



FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

SEPTEMBER 2022

Legion Contacts

Commander

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14758SW 52nd Ave
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VICE—COMMANDER INFORMATION

Area One - Robert Schmidt
1104 West Center St
Lake City, MN 55041
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Area Two - **We still need an Area Two vVce Commander ,if you are a member In Waseca, Steele or Dodge County please consider volunteering.**

Area Three - James Westby
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Area Four - Cole Wilcox
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September 7 10, 2022 Camporee at Legionville.

September 10, 2022 The Department Harvest Rally in Legionville

September 22, 2022 First District Educational and Learning rally. It will be held at Preston Post 166 at 6:00 PM. Take note of the date as it's a Thursday night.

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

On the bottom of page six (6) is a list of important dates in September. How many did you know of ??????

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.

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

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

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

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

FALL RALLY

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

MID-WINTER

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

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

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

MEMBERSHIP RALLIES AND EVENTS

2022-2023

September 8-10, 2022, Patriots Day (Harvest Rally)

Legionville – there will be a 9-11 ceremony on Saturday

September 16-18, 2022, National Security Weekend

Camp Ripley – District Commanders and District National Security Chairs

September 22, 2022, Area 3 First District Educational & Learning Rally – Preston American Post 166 (217 St Paul St, Preston, MN) 6:00 PM (Thursday night)

October 15, 2022, First District Fall Rally – LeRoy Community Center (204 West Main Street, LeRoy, MN).

Exec Board 9:00 AM Session starts at 10:00AM

October 27-29, 2022, Fall Conference

St Cloud Convention Center

November 1-11, 2022, Sister District Revitalizations

November 11, 2022, Veterans Day Walk

November 19, 2022, Area 2 First District Educational & Learning Rally - Location, updated date and time TBA.

Pearl Harbor Rally

December 10, 2022

Royalton Post 137

103 N Maple St

Royalton MN 56373

Meal cost \$15.00 (Deadline for Reservations November 23, 2022)

Membership Turn In/Social: 10:30 am

Meal Served: 11:30 am (Pulled Pork Sandwich, Cheesy Potatoes, Potato Salad, and dessert.)

Program: 12:30 pm

Point of Contact: Jody Hassing

December 11, 2022, First District Christmas Party – location & time TBA

January 7, 2023, First District Mid – Winter – Owatonna Post 77 (137 Broadway St West, Owatonna, MN) Exec Boards 9:00 AM, sessions start at 10:00 AM

Sweetheart Rally

Osseo American Legion Post 172

February 4 or 11, 2023

260 4th St SE

Osseo MN 55369

Meal cost \$15.00 (Deadline for Reservations January 27, 2023)

Membership Turn In/Social: 10:30 am

Meal Served: 11:30 am (Sloppy Joes, Coleslaw, Chips, and Dessert)

Program: 12:30 pm

Point of Contact: Mary Kuperus - Cell – 320 -354 - 4741**February 18, 2023, Area 1 First District Educational & Learning Rally -****Location, updated date and time TBA****March 25, 2023 Area 4 First District Educational & Learning Rally –****Location, updated date and time TBA****Legion Family Appreciation Party**

New Prague American Legion Post

April 15, 2023,

300 Lexington Ave S

New Prague MN 56071

Meal cost \$15.00 (Deadline for Reservations April 7, 2023)

TAL DEC: 10:30 am

ALA DEC: 10:30 am

Membership Turn In/Social: 11:30 am

Meal Served: 12:30 pm (Hot Beef Sandwich, Beans, Coleslaw and Dessert)

Program: 1:30 pm

Point of Contact: Linda Dvorak - 952 – 457 - 2129**May 13, 2023 Dept Comanders Testimonial****TDB****May 6, 2023 First District SAL Convention – Kasson American Legion
Post 333 (312 West Main Street, Kasson , MN) time TBA****May 6, 2023 First District ALR Convention – Kasson American Legion
Post 333 (312 West Main Street, Kasson, MN) time TBA****May 20, 2023 First District Legion & Aux Convention – Kasson American
Post 333 (212 West Main Street, Kasson, MN). Time TBA****July 2023 Department Convention - TBA**

(Department events in red and District events in Black)

