGG	64	27	3	30	46.88%	34	8/28/2019
573	ELGIN	28	1	1	2	7.14%	26	8/14/2019
579	MILLVILLE	146	61	8	69	47.26%	77	8/28/2019
588	MAZEPPA	75	30	6	36	48.00%	39	8/21/2019
<b>WABASHA COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>845</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>45.09%</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>8/28/2019</b>
92	ROCHESTER	887	407	29	436	49.15%	451	8/28/2019
119	BYRON	140	7	0	7	5.00%	133	7/24/2019
164	STEW-ARTVILLE	292	147	6	153	52.40%	139	8/28/2019
446	ROCHESTER	15	1	4	5	33.33%	10	8/14/2019
551	EYOTA	185	60	19	79	42.70%	106	8/21/2019
<b>OLMSTEAD COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>1519</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>44.77%</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>8/28/2019</b>
<b>AREA ONE TOTALS</b>		<b>3122</b>	<b>1298</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>1442</b>	<b>46.19%</b>	<b>1680</b>	<b>8/28/2019</b>
295	WEST CONCORD	61	29	5	34	55.74%	27	8/14/2019
330	HAYFIELD	202	100	2	102	50.50%	100	8/21/2019
333	KASSON	260	126	21	147	56.54%	113	8/28/2019
384	DODGE CENTER	77	28	11	39	50.65%	38	8/21/2019
422	CLAREMONT	30	14	2	16	53.33%	14	8/28/2019
<b>DODGE COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>630</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>53.65%</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>8/28/2019</b>
52	BLOOMING PRAIRIE	104	36	0	36	34.62%	68	7/31/2019
77	OWATONNA	468	12	1	13	2.78%	455	8/21/2019
296	ELLENDALE	35	1	21	22	62.86%	13	8/14/2019
<b>STEELE COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>607</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>11.70%</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>8/28/2019</b>
75	NEW RICHLAND	55	17	4	21	38.18%	34	8/14/2019
228	WASECA	319	133	25	158	49.53%	161	8/21/2019
281	JANESVILLE	93	36	9	45	48.39%	48	8/21/2019
587	WALDORF	26	10	0	10	38.46%	16	7/31/2019
<b>WASECA COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>493</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>47.46%</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>8/28/2019</b>
<b>AREA TWO TOTALS</b>		<b>1730</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>37.17%</b>	<b>1087</b>	<b>8/28/2019</b>
40	LANESBORO	107	39	2	41	38.32%	66	8/21/2019
68	SPRING VALLEY	77	36	9	45	58.44%	32	8/28/2019
81	HARMONY	31	1	13	14	45.16%	17	8/14/2019
94	RUSHFORD	122	5	16	21	17.21%	101	8/14/2019
166	PRESTON	66	24	3	27	40.91%	39	8/14/2019
197	CHATFIELD	50	1	1	2	4.00%	48	8/21/2019

