



FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

NOVEMBER 2020

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Area Four - Mary Hanson
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You can go to the Minnesota American Legion web site (mnlegion.org) and click on the COVID 19 link for a lot of information about the state mandates, contact information and links to important PDF information files.

IMPORTANT DATES

Because of the COVID 19 pandemic all events are either put on hold or postponed to a later date.

Some posts are starting to open with COVID 19 rules in place, Please contact your post to see what the times and rules are.

November 3, 2020 - Election Day - get out and vote

November 11, 2020 - Veterans Day, we may have to dream up new ways to honor the veterans because of COVID 19.

November 16—20, 2020—American Education Week - Check with your schools to see what you can do to honor the teachers and staff.

November 26, 2020 - Thanksgiving Day.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

Kasson Post 333 has a over supply of medical equipment which includes hospital beds with mattresses, wheel chairs (both regular and electric), motorized scooters and much more. If interested please call Richard Denny at 507—259—2081 for more information.

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FROM THE COMMANDER'S PEN

Greetings to you, the First District American Legion Family.

Thank you for your service and support.

Fall Conference at Breezy Point was not cancelled because of covid-19. The weather interfered with this one. Snow and dangerous driving conditions.

We still have to be creative in our activities. Social distancing, the way we serve food, the number of people at one time, even to see the commander and chief.

Membership is still lagging for turn ins! The target date of VETERANS is 65%. District one is in 7th place.

The awards that were planned to be awarded at Fall Conference at Breezy Point will be awarded at Mid winter in Stewartville.

Up Coming Events

Nov. 3 Election
 Nov. 10. Marine Birthday
 Nov. 11 Veterans Day
 Nov. 26 Thanksgiving
 DEC. 5. Pearl Harbor Fall Conference
 DEC. 13 Christmas get together at the American Legion Post in Eyota at noon.

Pray for our deployed and their families.

God Bless
 For God and Country.

Corrections for the Newsletter:

Mark Maloney & Karla Miller
 845 54th Ave, Apt E
 Winona 55987

Also Eyota Legion Riders have suspended collections for care packages until further notice.

Greetings to the 1st District American Legion Family!

And another month has passed; why don't we just forget about Halloween, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving, Pearl Harbor Day and Christmas this year and on to 2021? It would be easy to try and forget 2020, because of everything that has happened. But we must continue on and make the best of what is handed to us. Let us remember all the good that has come our way this past year, and not the bad stuff.

We need to be thankful for all that the Lord has done for us. Sometimes we don't see the good because of the bad, but I'm sure if we would take time to think about it, there are many things to be thankful for. There's a song that came to my mind; it's called, "Give Thanks". I'm sure some of you know it by heart. It goes like this:

"Give thanks with a grateful heart.

Give thanks to the Holy One.

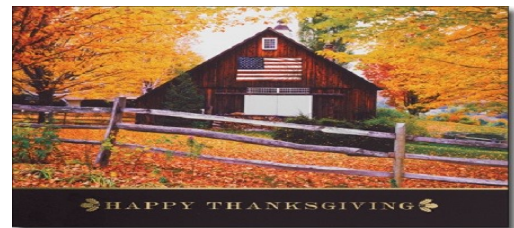
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His son.

And now, let the poor say I am rich,

Let the weak say I am strong,

Because of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks. Give thanks.



So as we look back on 2020, we need to be mindful of all God has done for us, in the small things and in the big things. Let's not forget all that will be happening in these last two months of 2020, even as we look ahead to 2021:

*Be careful as the farmers are finishing up with fall harvest.

Remember to **vote November 3rd; it's a privilege and an honor. Many have died to give us that right. Don't waste it. Make your voice heard.

***Remember **Veterans' Day** on **November 11**.

Go see a fellow veteran or give one a call just to check in on them. ****And, finally, celebrate Thanksgiving Day; a day set aside to give thanks for all we enjoy and have received from the Almighty these past years.

Take some time to give God the thanks that is deserving of Him.

Have a joy-filled November!

Until Next Month, God's Blessing on You and Yours,
 Larry H. Otto, 1st District Chaplain



FROM AREA FOUR

Hello 1st District Family,

Election Day is November 3rd. Please get out and exercise your right to vote. Please consider becoming an election judge. The need is great.

Veterans Day is November 11th. We use this day to celebrate and honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve our great nation. To sign the dotted line knowing you may make the ultimate sacrifice to protect your country takes courage. Times are tough right now. We may not be able to celebrate like we used to. If nothing else, on that 11th hour, of the 11th day of the 11th month have a conversation with God. Thank HIM for all of the men and women who have sacrificed for this country to keep us free.

Each November the President signs a proclamation declaring November Veterans & Military Families Month. This recognizes the sacrifices made daily by deployed overseas service members, active duty, guard and reserves and their families.

October 16-18 I had the honor to attend the very first Department of Minnesota Legion College at Camp Ripley. A great number of topics were covered in the short time we had. We studied the American Legion Organization, rules and responsibilities at all levels, some of the Legion programs and resolutions to name a few. The training team did a great job. I would encourage everyone to attend. This is open to anyone. Remember: you need to complete basic training first. We need members to be educated in the American Legion to become future leaders.

Unfortunately, the Fall Conference at Breezy Point was cancelled due to weather. Please watch the Legionnaire for the information that would have come out after the conference. I was pleased to find out that the 1st District was one of three to have 100% of posts submitting the CPR's. This is the second year in a row for us. Thank you to Dale, Wayne, Myron and the other vice commanders for all of the help to get this done.