2022-2023 Department Membership Dates

Harvest Rally (Legionville – Dinner Tickets \$15.00)	September 10, 2022
Early Bird/NEF Kickoff (National Target Date-50%)	September 14, 2022
2023 Renewal Cutoff	September 19, 2022
<u>Membership must be into Dept by Sept 13, MyLegion by Sept 9</u>	
Fall Meetings (National Target Date-55%)	October 13, 2022
2023 Renewal Cutoff	October 21, 2022
<u>Membership must be into Dept by Oct 18, MyLegion by Oct 11</u>	
Department Fall Conference (St Cloud Convention Center)	October 27-29, 2022
Veterans Day (National Target Date-65%)	November 9, 2022
Pearl Harbor Rally (Royalton Post 137 - see back)	December 3, 2022
Pearl Harbor Day (National Target Date-75%)	December 14, 2022
2023 Renewal Cutoff	December 16, 2022
<u>Membership must be into Dept by Dec 12, MyLegion by Dec 7</u>	
Mid-Winter (National Target Date-80%)	January 19, 2023
Sweetheart Rally (Osseo Post 172 – see the back)	February 4, 2023
Presidents Day (National Target Date-85%)	February 15, 2023
2023 Renewal Cutoff	February 17, 2023
<u>Membership must be into Dept by Feb 13, MyLegion by Feb 7</u>	
Legion Birthday (National Target Date-90%)	March 15, 2023
Appreciation Rally (New Prague Post 45 – see the back)	April 15, 2023
National Commanders Tour (Northern Tour)	April 16-21, 2023
2023 Renewal Cutoff	April 18, 2023
<u>Membership must be into Dept by Apr 10, MyLegion by Apr 8</u>	
Children & Youth (National Target Date-95%)	April 19, 2023
MN American Legion College (Camp Ripley)	April 20-23, 2023
Department Auxiliary Presidents Testimonial (Spicer Post 155)	April 22, 2023
Department Commanders Testimonial (New Prague Post 45)	May 13, 2023
Armed Forces Day (National Target-100%)	May 1

FROM YOUR COMMANDER'S PEN



Greetings 1st District,

We have a couple of fellow legionnaires that need your prayers and kind thoughts. Jim Westby from Mabel and Glenn Mueller from St. Charles are having medical issues. Let's lift them up and make their journey a little bit brighter.

A big thank you goes out to the Rushford Post. They hosted the district picnic on August 7th. The weather was a little sloppy that day, so it was moved to the post. They did a wonderful job with the food and hospitality. A good time was had by those that attended. We filled the place, which was good to see. I was concerned since we moved it to another district for the first time in awhile. I hope future district leadership will continue to move it around and give more members a chance to attend.

Congratulations to the Hayfield girls fast pitch softball team for winning the state title. It was great to keep it in the 1st District. Luann McMahan and her team did an amazing job. I plan on being at more games next year. I hope you do too. We need to support both the girls and boys teams more than we do. We need to be in the stands.

We are still in need of a vice commander for area 2 that covers Dodge, Steele and Waseca Counties. I have been visiting posts in the area but have not come up anyone as of yet. The candidate would need to visit each of the 12 posts at least once during the year. Write an article for the newsletter. They would be a member of the executive board. Most important is making the connection with each post. Disseminate information and see if there is anything we can do to help the posts succeed. There are no special qualifications. Please let us know if you are interested.

Our first rally is on September 22nd at the Preston Post at 6 pm. This was going to be Jim Westby's rally. Please come and show some support. **Everyone is invited.** The total Legion Family. You do not need to hold an office to attend. We need to do something to increase attendance. These are learning rallies. You never know what you will learn if you don't come. We will be working to get the whole Legion family involved.

We need your ideas. If you have something you want discussed or an idea for the Christmas Party or a rally. Please do not be afraid to contact us. We are here to serve you.

If you are a post commander and provided an email address on the officer's report, please check your emails if you have not seen one from me and responded. Check your spam files. Since I will not be able to make to all post meetings, I would like to use emails to contact you.

I will just be getting home from the American Legion National Convention in Milwaukee when you receive this newsletter. We have a good contingent representing the 1st District going. I will update you in the next newsletter. Excited to be going.

Until next month,
Mary Hanson

SOME DATES IN SEPTEMBER TO REMEMBER



- Patriot Day** -----September 11th
- POW/MIA Day** -----September 16th
- American Legion Day** -----September 16th
- Constitution Week** -----September 17th to 23rd
- Air Force Birthday** -----September 18th
- Gold Star Mothers Day** -----September 25th

FROM YOUR CHAPLAIN

To the 1st District American Legion Family,

Where did this summer go? Every year I think time goes by faster than the last year's; maybe it's because I'm getting older. As a child it took forever for Christmas to get here and now it seems more like the day after the 4th of July!

Soon you'll be seeing those yellow stretched limos on the road again! Be careful as those school buses are hauling the next generation of teachers, lawyers, farmers, etc. etc. It's our future in those buses. Also, as the days become shorter, we'll see more farmers on the road; give them a brake, too. God has blessed us with another fantastic crop here in our area, or so it looks. Some parts of the state have not been so blessed. In your daily prayer give thanks to God for all He has provided us.