299	MABEL	159	57	0	57	35.85%	102	8/28/2019
369	WYKOFF	18	1	11	12	66.67%	6	8/7/2019
400	CANTON	14	2	0	2	14.29%	12	7/24/2019
492	FOUNTAIN	15	1	0	1	6.67%	14	7/24/2019
526	PETERSON	38	12	6	18	47.37%	20	8/21/2019
544	OSTRANDER	23	2	11	13	56.52%	10	8/14/2019
637	WHALEN	14	2	4	6	42.86%	8	8/14/2019
<b>FILLMORE COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>734</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>35.29%</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>8/28/2019</b>
191	CALEDONIA	157	13	1	14	8.92%	143	8/7/2019
249	SPRING GROVE	160	26	28	54	33.75%	106	8/7/2019
423	HOUSTON	109	33	2	35	32.11%	74	8/21/2019
498	HOKAH	21	12	0	12	57.14%	9	7/24/2019
595	LA CRESCENT	290	112	12	124	42.76%	166	8/28/2019
<b>HOUSTON COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>737</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>32.43%</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>8/28/2019</b>
<b>AREA THREE TOTALS</b>		<b>1471</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>33.85%</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>8/28/2019</b>
56	ALBERT LEA	576	300	20	320	55.56%	256	8/28/2019
264	GLENVILLE	79	12	9	21	26.58%	58	8/7/2019
266	HARTLAND	16	1	0	1	6.25%	15	7/24/2019
317	EMMONS	58	15	10	25	43.10%	33	8/14/2019
404	ALDEN	114	44	3	47	41.23%	67	8/7/2019
552	FREEBORN	34	11	4	15	44.12%	19	8/7/2019
<b>FREEBORN COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>877</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>48.92%</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>8/21/2019</b>
91	AUSTIN	500	230	12	242	48.40%	258	8/28/2019
105	LYLE	87	27	0	27	31.03%	60	7/31/2019
140	GRAND MEADOW	45	18	1	19	42.22%	26	8/21/2019
146	ADAMS	188	22	39	61	32.45%	127	8/14/2019
161	LEROY	51	31	3	34	66.67%	17	8/28/2019
570	AUSTIN SPAM	8	9	1	10	125.00%	-2	8/28/2019
<b>MOWER COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>879</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>44.71%</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>8/21/2014</b>
<b>AREA FOUR TOTALS</b>		<b>1756</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>46.81%</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>8/28/2019</b>
1111	DAKOTA	70	0	0	0	0.00%	50	8/1/2018
<b>DISTRICT ONE TOTALS</b>		<b>8149</b>	<b>2939</b>	<b>8149</b>	<b>3405</b>	<b>41.78%</b>	<b>4744</b>	<b>8/28/2019</b>

AREA	VICE	COMMANDERS							
AREA ONE			3122	1298	144	1442	46.19%	1680	8/28/2019
AREA TWO			1730	542	101	643	37.17%	1087	8/28/2019
AREA THREE			1471	379	119	498	33.85%	973	8/28/2019
AREA FOUR			1756	720	102	822	46.81%	934	8/28/2019

**PITCURES OF THE FIRST DISTRICT PICNIC , THIS PAGE AND THE FOLLOWING PAGE**





# FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY NEWS



## Auxiliary Contacts

### President

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### Secretary

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### Membership / First Vice

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### Treasurer

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## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

Now that we are all starting our new Auxiliary year, I hope you have a great year in your Units!

Remember to plan an event for the 100<sup>th</sup> Year Auxiliary Anniversary in November.

November 10<sup>th</sup> is the official day, but you can plan to celebrate any time during the month.

I look forward to visiting, Chatfield and Waldorf this month for their meetings. Waseca in October for the Membership Dinner and Glenville in November for Veterans Day Dinner! Thank you for asking!

I look forward to more Unit invitations!

Reminder to Unit Presidents, I would like to get your Chairman List with telephone and emails, to put a list together for the District Chairs to use for better communication within the District and between Units. We need to share our success 's with one another.

My Project for the coming year will be- the Veterans Emergency Fund at the Minneapolis VA.

Theme- Responding to Our Veterans Needs and Symbol- the Poppy.

Department President Mary Hendrickson's theme is Remember-Honor-Serve. This is who we are and what we do. We all need to just remember those 3 words!

Get a list of your members who aren't receiving the District Newsletter and would like to.

Forward to myself or Wayne Hammon -1stadjutant@gmail.com. A fraction of our members are not receiving the electronic newsletter!

Have a great September!

