



FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

NOV 2016

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IMPORTANT DATES

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

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

November 24, 2016 - Thanksgiving - Take time to remember those serving who won't be home and have safe travels.

December 3, 2016 - Department Pearl Harbor Rally at Waite Park, more information forthcoming.

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Commander Fix & 1st & 3rd Department Vice Commander Richard Skillestad at District Fall Rally in LaCrescent Post 595



FROM YOUR COMMANDER'S PEN

Legion Family,

Another month has come and gone. Thank you to Lake City for hosting our first Americanism/ Membership rally for the year. From 2:00-4:00 we had open bowling with some of our Legion family youth. We had a blast. I would hope to see more of our youth at the next Americanism/Membership Rally in Adams on November 19th. We will continue to dedicate the first couple hours to our youth.

We had our Fall Conference in La Crescent on the 15th. A big thank you goes out to them for a job well done. Michael Tobin Chairman of Junior Shooting Sports had a demo on air rifles used by the youth in Junior Shooting Sports. He also filled us in on some of the challenges that they come up against. Hopefully some of them can be worked out. I want to remind everyone that Junior Shooting Sports is my project this year. There may be a training class set up in January for those who would want to oversee a shooting program. If anyone is interested let me know ASAP so that we can get a number.

I just got back from Marshall where the Department Fall Conference took place. We were honored to have the leading candidate for National Commander Denise Rohan from Wisconsin spend the entire conference with us. She is an extremely interesting person to talk to and will make a great Commander.

I want to remind all those who get this newsletter to ask your fellow members, if they are getting the newsletter. If they are not then get their email address and send it to Wayne or myself. Everyone needs to know what is going on in the District. And on that note, I am curious to know what it is we need to do within the District to get more participation from our Posts at the District functions. We try to move the functions around the District to make travel easier but we still do not see the participation. I hate to say it but those that do attend aren't getting any younger and someday they will be gone and with that goes much knowledge. If we want to keep our Legion going then we need have more of the younger members attending to absorb that knowledge and use it according to the days happenings. We all need to understand that the words of "that's the way we have always done it" needs to be set aside. Our older members need to mentor the younger ones but we need to allow the younger members some say into what is taking place. Sometimes change is good as long as you don't try to do too much all at once. Change takes time. It is not something that happens overnight. Write a resolution. If you need help doing that then ask someone within your Post or the District. The only requirements that we need to follow are the ones within the Constitution and By-Laws of your Post or District, but those can be changed with a resolution as long as they stay within the National's guidelines. I could go on but the point is this, mentor, mentor, mentor !!! Ask the younger members what we need to do to grow and let them have a say. It can be hard sometimes to step aside for the next generation but we need to remember they ARE the future.

Lets communicate and mentor, God Bless.

Sy Fix

FROM AREA ONE

Well October flew by, not much left. We still have the Department Fall Conv. in Marshall, I will be there.(Oct.28@29th) So far this month been to Lake City for the Area 1 Rally, Dist. 1 Fall Conf. in LaCrescent, Post 92 Meeting in Rochester, Pheasant Dinner in Hastings plus attending my own Post 551 meeting (better be there I'm the Commander) 48@8 meeting (Chef de Gare there).

If you're not able to get to any of the rallies be sure you mail in the memberships or give to someone that is going. You might also remind your members that after Dec. 31 their dues is past due and could affect their insurance or other items that come with being a current paid up member.

Don't forget the Area 4 Rally on Nov.19th at the Adams Post 146 starting at 2:00 pm.

Besides all that been helping work on getting our Post repaired after our break in. If anyone is in the area on Nov. 19th from 4 -7pm we will be having a spaghetti dinner to raise funds to help repair the Post. (Free will donation) So I won't be able to attend the Area 4 Rally.

Area 1 Vice Commander - Gary Miller

FROM AREA TWO

Well I missed the Fall Conference in La Crescent on the 15th of October. We were on our way home from Florida for a little R&R. I was on vacation with Mary and friends.

A big Thank You! goes out to all posts that are in Area 2 for getting their memberships turned in. I retained receiving the Gold Boot.

It was a fun day in Lake City, Post 110 for the Area 1 Americanism Training Rally. There was a great time bowling and all had a good time.