We sometimes tend to complain about how things are going in our lives. If we'd only take time and look at the good, maybe we'd forget about the bad. The world kind of revolves around "What's in it for me?" I thank God for the people of the American Legion who are in it for others. Everything we do as Legionnaires is for the good of someone else. And we do it better than any other group or organization in the world. We just have to remember we do it for God and Country. If we would keep God in the forefront of our lives, our state and country, He will be faithful in return. In the book of Psalms, 33rd chapter verse 12, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." God has blessed this nation in many ways. All we have to do is look to Him for guidance.

May God continue to bless you and yours in the days, months and years to come. Remember our service personnel in your prayer; also, our veterans, people in need of our prayers, and do a buddy check.

Until next month, go in God's peace and grace.

Larry H. Otto

1st District Chaplain



FROM AREA FOUR

Members of Area 4,

The PACT Act has been signed into law! This new benefit for those of you that don't know expand and extends eligibility for toxic exposures from Vietnam, Gulf War and Post 9/11 veterans. Please make sure to let veterans from these eras aware of it and contact your veterans service officer with any questions about it.

Starting this month, I will start visiting posts in Area 4. If you have a specific meeting, you would like me to come to let me know and I will make appropriate arrangements to make it happen.

Cole Wilcox

1st District Area 4 Vice Commander





Images from the First District picnic held on August 6th in Rushford American Legion Post 94 due to weather issues .
THANK YOU RUSHFORD FOR A GREAT DAY !!!





Left, lower left and right, more images from the First District Picnic in Rushford.



First District American Legion Family,

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

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

God Bless America, the Legion Family and all our Veterans.

Mike Parry, Member
Media & Communications
Dept of Minnesota
American Legion



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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

Commander
Mark A Maloney III

THANK YOU !!!!!!!

Like to thank those of you use wished me well while I was in hospital. I was in the hospital for 7 days 5 of 7 days I was fighting an infection. I ended loosing my second toe on my right foot and doing well would like thank Larry Otto for the card and well wishing words .This had shown me who actually backs up their words with action and who only says the words with no action behind thank you again to those who shown me they care .

Mark Maloney

Dist	Post	Location	New 2022	PUFL 2022	Online 2022	Trad 2022	Paid 2022	HQ Trans 2022	Total Membr 2022	Goal 2022	% of Goal	HQ Trans 2022	Last yr at this dae
1	9	Winona	6	35	0	251	292	0	292	477	61.22%	0	0
1	90	Lewiston	0	11	0	1	12	0	12	80	15.00%	0	0
1	190	St Charles	0	16	0	56	72	0	72	140	51.43%	0	0
1		Winona County	6	62	0	308	376	0	376	697	53.95%	0	0
1	50	Wabasha	0	46	0	11	57	0	57	207	27.54%	0	0
1	110	Lake City	0	16	0	7	23	0	23	201	11.44%	0	0
1	179	Plainview	0	26	0	61	87	0	87	147	59.18%	0	0
1	546	Kellogg	0	8	0	0	8	0	8	60	13.33%	0	0
1	573	Elgin	0	3	0	0	3	0	3	27	11.11%	0	0
1	579	Millville	0	20	0	13	33	0	33	109	30.28%	0	0
1	588	Mazeppa	0	8	0	1	9	0	9	64	14.06%	0	0
1		Wabsha County	0	127	0	93	220	0	220	815	26.99%	0	0
1	92	Rochester	2	91	0	336	429	0	429	784	54.72%	0	0
1	119	Byron	0	18	0	6	24	0	24	127	18.90%	0	0
1	164	Stewartville	9	25	0	144	178	0	178	285	62.46%	0	0
1	446	Rochester	0	2	0	1	3	0	3	12	25.00%	0	0
1	551	Eyota	0	22	0	13	35	0	35	185	18.92%	0	0
1		Olmsted County	11	158	0	500	669	0	669	1393	48.03%	0	0
1		Area One	17	347	0	901	1265	0	1265	2905	43.55%	0	0
1	295	West Concord	0	7	0	1	8	0	8	43	18.60%	0	0
1	330	Hayfield	0	18	0	71	89	0	89	162	54.94%	0	0
1	333	Kasson	0	31	0	10	41	0	41	242	16.94%	0	0
1	384	Dodge Center	0	8	0	2	10	0	10	76	13.16%	0	0
1	422	Claremont	1	3	0	17	21	0	21	30	70.00%	0	0
1		Dodge County	1	67	0	101	169	0	169	553	30.56%	0	0
1	52	Blooming Prairie	0	17	0	2	19	0	19	85	22.35%	0	0
1	77	Owatonna	0	57	0	102	159	0	159	407	39.07%	0	0
1	296	Ellendale	0	3	0	4	7	0	7	34	20.59%	0	0
1		Steel County	0	77	0	108	185	0	185	526	35.17%	0	0
1	75	New Richland	0	8	0	1	9	0	9	44	20.45%	0	0
1	228	Waseca	0	23	0	142	165	0	165	275	60.00%	0	0
1	281	Janesville	3	5	0	47	55	0	55	86	63.95%	0	0
1	587	Waldorf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0.00%	0	0
1		Waseca County	3	36	0	190	229	0	229	427	53.63%	0	0
		Area Two	4	180	0	399	583	0	583	1506	38.71%	0	0