Wanda Prescher-District President



**President**

Wanda Prescher - Unit 164  
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**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

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**1<sup>st</sup> Executive Committee**

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 208 1<sup>st</sup> St SW - Dodge Center, MN 55927  
 507-271-5546  
 cuddlyteddy55928@yahoo.com

**2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Committee****Jr Past President**

Michelle Weaver - Unit 595  
 1303 Kane Street  
 La Crosse, WI 54603  
 608-519-8119 or 608-881-9049

**Chaplain**

Arlene Hyjeck - Unit 264  
 88915 145<sup>th</sup> St - Glenville, MN - 56036  
 507-433-2403

**Secretary**

Sharon Hammon - Unit 161  
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**Treasurer**

Audrey Farnsworth - Unit 164  
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**SGT at Arms**

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**Color Bearer****Committee Chairmans****Americanism**

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**Finance Committee**

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 Marie Goede - Unit 179  
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**Legislative**

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 bettm88@outlook.com

**Memorial**

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 507-433-2403

**Memory Book****Music**

Pat Nelson - Unit 330  
 9317 80<sup>th</sup> Ave SW - Stewartville, MN 55976  
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**National Security**

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**Past President Parley**

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 608-519-8119 or 608-881-9049

**Poppy**

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 La Crosse, WI 54603  
 608-519-8119 or 608-881-9049

**Public Relations**

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**Service to Veterans**

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**1<sup>st</sup> District Jr Auxiliary Officers**

**Honorary Jr President**

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**Jr First Vice President**

Bailey Anderson Unit 164  
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**Jr Secretary**

Taylor McElroy - Unit 161  
401 South Pine St – Riceville, IA - 50466  
507-696-9294

**Jr Treasurer**

Taylor McElroy - Unit 161  
401 South Pine St – Riceville, IA - 50466  
507 – 696 – 9294

**Jr Chaplain**

Hannah Meyerhofer - Unit 164  
12807 75<sup>th</sup> Ave SW - Stewartville, MN - 55976  
507-421-0562

**Jr SGT at Arms**

Madison Meyerhofer - Unit 164  
12807 75<sup>th</sup> Ave SW - Stewartville, MN - 55976  
507-421-0562

Below - A few of the Minnesota ladies reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at the Northwest Division Caucus at the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention in Indianapolis last month. Past District President Michelle Weaver is on the right.



# 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"/> Vietnam <input type="checkbox"/> WWII
<input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War	<input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada <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	Email	
Name	Phone	Email	
Name	Phone	Email	
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.*

**17 CONGATULATIONS TO PAT NELSON FROM HAYFIELD UNIT 330  
FOR BEING HONORED AT THE NATIONAL ALA CONVENTION!!!!**

**FOR BEING A GOODWILL AM-  
BASSADOR.**



Above— The Honored Goodwill Ambassadors on stage at the National American Legion Auxiliary Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Right— Pat Nelson, second lady from the right, and her fellow honoree's on stage.



Below—Pat Nelson receiving her award on stage at the National American Legion Auxiliary Convention.



I was remiss in the August Newsletter of not mentioning that our own First District member Pat Nelson from Hayfield Unit 330 was presented with the first Goodwill Service Award from National! Pat and three other members were chosen from across the country to receive this award. Congratulations Pat! On behalf of the First District, thank you for all you do for Unit 330 and the First District!  
Wanda Prescher  
President

# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



## COMMANDER

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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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Hello SAL Members,

Greetings to all, hope you are enjoying summer. Good news from your dedicated Vice Commanders is that all membership packets have been handed off to the Squadron's. It is now up to your leader's to get these completed and returned ASAP.

We held a meeting earlier this month to discuss the SAL bylaws and constitution. We are looking to get both documents reviewed, and sent out for review by you the members so they can be properly voted on. I was impressed at the knowledge and commitment of the project team to get this kicked off. Work still in progress but moving forward as needed.

Your Vice Commanders and Membership leader will be looking to reach out to you and possibly attend some of your meetings. Our goal is help you maintain a strong membership and involvement with your Post.

How many people know the significance of the third Friday in September? In the United States, National POW/**MIA Recognition Day** is observed on the third Friday in September. It honors those who were prisoners of war (POWs) and those who are still missing in action (**MIA**). Please remember those on this special day.

Please let your Vice Commanders or myself know what the SAL is doing at your different Posts so we can help publicize them. See the upcoming event in Winona.

Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup> will be the SAL Squadron 9 (Winona) fall chicken Q. A portion of those proceeds always go to Toys for Kid's. Join your friends and us at the Legion for a great chicken dinner.

As I always state; thank a Veteran or active military member for their service. They deserve our Thank You each and every day. Please pass this Thank You forward when you see a member of the military. Please remember you have your freedoms because of them.

In closing I wish you all the best. God Bless our Troops past and present and God Bless America.

Respectfully Yours,  
Greg Lemmer  
SAL 1<sup>st</sup> District Commander

## JUDGE ADVOCATE

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## HISTORIAN

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## SGT AT ARMS

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Owatonna, MN 55060

## SAL MEMBERSHIP FOR 8/19/2019

SQUAD	LOCATION	GOAL	PREVIOUS	TURN IN	TOTAL	PERCENT	LEFT	DATE
9	WINONA	81	0	4	4	4.94%	77	8/19/2019
40	LANESBORO	62	0	0	0	0.00%	62	8/19/2019
50	WABASHA	11	0	0	0	0.00%	11	8/19/2019
90	LEWISTON	47	0	0	0	0.00%	47	8/19/2019
92	ROCHESTER	133	0	80	80	60.15%	53	8/19/2019
94	RUSHFORD	48	0	0	0	0.00%	48	8/19/2019
119	BYRON	38	0	0	0	0.00%	38	8/19/2019
164	STEWARTVILLE	111	0	12	12	10.81%	99	8/19/2019
166	PRESTON	44	0	0	0	0.00%	44	8/19/2019
179	PLAINVIEW	18	0	0	0	0.00%	18	8/19/2019
190	ST CHARLES	12	0	7	7	58.33%	5	8/19/2019
191	CALEDONIA	3	0	0	0	0.00%	3	8/19/2019
249	SPRING GROVE	3	0	0	0	0.00%	3	8/19/2019
299	MABEL	29	0	0	0	0.00%	29	8/19/2019
423	HOUSTON	3	0	0	0	0.00%	3	8/19/2019
546	KELLOGG	24	0	0	0	0.00%	24	8/19/2019
551	EYOTA	44	0	0	0	0.00%	44	8/19/2019
573	ELGIN	3	0	0	0	0.00%	3	8/19/2019
579	MILLVILLE	32	0	0	0	0.00%	32	8/19/2019
595	LA CRESCENT	71	0	0	0	0.00%	71	8/19/2019
TOTAL FOR EAST SIDE		817	0	0	103	12.61%	714	8/19/2019
52	BLOOMING PRAIRIE	42	0	0	0	0.00%	42	8/19/2019
56	ALBERT LEA	141	0	44	44	31.21%	97	8/19/2019
75	NEW RICHLAND	5	0	0	0	0.00%	5	8/19/2019
77	OWATONNA	142	0	0	0	0.00%	142	8/19/2019
91	AUSTIN	72	0	0	0	0.00%	72	8/19/2019
105	LYLE	35	0	0	0	0.00%	35	8/19/2019
140	GRAND MEADOW	13	0	0	0	0.00%	13	8/19/2019
146	ADAMS	136	0	0	0	0.00%	136	8/19/2019
161	LEROY	51	0	0	0	0.00%	51	8/19/2019
228	WASECA	32	0	0	0	0.00%	32	8/19/2019
264	GLENVILLE	41	0	6	6	14.63%	35	8/19/2019
266	HARTLAND	15	0	0	0	0.00%	15	8/19/2019
281	JANESVILLE	10	0	0	0	0.00%	10	8/19/2019
317	EMMONS	16	0	0	0	0.00%	16	8/19/2019
330	HAYFIELD	36	0	0	0	0.00%	36	8/19/2019
333	KASSON	35	0	0	0	0.00%	35	8/19/2019
384	DODGE CENTER	13	0	0	0	0.00%	13	8/19/2019
404	ALDEN	63	0	0	0	0.00%	63	8/19/2019
552	FREEBORN	32	0	0	0	0.00%	32	8/19/2019
TOTAL FOR WEST SIDE		930	0	50	50	5.38%	880	8/19/2019
1111	DAKOTA	83	0	0	0	0.00%	83	8/19/2019
TOTAL FOR DISTRICT		1830	0	0	0	0.00%	1830	8/19/2019

## AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



### DIRECTOR

Roe Naylor  
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### VICE DIRECTOR

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### SECRETARY

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### FIRST DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Congratulations to the new officers. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to our director or advisor. The contact information is on the left.

