



FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

NOVEMBER 2022

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On the first few pages of this newsletter is the District and Department events for the 2022—2023 year, **CHECK IT OUT** . Please look at the Pearl Harbor rally as it has moved from Royalton to Spicer American Legion November 8, 2022—Don't forget to get out and vote.

November 11, 2022—Veterans Day. Try and attend one of the many programs around the District.

November 19, 2022—First District Educational Rally at Hayfield Post 330, starting at 10 AM. More info page 3.

November 24, 2022—Thanksgiving please be thankful and safe. Remember those who can't be home

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. ¹

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

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

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

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

FALL RALLY

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

MID-WINTER

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

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

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

MEMBERSHIP RALLIES AND EVENTS

2022-2023

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

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

September 16-18, 2022, National Security Weekend

Camp Ripley – District Commanders and District National Security Chairs

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

October 15, 2022, First District Fall Rally – LeRoy Community Center (204 West Main Street, LeRoy, MN). Exec Board 9:00 AM Session starts at 10:00AM

October 27-29, 2022, Fall Conference

St Cloud Convention Center

November 1-11, 2022, Sister District Revitalizations

November 11, 2022, Veterans Day Walk

November 19, 2022, First District Educational & Learning Rally - Hayfield Post 330 (7 Main Street West, Hayfield, MN) starting at 10 AM

Pearl Harbor Rally

December 10, 2022

Spicer Post 545

155 Lake Ave N

Spicer, MN 56288

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

Membership Turn In/Social: 10:30 am

Meal Served: 11:30 am (Broasted Chicken, mashed potatoes, corn, coleslaw and roll)

Program: 12:30 pm

Point of Contact: Jody Hassing for reservations and payment

Note—The post is requesting we park in the beach parking lot across the street from the post

December 11, 2022, First District Christmas Party – Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club, (210 4th St NE, Blooming Prairie, MN.) starting at 1 PM. Lunch of Hot beef Sandwiches with the fixings for \$10 each. Please RSVP for the lunch.

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

Sweetheart Rally

Osseo American Legion Post 172

February 4 or 11, 2023

260 4th St SE

Osseo MN 55369

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

Membership Turn In/Social: 10:30 am

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

Program: 12:30 pm

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

New Prague American Legion Post

April 15, 2023,

300 Lexington Ave S

New Prague MN 56071

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

TAL DEC: 10:30 am

ALA DEC: 10:30 am

Membership Turn In/Social: 11:30 am

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

Program: 1:30 pm

Point of Contact: Linda Dvorak - 952 – 457 - 2129**May 13, 2023** Dept Comanders Testimonial
Post 45, New Prague, MN
Time, menu and program TBA**May 6, 2023 First District SAL Convention – Kasson American Legion
Post 333 (312 West Main Street, Kasson , MN) time TBA****May 6, 2023 First District ALR Convention – Kasson American Legion
Post 333 (312 West Main Street, Kasson, MN) time TBA****May 20, 2023 First District Legion & Aux Convention – Kasson American
Post 333 (212 West Main Street, Kasson, MN). Time TBA****July 2023 Department Convention - TBA**

(Department events in red and District events in Black)

2022-2023 Department Membership Dates

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



FROM YOUR COMMANDERS PEN



Hello Legion Family,

November 11th is Veteran's Day. Thank you for your service! Thank you for our freedom! Please spend part of your day with another veteran. A friend or another veteran in a nursing home. Attend a school program in your area if there is one. Check with your post for any activities. Do something to make someone else's day brighter.

November 19th there will be a rally at the Hayfield Post 333. This will start at 10:00 am and everyone is invited. There will be a lunch available of soup/chili and a sandwich. Please come, you never know what you will learn. A reminder: you do not need your post permission to attend.

December 11th there will be the 1st District Family Christmas Party at the Blooming Prairie Post 52. This will start at 1:00. Dinner will be available at a cost of \$10.00. Hot roast beef sandwich with mashed potatoes and coleslaw. We will be taking RSVP's so they know how much food to prepare. Come and have some fun. There will be an ugly sweater contest. Caroling will be done at the post. Other fun surprises as well. A donation to Toys for Tots for our Children and Youth pillar. We can bring in Christmas treats, so you bakers out there get your recipes out.

We are heading out to the Fall Conference this morning in St. Cloud. Looking at the agenda, there will be a lot of great information provided. I have heard that some of the breakout sessions will be live streamed. You will be able to go to the MN Legion Facebook page and view later. I hope to see some of you in attendance.