1	12	40	Lanesboro	1	14	0	38	53	0	53	107	49.53%	0	0
1	68		Spring Valley	0	8	0	0	8	0	8	67	11.94%	0	0
1	81		Harmony	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	27	3.70%	0	0
1	94		Rushford	1	9	0	38	48		48	94	51.06%	0	0
1	166		Preston	0	15	0	1	16	0	16	51	31.37%	0	0
1	197		Chatfield	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	38	5.26%	0	0
1	299		Mabel	1	30	0	51	82	0	82	147	55.78%	0	0
1	369		Wykoff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0.00%	0	0
1	400		Canton	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	22	9.09%	0	0
1	492		Fountain	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	12	8.33%	0	0
1	526		Peterson	0	4	0	0	4	0	4	39	10.26%	0	0
1	544		Ostrander	0	2	0	0	2	0	2	22	9.09%	0	0
1	637		Whalan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0.00%	0	0
1			Fillmore County	3	84	0	132	219	0	219	651	33.64%	0	0
1	191		Caledonia	0	15	0	5	20	0	20	132	15.15%	0	0
1	249		Spring Grove	0	12	0	6	18	0	18	138	13.04%	0	0
1	423		Houston	0	7	0	35	42	0	42	100	42.00%	0	0
1	498		Hokah	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	22	9.09%	0	0
1	595		LaCrescent	0	44	0	113	157	0	157	247	63.56%	0	0
1			Houston County	0	79	0	160	239	0	239	639	37.40%	0	0
1			Area Three	3	163	0	292	458	0	458	1290	35.50%	0	0
1	56		Albert Lea	0	37	0	200	237	0	237	487	48.67%	0	0
1	264		Glenville	0	8	0	23	31	0	31	67	46.27%	0	0
1	266		Hartland	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	14	7.14%	0	0
1	317		Emmons	0	3	0	2	5	0	5	52	9.62%	0	0
1	404		Alden	0	4	0	2	6	0	6	77	7.79%	0	0
1	552		Freeborn	0	5	0	0	5	0	5	31	16.13%	0	0
1			Freeborn County	0	58	0	227	285	0	285	728	39.15%	0	0
1	91		Austin	1	48	0	170	219	0	219	456	48.03%	0	0
1	105		Lyle	0	8	0	2	10	0	10	85	11.76%	0	0
1	140		Grand Meadow	0	3	0	4	7	0	7	37	18.92%	0	0
1	146		Adams	0	20	0	4	24	0	24	175	13.71%	0	0
1	161		LeRoy	1	4	0	26	31	0	31	47	65.96%	0	0
1	570		Austin Spam	0	0	0	6	6	0	6	12	50.00%	0	0
1			Mower County	2	83	0	212	297	0	297	812	36.58%	0	0
1			Area Four	2	141	0	439	582	0	582	1540	37.79%	0	0
1	1111		Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0
1			District Totals	26	831	0	2031	2888	0	2888	7241	39.88%	0	0

DISTRICT VICE COMMANDER STANDINGS

Vice Commanders												
Area One	17	347	0	901	1265	0	1265	2905	43.55%	0	0	
Area Two	4	180	0	399	583	0	583	1506	38.71%	0	0	
Area Three	3	163	0	292	458	0	458	1290	35.50%	0	0	
Area Four	2	141	0	439	582	0	582	1540	37.79%	0	0	

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

Dist	Rank											
1	3rd	Mary Hanson	26	831	0	2031	2888	0	2888		0.00%	
2	6th	Pam Krill	11	605	0	1067	1683	0	1683		0.00%	
3	1st	Gary Richardson	48	1563	0	2413	4,024	0	4,024		0.00%	
4	9th	Dave Dahl	5	274	0	471	750	0	750		0.00%	
5	10th	Lynne Nottage	1	299	0	268	568	0	568		0.00%	
6	2nd	Karen O'Bar	34	1093	0	2445	3572	0	3,572		0.00%	
7	7th	Karen Welander	10	667	0	988	1665	0	1665		0.00%	
8	8th	Larry Pocrnich	8	317	0	719	1044	0	1044		0.00%	
9	5th	Terry Buaas	18	535	0	1229	1782	0	1782		0.00%	
10	4th	William Gordon	27	945	0	1714	2686	1	2687		0.00%	
99			2	215	0	901	1118	0	1118		0.00%	
To-			190	7344	0	14,246	21,780	1	21,781		0.00%	

FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

MEMBERSHIP

RENEW

RECRUIT

Thank you for your service and continue to serve in the American Legion.