Mary Hanson
1st District Area 4
Vice Commander

FROM AREA ONE

Well here we are again another year is holiday season and remember this year to get and vote and we the American legion is here for our members. If you need anything, make sure to call your local post and we will try to help in any of your needs. Also remember to do buddy checks we still need to reach out and help our fellow members because we are family and the only way, we can make it through this pandemic is if we have each other's back. If you have a chance to visit your post for food or drinks or to just hang out do so and remember to social distance and we can make this year the best year ever. Remember that we still need to do fund raisers get members and have our four pillars we need keep up with the American legion business of helping our vets and our children and our community in any way we can. Please remember we are in a pandemic but let's not let the pandemic scare us in what we are here for god and country and with all this going on we still will have our district Christmas in Eyota at post 551 so let's get into the holiday spirit even when we have all this negatively going in the country lets be positive. Thank you for letting me work on your behalf and getting things going with in the American Legion.

Thank you

Area One Vice Commander

Mark A. Maloney III

Please keep working both the 1982 and 1982 AD lists found in the My Legion Post site if your post is signed up. If your post is not signed up please try and get signed up. There is a lot of great help for membership recruitment to be found there. Also do not forget about the expired member lists which are there too.. If you need help , contact the District Adjutant, he knows how to get your post signed up and use the site..

Myron Ehrich - First District Membership Director

FROM THE DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

We are still hanging in 3rd place We are just over 800 behind this time last year. With the opportunities available to us we should be doing better.

We have all heard about the new program that will begin in December. Personify 360 is replacing my legion. There was a training session Thursday but if you were unable to attend it has been recorded. <https://www.legion.org/training>.

However my legion is still in use so don't stop utilizing it.

Here is some info provided by Historian Mike Ashe concerning the Pearl Harbor gathering. Please be sure you and everyone you give the info to that we will heed to the max capacity of the facility. You MUST have made a reservation and paid before the event or you will not be admitted. This is to ensure we are in compliance with seating capacity.

The Pearl Harbor Family Gathering will be held at North St. Paul Post 39 on Dec 5th, Social-Noon, Lunch-1:00pm, Program-2:00pm - here's more info (check the November Legionnaire as well):

Where: Post 39 North St. Paul, 2678 7th Ave E, St Paul, MN 55109

Who: Host – American Legion Riders

To reserve your spot contact:

Mike Ash at mikeash202@gmail.com or at 612-499-1404 and Jody Hassing at jodyhassing@gmail.com or 651-329-7197. Checks should be made out to “The American Legion Riders” and need to be mailed to:

Mike Ash, 1251 Portland Ave, St. Paul, MN 55104-6946.

We will need names and phone numbers for ALL attendees.

Lunch will be spaghetti with sauce and meatballs (if you like) or fettuccine with alfredo sauce – price will be \$18.00 per person.

Please note: This event is **limited to 150 people** due to the ongoing pandemic. Therefore, pre-registration and prepayment is necessary. Individuals not making arrangements prior to the event and showing up without reservations will be denied attendance per state mandate. Thank you.

Sy

To whom it may concern

THE GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MONUMENT

The CPL Curtis M Swenson Memorial Fund is excited to announce a project we are working on in conjunction with the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation. The MN Gold Star Families Memorial Monument demonstrates that a community cares for the families and appreciates their sacrifice. Today, there are 64 dedicated monuments and 76 in progress throughout the United States. Our efforts in bringing this to our area would be the first in Minnesota.

Our committee has secured the new Dodge County Courthouse grounds, 721 Main Street North, Mantorville to place this beautiful monument. Three benches have already been promised. Fundraising efforts are ongoing to build and maintain the monument.

The CPL Curtis M Swenson Memorial Fund has started this effort with a \$5000 donation in hopes of matching funds. We know this may be a hardship for smaller groups but, be assured, all donations will be greatly appreciated. The 501c3 non-profit # is 46-2047833 for your tax information.

Groundwork for the monument will begin Spring 2021 with the hopes of dedicating this meaningful gift Fall of 2021.

Please send your donations to: CPL Curtis M Swenson Memorial Fund
 Attention; MN Gold Star Monument Committee
 4520 58th LN NW
 Rochester, MN 55901

Direct questions to: Scott Eggert 507-993-2414 or
 Dave Swenson 507-206-8479

Thank you for your continued support of our Military, Veterans and Their Families



The American Legion, Dept of MN, First District 2021 Membership Report as of Oct 29, 2020

Dist	Post	Location	New 2021	PUFL 2021	Online 2021	Trad 2021	Paid 2021	HQ Trans 2021	Total Membr 2021	Goal 2021	% of Goal	HQ Trans 2020	Last yr at this dae
1	9	Winona	1	30	42	332	405	1	406	536	75.75%	0	399
1	90	Lewiston	3	8	3	40	54	0	54	69	78.26%	0	56
1	190	St Charles	4	19	10	81	114	0	114	133	85.71%	0	98
1		Winona County					573	1	574	738	77.78%		553
1	50	Wabasha	0	48	15	95	158	0	158	221	71.49%	0	159
1	110	Lake City	2	17	11	85	115	0	115	157	73.25%	0	103
1	179	Plainview	0	28	15	73	116	0	116	159	72.96%	0	114
1	546	Kellogg	0	9	0	35	44	0	44	63	69.84%	0	49
1	573	Elgin	0	2	2	19	23	0	23	29	79.31%	0	4
1	579	Millville	0	22	20	74	116	0	116	148	78.38%	0	135
1	588	Mazeppa	0	9	1	45	55	0	55	72	76.39%	0	55
1		Wabsha County					627	0	627	849	73.85%		619
1	92	Rochester	2	91	97	475	665	4	669	905	73.92%	1	637
1	119	Byron	1	17	13	56	87	0	87	133	65.41%	0	87
1	164	Stewartville	0	26	24	191	241	0	241	303	79.54%	0	221
1	446	Rochester	0	2	3	2	7	0	7	20	35.00%	0	9
1	551	Eyota	1	20	17	89	127	0	127	186	68.28%	0	109
1		Olmsted County					1127	5	1132	1547	73.17%		1063
1		Area One					2327	6	2333	3134	74.44%		2235
1	295	West Concord	0	8	1	28	37	0	37	65	56.92%	0	43
1	330	Hayfield	0	18	13	98	129	0	129	199	64.82%	0	133
1	333	Kasson	1	31	17	148	197	0	197	264	74.62%	0	199
1	384	Dodge Center	0	8	4	40	52	0	52	78	66.67%	0	52
1	422	Claremont	1	1	3	20	25	0	25	27	92.59%	0	24
1		Dodge County					440	0	440	633	69.51%		451
1	52	Blooming Prairie	1	16	4	56	77	0	77	94	81.91%	0	81
1	77	Owatonna	4	52	28	226	310	0	310	460	67.39%	0	328
1	296	Ellendale	0	3	3	23	29	0	29	39	74.36%	0	23
1		Steel County					416	0	416	593	70.15%		432
1	75	New Richland	0	8	1	40	49	0	49	48	102.08%	0	37
1	228	Waseca	1	21	16	180	218	1	219	310	70.65%	0	228
1	281	Janesville	1	9	9	56	75	0	75	88	85.23%	0	76
1	587	Waldorf	0	0	0	18	18	0	18	22	81.82%	0	17
1		Waseca County					360	1	361	468	77.14%	0	358
		Area Two					1216	1	1217	1694	71.84%	0	1241

