



FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

NOV 2017

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IMPORTANT DATES

November 5, 2017 - Turn clocks back one hour at 2AM.

November 11, 2017—Veterans Day. Make sure and attend your school's Veterans Day program and any other events to honor your service.

November 13 - 17, 2017 American Education Week . Please recognize your school employees during this week.

November 18, 2017 - Area One rally at St Charles. Fun time at 2 PM with the rally starting at 4PM.

November 23, 2017 - Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

December 2, 2017 - The Department Pearl Harbor Rally in West Duluth, MN

December 17, 2017 - The First District Christmas Party at Hayfield Post 330 starting at 1 PM.

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COMMEMORTIVE COINS FOR MINNESOTA

HERE ARE THE FRONT AND BACK PICTURES OF THE 100TH ANIVERSERY COIN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA.

THEY ARE TEN (10) DOLLARS EACH AND IF YOU WANT ONE OR MORE PLEASE EITHER LET BILL GOEDE OR WAYNE HAMMON JR KNOW AND SHOULD HAVE THEM AT THE FIRST DIS-



!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! ATTENTION !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

If your Post, Unit , Squadron or ALR Chapter needs information for the Oratorical Contest please contact Sy Fix and he will get the information to you.

It is very important to get this information to our schools as soon as possible so the students can get started on this project.

Don't just throw this information at the school offices, make sure and get it to one of the teachers who teaches the constitution. We have not had a public or parochial student compete in several years.

Sy Fix - First District Oratorical Chairman

Greetings First District:

Membership is doing very well. We are currently in 2nd place in Department. We are well ahead of our 55% target.

I attended the Freeborn Post# 552 monthly meeting October 11th. I delivered a Certificate of Appreciation from Department. I was shocked to hear that their Commander, Ron Neubauer, was in Rochester with kidney failure and pneumonia.

Our District Fall Rally was held in Plainview, October 7th. Although the turnout was rather poor, the program was very interesting and informative. We need more posts to attend these rallies. There should be at least one member from each post present. Some posts haven't been to a rally in many years. Our programs suffer from lack of participation. Post# 179 did a great job of hosting the rally.

I had the honor of attending the Hastings Veterans Home Pheasant Dinner on October 19th. This was my first Pheasant Dinner, what a wonderful experience. We had a very good turnout for the program and dinner. After dinner I was given a tour of the facility. What a beautiful Home. It has everything a veteran would want or need. The grounds are very pristine and well kept. If all Veteran Homes are like this one our veterans are in good hands.

I was invited to Waseca October 21st for their Annual Membership Banquet. This is a great program. Instead of having individual programs for each event, they combine the Post Everlasting, Legion Service Awards, 50 and 60 year Membership Awards and Paid up membership Dinner into one program for the Legion Family. We had a great meal and the program was outstanding. Thanks Post# 228 for a wonderful evening.

Our Department Fall Conference was held in Willmar, October 26th thru the 28th. The Executive Board met Thursday evening to deal with any unfinished business our prior meeting. The Membership Body met Friday and Saturday to conduct official Legion business. We had several very informative speakers giving us insight on various subjects. Several of our Legion members were honored with quilts from the Quilts of Valor. Friday night instead of the annual promenade the Legion Auxiliary sponsored a rendition of the game show, Family Feud. Everybody really got into the program. After the program the ten districts had their Hospitality Party. Like always tons of food and refreshments. Willmar Post# 167 did a great job of hosting the Conference.

Our Area 1 VA&R Rally will be held November 18th, hosted by St. Charles Post# 190. Fun Time begins at 2:00p.m. With the rally starting at 4:00 p.m. Please plan to attend and show your support to our host.

I hope everyone will turn out and support all your District Veterans Day activities. Most school programs will be held on Friday this year. Please join your fellow Veterans in educating our youth and fellow citizens of our history.

I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and remember the one we honor.

For God and Country
1st District Commander

FROM AREA ONE

FROM AREA TWO

Hello to you the American Legion Family;

I will start off with wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving

If you are interested in playing bingo come to West Concord Post 295. We have 39 turkeys for bingo, November 18th 7:00 until the turkeys are gone. There will be lunch available to purchase.

I visited the Plainview Post 179 for a rally.

October 27-28 was the Department Fall Conference at Willmar, MN.

Check out the newsletter for upcoming events. Hope to see you there!

Myron

Area 2 Vice Commander

FROM AREA THREE

Greetings from Area Three:

It looks like winter is here and because of it, make sure you have made contact with the snow birds about their membership. As a whole, membership is progressing well.

Veterans Day is coming and make sure you take every opportunity to work with the community and schools to remind them of Veterans Day. It is a good time to make contact with schools to work with educating the students on the meaning of Veterans Day.

At this season of thanksgiving, it is important that we take time to give thanks for all our blessings.

Be sure to thank the men in women in uniform and keep them always in your thoughts and prayers.

Area Three Vice Commander

Carroll Hill

FROM AREA FOUR

Greetings American Legion Family,

The recent Fall Dept. Conference in Wilmar was informative and fun. From the reports on various programs to the " Family Feud " on Friday night it was a good time.