We have started off the 2023 membership year real fast and we need to continue to work the 2022 memberships also and the 1982 and 1982AD list and get these into an active post.

Hopefully we are getting the computer glitches out of the system.

The district is at approximately 40% of our goal.

Don't hold the memberships. We must allow for mail time for those that are not able to submit them electronically.

Keep up the good work. Other membership information is on another page in this newsletter.

School is starting soon BE CAREFUL in all of our driving around school zones and busses.

Pray for our deployed troops and their families. Have a safe year!!

Dale Wellik

District Membership Director



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

Auxiliary Contacts

President

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

Secretary

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Membership / First Vic

Wanda Prescher
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Treasurer

Audrey Farnsworth
302 1st St E, Stewartville, MN 55976
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From the President's Desk

The month of August was busy. I have been doing a lot of activity for the American Legion Family. The first weekend was the 1st District picnic. This was a great turn out and Rushford did a wonderful job on the comradery and food they prepared.

On August 13th there was a Department Executive Committee meeting in New London. Department President Mary Kuperus spent some time with all the department chairmen and department chairmen received folders on their program. They were then given some time to prepare a presentation to the Executive Committee. Each District President had some time to explain their project, and all was approved. We were all informed that the department convention will be held on July 2023 at Jackpot Junction, and it was approved the Auxiliary would put \$4000 down towards the \$8600 that had to be put down to be able to have the convention in Jackpot Junction. Department Presidents were also presented a packet which I am working on going through.

The District Executive Committee met on Monday, August 15th at 5 p.m. I had the entire Executive Committee in attendance. Still need a 2nd Vice President. We approved the budget for 2022/2023, the finance audit that was conducted in August, 1st district executive committee minutes and the convention minutes from the May 2022 convention. We discussed how we need to get more interest in the chairmanships. Work on teaching the programs to everyone that we can at the rallies and convention. Work on getting everyone to understand how important these programs are to the veterans and the communities.

I went on the Legacy ride the weekend of August 21-22, 2022. This was a great success for the ALR. They raised approximately \$125,000 for the children who lost a parent, or the parent is 50% or more disabled after 911 to put their children through college.

I am also a delegate for the National Convention in Milwaukee, WI on August 25 through September 1. It is an honor to be there with all the Auxiliary members. This will be a great time.

In the month of September there will be a Legionville Camporee Thursday, September 8 through September 11, 2022. There will be a membership turn in on Saturday at noon and around 3:30 will be a rally with dinner to follow.

I have attached all the officers and chairmen for the 2022/2023 year. I have quite a few openings yet to fill. If anyone is interested, please contact me. These positions are fun, and you learn a lot about the program.

My project this year is for the new Preston Veterans Home. I am continuing the same project as last year. I am working on purchasing a plaque of all the branches of service. This is a large plaque that will go on the front of the home. The cost is approximately \$6300. I raised \$1700 last year so I must work on the rest. The Preston Veterans home is really looking forward to this on the building.