1	740	Lanesboro	0	13	9	51	73	0	73	107	68.22%	0	95
1	68	Spring Valley	0	8	1	46	55	0	55	76	72.37%	0	62
1	81	Harmony	0	2	0	21	23	0	23	32	71.88%	0	22
1	94	Rushford	0	14	9	60	83	0	83	116	71.55%	0	72
1	166	Preston	0	18	3	26	47	0	47	61	77.05%	0	60
1	197	Chatfield	0	2	1	35	38	0	38	45	84.44%	0	43
1	299	Mabel	5	31	12	79	127	0	127	165	76.97%	0	114
1	369	Wykoff	0	0	0	11	11	0	11	16	68.75%	0	16
1	400	Canton	1	0	1	10	12	0	12	18	66.67%	0	6
1	492	Fountain	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	14	7.14%	0	10
1	526	Peterson	0	4	0	22	26	0	26	39	66.67%	0	25
1	544	Ostrander	0	2	1	17	20	0	20	24	83.33%	0	20
1	637	Whalan	0	0	0	10	10	0	10	7	142.86%	0	6
1		Fillmore County					526	0	526	720	73.06%	0	551
1	191	Caledonia	0	17	6	64	87	0	87	150	58.00%	0	126
1	249	Spring Grove	0	15	11	79	105	0	105	151	69.54%	0	99
1	423	Houston	0	8	8	49	65	0	65	101	64.36%	0	69
1	498	Hokah	1	1	2	14	18	0	18	22	81.82%	0	15
1	595	LaCrescent	0	47	22	129	198	0	198	273	72.53%	0	208
1		Houston County					473	0	473	697	67.86%	0	59
1		Area Three					999	0	999	1417	70.50%	0	610
1	56	Albert Lea	0	40	42	328	410	2	412	543	75.87%	0	405
1	264	Glenville	0	9	0	47	56	0	56	70	80.00%	0	48
1	266	Hartland	0	1	0	12	13	0	13	13	100.00%	0	11
1	317	Emmons	0	3	1	33	37	0	37	53	69.81%	0	45
1	404	Alden	0	4	11	57	72	0	72	106	67.92%	0	72
1	552	Freeborn	0	5	1	22	28	0	28	33	84.85%	0	27
1		Freeborn County					616	2	618	818	75.55%	0	608
1	91	Austin	2	56	24	259	341	2	343	502	68.33%	0	343
1	105	Lyle	0	8	6	37	51	0	51	84	60.71%	0	42
1	140	Grand Meadow	0	2	5	31	38	0	38	41	92.68%	0	33
1	146	Adams	0	20	7	3	30	0	30	187	16.04%	0	131
1	161	LeRoy	0	4	4	29	37	0	37	52	71.15%	0	43
1	570	Austin Spam	0	0	2	12	14	0	14	15	93.33%	1	12
1		Mower County					511	2	513	881	58.23%	0	604
1		Area Four					1127	3	1130	1699	66.51%	0	1212
1	1111	Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	0.00%	0	0
1		District Totals	32	857	561	4219	5669	10	5679	8009	70.91%	3	5756

FIRST DISTRICT VICE COMANNDER STANDINGS AS OF 10-29-20

Vice Commanders													
	Area One					2327	6	2333	3134	74.44%	0	2235	
	Area Two					1216	1	1217	1694	71.84%	0	1241	
	Area Three					999	0	999	1417	70.50%	0	610	
	Area Four					1127	3	1130	1699	66.51%	0	1212	

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA 2021 DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 10-29-20

District	Rank												
1	7th	Dale Wellik	32	857	561	4219	5669	10	5679	8009	70.91%	3	5756
2	9th	Bradley Pagel	26	646	351	3287	4310	5	4315	6189	69.72%	3	4598
3	1st	Linda Dvorak	77	1551	1201	5354	8183	20	8203	10,938	75.00%	51	7988
4	5th	Joseph Jansen	18	286	213	983	1500	2	1502	2,091	71.83%	22	1594
5	10th	Wade A. Larson	10	303	280	728	1321	0	1321	2164	61.04%	3	1468
6	4th	Paul D. Edwards	71	1104	785	5638	7598	16	7614	10,598	71.84%	10	7953
7	2nd	Dean Knutson	21	700	289	3140	4150	15	4165	5,646	73.77%	35	4183
8	8th	Gerrienne Koskinen	11	317	277	1935	2540	3	2543	3591	70.82%	4	2588
9	6th	Steven Sundstrom	32	551	433	3207	4223	34	4257	5953	71.51%	10	4250
10	3rd	Thomas H. Allen	58	909	982	4367	6316	13	6329	8780	72.08%	7	6423
99			6	178	300	1128	1612	0	1612	2997	53.79%	0	1282
Totals			362	7402	5672	33,986	47,422	118	47,540	66,956	71.00%	148	48,083

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Myron Ehrich - First District Membership Director

These are wooden US Flags with the branch of service on each one. District Chaplain, Larry Otto made them to have everyone call in bids in five (5) dollar increments with all money going to Commander Dale's project.