November is going to be a very busy month for us veterans. Veterans Day is coming up on the 11th with free appreciation dinners and flag raisings. Area 1 Veterans Affairs Rally at St. Charles on the 18th and last but not least ,Thanksgiving on the 23rd.

Please work hard on your membership enrollment for our 100th birthday. I had the opportunity to talk to a Pearl Harbor veteran last week. He is 101 years old and still an active member of the American Legion. We have the old timers ,now we have to get the new timers active in our programs.

Please register your post on the centennial website. Submit pictures of your Post home and any Veterans Memorial you have constructed. We're having company next year so let's be ready.

Remember to thank a veteran for their service.

Rollie Hanson - Area 4 Vice Commander

First district membership report for 11/2/2017

POST	LOCATION	GOAL	PREVIOUS	TURN IN	TOTAL	PERCENT	LEFT	Date
9	WINONA	597	423	1	424	71.02%	173	11/2/2017
90	LEWISTON	78	43	1	44	56.41%	34	10/5/2017
190	ST CHARLES	144	117	4	121	84.03%	23	11/2/2017
WINONA COUNTY TOTALS		819	583	6	589	71.92%	230	11/2/2017
50	WABASHA	242	171	2	173	71.49%	69	11/2/2017
110	LAKE CITY	141	114	7	121	85.82%	20	11/2/2017
179	PLAINVIEW	194	134	12	146	75.26%	48	11/2/2017
546	KELLOGG	73	46	4	50	68.49%	23	11/2/2017
573	ELGIN	37	21	3	24	64.86%	13	10/12/2017
579	MILLVILLE	140	140	7	147	105.00%	-7	11/2/2017
588	MAZEPPA	78	45	4	49	62.82%	29	10/5/2017
WABASHA COUNTY TOTALS		905	671	39	710	78.45%	195	11/2/2017
92	ROCHESTER	988	704	52	756	76.52%	232	11/2/2017
119	BYRON	148	107	11	118	79.73%	30	11/2/2017
164	STEWARTVILLE	305	217	14	231	75.74%	74	11/2/2017
446	ROCHESTER	17	11	3	14	82.35%	3	9/14/2017
551	EYOTA	183	113	11	124	67.76%	59	11/2/2017
OLMSTEAD COUNTY TOTALS		1641	1152	91	1243	75.75%	398	11/2/2017
AREA ONE TOTALS		3365	2406	136	2542	75.54%	823	11/2/2017
295	WEST CON- CORD	57	37	6	43	75.44%	14	10/12/2017
330	HAYFIELD	242	167	10	177	73.14%	65	11/2/2017
333	KASSON	269	201	9	210	78.07%	59	11/2/2017
384	DODGE CEN-	87	60	1	61	70.11%	26	10/19/2017
422	CLAREMONT	36	24	1	25	69.44%	11	9/14/2017
DODGE COUNTY TOTALS		691	489	27	516	74.67%	175	11/2/2017
52	BLOOMING PRAIRIE	111	90	2	92	82.88%	19	11/2/2017
77	OWATONNA	556	355	5	360	64.75%	196	11/2/2017
296	ELLENDALE	33	19	1	20	60.61%	13	10/19/2017
STEELE COUNTY TOTALS		700	464	8	472	67.43%	228	11/2/2017
75	NEW RICH- LAND	58	39	5	44	75.86%	14	10/19/2017
228	WASECA	342	249	19	268	78.36%	74	11/2/2017
281	JANESVILLE	102	70	12	82	80.39%	20	11/2/2017
587	WALDORF	22	21	5	26	118.18%	-4	11/2/2017
WASECA COUNTY TOTALS		524	379	41	420	80.15%	104	11/2/2017
AREA TWO TOTALS		1915	1332	76	1408	73.52%	507	11/2/2017

