



## FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

## OCT 2016

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### IMPORTANT DATEs

October 1, 2016 - Area One/  
Americanism Training Rally -  
Lake City Post 110 - 2pm Fun  
time, 4:00pm turn in and rally.

October 15, 2016 - First District  
Fall Rally - LaCrescent post 595.  
Executive boards at 9:00 am with  
the Rally starting at 10:00 am.  
LaCrescent post 595 will be hav-  
ing a steak fry that night starting  
at 5:00 pm.

October 28 & 29, 2016 - De-  
partment Fall Conference at  
Marshall, MN. More information  
can be found in the Minnesota  
Legionnaire.

November 11, 2016 - Veterans  
Day - Plan on attending a pro-  
gram at your local school if one  
is put on.

November 19, 2016 - Area  
Four / Americanism Training Ral-  
ly - Adams Post 146, Adams,  
MN - 2pm fun time with the  
rally starting at 4:00 pm.

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Legion Family,

Notice I started out Legion Family. This is so very important that we leave absolutely nobody out especially our youth. WE are the ones they look up to, provide examples, nourish, and provide a path for them to hopefully go down. With that being said, our Area Vice-Commanders have been asked to come up with a program for our youth at all our rallies. Rallies cannot just be a time for an hour of socializing and turning in membership. We will spend a couple hours usually starting around 2:00 before each rally and dedicate it to our kids. Adj. Wayne will be sending out a notice to all of you before the rally informing you as to what is on the agenda for the kids. Getting the youth involved with the rallies or anytime we meet is an excellent time to get the Junior Auxiliary involved. We need to make sure they feel the need to be a part of the family. None of this will work if we do not get participation for all of you within the District. If we cannot get our youth and all of you involved then we will fail as a Veterans organization. This IS an organization and not just a select few group thing.

I had the opportunity to go to Camp Ripley for National Security Organizational meeting the weekend of the 17<sup>th</sup>. What an amazing gathering of all the District Commanders and district chairman for National Security as well as our Dept. Commander. This was a time for getting to know my fellow Commanders and learning a little more about the Legion. Since I had another obligation that same weekend I was not able to stay for Sunday's meeting but it was well worth the trip.

I had the honor of being a part of the Watermelon Days Parade in Kellogg as well as the Apple Fest Parade in La Crescent. There were huge crowds along both parade routes as well as many participants in the parade. A big thank you to both communities for their kindness.

Please be sure to check out the calendar of events that are coming up. The one event that I do want to bring up is the Fall Conference that is being held in La Crescent on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Again, I cannot stress enough to get youth involved so bring them along as well. The La Crescent Post will also be having their monthly steak fry that night. Stick around and enjoy a great steak and salad bar.

May God Bless

Sy

Commander Sy at Watermelon parade in Kellogg,



## FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The First District newsletter can be found on these post web sites. Please go to them and have a look. It not only will give you access to the newsletter but also to the events happening at each of these posts. They are as follows:

First District Website at [mnmightyfirst.org](http://mnmightyfirst.org)

Albert Lea Post 56 at [americanlegionpost56.com](http://americanlegionpost56.com)

Austin Post 91 at [austinpost91.com](http://austinpost91.com)

Rochester Post 92 at [post92.org](http://post92.org)

Winona Post 9 at [americalegionwinona.org](http://americalegionwinona.org) (click on windjammer tab)

First District Facebook page at [mnfirstdistrict](https://www.facebook.com/mnfirstdistrict)

### FROM AREA ONE

Legionville was a great time, not a good turn in though Millville came through with 29. Dist.1 had a very good steak feed, as well as the rest of the meals were also good. Was nice to sit by a camp fire and just relax and chat. (Mryon @ Sy did good at bingo)

Got back Sunday and had my Post meeting on Monday, I went to Lake City last night @ attended their meeting getting things ready for the Rally on Oct.1. Don't forget the Fall Conf. in Marshall on Oct, 28-29th. You can now count your PFUL's hope that helps on your membership count.

Dist.1 is still a little behind so get that new member and help your Post out @ Dist.1 and the State make our goal. The City of Eyota has been working on my street just put my side walk @ driveway back in, but I still can't get to my drive because the street is still tore up, makes sense doesn't it....

A rea 1 Vice Gary Miller

### FROM AREA TWO

Well, where did the month of September go? Or summer for that matter?

September started off with Legionville Camp-O-Ree from the 7th through the 11th. We had a Harvest Rally on Saturday, September 11th. I had a great time. We also had a few new Legion and Aux members there, which was great to see! There were a number of ceremonies held around the area on 9/11.

On Saturday, September 24th, I took part in an "Out of the Darkness" Walk that was held in Rochester around Silver Lake. This walk raised awareness about the high rate of suicide in our population in these trying times. It was great to see the amount of people out despite the wet weather.

God Bless and remember to say a prayer for our men and women serving across the world!

Area 2 Vice Commander,  
Myron Ehrich

### FROM AREA THREE

Greetings from Area Three:

Now that we are into fall and winter is approaching, I hope everyone is prepared for a hard winter.