Bidding will end at 12 noon on Veterans Day, November 11, 2020. Thanks to all who have bid on this Commander's project. To bid call or text to 507-475-1023.



The high bid for the Army one is \$125.00 by phone number 507-513-1582 as of 10/4/20



The high bid for the Marine one is \$225.00 by phone number 507-259-5261 as of 10/4/20




The high bid for the Navy one is \$65.00 by phone number 507-433-7975 as of 10/4/20



The high bid for the Air Force one is \$120.00 by phone number 507-251-5051 as of 10/4/20

Memorial Day is coming so if you visit a cemetery don't remove the coins as they have meaning.


THE MEANING OF COINS ON A HEADSTONE




A penny, you stopped and paid your respects.



A nickle, you attended bootcamp with them



A dime, you served in the armed forces with them



A quarter, you were with the soldier when they were killed

IF YOU WONDERED WHY WE DO NOT WALK BETWEEN OR "BREAK" THE COLORS AT LEGION EVENTS, THIS IS THE REASON WHY.



This Is Hallowed Ground

Why You Don't Walk Between The Colors

Between the flags that proudly fly
Let no one dare to stand
For here our fallen comrades lie,
We call it Hallowed Ground.
A symbol, yes, but mark it well;
Here let us ever humbly pause
In Memory of the ones who fell
In fighting for our sacred cause.

On sea or land these buddies died.
Some lie beneath a foreign sod
In graves caressed by winds and tide,
In spots unknown to all but God.
And so this place is Hallowed Ground.
And it shall be forever blessed,
As though it were a grassy mound
Beneath which gallant heroes rest

Be ever watchful, Legionnaire.
Of those two flags which signify
That we should guard this spot with care
Where our departed comrades lie.
And, if a man should dare to tread
This spot where lie our gallant brave,
He desecrates those noble dead
As tho he walked upon their grave.



May 26, 2020

To: All Legion Leadership
From: Daniel S. Wheeler, National Adjutant; Kevin J. Bartlett, National Judge Advocate
Re: American Legion Membership Eligibility of Personnel in the Newly Created United States Space Force

Per Title 36 of the US Code, Chapter 217, Section 21703,

An individual is eligible for membership in the corporation [The American Legion] only if the individual—

- (1) has served in the Armed Forces of—
 - (A) the United States at any time during—
 - (i) the period from April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918; or
 - (ii) any time after December 7, 1941; or
 - (B) a government associated with the United States during a period or time referred to in subclause (A) of this clause and was a citizen of the United States when the individual entered that service; and
- (2) was honorably discharged or separated from that service or continues to serve honorably during or after that period or time.

The United States Space Force was created by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2020, signed by the President on December 20, 2019. It became Public Law No: 116-92,

“§9081. The United States Space Force

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a United States Space Force as an armed force within the Department of the Air Force....

(c) SPACE FORCE AS AN ARMED FORCE.—Section 101(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting “Space Force,” after “Marine Corps,”.

Thus, as amended, Section 101(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code reads:

(4) The term “armed forces” means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard.

Therefore, as title 10 of the United States Code now includes Space Force as an “Armed Force” and our federally chartered membership criteria uses the same wording [“has served in the Armed Forces....any time after December 7, 1941”] there are no necessary acts required to extend membership to all who have served or continue to serve in the United States Space Force.

FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY NEWS



Auxiliary Contacts

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

President

Wanda Prescher
3321 Vista View Ct SW
Rochester, MN 55902
507-280-4027
w.prescher@kmbw.net

Secretary

Sharon Hammon
115 East Cabot St
LeRoy, MN 55951
507-923-7205
1stadjutant@gmail.com

Membership / First Vice

Tonia Betterman
1625 Crestview Lane
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-456-2315
betttm88@outlook.com

Treasurer

Audrey Farnsworth
302 1st St E, Stewartville, MN 55976
507-319-0257
harlee@charter.net

November Newsletter

As I looked at last year's letter and start to write this one, it is disappointing to see all that we will not be doing this November! Hopefully some Units will be creative for Veterans Day with our Veterans in their Care Centers and Veteran's Program, even if helping with pickup dinner for a Veteran and spouse. Remember to order poppies, if you haven't.

American Education Week is November 16th-20th. Let's show our support for our teachers who are doing their best to work with our youth, during this difficult time. They need our recognition more than ever. Call your school; ask what you could put into their teacher's lounge for their enjoyment.

It would be greatly appreciated by our wonderful teachers!

Congratulations on membership, the last bulletin of 10/27-1st District was at 54.83% to 51% last year at this time! Thank you to our Membership Chairs who are turning their membership in timely! Remember every member who pays their dues is doing a Service to our Veteran's! Just keep working on getting those renewals in! Our Membership ladies are awesome, thank you!

Awards that were to be presented at Fall Conference, will now be presented during our Mid-Winter Rally-Saturday, January 9th in Stewartville.

Remember to vote November 3rd if you haven't already!

Sharon has a great write up for Veterans Services, please read!

To all our Veterans, thank you for your service, sacrifices, and for protecting the land of the free, because of the brave.

The entire Auxiliary wishes we were able to do what we have always done in the past to honor your day!

For our Units, we all need to get creative and think outside the box, on what we can do in our given communities! Only you know, what will work for you. If there are some ideas that you could share please let me know, I would gladly pass on to all Units.

Thank you to President Michelle and our La Crescent Unit for an invite earlier this month, it was great to be able to visit with you!

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone! Enjoy this special day with family and friend, however that may be to stay safe and healthy!

President Wanda



Happy Veterans Day

I want to thank all Veterans and their families for their devotion to the United State of America. The selfless sacrifices that you have endured is noted and much appreciated.