40	LANESBORO	106	87	4	91	85.85%	15	11/2/2017
68	SPRING VALLEY	85	51	22	73	85.88%	12	11/2/2017
81	HARMONY	34	22	2	24	70.59%	10	10/5/2017
94	RUSHFORD	134	74	17	91	67.91%	43	10/12/2017
166	PRESTON	76	53	5	58	76.32%	18	11/2/2017
197	CHATFIELD	50	47	1	48	96.00%	2	10/19/2017
299	MABEL	179	107	1	108	60.34%	71	10/5/2017
369	WYKOFF	19	0	1	1	5.26%	18	7/19/2017
400	CANTON	13	1	5	6	46.15%	7	10/19/2017
492	FOUNTAIN	15	1	7	8	53.33%	7	8/23/2017
526	PETERSON	37	23	2	25	67.57%	12	9/28/2017
544	OSTRANDER	29	19	3	22	75.86%	7	9/28/2017
637	WHALEN	15	1	11	12	80.00%	3	8/3/2017
FILLMORE COUNTY TOTALS		792	486	81	567	71.59%	225	11/2/2017
191	CALEDONIA	170	137	1	138	81.18%	32	11/0/19/17
249	SPRING GROVE	162	58	28	86	53.09%	76	11/2/2017
423	HOUSTON	113	81	2	83	73.45%	30	11/2/2017
498	HOKAH	20	10	4	14	70.00%	6	9/14/2017
595	LA CRESCENT	324	235	4	239	73.77%	85	11/2/2017
HOUSTON COUNTY TOTALS		789	521	39	560	70.98%	229	11/2/2017
AREA THREE TOTALS		1581	1007	120	1127	71.28%	454	11/2/2017
56	ALBERT LEA	678	461	37	498	73.45%	180	11/2/2017
264	GLENVILLE	87	48	9	57	65.52%	30	10/12/2017
266	HARTLAND	15	1	14	15	100.00%	0	9/14/2017
317	EMMONS	72	52	6	58	80.56%	14	11/2/2017
404	ALDEN	109	73	8	81	74.31%	28	9/28/2017
552	FREEBORN	38	34	2	36	94.74%	2	10/5/2017
FREEBORN COUNTY TOTALS		999	669	76	745	74.57%	254	11/2/2017
91	AUSTIN	610	381	32	413	67.70%	197	11/2/2017
105	LYLE	92	35	9	44	47.83%	48	11/2/2017
140	GRAND MEADOW	50	37	5	42	84.00%	8	11/2/2017
146	ADAMS	219	124	31	155	70.78%	64	11/2/2017
161	LEROY	66	40	2	42	63.64%	24	11/2/2017
570	AUSTIN SPAM	5	5	1	6	120.00%	-1	8/23/2017
MOWER COUNTY TOTALS		1042	622	80	702	67.37%	340	11/2/2017
AREA FOUR TOTALS		2041	1291	156	1447	70.90%	594	11/2/2017
1111	DAKOTA	51	0	0	0	0.00%	0	10/5/2017
DISTRICT ONE TOTALS		8953	6036	488	6524	72.87%	###	10/19/2017

AREA	VICE	COMMANDERS							
AREA ONE			3365	2406	136	2542	75.54%	823	11/2/2017
AREA TWO			1915	1332	76	1408	73.52%	507	11/2/2017
AREA THREE			1581	1007	120	1127	71.28%	454	11/2/2017
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The American Legion blasts NFL for disrespect

The leader of the nation's largest veterans organization characterized professional athletes and other Americans who fail to show respect for the national anthem as "misguided and ungrateful."

American Legion National Commander Denise H. Rohan lamented the politicization of what used to be a display of unity at NFL games and other sporting events throughout the country.

"The American Legion is one of the original architects of the U.S. Flag Code," said Rohan, a U.S Army veteran. "That code was produced by 69 patriotic, fraternal civic and military organizations in 1923. It included members of all political parties, big labor, industry, and minorities. The code calls on all present to stand at attention while the anthem is played. It wasn't political when it was written and it shouldn't be political today. Having a right to do something, does not make it the right thing to do. We salute Army Ranger Alejandro Villanueva, who stood alone respecting the flag as his teammates stayed in their locker room. NASCAR also deserves credit for their support of our anthem. There are many ways to protest, but the national anthem should be our moment to stand together as one UNITED States of America."

With a current membership of two million wartime veterans, The American Legion, www.legion.org, was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through nearly 13,000 posts across the nation.



At the Lake City Louis McCahill Post 110 October monthly meeting, past Post Commanders were recognized for their years of service to the Post. The past Commanders include: Emery Fick (2000-2016); Dave McKenzie (1951); and Richard Farrington (1974). They are flanked to the left by current Post 110 commander Dan Smith (2017) and to the right, Post 110 Adjutant, Andru Peters.

Dave McKenzie, with 70 year continuous membership Legionnaire, was also recognized as the longest living past commander and the only member who was in meetings of all of our Post four building sites locations from 1919 - current

**FIRST DISTRICT COMMANDER
LES SHAUNCE'S
PROJECT FOR THE YEAR**



**A SIX PASSENGER GOLF CART FOR THE STATE
VETERANS CEMETERY IN PRESTON, MN.
TO BE USED TO TRANSPORT FAMILY MEMBERS TO
THE GRAVE SITES OF THEIR LOVED ONES.**

ATTENTION WOMEN VETERANS, SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE ALL WOMEN AMERICAN LEGION SPAM POST 570 IN AUSTIN, MN

American Legion SPAM® Post 570 is looking for new members, and we want you, women veterans!

The all-women SPAM® Post 570 was originally founded in 1946 by Jay C. Hormel, with 20 local women veterans. Eight of these women worked at the Hormel plant. As the post grew, it included veterans from all branches of the military. Jay had also initiated a program prior to the close of World War II as an effort to help find jobs for returning soldiers, augmenting his company's sales staff with women veterans. These women became known as the "Hormel Girls". Those Hormel Girls with both military background and musical talents were required to join SPAM® Post 570, with the intention of having the post form a marching band to compete in the August 1947 National American Legion Convention in New York City. Jay handed this near-impossible task to Dale Schamber, SPAM® Luncheon Meat product manager, who managed to find 74 eligible candidates willing to embark on an arduous five-week training session of marching and practicing for the event. The team was the first all-women American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps to enter this prestigious competition, and was a big hit at the convention even though it did not win. Photos of Austin's "All GI Girls SPAM Post 570" showed how welcome they were to the crowds and other parade participants.