Now that the District, Department, and National Conventions are over we need to focus on membership for the Legion. One thing to think about is our snowbirds, who will be leaving shortly, that they are contacted before they leave. One of the big problems that has been brought to my attention is the raise in our dues for National and State membership. Every business and organization that is in operation has to determine the money needed to stay current. The American Legion is no different. If we look at all the benefits that we provide, we realize we cannot do this without raising our dues. If we want to keep our American Legion vital, we have to continue to pay our dues.

May we continue to keep the men and women in uniform in our prayers daily.

Area Three Vice Commander

Carroll Hill

### FROM AREA FOUR

Well it finally stopped raining (I hope) so the farmers can get the crops harvested. Membership is slowing down right now so we need to contact our members and get them to pay their dues. This year Commander Sy wants to get more young SAL and Jr Auxiliary members involved in the district. So when we have a district gathering make sure and invite your young member to attend. We are even going to be having a couple of hours of fun time before each rally to make them more family orientated. Remember to be careful driving on Halloween night with all the little ones trick or treating.

Remember as always please keep our troops in your thoughts and prayers and God Bless America.

Area Four Vice Commander

Rodger German

### SOME PICTURES OF THE 2016 AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONVENTION IN CINCINATI, OHIO

The top two on the left and below is the Minnesota Party at American Legion Post 270 in Covington, Kentucky on Monday August 29, 2016 This post has a completely restored 1962 Bowling alley. Great fun was had by all.



The picture above and the two lower right hand pictures are of the First District members at the First District Supper held on Saturday night August 27, 2016 at Bue Burgers restaurant in Cincinnati, Ohio



## From: Dept. Membership Director Mark J. Dvorak

Greetings my fellow Legionnaires,

Thank you for all you do to make sure our amazing organization stays strong, "Oak Strong", well into the future. My theme, "Oak Strong", is how I feel about the American Legion. There is no stronger, vital and more important voice for AMERICAN values than the American Legion. Dale Barnett, Past National Commander said "The American Legion will never compromise its' values".

We talk a lot about membership and what we need to do to find and recruit new members. I am asking the leadership from all posts to seriously consider different ideas in recruiting new members. Below are a few ideas:

- Schedule an Open House (your District Vice Commander, Membership Director or Commander can assist). Utilize the lists from MyLegion.org that show expired members and those in Post 1982.

- Area Revitalizations (work with your District Commander and Membership Director)

- Get the word out about the American Legion – a "Did You Know" article in the local newspaper or on local radio.

- Local Fund Raiser that gets Legionnaires out in the community – New Prague Post 45 just had their 1<sup>st</sup> fund raiser at Dozinky Days (a Czech Festival held for two days in September) and one veteran came up to the food stand and said he didn't even know New Prague had an American Legion – New Prague was chartered in 1919!

There are many success stories on how posts maintain and recruit new members. We are all in this together, so please share your success stories with other posts. Email me or call me and tell me about your ideas or what has worked for your post, and I will get the word out. Below is my contact information:

[Markjdvorak53@gmail.com](mailto:Markjdvorak53@gmail.com)

952-873-6598 (Home)

952-457-2130 (Cell)

Our Department Membership goal is 77,000 and working together as one "American Legion Family", we can achieve this goal. The commitment in planning has to start now!

I've asked each Department Vice Commander and the District Leadership to work with their posts and help them in any way to make our American Legion strong, "Oak Strong".

I am proud to be your Department Membership Director.

For God and Country,

Mark J. Dvorak

Dept. Membership Director

## Flu vaccinations are now available.

Rochester will be having their walk-in flu clinic, October 25-27 9 AM - 3 PM. If you can't make it during the flu clinic, please let us know.

Flu Vaccinations can be given anytime in PACT Clinics, Specialty Care Clinics, and Mental Health Clinics prior to when the Veterans Flu Clinic is offered. We are encouraging all Veterans to get the flu vaccination.

Walgreens also offers the flu shot to Veterans.

The vaccination partnership between Walgreen's and VHA has been continued. This partnership will once again provide Veterans with continuing access to FREE flu shots whether Veterans choose to get a flu shot from the nearest VHA facility or the nearest Walgreens.

- Walgreen's will offer FLU SHOTS AT NO COST to enrolled Veterans of the VA health care system.

- Enrolled Veterans must present a valid ID and a current VA ID. The immunization data will be handled the same as last year and will automatically be sent from Walgreen's directly into the patient's electronic medical record each day.