I will see you at the Area 4 Americanism Training Rally at Adams, Post 146 on Nov. 19th. Let's have a smashing turn out that day!

Area 2 Vice Commander

Myron

FROM AREA THREE

The weather has sure been nice for this time of the year. It gives the farmers and everyone else time to get their things done before winter sets in. Time seems to go so much faster when the weather is nice. Halloween is here which means Thanksgiving and Christmas aren't far behind.

I want to give my personal thanks to Area Three Membership Directors and Commanders for the outstanding job they are doing on membership. I hope you continue as time goes on. I don't want to sound like a broken record, but I want to emphasize the importance of talking to and getting the Early Bird personnel signed up before they go south for the winter.

November 11th is Veteran's Day so please take time to honor our Veterans for the sacrifices they have made.

In closing, I'm wishing everybody a blessed Thanksgiving and as always, please keep our men and women in uniform in your thoughts.

Area Three Vice Commander

Carroll Hill

FROM AREA FOUR

Area Four is lagging behind in membership, we need to get out and make contact with the members who have not paid their dues yet. Winter season is fast approaching and the snow birds will be heading south pretty darn soon. Don't forget about the rally coming up on November 19, 2016 at 2pm in Adams post 146. We will be having fun time from 2 until 3:45 pm with the rally starting at 4:00 pm. Everyone have safe travels during the Thanksgiving Holiday. Remember to think about all veterans on Veterans Day and try your best to attend a veterans day program in your are. As always God Bless America.

Area Four Vice Commander - Rodger German.

FIRST DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 10/19/2016

POST	LOCATION	GOALS	PREVIOUS	TURN IN	TOTAL	PERCENT	LEFT	DATE
9	WINONA	639	448	2	450	70.42%	189	10/19/2016
90	LEWISTON	78	51	1	52	66.67%	26	10/19/2016
190	ST CHARLES	142	88	1	89	62.68%	53	10/19/2016
WINONA COUNTY TOTALS		859	587	4	591	68.80%	268	10/19/2016
50	WABASHA	282	175	1	176	62.41%	106	10/19/2016
110	LAKE CITY	153	114	1	115	75.16%	38	10/19/2016
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	24	1	25	62.50%	15	10/5/2016
579	MILLVILLE	136	109	6	115	84.56%	21	10/2/2016
588	MAZEPPA	78	52	4	56	71.79%	22	9/28/2016
WABASHA COUNTY TOTALS		966	660	20	680	70.39%	286	10/19/2016
92	ROCHESTER	1009	633	51	684	67.79%	325	10/19/2016
119	BYRON	158	88	2	90	56.96%	68	10/19/2016
164	STEWARTVILLE	312	228	7	235	75.32%	77	10/19/2016
446	ROCHESTER	16	10	3	13	81.25%	3	9/14/2016
551	EYOTA	182	117	3	120	65.93%	62	10/19/2016
OLMSTEAD COUNTY TOTALS		1677	1076	66	1142	68.10%	535	10/19/2016
AREA ONE TOTALS		3502	2323	90	2413	68.90%	1089	10/19/2016
295	WEST CONCORD	70	35	4	39	55.71%	31	10/5/2016
330	HAYFIELD	241	164	7	171	70.95%	70	10/19/2016
333	KASSON	277	197	1	198	71.48%	79	10/5/2016
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
DODGE COUNTY TOTALS		712	454	28	482	67.70%	230	10/19/2016
52	BLOOMING PRAIRIE	111	80	6	86	77.48%	25	9/28/2016
77	OWATONNA	577	382	13	395	68.46%	182	10/12/2016
296	ELLENDALE	34	1	15	16	47.06%	18	9/14/2016
STEELE COUNTY TOTALS		722	463	34	497	68.84%	225	10/19/2016
75	NEW RICHLAND	64	43	1	44	68.75%	20	10/19/2016
228	WASECA	353	247	6	253	71.67%	100	10/19/2016
281	JANESVILLE	105	67	8	75	71.43%	30	10/19/2016
587	WALDORF	29	5	13	18	62.07%	11	9/14/2016
WASECA COUNTY TOTALS		551	362	28	390	70.78%	161	10/19/2016
AREA TWO TOTALS		1985	1279	90	1369	68.97%	616	10/19/2016