My theme this year is *Leading Veterans to a Home of Happiness.*

Tonia Bettermann
1st District Auxiliary President

1st District Officers & Chairman for 2022 - 2023

Position	Name	Unit #	Street Address	City	Zip	Phone	Cell	Email
President	Tonia Bettermann	77	1625 Crestview Lane	Owatonna	55060		(507) 456-2315	betttm88@outlook.com
1st Vice President	Wanda Prescher	164	3321 Vista View Ct SW	Rochester	55902	(507) 280-4027	(507) 254-0304	w.prescher1951@gmail.com
2nd Vice President								
1st Executive Committee	Rosemary Schmidt	50	612 Circle Drive	Wabasha	55981		(651) 230-1879	stephenx@wabasha.net
2nd Executive Committee	Michelle Weaver	595	1303 Kane St	LaCrosse	54603		(608) 304-8773	weaver.michelle595@gmail.com
Past President	Wanda Prescher	164	3321 Vista View Ct SW	Rochester	55902	(507) 280-4027	(507) 254-0304	w.prescher1951@gmail.com
Chaplain	Arlene Hajek	264	88915 145th St	Glenville	56036	(507) 433-2403		arlenehajek@gmail.com
Secretary	Sandy Fredrickson	264	771 2nd St SW	Glenville	56036	(507) 488-3438	(507) 383-3776	dsfredrick@gmail.com
Treasurer	Audrey Farnsworth	164	302 1st St. E	Stewartville	55976		(507) 319-0257	harlee@charter.net
Parliamentarian	Lynette Wolff	228	901 8th Ave NW	Waseca	56093		(507) 456-3617	ronwolff5@gmail.com
Sgt At Arms	Sharon Hammon	161	115 E Cabot St., Box 135	LeRoy	55957	(507) 324-9301	(507) 923-7205	
Color Bearer	Stacey Erwin	384	208 1st St SW	Dodge Center	55927		(507) 271-5546	cuddlyteddy5592@yahoo.com
Americanism	Kathryn Fredrickson	264	709 Johnson St	Albert Lea	56007		(507) 438-1568	dabuker52@gmail.com
Armed Forces Center	Michelle Weaver	595	1303 Kane St	LaCrosse	54603		(608) 304-8773	weaver.michelle595@gmail.com
Aux. Emergency Fund	Jackie Wolff	228	515 2nd St NW	Waseca	55093		(507) 461-6405	jackie_wolff26@hotmail.com
Children & Youth	Nancy Lewison	146	68127 150th St	Adams	55909		(507) 440-2090	lewisonnancy@gmail.com
Community Service	Margene Myhre	140	PO Box 246	Grand Meadow	55936		(507) 421-5036	mmyhre@hmtel.com
Convention Steering								
Education								
Finance Chair	Wanda Prescher	164	3321 Vista View Ct SW	Rochester	55902	(507) 280-4027	(507) 254-0304	w.prescher1951@gmail.com
Finance Comm	Sharon Hammon	161	115 E Cabot St., Box 135	LeRoy	55957	(507) 324-9301	(507) 421-9095	
Finance Comm	Lynette Wolff	228	901 8th Ave NW	Waseca	56093		(507) 456-3617	ronwolff5@gmail.com
Girls State	Wanda Prescher	164	3321 Vista View Ct SW	Rochester	55902	(507) 280-4027	(507) 254-0304	w.prescher1951@gmail.com
Historian/History								
Junior Activities	Wanda Prescher	164	3321 Vista View Ct SW	Rochester	55902	(507) 280-4027	(507) 254-0304	w.prescher1951@gmail.com
Junior President	Bailey Anderson	164		Stewartville	55902			
Leadership	Sandy Fredrickson	264	771 2nd St SW	Glenville	56036	(507) 488-3438	(507) 383-3776	dsfredrick@gmail.com
Legislation	Audrey Erwin	384	208 1st St SW	Dodge Center	55927		(507) 374-2760	erwin47@kmtel.com
Membership	Wanda Prescher	164	3321 Vista View Ct SW	Rochester	55902	(507) 280-4027	(507) 254-0304	w.prescher1951@gmail.com
Memorial	Arlene Hajek	264	88915 145th St	Glenville	56036	(507) 433-2403		arlenehajek@gmail.com
Memory Book								
National Security	Michelle Weaver	595	1303 Kane St	LaCrosse	54603		(608) 304-8773	weaver.michelle595@gmail.com
Past President Parley	Wanda Prescher	164	3321 Vista View Ct SW	Rochester	55902	(507) 280-4027	(507) 254-0304	w.prescher1951@gmail.com
Poppy	Wanda Prescher	164	3321 Vista View Ct SW	Rochester	55902	(507) 280-4027	(507) 254-0304	w.prescher1951@gmail.com
Public Relations	Michelle Weaver	595	1303 Kane St	LaCrosse	54603		(608) 304-8773	weaver.michelle595@gmail.com
Veterans Aff & Rehab / Service to Our Veterans	Rosemary Schmidt	50	612 Circle Drive	Wabasha	55981		(651) 230-1879	stephenx@wabasha.net
Nominating Lead Chair								
Nominating Comm								
Nominating Comm								
Standing Rules L. Chair	Sandy Fredrickson	264	771 2nd St SW	Glenville	56036	(507) 488-3438	(507) 383-3776	dsfredrick@gmail.com
Standing Rules Comm	Rosemary Schmidt	50	612 Circle Drive	Wabasha	55981		(651) 230-1879	stephenx@wabasha.net
Standing Rules Comm	Brenda Kellogg							
Constitution & By-Laws	Lynette Wolff	228	901 8th Ave NW	Waseca	56093		(507) 456-3617	ronwolff5@gmail.com
Music	Michelle Weaver	595	1303 Kane St	LaCrosse	54603		(608) 304-8773	weaver.michelle595@gmail.com

Mighty 1st District Membership 2022-2023

Mighty Minnesota membership 2023- let's make this a year to remember!

This is Department Chairman Sandy Werzal's theme for the coming year.

Our District has always been the Mighty 1st, so now is the time for us to live up to our name! It's the start of our Auxiliary year for ALL MEMBERS, not just our Membership chairs to help renew, join and re-join our great organization! Our focus this year is to work together with the American Legion Family. As each Auxiliary member works membership, ask about other members of their family - do they have children, spouses, siblings, that are eligible for one of the Legion organizations? Let's all remember to keep membership applications on us!

We can all work in our individual units on trying to get some of our Legionnaires wives signed up. Department Commander Jennifer Havlick, and our District Commander Mary Hanson will be promoting this year!

District Goals from National are 3810 TY to LY actual of 3525 an increase of 285 members.