**First District ALR members at LaCrescent Post 595 during the Tour of the First District**

## FIRST DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 9/28/2016

POST	LOCATION	GOAL	PREVIOUS	TURN IN	TOTAL	PERCENT	LEFT	DATE
9	WINONA	639	398	21	419	65.57%	220	9/22/2016
90	LEWISTON	78	36	15	51	65.38%	27	9/14/2016
190	ST CHARLES	142	65	19	84	59.15%	58	9/14/2016
<b>WINONA COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>859</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>64.49%</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>9/28/2016</b>
50	WABASHA	282	160	15	175	62.06%	107	9/22/2016
110	LAKE CITY	153	82	15	97	63.40%	56	9/14/2016
179	PLAINVIEW	205	139	2	141	68.78%	64	9/28/2016
546	KELLOGG	72	47	5	52	72.22%	20	9/28/2016
573	ELGIN	40	18	6	24	60.00%	16	9/14/2016
579	MILLVILLE	136	100	1	101	74.26%	35	9/22/2016
588	MAZEPPA	78	52	4	56	71.79%	22	9/28/2016
<b>WABASHA COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>966</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>66.87%</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>9/28/2016</b>
92	ROCHESTER	1009	611	16	627	62.14%	382	9/22/2016
119	BYRON	158	66	21	87	55.06%	71	9/14/2016
164	STEWARTVILLE	312	212	6	218	69.87%	94	9/28/2016
446	ROCHESTER	16	10	3	13	81.25%	3	9/14/2016
551	EYOTA	182	89	23	112	61.54%	70	9/14/2016
<b>OLMSTEAD COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>1677</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>1057</b>	<b>63.03%</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>9/28/2016</b>
<b>AREA ONE TOTALS</b>		<b>3502</b>	<b>2085</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>2257</b>	<b>64.45%</b>	<b>1245</b>	<b>9/28/2016</b>
295	WEST CONCORD	70	22	13	35	50.00%	35	9/14/2016
330	HAYFIELD	241	120	26	146	60.58%	95	9/14/2016
333	KASSON	277	196	1	197	71.12%	80	9/22/2016
384	DODGE CENTER	86	40	15	55	63.95%	31	9/14/2016
422	CLAREMONT	38	18	1	19	50.00%	19	9/22/2016
<b>DODGE COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>712</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>63.48%</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>9/28/2016</b>
52	BLOOMING PRAIRIE	111	80	6	86	77.48%	25	9/28/2016
77	OWATONNA	577	380	1	381	66.03%	196	9/22/2016
296	ELLENDALE	34	1	15	16	47.06%	18	9/14/2016
<b>STEELE COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>722</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>66.90%</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>9/28/2016</b>
75	NEW RICHLAND	64	39	4	43	67.19%	21	9/22/2016
228	WASECA	353	236	2	238	67.42%	115	9/22/2016
281	JANESVILLE	105	60	5	65	61.90%	40	9/22/2016
587	WALDORF	29	5	13	18	62.07%	11	9/14/2016
<b>WASECA COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>551</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>66.06%</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>9/28/2016</b>
<b>AREA TWO TOTALS</b>		<b>1985</b>	<b>1197</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>1299</b>	<b>65.44%</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>9/28/2016</b>
40	LANESBORO	105	56	11	67	63.81%	38	9/22/2016
68	SPRING VALLEY	84	62	1	63	75.00%	21	9/22/2016
81	HARMONY	33	15	11	26	78.79%	7	9/14/2016
94	RUSHFORD	133	99	1	100	75.19%	33	9/22/2016
166	PRESTON	77	36	25	61	79.22%	16	9/14/2016
197	CHATFIELD	52	41	3	44	84.62%	8	9/14/2016
299	MABEL	193	5	100	105	54.40%	88	9/14/2016
369	WYKOFF	21	1	1	2	9.52%	19	9/14/2016
400	CANTON	17	1	1	2	11.76%	15	9/14/2016
492	FOUNTAIN	18	1	11	12	66.67%	6	8/17/2016

526	PETERSON	36	22	1	23	63.89%	13	9/22/2016
544	OSTRANDER	28	18	5	23	82.14%	5	9/28/2016
637	WHALEN	17	1	11	12	70.59%	5	8/17/2016
<b>FILLMORE COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>814</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>66.34%</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>9/28/2016</b>
191	CALEDONIA	174	133	2	135	77.59%	39	9/22/2016
249	SPRING GROVE	166	82	9	91	54.82%	75	9/22/2016
423	HOUSTON	115	65	4	69	60.00%	46	9/22/2016
498	HOKAH	22	12	2	14	63.64%	8	9/14/2016
595	LA CRESCENT	346	151	61	212	61.27%	134	9/14/2016
<b>HOUSTON COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>823</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>63.30%</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>9/28/2016</b>
<b>AREA THREE TOTALS</b>		<b>1637</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>1061</b>	<b>64.81%</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>9/28/2016</b>
56	ALBERT LEA	741	390	81	471	63.56%	270	9/14/2016
264	GLENVILLE	88	50	12	62	70.45%	26	9/28/2016
266	HARTLAND	19	14	1	15	78.95%	4	9/14/2016
317	EMMONS	76	37	14	51	67.11%	25	9/22/2016
404	ALDEN	108	60	6	66	61.11%	42	9/14/2016
552	FREEBORN	40	25	6	31	77.50%	9	9/14/2016
<b>FREEBORN COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>1072</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>64.93%</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>9/28/2016</b>
91	AUSTIN	678	396	6	402	59.29%	276	9/28/2016
105	LYLE	92	41	4	45	48.91%	47	9/28/2016
140	GRAND MEAD- OW	50	26	7	33	66.00%	17	9/14/2016
146	ADAMS	217	117	26	143	65.90%	74	9/28/2016
161	LEROY	74	30	6	36	48.65%	38	9/14/2016
570	AUSTIN SPAM	6	1	0	1	16.67%	5	7/23/2016
<b>MOWER COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>1117</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>59.09%</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>9/28/2016</b>
<b>AREA FOUR TOTALS</b>		<b>2189</b>	<b>1187</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>1356</b>	<b>61.95%</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>9/28/2016</b>
1111	DAKOTA	67	0	0	0	0.00%	32	7/23/2016
<b>DISTRICT ONE TOTALS</b>		<b>9380</b>	<b>5270</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>5973</b>	<b>63.68%</b>	<b>3407</b>	<b>9/28/2016</b>