40	LANESBORO	105	84	3	87	82.86%	18	10/19/2016
68	SPRING VALLEY	84	64	14	78	92.86%	6	10/19/2016
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	61	3	64	83.12%	13	10/19/2016
197	CHATFIELD	52	44	1	45	86.54%	7	10/5/2016
299	MABEL	193	105	29	134	69.43%	59	10/5/2016
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	12	1	13	76.47%	4	10/19/2016
FILLMORE COUNTY TOTALS		814	527	82	609	74.82%	205	10/19/2016
191	CALEDONIA	174	135	2	137	78.74%	37	10/19/2016
249	SPRING GROVE	166	91	6	97	58.43%	69	10/19/2016
423	HOUSTON	115	69	17	86	74.78%	29	10/19/2016
498	HOKAH	22	12	2	14	63.64%	8	9/14/2016
595	LA CRESCENT	346	227	19	246	71.10%	100	10/19/2016
HOUSTON COUNTY TOTALS		823	534	46	580	70.47%	243	10/19/2016
AREA THREE TOTALS		1637	1061	128	1189	72.63%	448	10/19/2016
56	ALBERT LEA	741	480	30	510	68.83%	231	10/19/2016
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	60	1	61	80.26%	15	10/19/2016
404	ALDEN	108	60	6	66	61.11%	42	9/14/2016
552	FREEBORN	40	31	2	33	82.50%	7	10/12/2016
FREEBORN COUNTY TOTALS		1072	695	52	747	69.68%	325	10/19/2016
91	AUSTIN	678	414	7	421	62.09%	257	10/19/2016
105	LYLE	92	41	4	45	48.91%	47	9/28/2016
140	GRAND MEADOW	50	33	7	40	80.00%	10	10/19/2016
146	ADAMS	217	143	17	160	73.73%	57	10/19/2016
161	LEROY	74	39	1	40	54.05%	34	10/19/2016
570	AUSTIN SPAM	6	1	0	1	16.67%	5	7/23/2016
MOWER COUNTY TOTALS		1117	671	36	707	63.29%	410	10/19/2016
AREA FOUR TOTALS		2189	1366	88	1454	66.42%	735	10/19/2016
1111	DAKOTA	67	0	0	0	0.00%	32	7/23/2016
DISTRICT ONE TOTALS		9380	6029	396	6425	68.50%	2955	10/19/2016

AREA	VICE	COMMANDERS							
AREA ONE			3502	2323	90	2413	68.90%	1089	10/19/2016
AREA TWO			1985	1279	90	1369	68.97%	616	10/19/2016
AREA THREE			1637	1061	128	1189	72.63%	448	10/19/2016
AREA FOUR			2189	1366	88	1454	66.42%	735	10/19/2016

FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

The First District Fall Rally was hosted by the LaCrescent Legion Family was an enjoyable day. The Houston County Veterans Service officer and the Jr Shooting sports presentation were both very informative.

The membership turn-in was low for this time of year however, the district is ahead of the National target date (November 16th) goal of 65%. As of this bulletin on October 19th, we are at 68.50%.

Congratulations to Area 3 Vice Commander, Carroll Hill for having the highest percentage of membership at the fall rally and receive the golden boot award. Area 4 has the lowest percentage at this time and we need to work with those posts to get their membership in.

Our next district event will be at the Adams Post #146 on Saturday, November 19th. Fun time at 2pm will include a cow pie tossing contest and other activities. And...of course, membership turn in!!

On Friday, December 2nd, there will be a membership drop off at Kasson Post #333 from 6:00-8:00pm. We will be taking the membership to the Department Pearl Harbor Rally in Waite Park on Saturday, December 3rd.

!!!!!!! AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK !!!!!!!

This year American Education Week is November 14th thru the 18th, 2016.

The theme this year is: "Great Public Schools; A Basic Right and Our Responsibility".

We urge every citizen to recognize and appreciate every member of the school staff. Education is our passport to the future. For tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.

The observance of the American Education Week serves to increase the public understanding and appreciation of our schools.

Be sure and have your post and unit send in their REPORT CARD!!!!!!.