Our area vice commanders will be coming to your post soon. Please treat them as one of your own. They are not coming to tell you how to run your post. They are there to help you in any way they can. We are all a team and need to work together to keep the American Legion strong.

Membership dinners have started. It has been a fun time attending the functions and meeting members. Every post does their program a little different. Thank you to the posts that have invited me and Dale Wellik, our membership director.

Have a great November.

Mary Hanson
1st District Commander

First District Christmas Party

Christmas is almost here again. Not too early to think about attending the 1st District Family Christmas party. December 11th starting at 1:00 at the Blooming Prairie Servicemens Club.

There will be an ugly sweater contest and other activities. There will be no caroling this year.

The meal is a hot roast beef sandwich and potatoes with fixings for \$10.00. If you wish to partake in the meal please RSVP to me at mfhanson52@charter.net or call 507-440-3606.

We are not allowed to bring in food other than treats to share for dessert.

We will be taking donations for Toys for Tots if you wish to participate.

**Let's make this a great family event.
Mary Hanson—First District Commander**





To the 1st District Legion Family,

Harvest is almost over for most farmers. I pray that it was a bountiful one for you, as it was for us. Each year I say I never had the opportunity to harvest such a wonderful crop. I can remember, as a child, if we took in a 100 to 115 bushels per acre, we were overjoyed. But now that average is 250-260 per acre. God has really been kind to us in this area of the state. We had a good spring, warm summer with timely rain, and a beautiful fall. We truly were blessed.

We have many things to be thankful for. In Ecclesiastes 3, verses 1-8, the Bible tells us there is a time for everything under heaven. Verse 2 tells us there's a time to plant and a time to uproot. In the book of James chapter 1 verse 17, it reads, "Every good and perfect gift is from above coming down from the Father in Heaven." And in 1st Chronicles 16:34, it reads "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever." These are just a few of the verses we should remember, not only at this time of year, but all year long. Most often we remember them this time of year because of the holidays that are coming up. The first one, being November 11, Veterans' Day, a time set aside to remember and thank all the men and women who have served in uniform, both past and present. You are a veteran if you served one day on active duty. The next time you see someone with an Armed Forces cap or shirt on, take time to thank them for their service. You'll never know what kind of impact that may have. The second holiday being Thanksgiving on November 24th, the time of year set aside for the American people to give thanks to our Heavenly Father for all he has done and provided for us this past year. We are especially grateful for our homes and security of this nation, as well as, family and friends. May we also remember and pray for those without homes and family, especially our veterans who are in need.

Tuesday November 8th is Election Day. Get out and vote! Find someone who may need a ride and take them. Do a buddy check, lend a hand to someone in need, remember our service personnel, both here and abroad.

Until next month, may the peace and grace of our Heavenly Father be with you and yours.
Remember, God is good all the time and all the time God is good!

Larry H. Otto
1st District Chaplain



FROM AREA FOUR

Happy Birthday and Semper Fi to all Marines in the first district. Veterans day is here be sure to get out to some programs and attend Veterans dinners, bring young Veterans and their families to any dinner that your post puts on and teach them about the benefits that the American Legion has to offer.

Cole Wilcox
1st District Area 4 Vice Commander

(a little Thanksgiving history)

THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION OF 1789

By the President of the United States of America, a Proclamation.

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor-- and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be-- That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks--for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation--for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war--for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed--for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted--for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

and also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions-- to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually--to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed--to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord--To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the encrease of science among them and us--and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

First District American Legion Family,

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

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

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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

Thanks The Olmsted Committee
Commander
Mark A Maloney III

FROM AREA TWO

Greetings from Area Two!

I must admit, I need to talk a bit about the just completed Department Fall Convention in St. Cloud. If you missed it, you missed what is being acclaimed as the "Best Ever" by those who have participated many many, years in a row. The breakout sessions were well planned and participated in. From the guest speakers were well prepared. You'll be able to check on the Department Facebook page and website for recorded versions of the Fall Conference.

Now that brings up a point. Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 19 from 10am to 2pm for a fast-paced Area Two Rally at the Hayfield Post. Thanks to Chuck & Tonya, we'll have a fantastic speaker you won't want to miss.