I want to thank the American Legion Family for supporting the Veteran programs, speaking on Veterans behalf at the State and Federal levels, and honoring our troops at home and abroad not only on Veterans Day but all year long.

There will be a change in Veteran Day programs due to the health care concerns facing our world.

For those who feel homebound here are some resources to try.

Veterans Radio, Podcasts, Blogs, Live Chats

Voice of America's Veterans

<https://veteransradio.net>

AVR = American Veterans Radio

<https://www.avradio.org/>

Military Veterans Radio

<https://militaryveteransradio.com/>

Minnesota Dept. of Veterans Affairs

<https://mn.gov/mdva/>

Podcasts

American Hero Network

AMVETS Radio

Frontlines of Freedom

Veterans Helping Veterans

Books on tape, movies, through our libraries and Amazon

Chair VA & R – Sharon Kingsley

**1st District American Legion Auxiliary Membership
As of October 28, 2020**

Unit	Location	Goal	Previous	Turn In	Total	Percent	Left
9	Winona	141	67	0	67	47.52%	74
90	Lewiston	36	1	1	2	5.56%	34
190	St Charles	51	31	0	31	60.78%	20
50	Wabasha	110	51	9	60	54.55%	50
110	Lake City	64	39	1	40	62.50%	24
179	Plainview	120	62	31	93	77.50%	27
546	Kellogg	110	5	57	62	56.36%	48
573	Elgin	13	1		1	7.69%	12
579	Millville	51	25	7	32	62.75%	19
588	Mazeppa	37	17	0	17	45.95%	20
92	Rochester	136	31	50	81	59.56%	55
119	Byron	41	8	9	17	41.46%	24
164	Stewartville	175	119	7	126	72.00%	49
551	Eyota	97	23	42	65	67.01%	32
Pod One		1182	480	214	694	58.71%	488
295	West Concord	32	2	19	21	65.63%	11
330	Hayfield	173	10	114	124	71.68%	49
333	Kasson	135	69	20	89	65.93%	46
384	Dodge Center	64	2		2	3.13%	62
422	Claremont	20	1		1	5.00%	19
52	Blooming Prairie	91	2	65	67	73.63%	24
77	Owatonna	111	45	16	61	54.95%	50
75	New Richland	45	2	27	29	64.44%	18
228	Waseca	240	53	100	153	63.75%	87
587	Waldorf	21	16	2	18	85.71%	3
Pod Two		932	201	363	564	60.51%	369

1st District American Legion Auxiliary Membership as of October 28, 2020 continued

40	Lanesboro	97	31	5	36	37.11%	61
68	Spring Valley	39	25	0	25	64.10%	14
81	Harmony	52	1		1	1.92%	51
94	Rushford	45	0		0	0.00%	45
197	Chatfield	30	1	24	25	83.33%	5
299	Mabel	116	73		73	62.93%	43
369	Wykoff	17	16		16	94.12%	1
526	Peterson	46	0		44	95.65%	2
544	Ostrander	14	1		1	7.14%	13
637	Whalan	21	0		0	0.00%	21
191	Caledonia	75	35	14	49	65.33%	26
249	Spring Grove	109	2	0	30	27.52%	79
423	Houston	126	2	100	102	80.95%	24
498	Hokah	18	4		4	22.22%	14
595	La Crescent	171	85	22	107	62.57%	64
Pod Three		976	348	165	513	52.56%	463
56	Albert Lea	285	152	32	182	63.86%	103
264	Glenville	90	17	33	50	55.56%	40
404	Alden	43	1		1	2.33%	42
552	Freeborn	62	48	8	56	90.32%	6
91	Austin	134	3	50	53	39.55%	81
105	Lyle	52	0	0	0	0.00%	52
140	Grand Meadow	65	30	17	47	72.31%	18
146	Adams	127	5	2	7	5.51%	120
161	Leroy	46	22	0	22	47.83%	24
Pod Four		904	276	142	418	46.23%	486
Total		3994	1305	884	218	54.83%	1806

FROM YOUR HONORARY JR AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

My name is Taylor McElroy and I would like to introduce myself as the new Honorary Junior President of the 1st District. I am fourteen and I am a freshman this upcoming school year. I am involved in band, volleyball, basketball, track, and softball. I have been apart of the Junior Auxiliary for as long as I can remember! Up until this year, I have been the secretary and most recently the treasurer also. I plan on continuing Kassy's project, Believet Service Dogs This project is a way to raise money to help pay for the service dogs that go out to veterans in need.

I got to meet the Believet service dog people at Fall Rally and was really impressed. We passed a basket around at the rally for donations for my project and I want to thank everyone who donated.

Remember if you want to donate to my project, the checks need to be made out to: The First District ALA with The District Honorary Jr President's project in the memo line and sent to Audrey Farnsworth at: 302 1st St E, Stewartville, MN 55976

SOME INFORMATION ON BELIEVET SERVICE DOGS

OUR PROGRAM

The Need

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs conducted a broad survey of recent veterans to gain better insight on their overall health. In raw numbers, it is estimated that a sobering 500,000 troops from the Gulf Wars alone have been diagnosed with PTSD, according to Miriam Reisman ("PTSD Treatment for Veterans: What's Working, What's New, and What's Next," U.S. National Library of Medicine, 2016). PTSD can be described as a mental health condition that may result from experiencing or witnessing trauma. Symptoms include flashbacks, nightmares, severe anxiety, depression, and confusion. This condition—often accompanied by major depression and/or traumatic brain injury (TBI)—can make it difficult, if not impossible, to meet the normal demands of daily life. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 20 deployed veterans die by suicide every day in the United States (Office of Suicide Prevention, "Suicide Among Veterans and Other Americans, 2001–2014," 2016).