We dropped 229 members this past year.

Department Goal Awards – lottery drawing for \$50 for those who reached the goal (one winner) as follows:

40% by September, 10, 2022	Harvest Rally
75% by December 3, 2022	Pearl Harbor Rally
80% by February 4, 2023	Sweetheart Rally
85% by March 11, 2023	Appreciation Rally
95% by May 26, 2023	National Poppy Day
100% by July 4, 2023	Independence Day
102% by July 29, 2023	Year End

The Mighty 1st District will be doing the same Goal Award lottery drawing for \$25 as above dates. So, let's all work toward trying to achieve these goals as well. I know we can do this, with everyone's help.

National and Department are going to be encouraging units to do membership online with the ALAMIS program. Units will have to have a debit or credit card to do this, I would encourage for those that don't have yet, to do so. Some units and especially the Legionnaires are doing membership online, talk to them and I think you will find it is a lot easier than it sounds.

I am more than willing to come to meetings if our Units are interested! Remember our membership is what helps our Veterans, Youth and Community. Never think your membership is not needed, it is needed now more than ever!

Wanda Prescher

District Membership Chairman

254-0304 or w.prescher1951@gmail.com

17 **FALL CONFERENCE SILENT AUCTION**

OCTOBER 27nd— 28th

ATTENTION: Minnesota Auxiliary Members! !

Units and Districts are encouraged to bring an item(s) to donate to the Silent Auction. Bring your donations- New or Please, like new items to the hallways near the Conference rooms between the hours of 4-9 pm. Thursday, October 27 or early Friday, October 28. The Auction starts at 9 am Friday til 5 pm.

Theme baskets, homemade items such as dishcloths, dish towels, quilts, pillowcases, jam, jelly and preserves are always great items. Jewelry, purses, patriotic anything are a few more suggestions. Please bring items most people would want or need.

Units can bring grab bag items to be purchased for \$ 2. and need to fit in a paper lunch bag size bag.

There will be a Bake Sale also. Lots of wonderful bakers in our department!!!

Please assist your junior members to make all-occasion greeting cards to donate to the Silent Auction. The cards can be placed in baggies. The Juniors do wonderful work!

The Silent Auction is a fun way to raise funds for our members in need. Please spread the word to your whole American Legion Family. The treasures await us!!!

LEADERSHIP BASICS

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY---

BACK TO THE BASICS

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

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

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

Some basic information:

Our ALA mission:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

District Leadership Chairman,

Sandy Fredrickson

SOME INFORMATION ON BELIEVET SERVICE DOGS

OUR PROGRAM

The Need

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

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

Our Response

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

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

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

Our Dogs

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

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

Our Facility

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

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

September is Junior Activities Month

As we are starting our 2022-2023 year, let's get our Juniors involved in helping with some of our Auxiliary Programs. Invite them to one of your monthly meetings, let them tell you what they have and are currently doing. We all need to be mentors to these young ladies.

Our new 1st District President is Bailey Anderson from Stewartville Unit 164. I hope our Units will support her project for Belivet therapy dog for a veteran in need, she is carrying on past Junior Presidents Kassie and Taylor's project.

Wanda Prescher and Sharon Hammon
District Junior's Co-Chairman

FROM YOUR HONORARY AUXILIARY JR PRESIDENT



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



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



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FROM YOUR COMMANDERS DESK

Hello from the 1st District Sal Commander.
This is Roe Naylor from Austin. You might know me from the American Legion Riders. Please be patient with me as every day i learn more about my duties.

The membership packets should be delivered soon. Brian emailed me and told me he has about half of them out.

I would like to thank everyone for all the help and advice I've been receiving. If anyone has advice or ideas, please call or txt me @5074385804.

We all do our best and that's all we can ask of each other. Be kind to all, and remember, we are the Legion family. Together we can make a difference. God bless all of you and keep our present and past veterans in your prayers.

Thank you kindly
Roe



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HISTORIAN - TONIA BETTERMAN
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 PHONE - 507-456-2315
 EMAIL— betttm88@outlook.com



It's a new record, folks!

The #LegacyRun2022 donation total was announced in Milwaukee as \$1.32 million. Top donations coming in today were from the [American Legion Department of Minnesota](#) (\$155,000), The American Legion Department of South Carolina (\$97,549), [The American Legion Department of Missouri](#) (\$94,514), The American Legion - Department of Ohio (\$84,855) and @[The American Legion Department of Virginia](#) (\$83,000)



PACT Act Signed

BY [MIKE MAXA](#) [AUGUST 10, 2022](#) [ADJUTANT'S CORNER](#)

President Signs Honoring Our PACT Act, American Legion Commander Praises 'Patriotic Advocates'

WASHINGTON (August 10, 2022) – The American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard praised President Biden and the bipartisan majority of congressional members who supported the most comprehensive veterans' health-care legislation in decades.