AREA VICE COMMANDERS								
AREA ONE		3502	2085	172	2257	64.45%	1245	9/28/2016
AREA TWO		1985	1197	102	1299	65.44%	686	9/28/2016
AREA THREE		1637	801	260	1061	64.81%	576	9/28/2016
AREA FOUR		2189	1187	169	1356	61.95%	833	9/28/2016

October 2016 Public Relations notes

Launch an all-out membership campaign. Remember dues for the next year are payable by Oct 20, with cutoff date of 28 October. Organize and participate in Halloween safety programs. Source 2016 Officers Guide

“Why and how the Legion still serves America is the question that we should be prepared to answer when anyone asks.” Along with, what are the Four Pillars and how they are the basis for the existence of the American Legion and its programs?

We as Legion Family members need to be aware of the effect of our actions, or failure to do our duties and how it ripples far beyond the original spot. Protocol is an important thing, as the dictionary states, a code of correct conduct, or forms of ceremony and etiquette observed. Not only does it show good manners, it is proper to do, and reflects poorly on people and posts when not done.

Continue promoting Posts and units, along with son’s squadrons and riders where applicable. Use the tools you have to set a great image of the American Legion family in local communities. The district website has links to PR books and just ask questions if need be.

Do not forget the “Get out the vote” campaign before the election. You should plan for Veterans Day in November, along with American Education week. These are good events to lead into the Oratorical Contest and Boys and Girls State. Don't blink; it will be here before you know it. There are sample proclamations also, check the Legiontown guide. Thank you all for allowing me to humbly serve.

Ralph Schneekloth,  
Department Historian  
District PR Chair

Greetings and God bless all.

Colossians 4:5, 6 Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders, make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Titus 3:1,2 Remind the people to be subject to the rulers and authorities, to be obedient, be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility towards all men.

I believe that these verses are particularly relevant at this time and at this stage of our nation. God is perfect, we are not. We are flawed, and sinful and in need of humility, also without true fear of the Lord. Also, tying into this theme, we take from 1 Peter 3:15, Give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. The God and Country program emphasizes regular worship, and for Legionnaires and Legion Family to strive to be an example of honest, faithful and diligent service to the entire community, to all. A good start is by strengthening ourselves morally, spiritually, mentally, and physically. Daily prayer is very important for individuals as well as families. The be prepared to answer, works well with faith as well as our American Legion. Be ready to tell what we do and how the Legion is. Make the most of the opportunities given you; they are there for a reason.

I am ending this month with writing from Justice Joseph Story (1779-1845) There is not a truth to be gathered from history more certain, or more momentous, than this: that civil liberty cannot long be separated from religious liberty without danger, and ultimately without destruction to both. Wherever religious liberty exists, it will, first or last, bring in and establish political liberty. Thank you for allowing me to humbly serve you.

In service,

Ralph Schneekloth  
MN First District Chaplain and  
MN Department Historian

# FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY NEWS



## Auxiliary Contacts

Greetings from President Cindy

### President

Cindy Nelson  
91 14th St N  
Northwood, IA 50459  
507-383-0082  
tindylou@hotmail.com

Rain, Rain, Rain! Will it ever stop!?!

October will be a busy month, with membership dinners, fall rally in La Crescent, Fall Conference in Marshal, and finally Halloween. We will have an exec board meeting at Fall Rally at 9 o'clock, and meeting at 10 o'clock. Guest speakers will include representatives from the VA and R and Children and Youth. This is open to all members so let's have a great membership turn in. Our First District rally will be in Lake City on October 1st.

### Secretary

Sandy Fredrickson  
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Glenville, MN 56036  
H—507-448-3438  
C—507-383-3776  
dsfredrick@gmail.com

Wishing each of you a happy birthday or wedding anniversary, and prayers and thoughts go out to those who are in need.

Until next month,

President Cindy

### Membership / First Vice

Cheryl Nyman  
2251 1st Ave NW  
Plainview, MN 55964  
507-202-9700

### Treasurer

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



Commander Sy, President Cindy and SAL Commander Ron at the Apple Fest Parade in LaCrescent, MN

President Cindy, Legion Commander Sy and SAL Commander Ron in the Apple Fest parade in LaCrescent, MN

Fall Greetings to all in the 1<sup>st</sup> District!