Our Response

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

There is a growing body of research and clinical evidence supporting the value of service dogs. Despite this, neither the Veterans Health Administration nor most private insurers pay for or provide reimbursement for psychiatric service dogs for people diagnosed with PTSD. Believet™ provides highly trained service dogs, free of charge, to disabled veterans, helping them to lead more productive, independent lives. A service dog provides a sense of security, greater independence, non-judgmental acceptance, affection, physical assistance, and peace of mind.

Our Dogs

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

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

Our Facility

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

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

A reminder to All Units of 1st 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. This year 167. Why?? This is not all due to death. We need to Re-new-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 Tonia is hoping to get the 1st 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 2020-2021. Your per capita is based on your membership as of July 31, 2020. (Membership x \$2) 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, should be mailed to me also.

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

Please mail to me, 1st District Treasurer, at the following address:

Audrey Farnsworth	email: harlee@charter.net
302 1st St. E.	Cell – 507-319-0257
Stewartville, MN 55976	

It is my hope that all Units from the 1st District have filed the Form 990-N with the IRS (for tax-exempt status). Your Unit President/Treasurer should be aware that this is filed annually. All Units in the Department of Minnesota have to file this form. Let's get the checks in the mail and meet our obligations early. Let's make President Wanda and the First District proud of our great organization!

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

This is the per capita amount for 2020-2021. The per Capita for this year to \$2/per member. 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 1st District operates on for the year. ***This will only be printed this mailing – so, please keep for future reference and inform your unit treasurer.***

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>PerCapita</u>	<u>Jrs.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Adams	126	\$252	\$10	\$262
Albert Lea	283	\$566	\$10	\$576
Alden	42	\$ 84	\$10	\$ 94
Austin	133	\$266	\$10	\$276
Blooming Prairie	90	\$180	\$10	\$190
Byron	40	\$ 80	\$10	\$90
Caledonia	74	\$148	\$10	\$158
Chatfield	29	\$ 58	\$10	\$ 68
Claremont	19	\$ 38	\$10	\$ 48
Dodge Center	63	\$126	\$10	\$136
Elgin	12	\$ 24	\$10	\$ 34
Eyota	96	\$192	\$10	\$202
Freeborn	61	\$122	\$10	\$132
Glenville	89	\$178	\$10	\$188
Grand Meadow	64	\$128	\$10	\$138
Harmony	51	\$102	\$10	\$112
Hayfield	172	\$344	\$10	\$354
Hokah	17	\$ 34	\$10	\$ 44
Houston	125	\$250	\$10	\$260
Kasson	134	\$268	\$10	\$278
Kellogg	109	\$218	\$10	\$228
LaCrescent	169	\$338	\$10	\$348
Lake City	63	\$126	\$10	\$136
Lanesboro	96	\$192	\$10	\$202
LeRoy	45	\$ 90	\$10	\$100

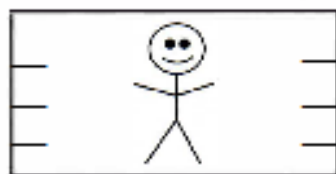
Lewiston	35	\$ 70	\$10	\$ 80
Lyle	51	\$102	\$10	\$112
Mabel	115	\$230	\$10	\$240
Mazeppa	36	\$ 72	\$10	\$ 82
Millville	50	\$100	\$10	\$110
New Richland	44	\$ 88	\$10	\$ 98
Ostrander	13	\$ 26	\$10	\$ 36
Owatonna	110	\$220	\$10	\$230
Peterson	45	\$ 90	\$10	\$100
Plainview	119	\$238	\$10	\$248
Rochester	135	\$270	\$10	\$280
Rushford	44	\$ 88	\$10	\$ 98
Spring Grove	108	\$216	\$10	\$226
Spring Valley	38	\$ 76	\$10	\$ 86
St. Charles	50	\$100	\$10	\$110
Stewartville	173	\$346	\$10	\$356
Wabasha	109	\$218	\$10	\$228
Waldorf	20	\$ 40	\$10	\$ 50
Waseca	238	\$476	\$10	\$486
West Concord	31	\$ 62	\$10	\$ 72
Whalen	20	\$ 40	\$10	\$ 50

How to make a *Face Mask*

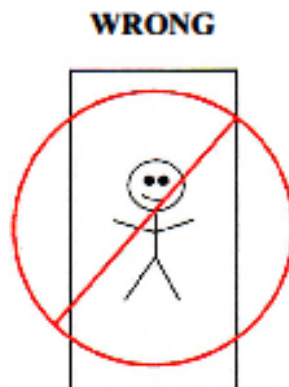
You will need a cotton fabric, any print for adult: 100% cotton, tightly woven fabric is preferred. Cotton flannel for the backing is preferred, though a different print of standard cotton is accepted.
 1/8" flat braided elastic
 Cut the elastic 7" long

Adult face mask (9"x6")

1. Put right sides of cotton and flannel fabric together.
2. Starting at the center of bottom edge sew to the first corner, stop. Sew end of elastic to corner. A few stitches forward and back will hold this.
3. Sew to the next corner, stop, and bring the other end of that same elastic to the corner and sew a few stitches forward and back.
4. Now sew across that top of the mask to the next corner. And repeat #2 to the corner.
5. Sew to next corner and sew in the other end of the same elastic.
6. Sew across the bottom leaving about 1.5" to 2" open. Stop, cut the thread. Turn inside out
7. Pin 3 tucks on each side of the mask to create pleats. Make sure the tucks are the same direction.
8. Sew around the edge of the mask twice.



RIGHT



adapted from pattern by

TURBAN PROJECT 501 c3



Full Tutorial on their Facebook and Website

CHANGES TO THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ELIGIBILITY

The American Legion Constitution and Bylaws has been updated to replace the word “wife” with “spouse,” related to the membership criteria for the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA).

Here are some common questions and answers to what this means going forward:

Question: Why change ALA membership eligibility?

Answer: In 1920, veterans were almost 100 percent male so the ALA was formed as the organization for the spouses of the veteran — those spouses just happened to be women.