Not all SPAM® Post 570 members were chosen to join the Hormel Girls and promote Hormel products across the country. The SPAM® Post members in Austin focused on American Legion's mission, and were "devoted to mutual helpfulness . . . committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans". Post activities included participation in Veteran's Day events, work in child welfare, baskets for the needy, and visits to local hospitals. They held meetings where girls could speak with recruiting officers, and provided educational programs for expecting mothers. Members also volunteered as part of "Operation Skywatch", manning a ground observation post to monitor aircraft and weather.

Although the Hormel Girls sales teams and SPAM® Post 570 shared some of their history for several years, the Hormel Girls eventually disbanded in 1953. On the other hand, SPAM® Post 570 remains an "active" post on the American Legion books, and now, in 2017, a new generation of women veterans would like to re-energize this historic post, and invites any interested parties to join up – musical ability is no longer required! Female members of other American Legion posts are also welcome to transfer their memberships to SPAM® Post 570.

The SPAM® Museum is proud to be a sponsor of SPAM® Post 570.

For more information or to join our post, contact Eileen Chao, Adjutant, SPAM® Post 570, at 507-437-4583 or echao8@charter.net.

FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY NEWS



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November Greetings to our First District Legion Family!

Another busy month with the Auxiliary celebrating and promoting programs which benefit all our veterans! On October 5th, I was pleased to attend the Millville Unit meeting. I was excited to hear Francis Appel speak on his experience with Honor Flight. During his presentation, he spoke of the 'surprises' around every corner and his daughter Amy being his guide (even though they went in circles sometimes getting lost). From the large smile on his face, you could tell this was just a fabulous experience for him to be a part of. If you know of a veteran who would like the opportunity to partake in an Honor Flight, check out their website: FreedomHonorFlight.org

Also during my visit in Millville, I presented some take away's from the National Convention in Reno, NV. A few ladies who aren't currently receiving a District Newsletter, signed up to receive it via email. If you aren't receiving it, please let me know, and we can get you signed up to. This is a great source of communication with your District American Legion Family. They also had some great questions as well. Continued prayers for healing go out to Sue Engen who is in the Lake City Hospital after suffering a fall. Thank you all for welcoming me into your meeting!



The Millville ALA Unit invited me to their meeting in October. What a wonderful group of ladies whom have revived their Unit to continue their programs which promote veterans. They also had a wonderful float in the Millville Days parade this year!

The 1st District Fall Rally was held in Plainview on Saturday, October 7th. Thank you to all who took time from their schedule to attend. And, special thanks to the Plainview American Legion Family who hosted the Fall Rally. The Silent Auction for my two projects (Project New Hope and Hastings Veterans Home Greenhouse) netted \$322.00. Thank You all! The hat was passed for Honorary Jr. President Jo Jo Welter, and that hat raised \$187.00 for her project. The two guest speakers included Larry Bartleson from Project New Hope and Buzz Christison who spoke on a grant which Season's Hospice in Rochester received for veterans dealing with Grief and Loss. For more information, Buzz can be contacted at 507-251-8472. Beside membership reports, other items reported on included:

Oratorical Contest at Mid-Winter on January 6th at Albert Lea.

Wabasha County Commander Andru Peters gave a Legislative Update. He said the House Bill 555 Property Tax Exempt Bill, was adopted; contact your CSO for more information. There is also a House bill which is vying a \$10 million Soldiers Home in Fillmore County, and encouraged everyone to get on board and contact state representatives to promote it in Fillmore County.

Chuck Stone, Department ALR Director, stated their goal this year is to \$250,000. Their Kick off weekend in 2018 will be August 2nd, along with Weekend 1 on Aug. 3,4,5 and Weekend 2 will be Aug. 10, 11, 12.

We also asked for prayers for Wanda Prescher, who's first grandchild was premature and struggling at Children's Hospital in the Cities. We also pray for Cindy Nelson who will be having back surgery on October 17th.



Above left, Lesley Balcome, President of Millville ALA Unit presented District President Cheryl Nymann with a check from their Unit during the Fall Rally in Plainview. Above right, those in attendance at the Fall Rally enjoying lunch together. Below, Honorary Jr. President Jo Jo Welter pictures with Dist. President Cheryl Nymann. Below right, ladies from Unit #179 in Plainview prepared and served the meal at the Fall Rally in Plainview.



I attended the Kellogg Auxiliary Unit Meeting Monday, October 9th. I spoke of the learning experience I had at the Legion Family National Convention. The Kellogg Unit has interesting projects they chedo which benefit our veterans. Evidentially, they have some individuals with sewing talents in their Unit, as they completed and donated neck and heart pillows to the VA. Plus, they had a plethora of deserts at the end of their meeting! For those who know me, I love my deserts. One thing I noticed from this Unit meeting was their hospitality, not only to me, but to a new member – happily sharing information as they went along their meeting when she had questions. Thank you for your special invitation for me to attend your meeting. I completely forgot to take a picture with this Unit after the meeting was done.....I guess that I was distracted because there were so many deserts to select from!!