Richard Jensen

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

Albert Lea Post 56 at americanlegionpost56.com

Austin Post 91 at austinpost91.com

Rochester Post 92 at post92.org

Winona Post 9 at americalegionwinona.org (click on windjammer tab)

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

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Greetings First District: "Service to God and Country" – it's an American Legion program, yes, but the saying describes just as well our members' attitude and way of life. Nondenominational and nonsectarian, the Legion's support for religion in the public square is basic Americanism. Rather than acting independently of religious groups, the Legion desires to cooperate with and join them in reminding the American people with one voice that God is the author and architect of our beloved "land of the free." Without God, there is no Americanism.

Psalm 33: 12-22. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chosen for his inheritance. From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind; from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth---- he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you. This is a general Psalm of thanksgiving, for His blessings, for helping his faithful people in all kinds of distress, and for not letting them perish. Are we as a nation still thankful for all our blessings? I hope so, but so many look to the "state" as an entity to give them their needs, replacing and supplanting God in their lives. Therein lies a real danger, that as more give up on "God and Country", just remember, a government that is big enough to give everything, is also big enough to take it all away. We as a nation need to return to our roots, find out again what made America exceptional in the world. We as an organization need to be proactive in training and teaching the youth who will follow us. They need to be taught what is America? What ideals do we stand for? We have to be much more than just having the ability to destroy the planet. The nation worshiped the Lord and we we're blessed, we have turned away at our peril.

Romans 3: 10 There is no one righteous, not even one.

Ephesians 2: 8-10. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith----and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God---- not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Let us move forward and execute the programs of the American Legion with all the earnestness and zeal we can muster for if we don't teach, lead, and set the example, someone else will. Thank you for allowing me to humbly serve,

Ralph Schneekloth

MN First District Chaplain

**Red Baron Arena, Marshall, MN site of
The Minnesota Department Fall Confer-
ence.**

**Prior to the Executive Board Meeting on
Thursday night October 27, 2016**



Greetings, First District.

PR tips for the month of November. Plenty of events this month. November is Membership Retention Month. We do so much as an organization, for our communities, our Posts, our State and Nation. Why does so little of what we do receive the press it deserves? If we do not stand up and publicize ourselves, who will? It is incumbent on us to be proactive in promoting the American Legion Family. If any would like suggestions, or ideas, contact me. So, as you can see there are lots of things going on to promote your Post and the American Legion. Also, any Posts, Units, Sons, Riders if you have an event taking place, send one of the contact people the information and we will do our best to get it posted. Parades, picnics take pictures, meetings etc. there is so many things always going on, let us know. We can't post it if we don't have it, and remember, "All days are good days".

Public relations is primarily about image, and every Legionnaire plays a role in communicating it. The positive and negative things seen and heard at every level of the organization shape how people perceive the American Legion and what we stand for. For most people, perception is reality. An organization's image is based on its character, integrity and total performance. It has many facets, including: The organization's history in dealing with people Internal attitude towards members.

External attitude toward community responsibility and involvement News releases, interviews and other dealings with the media Internal and external publications Institutional advertising Public Relations ties directly into membership; without members we cease to be an organization. It is stated that approximately 200,000 members do not renew each year. That's how important it is. Not for the sake of the numbers but for our impact on our elected officials and the impact on our many programs at local, state and national level- "That's why it's important." "GET INVOLVED IN MEMBERSHIP RECRUIT---RETAIN---REINSTATE"

Thank you for allowing me to humbly serve,

MN First District PR Committee chair,

Ralph Schneekloth

Setting up for the First District open house at the Department Fall Conference, Marshall, MN



District Pheasant For Veterans Dinner

November 2016 Newsletter

I received in the mail today the first report from Department the contributions to date for the Pheasant Dinner program. Not really exciting news, as the contributions appear to be down from previous years. Why? I don't really know the answer to that, but perhaps a question that was asked of me a few days ago is a clue to that answer. We put up a wire along the length of the bar at our Post here in Blue Earth with names of contributors and if it is in memory of a loved one or simply a contribution for a pheasant dinner. A person asked me if there wasn't something more important we could be contributing our gambling funds to? I wasn't sure how to respond to that! The person was not aware of the history of the pheasant dinner program started so many years ago in Minnesota. Perhaps he's not alone with that question. Maybe we need to review when and how this program was started, and I'm going to do just that with excerpts of a report presented at the National Convention 1994 by Dick Pfaffinger, American Legion Department Chairman of the Pheasant Dinners for Hospitalized Veterans.