Dillard, who attended the bill-signing ceremony at the White House this morning, pointed to the law's overwhelming support. "The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act is now the Honoring Our PACT *law*," Dillard said. "We thank President Biden for signing this legislation. Millions of veterans and their families can take comfort in knowing that their government truly appreciates their service and sacrifice. This comprehensive health care law is the result of hard work and bipartisanship by patriotic advocates, members of Congress and American Legion Family members worldwide. It was a privilege to represent all of our allies at the White House today. I encourage all veterans who have been exposed to toxic substances while serving in the military to contact their American Legion service officers for free assistance in accessing the benefits that they have earned. The claims process can be complicated, and American Legion service officers are happy to help."

The PACT Act will provide health care for millions of post-9/11 veterans who were exposed to contaminants emanating from open-air burn pits. It establishes presumptions of service connection for 23 respiratory illnesses and cancers linked to burn pits and other hazards, including Agent Orange and atomic radiation for veterans whose exposure was previously unrecognized for VA health-care services and disability benefits. It will also provide additional resources and staff to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Enactment of the PACT Act was a major legislative priority for The American Legion in this session of Congress.

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



POST

NOT ALL WOUNDS ARE VISIBLE

If you served our Nation.

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

**VETERANS
RESOURCE
FAIR**

Brought to you by

Dodge Center

American Legion



When:

Saturday March 26th

2:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Where:

Dodge Center American
Legion

Post 384 Wells-Peterson

401 Hwy St W Dodge Center,

MN 55927

507-633-6420

DCAL.Post384@gmail.com

Organizations Attending

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

Post-9/11 Veteran Service Bonus Now Available

The 2022 Legislature passed and Governor Walz signed the first-ever Veterans Omnibus Bill that included funding for a service bonus payable to eligible Veterans who served from 9/11/01 to 8/30/21. The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) is honored to facilitate this program for eligible Veterans, currently serving service members or Veterans' beneficiaries.

WHEN: The application period began on July 7, 2022. The last day to apply is June 30, 2024, unless the funds have been exhausted before then.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE: Veterans, currently serving service members, Veterans' beneficiaries, or Veterans' guardians, conservators or legally appointed personal representatives. Veterans in Minnesota are defined under Minnesota statute 197.447. Visit the website for more details.

AMOUNT: There are three tiers of the Post-9/11 Veteran Service Bonus: \$600, \$1,200 and \$2,000. Visit the website for more details.

HOW TO APPLY: The online application is located at VetServiceBonus.mdva.mn.gov.

For more information or to apply, visit:
MinnesotaVeteran.org/ServiceBonus

For additional questions contact your local County Veterans Service Officer at **MACVSO.org** or call LinkVet at **1-888-LinkVet**.



Island City Ride for Vets

Saturday September 24, 2022

Post 9 American Legion

302 E Sarnia, Winona MN 55987

9AM – Motorcycle registration

\$20 per rider, \$10 per passenger

10AM – Kickstands up!

Enjoy a 100-mile ride, routed through Southeast Minnesota, returning to a Bag lunch.

Cash Raffle tickets, \$5.00 each, may be purchased up until drawing at 1:00 P.M. Prizes are 1st - \$500, 2nd & 3rd - \$250, 4th & 5th - \$100.

American Legion Rider shirts will be available for sale in the bar area before and after the ride.



Winona ALR Challenge Coins
Available \$10.00 each

All proceeds are donated to various veteran, children, and community causes throughout the year. We greatly appreciate your support. Email for questions: Post9ALR@yahoo.com or Winona ALR Facebook page.



Kasson Post 333 flyer for September

Mark Your Calendar ✓

Pretzel Balls

Onion Rings

Mini Tacos

Chicken Cordon Bleu Bites

ER!

\$6
each

OCTOBER

Steak Nights begin
St. Jude Breakfast Fundraiser
KFD Fundraiser
Celebrity Bartender
Halloween Party

NOVEMBER

Veterans Day Meal
Turkey Bingo
Fishing Bingo

DECEMBER

Karaoke
Tom & Jerrys

SEPTEMBER 21

Bingo Resumes.
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.



SEPTEMBER 24

FOOD, BEER & MUSIC

Beer Mile - 3 p.m.
Music by Arnold Bradley - 4-7 p.m.

Kasson Chamber Octoberfest - 1-3 pm



FOOTBALL SUNDAY

Open Sundays starting **SEPT. 25** at 11 a.m. for noon & 3 p.m. Viking games. If the Vikings don't play on Sunday afternoon, the legion will be closed.

LET'S GET **LOCAL**
FOOD • WINE • BEER TASTING

SEPTEMBER 8

5 - 8 p.m., 21 and over

Start Marigold Weekend sampling local food and beverages. All proceeds will go to the Cory Slifko Foundation.