Hopefully you have been getting membership turned in for your Units. Please get memberships turned in as early as possible. Following Si's lead, at each District membership Rally, we will be awarding a traveling 'Raising up Membership' award to the Unit who turns in the most membership totals. The unveiling of the District Membership award will take place this Saturday in Lake City at the First District Area One Rally.

The Harvest Rally in Legionville n September 10<sup>th</sup> was well attended by 1<sup>st</sup> District and we were up on membership turn in from last year at this time. 1<sup>st</sup> District Auxiliary had 182 turn ins as compared to 161 last year.

If you haven't heard already, National listened to YOU in regards to a realistic goal increase for getting members. So, they asked the Department Membership Chairman to see what they could do to increase membership. And, this is what Zandra Kessler has come up with to reach goal.

***With Unit membership ending as of July 31, 2016:***

**< 100, add 2 additional memberships to that number**

**>100, add 4 additional memberships to that number**

A much more realistic goal to attain, wouldn't you think? Most Units have had their first meeting of the Fall, let's make sure that membership is discussed on the agenda at each meeting. Increasing membership comes from internal promotion to the community. Get your ladies out there talking about all of the great things your Unit is doing for our Veterans.

Zandra's set the following Goal Date, with a reward system as follows:

Goal #2                      60%    December 1, 2015

*(Lottery drawing of all Unit's for Dept. national Dues (\$18) paid for the longest consecutive years for 3 m3mbrs of the Unit that have not renewed)*

Goal #3                      70%    February 1, 2017

*(Lottery drawing of all Unit's for Dept. national Dues (\$18) paid for the longest consecutive years for 3 m3mbrs of the Unit that have not renewed)*

Goal #4                      80%    March 1, 2017

*(Lottery drawing of all Unit's for Dept. national Dues (\$18) paid for the longest consecutive years for 3 m3mbrs of the Unit that have not renewed)*

Goal #5                      90%    May 1, 2017

*(Lottery drawing of all Unit's for Dept. national Dues (\$18) paid for the longest consecutive years for 3 m3mbrs of the Unit that have not renewed)*

Goal #6                      100%    July 1, 2017

*(Highest % over Goal, will receive \$75. Lottery drawing if more than one Unit with identical %. Units that have reached 100% will receive \$40.00. Units that reached their Goal + 1 will receive 50 cents per member paid to date.*

I'm excited to unveil our District's traveling award, and sure hope to see many of you in Lake City this weekend. Remember, get your renewals turned in by the first of the month!!

Cheryl Nymann,  
District 1 Auxiliary Membership Chair

## Fellow Auxiliary Members..... This is the way it is!

We continue to speak of "a culture of good will", the **BE NICE** approach to each other.

With that being said----

We must not forget we have to have "feedback" in order to respond and to grow!

***Feedback is at the heart of good leadership, effective teamwork, efficient problem solving, developing talent, and the ability to understand and serve the needs of clients and customers. In our organization---this is MEMBERS. And yet, few organizations or leaders feel they have it "right."***

We must realize there are ways to **say things constructively**. We must realize that in a leadership role there will be times when we have to be able to "take it"!

Every Auxiliary member's voice is to be heard. We must also realize that not every suggestion given will be implemented.

We must realize we cannot continue with negativity. We must take the negative attitudes out of our organization and believe a positive approach will yield a positive result.

Members are asking and wanting CHANGE!!! We have to be able to make change in every UNIT, every DISTRICT and our DEPARTMENT. We cannot continue to do things the same old way. Programs may need to be "tweaked" to attract new members and engage more of our current members in their implementation.

Strategically we are asking each and every member to take a look at themselves, do a self-assessment, and ask-- what do I need to do to change things, especially my ATTITUDE?

You have 5 Department Champions: Robin Dorf, Mary Hendricksen, Michelle Leonard, Jean Walker, and Karla Otterness, headed by our Strategic Planning Leader Sandra Fredrickson. Each Champion will head up their GOAL! Every member of this organization---34,000 plus members will be asked/invited to jump aboard to make this a better organization---the greatest in the NATION! Each Department Champion is waiting for **YOU** to hop aboard and help them make a difference!

We are looking into fundraising for PR reasons.

Our mission is to let others know who we are, what we do and why we do it!!! We cannot continue to lose 1400-1500 members per year (as we did again this past year) and believe we will survive! For starters----We are looking at possibly selling lapel/pin holders, our membership handbook, bracelets, and a Department Cookbook. We believe we can have fun with this. At the first meeting of the 2016-2017 Strategic Planning Committee, goal champions zeroed in on the need to enhance the appearance of our Department website. We believe we can update our website---make it attractive and eye catching and we believe we will see changes in our organization and we will GROW members!!! Website updates cost money, thus the need for some of our proposed fundraisers

NOW---will you believe it??? Will you jump aboard and help us?? Please contact any member of the Strategic Planning Committee and let us know how you want to be involved in helping the department---your district---but especially your UNITS in implementing changes which will ensure the future of our ALA.