I was honored to attend the Waseca American Legion Post #228 Membership Dinner on October 21st. They had a magnificent program, of which part of it was recognizing 50 year members of the Legion – what made this special was that there were 3 brothers who were recognized at this time. The sit down dinner was absolutely delicious (Lynette Wolf made 26 turkeys for the dinner...WOW). The very touching POW/MIA tribute was done by Mike Parry, Post 228 Commander. Plus, the Musical Tribute to the Armed Services was done by Muriah Miller & Becky Borneke, it was absolutely beautiful. What a wonderful tribute.



L to R: Waseca Unit # 228 President Mary Jo Knudson speaks during the membership dinner; center, District Commander Les Shaunce and Dodge County Commander , stand during the Musical tribute (for the Air Force) to

The Department Fall Conference was held in Willmar October 27th & 28th. From the Executive Board meeting, reminders to all Auxiliary members that there is a label fundraiser from the Department and National. You may have already received your label information from National. The envelope you will receive from Department will be coming in a bout two weeks. The return address on this will be from a company called Engage, out of Maryland. The other Department fundraiser are the magnet auxiliary patch. Now you can wear whatever you want and simply attach the Auxiliary Logo patch with magnetic attachment (no pin) to whatever you're wearing. Wear it with pride whenever you are representing the Auxiliary at functions, or out and about town! I have brought many back with me to sell, the cost is \$5, so if you would like one, just let me know.

The COOKBOOKS HAVE ARRIVED!! The Strategic Planning team put together a cookbook with recipes from Legion Family members throughout the state. It also includes a wonderful historical look at the Auxiliary with many photos, and little quips throughout the book. The cookbooks sold out at Fall Conference, however, I was able to bring home 9 of them with me, so if you would like one, let me know, the cost is \$25. I will be bringing them along with me to the various events I will be attending, so you can see first hand what they look like.

Another reminder from the Executive Board meeting is that there are grants available from the American Legion Foundation for the Legion Family events. Just go to www.ALF.org for more information, otherwise let me know and I can get the information to you! The Thursday night workshops were amazing. Sandy Worsal led the Leadership Workshop 'On a Stick'. She encourages us all to ask ourselves "What's Your Why?" Why are you a member of the Auxiliary? And then went on to motivate us to share our 'why' stories with others, including new members. This is for all of us ladies! Share it with prospective members, your Legion family. Recalling our why stories

can bring new energy to and revitalize our Units. Mary Kuperus gave a cute synopsis of 5 lessons she learned from Dr. Seuss for membership. She also reminded us that membership is everyone’s job. Robin Dorf presented on Public Relations using the TLC model. T is for Thinking, L is for Learning, and C is for Communicating. Use the TLC model and modify it for yourself.

Friday was a special day all the way around. Providing the music for the Department Fall Convention was Pat Nelson from District 1. What a delight it was to see her at the piano, providing the patriotic music for everyone. Carrying in the Department Auxiliary Flag during the Processional was Sharon Hammon from District 1. And, bringing in the District 1 flags were Sandra Frederickson and Stacy Erwin. District 1 was well represented at Fall Conference!!! Thank you ladies for being there. Friday also included reports from the Department Committee Chairman. I will be forwarding on information from those reports to the District Chairman this week. I was humbled and honored to be asked to give the response for the District Presidents after we were all introduced. So, I wrote a special poem for President Donna.

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund Silent Auction was very successful with 47 gift baskets, and many other non-basket items. The total amount raised was \$5,231.50. Cindy Neslon from District 1 was the Chairman for this committee, however was unable to attend due to her surgery, but was with us in spirit. Helping Cindy, were Pam Horshal and Margee Keller who stepped in to help the Silent Auction.

Friday evening was a blast with the American Legion Family participating in the Family Feud game. Large crowd came out to watch this. District 1 Commander Les Shaunce and I were teamed up with others. It was a lot of fun playing this game, and laugh, oh my goodness, did we ever laugh. The hospitality rooms were opened after the game. The Legion served beverages, and I had bbq chicken wings, rosettes, and seasoned pretzels at the food table. Special thanks to Raleigh for his assistance in bringing up the chicken wings (because someone forgot to bring them ☐. Also, thanks to Jill Mueller for the seasoned pretzels.

Saturday was a wrap up of the Fall Conference, and time to come home. Thank you to all the 1st District members who were able to attend, and, as always I was honored to also represent the 1st District at Fall Conference.



L
to
R:

Commander Les and I prior to the Family Feud Game; recognize a couple of those Family Feud members from 1st District?; and Pat Nelson on the piano at Fall Conference in Willmar.



L to R: Sharon Hammon brought in the Department Auxiliary Flag at the Processional; Sandra Fredrickson at the Strategic Planning Committee meeting; and mobile bartender Gary Miller on wheels,

Veterans Day is Saturday, November 11th. Is your Auxiliary planning to attend a program, maybe hosting a coffee and rolls, or meal for the Veterans? Another suggestion is to visit veterans in your local nursing home, make a card for them and present it to them. Promote your Auxiliary by wearing a shirt with the Auxiliary emblem on it.