“The Hospitalized Veterans Pheasant Dinner program was started in 1941 (75 years ago) by the late Ed Shave of the Minneapolis Star Tribune Newspaper. The American Legion, along with the VFW picked up the Pheasant Dinner program in 1970 when it was dropped by the Tribune in 1969 because of a closed pheasant season. Over these years, the Pheasant Dinners had gone from one hospital to the present seventeen facilities. Most of the Pheasant Dinners were held on the first Thursday after the opening of pheasant season.

Hunted pheasants were used originally to feed the veterans. The pheasants were picked up by the Star-Tribune trucks, delivered to the National Food Store Commissary in Hopkins, and cleaned by volunteer butchers from the Twin City area. From there they were distributed to the hospitals involved. Because of a declining pheasant population, the last cleaning bee for hunted pheasants was held in 1980. Now all pheasants are purchased from game farms. The cost of the pheasants has gone from \$2.29 to the current \$6.00 per pheasant. (remember this was written in 1994). Donations for the Pheasant Dinner program come from Posts, Units, other organizations and individuals from every corner of the State of Minnesota and as far away as Georgia, Mass., Ariz., Wisc. and Iowa.

Twenty-eight hundred (2,800) pheasants and all the trimmings, including wild rice (which was furnished by the 8th District American Legion, with Neal Erickson as Chairman) are used to feed the approximately 4,000 hospitalized veterans. The facilities are: Minneapolis VA Hospital, St. Cloud VA Hospital, Sioux Falls, SD VA Hospital and Fargo, ND VA Hospital. The Veterans Homes at Minneapolis, Hastings, Dresback and Silver Bay. Post Homes at Duluth #71 and North St. Paul #39, veterans at St. Peter, Willmar, Moose Lake, Anoka, Fergus Falls and Brainerd Regional Treatment Centers. The new Laverne Veterans Home will be added this fall. (remember this was written in 1994). The Pheasant Dinners are made a gala event by adding decorations, entertainment etc. The veteran looks forward to these dinners with great anticipation!

In 1979 we established the American Legion Hospitalized Veterans Pheasant Dinner Dedicated Fund, with excess American Legion donations left over from the dinners. These funds can be used only to benefit hospitalized and disabled veterans and are kept by the Department of Minnesota. The projects are researched by me (Dick Pfaffinger) and must be approved by Department Commander and Department Adjutant before they can be funded. American Legion money over and above the cost of pheasants this past year (1994) was \$48,671. This money was placed in the dedicated fund. Since the dedicated fund was

Since the dedicated fund was established 15 years ago \$423, 234.61 was spent on 283 projects which were really needed to aid hospitalized veterans. The largest project out of the dedicated fund was the \$47,000 to convert Bldg. #10 (across the street from the new Minneapolis VAMC) to 42 sleeping quarters. These rooms are used, free of charge, by veterans who travel a long distance and have to stay over. It's also used by their spouse when the veteran is hospitalized in serious condition. Other projects were: \$30,000 to completely decorate and furnish the Legion Lounge in the new Minneapolis VAMC (4th floor), and a Mini Bus for the St. Cloud VAMC at a cost of \$26,415. The Bus has life support equipment and is used to transport wheelchair patients who otherwise would not be able to get out of the hospital. With the Minnesota American Legion name and emblem on the sides of the Mini Bus (plus a few pheasants) we let the people know that the Legion cares about hospitalized veterans. Another project was a \$27,500 donation to help establish the Minneapolis VAMC Day Care Center so they can better compete with the private sector hospitals for nurses, doctors and others. Another recent project was \$23,000 for a Communications System for the Minneapolis VAMC Pharmacy so veterans can call in for prescriptions anytime, day or night. The most recent project was \$12,000 at the Minneapolis VAMC for a sheltered work program for veterans with Alzheimer's disease."

The list went on, and Bob "Fuzz" Martin was credited as serving as Vice Chairman of the Pheasant Dinner Program for the past sixteen years. (And of course Fuzz continued to serve until his passing this past year).