Rider chapters-if you have an event coming up and would like it published in the newsletter or our Facebook page, please e-mail it to [lewisonnancy@gmail.com](mailto:lewisonnancy@gmail.com).

Please see the flyer in this newsletter for the fall ride on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 hosted by the Rushford ALR.

The Department ALR Romp is scheduled for September 13-15<sup>th</sup> at Legionville. All ALR members are welcome to attend. There will be a meeting as well as other events happening. If you are staying on the grounds, campers and tents are welcomed. If you are staying in the barracks you need to bring bedding, towels etc.

Thank you to all of the Posts, Auxiliary Units and SAL Chapters for the donations to the legacy scholarship fund. We did not have a district ride this year and we asked for your support. You did it!

A fall meeting notice will be sent out and posted on Facebook at a later date.

Nancy Lewison  
First District ALR Secretary



~ Tuesday ~  
**Bingo** with Special Games & Drink Specials

~ Wednesday ~  
**Open House** 3-7 p.m.  
 Historic Displays & Refreshments  
**Waseca Legion Trivia** at 7 p.m.

~ Thursday ~  
**Beer & Brats**  
 Serving starts at 4 p.m.  
**Meat Raffles**

Lic. A 00135

**Waseca Post 228 Legion Family Celebrates**



**October 1 ~ 6 2019**

~ Friday ~  
**Past Officer Appreciation** (by invite)  
**In a Bind** performs in the lounge at 7 p.m. (open to public)

~ Saturday ~  
**Membership Dinner**  
 Social Hour at 4 Program at 5  
**Miller Denn** in the lounge after

~ Sunday ~  
**Dad's Belgian Waffles** 8 a.m. - 12 noon  
**Vikings Game** at noon

**STEAK FRY**



**Choose steak, shrimp or both!**  
**Served with a baked potato, dinner salad and Texas garlic toast.**  
**12 oz. ribeye \$15**  
**6 shrimp \$10**  
**8 oz. ribeye & 3 shrimp \$15**

Proceeds go toward required kitchen upgrades and other building repairs.

**2nd Friday Monthly, 5-7 p.m.**

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



**Fall Chicken-Q**



**Saturday September 7, 2019**

**Winona Legion Club**  
**302 East Sarnia**

**Serving 11am until Gone**  
**\*\*Pre-Sales held until 1pm\*\***

**½ BBQ Chicken, Baked Potato, Baked Beans and Bloedow's Roll all for just \$8.00**

Tickets available at the bar or from any SAL member.



A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Winona Area Toys for Kids campaign

**LACRESCENT SAL OMELET BREAKFAST**



**8:00 AM until 12:00 PM**

**AT THE LACRESCENT EVENT CENTER ON THE LAST SUNDAY MORNING OF THE ODD NUMBERED MONTHS.**



# **Fall Color River Run**

*Sponsored by Rushford American Legion Riders*

**October 5, 2019**

**Registration 9am**

**Kickstands up at 11am**

**Cost will be \$20.00 per driver  
& \$10.00 per rider**

**Ride starts at Rushford American Legion  
Post 94, 213 Hwy 16, Rushford MN**

**We will take a scenic river run thru the  
Tri-State Bluff Country.**



**Proceeds from this ride will support Veterans and Veteran Causes. A portion of this ride will also be given to Jenni Peterson (District 1 Rider) to recover from her medical expenses due to a motorcycle accident in June.**