*This is not to be work---this is to be FUN! This is taking a look at yourself as well as our organization. Take a good look at yourself in the mirror---Do you like what you see? Have you given 100% in creating "a culture of good will" and making the necessary changes to keep the ALA the incredible organization it is in its quest to serve veterans, their families and our communities?*

**Only you can answer this!!**

More Details will be forthcoming as we continue to work the departments STRATEGIC goals.

### **A reminder to All Units of 1<sup>st</sup> District (President/Treasurer)**

As you know, the American Legion Auxiliary is a membership organization. Our budgets are set on membership. Per capita is what allows the District to meet their obligations.

Every year we lose members. Why?? This is not all due to death. We need to Renew-Recruit-Rejoin members. I'm sure that each of you know one person that is eligible for membership in our auxiliary. Do not hesitate to ask them to join.

Membership chairman Cheryl is hoping to get the 1<sup>st</sup> District back on top. If we all work together, great things can be accomplished.

Enclosed in this mailing is a listing of your UNITS per capita for 20156-2017. Your per capita is based on your membership as of July 31, 2016. (Membership x \$1.25) On this same sheet, you will note every Unit has District Junior dues of \$10.00.

**Please mail your per capita and district junior dues to me, NOT the Department. Let's get this done early this year. Some units wait until April. It then becomes crunch time as the books get audited in early May so as to have a preliminary report for District Convention.**

**Your donation to the District Presidents project, Honorary Junior Presidents project, memorials, etc, should be mailed to me also.**

**Make your check out to the First District ALA (American Legion Auxiliary).**

Please mail to me, 1<sup>st</sup> District Treasurer, at the following address:

Audrey Farnsworth	email: harlee@charter.net
302 First St. E.	Phone – 507-533-4454
Stewartville, MN 55976	Cell – 507-226-2992

It is my hope that all Units from the 1<sup>st</sup> District have filed the Form 990-N with the IRS (for tax-exempt status). Your Unit President should be aware that this is filed annually. All Units in the Department of Minnesota have to file this form.

Tidbits from the Treasurer-----

## **To all Units in First District – this is an annual fee for each unit-**

This is the per capita amount for 2016-2017. Every unit has an annual \$10.00 District Junior Fee also. Please double check to make sure my math is correct. These are the monies that the 1<sup>st</sup> District operates on for the year. ***This will only be printed this mailing – so, please keep for future reference and inform your unit treasurer.***

<b><u>Unit</u></b>	<b><u>Per Capita</u></b>	<b><u>Jr. Dues</u></b>	<b><u>Total Members</u></b>
Adams	\$180.00	\$10.00	144
Albert Lea	\$422.50	\$10.00	338
Alden	\$58.75	\$10.00	47
Austin	\$206.25	\$10.00	165
Blooming Prairie	\$142.50	\$10.00	114
Byron	\$116.25	\$10.00	93
Caledonia	\$96.25	\$10.00	77
Chatfield	\$47.50	\$10.00	38
Claremont	\$25.00	\$10.00	20
Dodge Center	\$98.75	\$10.00	79
Elgin	\$27.50	\$10.00	22
Emmons	\$37.50	\$10.00	30
Eyota	\$131.25	\$10.00	105
Freeborn	\$78.75	\$10.00	63
Glenville	\$133.75	\$10.00	107
Grand Meadow	\$96.25	\$10.00	77
Harmony	\$63.75	\$10.00	51
Hayfield	\$242.50	\$10.00	194
Hokah	\$23.75	\$10.00	19
Houston	\$175.00	\$10.00	140
Janesville	\$73.75	\$10.00	59
Kasson	\$183.75	\$10.00	147

**To all Units in First District – this is an annual fee for each unit-**

Kellogg	\$171.25	\$10.00	137
LaCrescent	\$286.25	\$10.00	229
Lake City	\$107.50	\$10.00	86
Lanesboro	\$125.00	\$10.00	100
Leroy	\$82.50	\$10.00	66
Lewiston	\$50.00	\$10.00	40
Lyle	\$66.25	\$10.00	53
Mabel	\$168.75	\$10.00	135
Mazeppa	\$65.00	\$10.00	52
Millville	\$60.00	\$10.00	48
New Richland	\$80.00	\$10.00	64
Ostrander	\$20.00	\$10.00	16
Owatonna	\$167.50	\$10.00	134
Peterson	\$45.00	\$10.00	36
Plainview	\$226.25	\$10.00	181
Rochester	\$223.75	\$10.00	179
Rushford	\$95.00	\$10.00	76
Spring Grove	\$175.00	\$10.00	140
Spring Valley	\$56.25	\$10.00	45
St. Charles	\$98.75	\$10.00	79
Stewartville	\$230.00	\$10.00	184
Wabasha	\$172.50	\$10.00	138
Waldorf	\$35.00	\$10.00	28
Waseca	\$291.25	\$10.00	233
West Concord	\$43.75	\$10.00	35
Whalen	\$28.75	\$10.00	23
Winona	\$221.25	\$10.00	177
Wykoff	<u>\$18.75</u>	<u>\$10.00</u>	<u>15</u>
TOTAL	\$6,072.50	\$500.00	4,858

**AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND  
SILENT AUCTION  
DEPARTMENT FALL CONFERENCE**

**THE AUCTION WILL BE ON FRIDAY OCT. 28<sup>TH</sup> ONLY FROM 9 AM-5 PM**

Be an angel and donate items for the silent auction that benefits eligible members of the Auxiliary that are in need or have suffered a financial setback. Items can be donated by and bought by the American Legion Family. Please bring new or slightly used items as they could be some else's treasures.