Dick concluded his presentation at the National Convention by stating the main purpose of the American Legion when it was formed was to help out hospitalized and disabled veterans. Through the Hospitalized Veterans Pheasant Dinner program we are dedicated to following those objectives. Minnesota American Legion and Auxiliary members can justly feel proud for their involvement with hospitalized veterans, not only in Minnesota, but North and South Dakota as well. No other State in the Union has a Pheasant Dinner program like this.

Perhaps the only thing that has changed since Dick wrote and presented this are the numbers.

Chuck Stone, Co-Chairman, of the Hospitalized Veterans Pheasant Dinner program, reported that 1628 pheasants were used to feed the veterans in 14 hospitals and/or Veterans Homes. Many are the same as reported above in Dick's paper. The cost now per bird is over \$12, which means nearly \$20,000 went to purchase the pheasants. At the time of his report \$39, 212.60 had been received. The recap from Department I received on September 30th was \$39,537.60. So less than \$20,000 was left for other needs of hospitalized veterans mentioned above.

A request for donations toward a new van at the Hastings Veteran's Home was received. The team approved a donation of \$10,000 for this. Today I received from Department the first report of contributions this year. Six Districts have reported contributions of only \$1,700. We have a long way to go.

Remember Gambling Funds can be used. Make your check payable to **Special Veterans Hospital Fund/Pheasant Dinner-Fund 65.**

We need to keep this very strong, worthwhile program going – to continue the commitment Dick Pfaffinger made when he survived his plane crash in WWII, being captured by the Germans and held captive as a POW, to return to Blue Earth and serve honorably and tirelessly for hospitalized veterans and disabled veterans. Thank you for your contribution.

FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY NEWS



Auxiliary Contacts

Greetings from President Cindy

President

Cindy Nelson
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Greeting's

Fall Conference was a success , Marshall did a great job. November will be a busy month for me. I have had to turn down several invites due to first come first serve bases. I will visit your posts and units at a later date.

I thank all of you for your hard work and dedication. Remember to give thanks to our veterans - Past and Present. On Veterans day. Remember to stop and give thanks for all of our blessings this Thanksgiving Day. It will be one year ago on Thanksgiving that I lost Ken, I sure do miss him.

Secretary

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MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP — Everyone, please work hard as we need to get our numbers up. This is everyone's job!!!!

Prayers and hugs go out to all who need them. I want to thank all veterans for their service and may you all have a Blessed Thanksgiving.

Until next month
President Cindy

Membership / First Vice

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Plainview, MN 55964
507-202-9700

UP COMING EVENTS AT FREEBORN POST 552

Gilmore-Stensrud Post #552 in Freeborn MN

Treasurer

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

December 4th at the Freeborn Legion Hall:
3:00 Santa visits/ 4:30 Hospice tree lighting ceremony/5:00 Potluck/6:00 Bingo Party

February 18th at the Freeborn Legion Hall
Soup N' Pie/Dessert serving 4:00 to 6:00

Shot of everyone enjoying the open houses at the Department Fall Conference, Marshall, MN



Another shot of the open houses.

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
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Waseca, MN 56093
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EAST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

Tim Weaver
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LaCrescent, MN 55947
608-498-5803
timweaver595@gmail.com

WEST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

MEMBERSHIP

Glenn Mueller
548 E 10th St
St Charles, MN 55972
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glm01311962@gmail.com

From Your Sal Commander

Greetings Everyone,

November is the start of the Holiday Season so I would like to start out by saying Happy Holiday's to everyone from the Wolff house to yours. We all hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season.

Just returned from Fall Conference in Marshall, MN and I have to say I was quite disappointed to find out that the 1st District has slipped from 5th place in membership to 7th. This is not the direction I wanted us to go. We need to start pushing membership and get them sent in. I don't do any good to collect them if they are just going to be put in a drawer at the Legion so we need to get them sent in as we get them. I had a talk with one of my favorite 1st District Legion Mentors at Fall Conference and he gave me a few ideas on how to attack this and make a turn around so I will be in touch with people to help me out. We have to get the 1st back in 1st.

We have a lot of rallies coming up so everyone, see what you can do to see that your entire legion family is represented and bring everyone's membership.

Supporting our Troops Serving our Veterans

Ron Wolff
1st District SAL Commander

SQUADRON 92, ROCHESTER, MN MONTHLY EVENT

SAL Fish and Chicken Dinner.