Finally, the Department Media and Communications Committee kicked off its Patriots Podcast at Fall Convention. Due to a glitch, the First District was the venue for the very first show "live" from St. Cloud. It was then uploaded to the Department Facebook page. It's always good to be the first 😊😊

Until the next issue, "BE THE ONE!"

Mike Parry, Area Two
Vice Commander

FROM AREA ONE

Greetings. I hope that everyone has had a great fall so far. I attended the Fall Conference in St. Cloud and have to say it was a well-planned and informative event. Great educational classes. It was well attended from posts around the state. The attendance from Posts in Area 1 of our District was low. Two Posts from area One, Millville and Mazeppa are currently at 80% membership sign-up. Congratulations on your hard work. All our Posts need to continually work hard to meet our membership goals. As you are probably aware the PACT Act was recently passed by Congress. It has several new presumptive conditions listed covering Veterans from Vietnam to the current Post 9-11 Era Veterans, as well as their survivors. The Department of Veterans Affairs has a very informative website explaining the PACT Act and how to apply for benefits. I am just about recovered from shoulder surgery and will be resuming my visits to the Posts in Area 1. So far it has been an exceptional experience and very educational for me. There are so many dedicated Legionnaires in the District. All Commanders and Adjutants should make sure you review your Certificates of Incorporation and Constitution and By-Laws to make sure they are up to date. I encourage all members to attend the Educational/ Training Rally on November 19th which will be held at Hayfield Post 330 starting at 1000 hrs. Any member wanting to receive the District Newsletter can contact the District Adjutant Wayne Hammon JR. and give him your email address. Best wishes to all the membership.

Robert Schmidt
Vice Commander

The American Legion, Dept of MN, First District 2023 Membership Report for October 19, 2022

Post	Location	New 2022	PUFL 2022	Online 2022	Trad 2022	Paid 2022	HQ Trans 2022	Total Membr 2022	Goal 2022	% of Goal
9	Winona	7	35	0	304	346	0	346	477	72.54%
90	Lewiston	0	10	0	38	48	0	48	80	60.00%
190	St Charles	0	16	0	64	80	0	80	140	57.14%
	Winona County	7	61	0	406	474	0	474	697	68.01%
50	Wabasha	1	46	0	92	139	0	139	207	67.15%
110	Lake City	10	16	0	79	105	0	105	201	52.24%
179	Plainview	0	26	0	82	108	0	108	147	73.47%
546	Kellogg	0	8	0	36	44	0	44	60	73.33%
573	Elgin	0	3	0	17	20	0	20	27	74.07%
579	Millville	0	20	0	68	88	0	88	109	80.73%
588	Mazeppa	3	8	0	40	51	0	51	64	79.69%
	Wabsha County	14	127	0	414	555	0	555	815	68.10%
92	Rochester	5	92	0	407	504	1	505	784	64.41%
119	Byron	0	18	0	41	59	0	59	127	46.46%
164	Stewartville	11	25	0	184	220	0	220	285	77.19%
446	Rochester	0	2	0	9	11	0	11	12	91.67%
551	Eyota	4	23	0	83	110	0	110	185	59.46%
	Olmsted County	20	160	0	724	904	1	905	1393	64.97%
	Area One	41	348	0	1544	1933	1	1934	2905	66.57%
295	West Concord	0	7	0	29	36	0	36	43	83.72%
330	Hayfield	0	18	0	108	126	0	126	162	77.78%
333	Kasson	5	31	0	141	177	1	178	242	73.55%
384	Dodge Center	0	9	0	38	47	0	47	76	61.84%
422	Claremont	1	3	0	20	24	0	24	30	80.00%
	Dodge County	6	68	0	336	410	1	411	553	74.32%
52	Blooming Prairie	0	17	0	43	60	0	60	85	70.59%
77	Owatonna	0	57	0	174	231	0	231	407	56.76%
296	Ellendale	0	3	0	4	7	0	7	34	20.59%
	Steel County	0	77	0	221	298	0	298	526	56.65%
75	New Richland	0	8	0	25	33	0	33	44	75.00%
228	Waseca	2	23	0	192	217	0	217	275	78.91%
281	Janesville	3	5	0	70	78	0	78	86	90.70%
587	Waldorf	0	0	0	9	9	0	9	22	40.91%
	Waseca County	5	36	0	296	337	0	337	427	78.92%
	Area Two	11	181	0	853	1045	1	1046	1506	69.46%