Miscellaneous items of all sorts are needed like: Theme baskets, holiday items, kitchen, patriotic, cookies, pies, breads, jellies, crafts, quilts, blankets, jewelry, the list is endless. Please do not bring anything that requires refrigeration.

There will be grab bags, and a district donation competition wall, featuring Dept. President Carol's angel symbol. There will be a donation jar available also incase you don't have any items to bring and still want to help out.

So start gathering them items and clean out them closets! Let's make this the best silent auction ever!

Lynette Wolff, Chairman

1<sup>st</sup> District Auxiliary Emergency Fund

## 1<sup>st</sup> District Children and Youth

Are there children or young adults in your community who is a child of a Veteran or Military Family?

Are there children in need of food, clothing? Some of these children might possibly be homeless or almost. Contact your churches, homeless shelters and food pantries even your County Veteran's office.

They can help you a family with children who are in need. Ask what their needs might be and offer your services on however you can help! Too many children today are going

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



### COMMANDER

Ron Wolff

1213 Clear Lake Drive

Waseca, MN 55903

507-456-3817

ronwolff5@gmail.com

### ADJUTANT

Scott Clevenger

809 5th St SW

Waseca, MN 56093

507-766-0103

clevscot@gmail.com

### EAST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

Tim Weaver

183 N 3rd St

LaCrescent, MN 55947

608-498-5803

timweaver595@gmail.com

### WEST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

### MEMBERSHIP

Glenn Mueller

548 E 10th St

St Charles, MN 55972

507-316-3977

glm01311962@gmail.com

### From Your Sal Commander

Hope everyone is enjoying this great weather we have been getting except for the rain which can quit anytime. I attended the State Harvest Rally in Legionville on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> and was that ever a good learning experience along with a lot of fun. At the rally we were in 5<sup>th</sup> place in Membership so we are off to a good start and let's keep the ball rolling. When you get membership send it in don't hold it we need the numbers.

We have a busy month ahead and it starts out with a Membership Rally in Lake City on October 1<sup>st</sup> and right after that on October 15<sup>th</sup> is Fall Rally in LaCrescent with Executive Board at 9:00 a.m. and regular session at 10:00. I hope to see a good showing of SAL members there as we need to get more members to District functions. I know there are people that think if they come to one of these meeting we will make them District officers, well that is not true. I will not ask anyone to become an officer just because they attended a meeting. We want you to attend to get to learn more about the Legion Family, and how we work and to experience more of what you can do at your home post for the Legion and the Veterans. That is what these are all about not for recruiting officers. If you can take the time to attend it's a fun time.

The following weekend is Department Fall Conference in Marshall, MN on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of Oct. so I will be attending that also. This conference is open to all members and it is a great learning experience also.

Until next month keep the membership rolling and watch the Mighty First District rise up in the rankings.

Ron Wolff

1<sup>st</sup> District SAL Commander

### !!!!!!! IMPORTANT SAL NOTICE !!!!!!!!

The First District Sons of The American Legion will be holding an Executive Board meeting at The First District Fall Rally in LaCrescent American Legion Post 595 at 9:00 am on Saturday October 15, 2016

## September 29, 2016 Membership Report

Department of Minnesota  
Membership Bulletin No. 2



National Goal  
Department Goal 11,748  
Current Membership 2,846

District	2017 Goal	Total 2016	Total 2017	Months Gain	Total Squads	% Of Goal	
District 1	2,008	1,968	506	236	41	25.19%	543
District 2	1,302	1,158	296	266	33	22.73%	338
District 3	1,995	1,899	439	250	36	22.00%	495
District 4	360	338	119	13	6	33.06%	104
District 5	373	412	118	79	6	31.63%	76
District 6	1,463	1,461	498	438	32	34.04%	281
District 7	1,027	913	249	174	21	24.24%	269
District 8	604	583	86	22	15	14.24%	93
District 9	810	777	120	68	18	14.81%	114
District 10	1,797	1,836	412	249	34	22.93%	471
District 11	9	6	3	0	2	33.33%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11,748</b>	<b>11,351</b>	<b>2,846</b>	<b>1,795</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>24.22%</b>	<b>2,784</b> Same Date Last Year

### 2017 National Target Dates

55%	October 12 <sup>th</sup>	85%	February 8 <sup>th</sup>
65%	November 16 <sup>th</sup>	90%	March 8 <sup>th</sup>
75%	December 14 <sup>th</sup>	95%	April 12 <sup>th</sup>
80%	January 19 <sup>th</sup>	100%	May 10 <sup>th</sup>



Fall Conference is scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup> in Marshall.



# AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

## RIDERS CONTACT INFORMATION



### DIRECTOR

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

### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Brett Naylor  
118 Columbus Ave  
Waltham, MN 55982  
507/438/2497

### SECRETARY

Tonia Bettermann  
1625 Crest View Lane  
Owatonna, MN  
507/456/2315

### SGT AT ARMS

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

### HISTORIAN

Nancy Lewison  
68127 150th St  
Adams, MN  
507/440/2090

### CHAPLAIN

Zack Naylor  
1817 E Oakland Ave  
Austin, MN  
507/438/6933

### ROAD CAPTAIN

Lee Dority  
56235 220th St  
Austin, MN  
641/210/9035

Greetings,

As another riding season slowly comes to a close now is a time to reflect on what we've done and where we want to go with the next year.

It was great to see the strong showing with the 1<sup>st</sup> District ALR at the Legionville ROMP this year. Congratulations to Roe Naylor for winning the obstacle course ride. He is now a two time champion.

**Next First District ALR meeting will be Saturday, October 8th, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at the Winona post. If weather permits we will take a group ride after the meeting.**

Special note to everyone to please mark the 2017 calendars on the following change to the department Legacy ride for 2017. The kick-off party will be Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup> following the ride being July 28-30. The second weekend ride will be Friday, August 4-6 with stand down part on August 6<sup>th</sup>. This is due to the National convention being one week early in 2017. Stops and over-nights to be determined.

Tonia Bettermann  
ALR 1<sup>st</sup> District Secretary



**FIRST DISTRICT ALR MEMBERS AT THE LEGIONVILLE ROMP**

# ADAMS AMERICAN LEGION POST 146 Chicken, Pork, Fish & Steak Fry Schedule



Serving 5:30-8:00 p.m.  
(507) 582-3266



## 2016 SCHEDULE

Chicken & Pork Fry .....	September 3
Chicken & Pork Fry .....	September 17
Chicken & Pork Fry - Auxiliary .....	October 1
Southland Sportsman Steak Fry .....	October 8
Chicken & Pork Fry .....	October 15
Chicken & Pork Fry .....	November 5
Steak Fry - Knights of Columbus, Dance.....	November 12
Chicken & Pork Fry .....	November 19
Chicken & Pork Fry .....	December 3
Chicken & Pork Fry .....	December 17
Chicken & Pork Fry .....	December 31

## 2017 SCHEDULE

Chicken & Pork Fry .....	January 7
Steak Fry - Sons of American Legion .....	January 14
Chicken & Pork Fry .....	January 21
Chicken & Pork Fry .....	February 4
Chicken & Pork Fry .....	February 18
Fish Fry .....	March 3
Sportsman Steak Fry .....	March 11
Fish Fry - Auxiliary .....	March 17
Fish Fry .....	March 24
Chicken & Pork Fry .....	April 1
Chicken & Pork Fry .....	April 15
Chicken & Pork Fry .....	May 6
Chicken & Pork Fry .....	May 20
Steak Fry - Dairy Days .....	June 10
Chicken & Pork Fry - Dairy Days.....	June 11

**\*\* MUSEUM OPEN 6:00-8:00 P.M. EVERY FRY \*\***



**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA  
"FOR GOD AND COUNTRY"**

With over 80,000 members, the Minnesota American Legion is the largest service organization in the state. There are 550 Posts in over 520 communities throughout Minnesota. In Minnesota, American Legion Posts have an impact of millions of dollars and thousands of volunteer hours in making our hometowns better places to live. Legionnaires are proud of their service and are proud to be "Still Serving America."

**Referral Card**

This card is a tool to use to help recruit new members. Who do you know that is a veteran, (or still serving) that would be interested in joining The American Legion Family? Ask the prospect how The American Legion can help him/her and if they would like more information, point them in the right direction. First impressions are very much determiners if they will come back.

Veterans Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address, or POC \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell, Home, Work \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post # \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Minnesota American Legion Department PR Committee 2016



# The 4 Pillars



- I. Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
- II. National Security
- III. Americanism
- IV. Children and Youth

# *Sons of the American Legion*

Please join us for our

## 5th ANNUAL OYSTER STEW & CHILI FEED

Saturday, October 15th, 2016

From 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club

210 4<sup>th</sup> St NE

Just off US Hwy 218

Menu: Oyster Stew, Chili, Corn Bread, Fresh  
Bread, Dessert, Milk & Coffee

**EVERYONE WELCOME!!!**

**COST IS A FREE WILL DONATION TO THE  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON**

**#52**

American Legion Post 92  
Rochester, MN

## American Legion Riders



**Thursday October 6th**

**Thursday October 20th**

# **SPAGHETTI DINNER**

**5:00 PM until 7 PM**

**Includes choice of 2 sauces (meat/meatless) and  
garlic toast**

**\$7.00**



# **FALL CRAFT SALE**



**Saturday  
October 8, 2016  
9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**Soup and Sandwich  
Luncheon**

**11:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Cost \$ 5.00**

**Eyota American Legion  
Eyota, MN**