**The Best on Earth:
A Veteran's Day Tribute**

By Joanna Fuchs

If someone has done military service,
They earn the title "veteran," and more;
They earn our deep respect and admiration;
That they are special no one can ignore.

They sacrificed the comforts we enjoy;
The list is long of all the things they gave.
Our veterans are extraordinary people;
They're loyal, dedicated, true and brave.

When terror and invasion were real threats,
They showed us they could handle any storm.
We owe our freedoms and our very lives
To our veterans, who served in uniform.

Our veterans should be celebrities;
They're exceptional; no other group compares.
We're grateful for the many things they've done;
They're always in our hearts and in our prayers.

We owe our veterans support and friendship;
Let no one ever question what they're worth.
These men and women served us and our country,
Our veterans--the very best on earth.

Our next District 1 Rally will be on November 18th in St. Charles beginning at 2pm with the Fun Time. We will be tying blankets and the Rally with membership turn in will be at 4pm. Hope to see you there!

Thanksgiving Day brings to mind the blessings in our lives that usually go unnoticed: a home that surrounds us with comfort and protection; delicious food, for pleasure in both eating and sharing; clothes to snuggle up in, books and good entertainment to expand our minds; and freedom to worship our God.

Most of all we are thankful for our family and friends, those treasured people who make our lives extra special. Veterans are part of that cherished group. On Thanksgiving, (and every day) we appreciate you.

Cheryl Nymann

First District Auxiliary Membership numbers for 9/29/17

Unit	Location	Goal	Previous	Turn In	Total	Precent	Left
9	Winona	181	12	0	12	6.63%	169
90	Lewiston	42	8	9	17	40.48%	25
190	St Charles	81	21	25	46	56.79%	35
50	Wabasha	142	35	82	117	82.39%	25
110	Lake City	88	42	20	62	70.45%	26
179	Plainview	185	15	84	16	8.65%	169
546	Kellogg	141	12	58	70	49.65%	71
573	Elgin	24	1	0	1	4.17%	23
579	Millville	50	5	23	28	56.00%	22
588	Mazeppa	54	16	11	27	50.00%	27
92	Rochester	183	44	40	84	45.90%	99
119	Byron	95	32	0	32	33.68%	63
164	Stewartville	188	96	37	133	70.74%	55
551	Eyota	109	6	48	54	49.54%	55
Pod One Total		1563	345	437	782	50.03%	781
295	West Concord	37	2	0	2	5.41%	35
330	Hayfield	198	104	32	136	68.69%	62
333	Kasson	151	65	12	77	50.99%	74
384	Dodge Center	81	2	0	2	2.47%	79
422	Claremont	22	1	0	1	4.55%	21
52	Blooming Prairie	118	58	1	59	50.00%	59
77	Owatonna	138	44	0	44	31.88%	94
75	New Richland	66	25	17	42	63.64%	24
228	Waseca	237	58	59	117	49.37%	120
281	Janesville	61	8	19	27	44.26%	34
587	Waldorf	30	17	1	18	60.00%	12
Pod Two Totals		1139	384	141	525	46.09%	614
40	Lanesboro	104	5	0	5	4.81%	99
68	Spring Valley	47	6	27	33	70.21%	14
81	Harmony	53	1	0	1	1.89%	52
94	Rushford	78	1	34	35	44.87%	43
197	Chatfield	40	3	23	26	65.00%	14
299	Mabel	139	14	79	93	66.91%	46
369	Wykoff	17	17	0	17	100.00%	0
526	Peterson	38	34	0	34	89.47%	4
544	Ostrander	18	0	9	9	50.00%	9
637	Whalen	25	0	0	0	0.00%	25
191	Caledonia	79	39	21	60	75.95%	19
249	Spring Grove	144	65	0	65	45.14%	79
423	Houston	144	102	0	102	70.83%	42
498	Hokah	21	3	16	19	90.48%	2
595	LaCrescent	233	54	74	128	54.94%	105
Pod Three Totals		1180	344	283	627	53.14%	553
56	Albert Lea	342	185	40	225	65.79%	117
264	Glenville	111	44	31	75	67.57%	36
317	Emmons	32	1	0	1	3.13%	31

404	Alden	49	19	0	19	38.78%	30
552	Freeborn	65	50	0	50	76.92%	15
91	Austin	169	7	65	72	42.60%	97
105	Lyle	55	1	0	1	1.82%	54
140	Grand Meadow	79	33	14	47	59.49%	32
146	Adams	148	59	31	90	60.81%	58
161	Leroy	68	15	11	26	38.24%	42
Pod Four Totals		1118	414	192	606	54.20%	512
Total		5000	2100	391	2491	49.82%	2509

Hello 1st District Members

As you can see by the membership numbers we are at 49.82% which is not bad, but we can do better. We have Pod 4 at 54.20%, Pod 3 at 53.14%, Pod 1 at 50.03% and Pod 2 46.09%. We are in 9th place in the state but I know we can make it to the top. I am making a challenge to all the units to be 60% or better by Thanksgiving. Congratulations to Wykoff for being 1st to reach 100%. The National American Legion Auxiliary Organization would like to make a million members by 2020. Remember renew, recruit, and rejoin.