Today, an estimated 16 percent of enlisted people and 18 percent of officers are women, who may be married to a non-veteran. To keep the ALA as the organization that supports spouses of the veteran, we need to change the ALA’s definition from wives to spouses, thereby updating the organization to represent the changing makeup of the military.

Q: How can this change help ALA membership?

A: Think about female spouses who are alone as their husband is deployed. They have the ALA to lean on. Who can the male spouse rely on? With this eligibility change, now male spouses who are ALA members can receive the same support while their wives are deployed.

Q: Would this change need to be approved by Congress?

A: No, because the American Legion Auxiliary is not chartered by Congress. The American Legion, which was chartered by Congress, created the ALA. The Legion approved the ALA to operate as a separate corporation; however, The American Legion has always set the eligibility requirements of the ALA in their bylaws.

Q: What about the previous communications issued by former ALA leadership claiming this change could not happen? Why is that information inaccurate?

A: Previously released messaging could have been interpreted by members to mean ALA needs congressional approval for this change to happen. That information is inaccurate. The American Legion Auxiliary is not chartered by Congress.

Q: ALA refers to itself as the world’s largest women’s patriotic service organization. How can we allow men to join?

A: Now that the resolution has been adopted by The American Legion, the Auxiliary will no longer call itself the world’s largest women’s patriotic service organization.

Q: How would this change affect the American Legion Auxiliary membership application or signing up new members?

A: We anticipate taking applications on Sept. 1.

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP NEWS

THIS IS THE NEW APPLICATION FORM FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



American Legion Auxiliary MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Name (First)	(M.I.)	(Last)
Address		
City	State	ZIP
Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email Address
/ /	<input type="checkbox"/> Birth - 17 <input type="checkbox"/> 18 and over	
Date of Birth (Required)	Unit #	Location
Have you been a member previously? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If yes, fill in below.)		
Previous Unit City/State	ALA ID# (if known)	
	/ /	
Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18)		Date

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION	
Eligible Through—Name of Veteran (Female Veterans: List Your Own Name)	
If Living:	American Legion Member ID # Post # City State
<input type="checkbox"/> Deceased—If veteran is deceased, contact ALA unit about the necessary military records. For Veteran's DD214 Discharge Papers: www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records	
Veteran Served:	
<input type="checkbox"/> WWI (4/8/1917-11/11/1918)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Anytime After 12/7/1941 (check all that apply):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror	<input type="checkbox"/> Panama <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam <input type="checkbox"/> WWII
<input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War	<input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada <input type="checkbox"/> Korea <input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts
Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Male Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Female Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Mother <input type="checkbox"/> Grandmother <input type="checkbox"/> Sister <input type="checkbox"/> Self	
<input type="checkbox"/> Direct Female Descendant (daughter, granddaughter, great-granddaughter, etc.)	
To Be Completed By The American Legion Post Adjutant/Officer	
I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.	
Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification	/ / Date

HELP US GET YOU CONNECTED!	
I am interested in learning more about:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering for Veterans, Military, and Their Families	
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Activities, Including ALA Girls State, Junior Member Programs, and Scholarships	
<input type="checkbox"/> Member Discounts and Services	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Please contact the following individual about volunteering or joining the American Legion Auxiliary:	
Name	Phone Email
Name	Phone Email
Name	Phone Email
Recruiter's Name	Unit/Post # City State

Submit this application to the ALA unit you wish to join. If unit is unknown, contact National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 for assistance. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. *Membership pending approval of application.*



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

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ADJUTANT

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glm01311962@gmail.com

FINANCE OFFICER

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630 3rd Ave NW
Plainview, MN 55964
507-534-2931 or 507-259-7595
wgoede62@embarqmail.com

Hello Legion family,
Greetings from your SAL, hoping everyone is staying safe during this time of uncertainty. We still have a long way to go before we are through this tough time. Regardless of your beliefs on this pandemic, we are all in this together and we must help each other through it including your American Legion.

In regards to this pandemic, please keep in mind the requirement to wear your mask when entering and exiting establishments. Let's all be considerate of others. Of course Nov 11th, brings us Veteran's Day. This is a day to remember all Veterans. Please show your honor and gratitude to a Veteran regardless if you know them personally or not. Veterans Day came to be in 1954 when President Eisenhower amended the law and officially replaced 'Armistice' with 'Veterans'.

I'm not clear how it will be celebrated at our Legion or your local Legion, I suggest you just watch for details. The SAL members would like to take this time to extend a Thank You to all Veterans and their families for the service they have given to our country

As for membership, we have a lot of work to do at the State level, District level, and local Squadron level. I ask that you please ensure you get your memberships dues paid ASAP. Do you have a family member or friend that you could bring on board? We really need to get our numbers up and need everyone's help. We can help support our Post. Ask your local Post Commander what you and your Squadron can do to help them out.

The holidays are quickly coming up and we're not sure how they will be celebrated. The SAL would like to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving, and an early Merry Christmas.

Remember by patronizing your Legion you are also supporting the Veterans, the Legion, and the Legion Family Members. Please support your local Legion and think of ways you can better support it and the Veterans.

Please take the time to thank a Veteran or active military member. They deserve our Thank You each and every day. Please remember you have your freedoms and right to vote because of them.

Remember get out there and vote, and or mail in that ballot.