The Third Friday of each month - September thru May.

At the Legion Post 92 Club in Rochester.

\$11.00 for all you can eat.

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
Totals	11,748	11,351	2,846	1,795	244	24.22%	2,784 Same Date Last Year

2017 National Target Dates

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



Fall Conference is scheduled for October 29th in Marshall.



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

RIDERS CONTACT INFORMATION



DIRECTOR

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

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

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Waltham, MN 55982
507/438/2497

SECRETARY

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SGT AT ARMS

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507/440/2090

CHAPLAIN

Zack Naylor
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Austin, MN
507/438/6933

ROAD CAPTAIN

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

First District ALR Director comments

Our next meeting will be at the District Mid Winter Conference at the Glenville Post #264. We will meet at 1pm. I encourage all chapters to submit a "Rider of the Year" nomination to Roe Naylor by January 1st so the nominations can be given to the officers that will review them at the conference.

We will be discussing the 2017 "Tour of the First District Legions" and will need to get the committee members appointed. If you are interested in helping out by being on the event committee, please try to attend this meeting.

There will be a First District Legion Family Christmas party on Sunday, December 11th at the Hayfield Post #330 at 1pm. All members are invited to attend. As ALR members, let's try to make this event.

November is here and the riding season is over. Thanksgiving will be coming soon and we can be thankful for the past riding season. We rode with family and friends or took a peaceful ride alone. We have beautiful country side to tour. The fall colors again gave us a nice show. Until next time, ride safe.

Dennis Lewison

First District ALR Director

The Department
of Minnesota
American Legion
Leaders



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

Cancer Benefit for Starla Johnson
Wife of Jon Johnson
Mother of
Nicki Benzick & Lisa Davidson

In September, Starla was diagnosed with Stage IV Lung Cancer that is inoperable. Radiation is unable to be performed due to the extent of the cancer. Starla is no longer able to work because of the illness. Please help us in supporting Starla and Jon with their upcoming treatment and medical expenses.



Friday, November 18th at the
Waseca American Legion
Sloppy Joe Baskets starting at 4:30pm
Live Auction starting at 7:00pm
50/50 Raffles, Auction, and Bake Sale
Monetary Donations being accepted at any Wells Fargo under
Starla Johnson Cancer Benefit



If you would like to help in any way or donate to the benefit, please contact

Lynn Wolff @ 507-456-3617, Cynthia Nelson @ 507-383-3456 or Jana Roemen @ 507-848-7877.



For the Mutual improvement of the Legion Press — By Mutual Endeavor

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The National American Legion Press Association (NALPA) is an organization of newsletter editors, writers, historians, public relations officers and communications volunteers of The American Legion Family and subsidiary organizations.

NALPA encourages the exchange of ideas; promotes the development of local newsletters and public relations activities; strives to communicate the corporate goals of The American Legion Family organizations and recognizes achievement through an annual newsletter and newspaper awards program. NALPA has been working to facilitate this communication at all levels of The American Legion Family for more than 90 years.

Today, the fastest growing posts, units, and squadrons within The American Legion Family all have successful newsletters and/or other media to communicate with their members. Leaders within The American Legion Family today recognize and accept the fact that the majority of the members never make it to the post home. A newsletter (whether digital or print) is the best, most cost-effective tool to keep non-active members informed. By keeping them informed you never know when an activity will spark their interest and you will suddenly have a more active member.

Members of NALPA also receive a quarterly newsletter as a member benefit.

Join today and become an active member of The American Legion Family communications team. The National American Legion Press Association (NALPA) strives to assist you in shaping a "Positive Image" of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion.

Full Name

First

MI

Last

Home Address

City

State

ZIP

Email

Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Membership #

Department/Post/Detachment

I AM A MEMBER OF THE FOLLOWING:

The American Legion

American Legion Auxiliary

Sons of The American Legion

THIS IS FOR:

New Membership: \$15

Renew Membership: \$15

NALPA Pin\$ 5.00 in person \$7.50 by mail

TOTAL: _____

Make Check Payable To: NALPA

MAIL TO: NALPA

The American Legion
C/O Debra Murrell, National Media & Communications
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

PLEASE ENTER Membership Year: 20 _____

The NALPA membership year is from September 1 through August 31