As a member of this great organization, the American Legion Auxiliary brings valuable benefits to you! Your membership brings you access to a wide array of discounts, products and services. Benefits from the Gallagher Benefit Services and Abenity Discount Services can be found online at www.ALAforveterans.org. Be sure to check out the American Legion Auxiliary USAA Credit Card also.

Let's show them what the 1st District can do and be in the #1 position for the December newsletter.

Thank you for all you do.

Michelle Weaver

Help a Veteran this Veteran's Day!

Honor your Veteran's and Senior's at your area Nursing Home. Serve cake, cookies, ice cream.

Recognize these individuals, by making the day special for them and their families.

Help a Veteran in your area with yard work, grocery shopping or just visiting at their home.

These are a few ideas if your Unit is looking for something other than helping with your Veteran's Dinner.

If you know of a Military/Veteran's family in your area, take monetary donations and provide them with a Thanksgiving Dinner. This would mean so much to them.

As we honor Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving, remember those that have lost loved ones and those that are serving in our Military. All Gave Some, Some Gave All.

Wanda Prescher: Veteran's Affairs Chair

**Gilmore-Stensrud Post #552 in Freeborn MN Auxiliary dates of upcoming events
December 3, 2017 Santa/Hospice Tree Lighting/Christmas Potluck/Bingo party at
Freeborn Legion Hall beginning at 3:00**

January 27, 2018 Soup N' Pie/Dessert at Freeborn Legion Hall time: 4:00 to 6:00

Thank You

Sandy Anderson

Auxiliary President

FROM YOUR HONORY JUNIOR AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

JOHANNA (JO JO) WELTER



Greetings First District,

My name is Johanna (JoJo) Welter. I am the First District Honorary Junior Auxiliary President. My project is making patriotic fleece tie blankets for soldiers overseas. I am doing this project through Soldiers Wings South East Minnesota. I have already made & shipped 24 blankets. I received a wonderful Thank You from the troops in Poland.

I am adding a twist to my blanket project. If you know a veteran within the First District that you would like to nominate to receive a patriotic tie blanket, please send your nomination to me at, welterbunch@yahoo.com (in the subject line put) Tie Blanket Or you can call me at 507-533-9434. (Approximate size is 60" x 72") Include your name, who and why you are nominating them, branch of service they served and your contact information.

May God continue to bless the USA!
JoJo Welter

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



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Didavemn@gmail.com

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LaCrosse, WI 54603
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Greetings from your SAL,

November is here, wither we like it or not. The cold weather has already started, so now it's just a matter of time before we get the shovels out. We just had our fall conference in Wilmar. It was great to learn some new things about mysal.org and talking and listening to other members. We were in 5th place in membership for the state. We had 2 squadrons at 100%. Let's keep working on getting more.

I have now decided on my project. It is brain science. I would ask that every Squadron, post, or unit, please help in any way. Even if only \$5, anything helps.

Don't forget to attend a veterans day function. Help in any way you can. Even if to only thank a veteran. Spread the word about where a veteran can get a free meal, watch a free movie, or anything else that companies are doing for our veterans.

Thanksgiving is right around the corner. Remember to give thanks to those who have died for or served this country.

Until next month, keep warm!

Commander Dave

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.



2017 - 2018 Individual Recruitment Award

The National Membership Committee offers a recruitment pin award for those members recruiting five (5) new members into the Sons of The American Legion within a membership year. This pin is suitable to wear upon your cover or lapel. You must meet the requirements and directions listed below:

- Recruit five (5) new members to S.A.L. **Must be new members only**, no renewals.
- All information must be legible. Un-readable forms will not be accepted.
- The new members membership record must be available on the national database.
- This form must be sent prior to midnight of August 31, 2018.
- Only one (1) award pin per member regardless of the total new members recruited.
- American Legion Family members are also eligible for this award.
- Information must be spelled out and complete. **No Abbreviations.**

Recruiter Information

Name _____ Member ID# _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Full Squadron Name/Number _____ Detachment _____
 Email _____ Phone _____

Unless specified different, the pin will be sent to the above address

New Member Information

#1 Name _____ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # _____
 #2 Name _____ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # _____
 #3 Name _____ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # _____
 #4 Name _____ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # _____
 #5 Name _____ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # _____

VERIFYING SIGNATURES

(Underline) SQUAD / POST COMMANDER _____ DATE _____
 (Underline) SQUAD / POST ADJUTANT _____ DATE _____
 (Required) SQUADRON ADVISOR _____ DATE _____

RETURN COMPLETED FORMS TO: (Regional Membership Chairman)