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

Respectfully Yours,
Greg Lemmer
1st District SAL Commander

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joshheric@hbc.com

HISTORIAN

James Myers
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Winona, MN 55987
507-458-5396
meyers5396@gmail.com

SGT AT ARMS

Clint Betterman
1625 Crestview Ln
Owatonna, MN 55060

Sqdrn.	Location	2020 Results 6/27/20	2021 Goal	105%	Total at Dept	Rally Turn In	Grand Total	% of Goal	Date Goal Reached
9	Winona	85	89	94	85		85	95.51%	
40	Lanesboro	62	65	69	1		1	1.54%	
50	Wabasha	10	11	12	1		1	9.09%	
52	Blooming Prairie	41	43	46	0		0	0.00%	
56	Albert Lea	122	126	133	77		77	61.11%	
75	New Richland	0	5	6	0		0	0.00%	
77	Owatonna	122	126	133	20		20	15.87%	
90	Lewiston	47	49	52	1		1	2.04%	
91	Austin	64	67	71	0		0	0.00%	
92	Rochester	122	126	133	54		54	42.86%	
94	Rushford	24	25	27	8		8	32.00%	
105	Lyle	26	28	30	1		1	3.57%	
119	Byron	39	41	44	14		14	34.15%	
146	Adams	93	97	102	27		27	27.84%	
161	Le Roy	40	43	46	12		12	27.91%	
164	Stewartville	107	111	117	63		63	56.76%	
166	Preston	44	46	49	13		13	28.26%	
179	Plainview	13	14	15	3		3	21.43%	
190	St. Charles	12	13	14	11		11	84.62%	
191	Caledonia	0	5	6	0		0	0.00%	
228	Waseca	105	109	115	2		2	1.83%	
249	Spring Grove	0	5	6	0		0	0.00%	
264	Glenville	46	48	51	30		30	62.50%	
266	Hartland	10	11	12	12		12	109.09%	8/18/2020
281	Janesville	7	8	9	0		0	0.00%	
299	Mabel	15	16	17	9		9	56.25%	
317	Emmons	41	43	46	1		1	2.33%	
330	Hayfield	34	36	38	0		0	0.00%	
333	Kasson	37	39	41	31		31	79.49%	
384	Dodge Center	10	11	12	2		2	18.18%	
404	Alden	57	60	63	31		31	51.67%	
423	Houston	15	16	17	16		16	100.00%	10/27/2020
446	Rochester	10	16	17	34		34	212.50%	10/21/2020
546	Kellogg	17	18	19	0		0	0.00%	
551	Eyota	35	37	39	14		14	37.84%	
552	Freeborn	27	29	31	19		19	65.52%	
573	Elgin	3	5	6	0		0	0.00%	
579	Millville	28	30	32	1		1	3.33%	
595	La Crescent	74	76	80	33		33	43.42%	
1111	Dakota	59	75	79	0		0	0.00%	
Totals		1703	1818	1929	626	0	626	34.43%	

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



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CHAPLAIN

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928sunshine@gmail.com

Greetings from the First District ALR

We held a meeting on Saturday, October 10th at the Adams Legion Post.

We had 4 chapters in attendance. We discussed the upcoming changes to the National Bylaws and Constitution.

New officers are needed in May, 2021. Please put your kickstand UP and take an office so that we can continue to support each other.

Rider of the Year nominations are due by January 1st, 2021. Use these guidelines to choose your chapter's nomination. E-mail to lewisonnancy@gmail.com. Mailing is ok also-see my address to the left.

**Verify current membership in organization (Legion, Aux, SAL)
Be an active member of the ALR chapter
What other involvement does the nominee have on the local level. Are they involved in their Legion, Aux, SAL organizations?
What other activities does the nominee participate in – community, other organizations?
Interaction with other ALR chapters
Other personal information that may be pertinent to this award.**

**The RIDER OF THE YEAR Chairman should request a nomination from all active chapters in the district.
The nomination should be in writing and should be sent to the chairman by January 1st. The nominations to be reviewed and chosen by the First District Legion Commander, First District Auxiliary President and the First District S.A.L. Commander at the Mid-winter conference.
The award will be presented at the First District American Legion Family Convention that is held in May each year.**

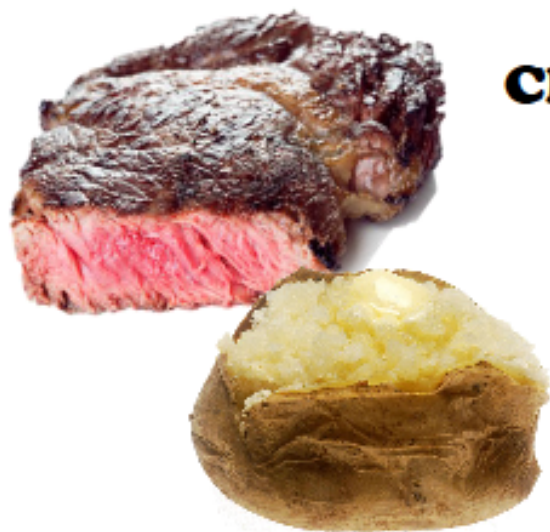
We plan to have a meeting in March with a date and location yet to be decided.

To our veteran's, have a safe and enjoyable Veteran's day. We appreciate your service to our country and to the American Legion Family.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Nancy Lewison
First District ALR Secretary

STEAK FRY



Choose steak, shrimp or both!

**Served with a baked
potato, dinner salad and
Texas garlic toast.**

12 oz. ribeye \$15

6 shrimp \$10

8 oz. ribeye & 3 shrimp \$15

**Proceeds go toward required kitchen upgrades
and other building repairs.**

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

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





We've missed you!

**THE KASSON AMERICAN LEGION PATIO
IS OPENING JUNE 1 AT 3 P.M.**

Join us on the patio for

- * *Beer Specials*
- * *E-tabs, pull tabs and e-bingo*
- * *Taco Tuesday's are back!*
- * *Pizza available*
- * *Wait staff outside*

We're looking forward to seeing you again!

EYOTA POST 551 INFORMATION

The bar will reopen on June 1st at 4:00. We have missed our customers (friends), but please be patient with the new rules.

- * Boston Dawn will be our bartender for the 1st week or so.
- * Customers cannot enter the building.
- * Patio service only.
- * Recycling and garbage containers will be available on the patio.
- * Pizza and snacks will be available for purchase.

The bar will be learning how to best serve our customers (friends) on a daily basis. Your business will be appreciated. Thanks