East- Mark Nave (PA)	coolcameo@aol.com	10 N 50th St, Philadelphia, PA 19139
South- Raymond Rollins (GA)	raymondrollins@yahoo.com	9685 Reinhardt College Pkwy, Waleska, GA 30183
Central- Brian Kessler (IA)	kesslerb@mchsi.com	PO Box 624, Lake Park, IA 51347
Midwest-Charles Keith (WY)	crkeith@hotmail.com	PO Box 433, Lander, WY 82520
West- Joseph Roberts (AZ)	azmembership@yahoo.com	6501 E Calle La Paz, Unit A, Tucson, AZ 85715

PINS WILL MAILED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

RIDERS CONTACT INFORMATION



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Adams, MN 55909
507/440/6067

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Dale Nicholson
Glenville, MN

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507/456/2315

SGT AT ARMS

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CHAPLAIN

Dan Klingfus
Austin, MN 55912
507/573/2329

ROAD CAPTAIN

Joe Smillie
1001 7th St NW
Austin, MN 55912
641/590/3522

The "Tour of the First District" Committee this year will be Roe Naylor, Lee Dority, Joe Smiley and Karla Miller. The ride will be the second weekend in July. We are asking Posts, Auxiliary and SAL Squadrons to add this to their budget for planning purposes. Posts will be contacted for ride stops. Again, we will be looking for auction items and door prizes.

Nancy Lewison was appointed as the chairman for the First District ALR Rider of the Year Award. Chapters will receive an e-mail with the information. Please have your Rider of the Year information to her by January 1st, 2018. They will be reviewed at the Mid - Winter Conference. The Department ALR is planning to start a Rider of the Year award also.

Eyota Post now has a ALR Chapter. First District now has 10 ALR chapters.

Our next meeting will be at the Mid-Winter conference on January 5th, 2018 at Post #56 Albert Lea. The time has not been determined at this time. At this meeting, we will need a count of each chapter's membership to report to the First District American Legion Family.

The biking season is coming to an end...hopefully everyone had a chance to take a ride to see the beautiful fall colors.



**The Forte Milers Barbershop Chorus &
The Adams American Legion Auxiliary
present**

***CHRISTMAS CABERNET
CONCERT***

**Sunday December 3 – 3:00 p.m.
Adams American Legion**

- 2:00 p.m. – Wine Available, Cheese & Crackers
- 3:00 p.m. – **Forte Milers Christmas Chorus Concert**
- 4:00 p.m. – Desserts & Coffee

Free Will Donations

All proceeds go to the Adams American Legion

It's a 50th Anniversary Party

Let's Celebrate!

The children of Tom and Audrey Erwin—Jeanette, Stacy, Kevin, and Casey—invite you to celebrate 50 years of marriage on February 3, 2018, at the Dodge Center American Legion. Festivities begin at 4:00 p.m.

We will have food and a full cash bar.

Please RSVP to jenniferlerwin@gmail.com or call Jeanette at 612-730-9478, by January 29.

The American Legion is located at 401 Hwy Street West in Dodge Center.



Adopt a Vet
Hastings Veterans Home

We give you a first name, branch of service, and size or hobby

You shop and wrap the gifts. No weapons or alcohol based items please

Bring items labeled with the vet's name to Hastings by December 11th

We will have groups out west and south who will help with transportation. Please don't waste money on mailing them.

There is no limit to what to spend but please think modest in range.

Contact me if you have any questions. We are sending this out early to give you time to work with your organizations and friends. Please let me know as soon as you can with numbers of vets you would like to adopt. Sometimes a few is better than a bunch so they can each be treated as individuals. Gift cards are welcomed too but we would like at least one gift wrapped so they have something to open. Gift cards for our local area are best. I can give you a list if you desire.

If your group has more funds and would like to help out more, we are always looking for \$10 gift cards to use for motivation and rewards for weight loss, stopping smoking, exercise programs, and more. These are a great way for us to treat those working hard to improve their lives. We do also have transitioning Veterans who may need a bit of extra help as they move out of our Home into the community. I try to find \$50 Walmart cards for each of them to buy supplies and such.

Again, thank you for considering the Hastings Veterans Home in your holiday planning. We love our vets.

Sincerely,

Sue Register

651-539-2442

Trim the Tree

When: December 1, 2017

6:30-8:00

Where: Hastings Veterans Home Gym

We will gather together this year in the gym. We will have many decorations to choose from but you may bring your own too.

At that time you will be given an area or tree to decorate. Please involve the veterans in your area. Sit in our new dayroom chairs, and have fun. You may sing any songs you want. You can bring any treats you want. Just come and have fun with us.

After you are done, feel free to come back to the gym and join others to complete the decorating of the gym. There we will have coffee, and more treats to share. Music will be going on in the gym and also Daniels coffee shop. If you have those who like to sing, play piano or other musical instruments, they all will be welcomed. We have a key board in the lobby as well as in the chapel. We will have a sing-a-long in the gym as we conclude our decorating.

Cost to you? Only your time a few homemade treats and the gas to get to the Home.

Benefit to us.....priceless.

LIVER FEED



**Includes fried potatoes,
onions and a bun.**

**Not a liver lover?
Enjoy hamburger steak!
\$7.00 per person**

Proceeds go to Legion Marching Unit

Saturday, November 4th, 5 p.m.

Waseca American Legion

700 South State St ~ 507-833-9935