401	Lanesboro	5	14	0	69	88	0	88	107	82.24%	0
68	Spring Valley	0	8	0	44	52	0	52	67	77.61%	0
81	Harmony	0	1	0	9	10	0	10	27	37.04%	0
94	Rushford	2	9	0	51	62		62	94	65.96%	0
166	Preston	1	15	0	22	38	0	38	51	74.51%	0
197	Chatfield	0	1	0	33	34	0	34	38	89.47%	0
299	Mabel	2	30	0	73	105	1	106	147	72.11%	0
369	Wykoff	0	0	0	13	13	0	13	17	76.47%	0
400	Canton	0	0	0	8	8	0	8	22	36.36%	0
492	Fountain	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	12	8.33%	0
526	Peterson	0	4	0	20	24	0	24	39	61.54%	0
544	Ostrander	0	2	0	8	10	0	10	22	45.45%	0
637	Whalan	0	0	0	9	9	0	9	8	112.50%	0
	Fillmore County	10	84	0	360	454	1	455	651	69.89%	0
191	Caledonia	0	15	0	5	20	0	20	132	15.15%	0
249	Spring Grove	0	12	0	64	76	0	76	138	55.07%	0
423	Houston	0	7	0	68	75	0	75	100	75.00%	0
498	Hokah	0	1	0	2	3	0	3	22	13.64%	0
595	LaCrescent	0	45	0	137	182	0	182	247	73.68%	0
	Houston County	0	80	0	276	356	0	356	639	55.71%	0
	Area Three	10	164	0	636	810	1	811	1290	62.87%	0
56	Albert Lea	0	37	0	291	328	0	328	487	67.35%	0
264	Glenville	0	8	0	33	41	0	41	67	61.19%	0
266	Hartland	0	1	0	12	13	0	13	14	92.86%	0
317	Emmons	1	3	0	35	39	0	39	52	75.00%	0
404	Alden	0	4	0	30	34	0	34	77	44.16%	0
552	Freeborn	0	5	0	19	24	0	24	31	77.42%	0
	Freeborn County	1	58	0	420	479	0	479	728	65.80%	0
91	Austin	3	49	0	215	267	0	267	456	58.55%	0
105	Lyle	1	8	0	32	41	0	41	85	48.24%	0
140	Grand Meadow	2	3	0	26	31	0	31	37	83.78%	0
146	Adams	4	20	0	92	116	0	116	175	66.29%	0
161	LeRoy	1	4	0	31	36	0	36	47	76.60%	0
570	Austin Spam	1	0	0	6	7	0	7	12	58.33%	0
	Mower County	12	84	0	402	498	0	498	812	61.33%	0
	Area Four	13	142	0	822	977	0	977	1540	63.44%	0
1111	Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0
	District Totals	75	835	0	3855	4765	3	4768	7241	65.85%	0

DISTRICT VICE COMMANDER STANDINGS

Area One	41	348	0	1544	1933	1	1934	2905	66.57%	0
Area Two	11	181	0	853	1045	1	1046	1506	69.46%	0
Area Three	10	164	0	636	810	1	811	1290	62.87%	0
Area Four	13	142	0	822	977	0	977	1540	63.44%	0

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

Rank											
4th	Mary Hanson	75	835	0	3855	4765	3	4768	7241	65.85%	
2nd	Pam Krill	42	606	0	3144	3792	3	3795	5651	67.16%	
5th	Gary Richardson	111	1569	0	5010	6,690	9	6,699	10,185	65.77%	
1st	Dave Dahl	20	274	0	974	1268	8	1276	1,840	69.35%	
10th	Lynne Nottage	4	299	0	435	738	0	738	1704	43.31%	
3rd	Karen O'Bar	109	1094	0	5368	6571	19	6,590	9,870	66.77%	
6th	Karen Welander	37	670	0	2805	3512	2	3514	5,376	65.36%	
7th	Larry Pocrnich	53	320	0	1751	2124	6	2130	3285	64.84%	
8th	Terry Buaas	35	534	0	2910	3479	20	3499	5534	63.23%	
9th	William Gordon	4986	949	0	3944	4982	4	4986	8024	62.14%	
		7	217	0	1047	1271	0	1271	3121	40.72%	
		582	7367	0	31,243	39,192	74	39,266	61,831	63.51%	

FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Thank you for your service to our great country and continued service to the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary and the Son's of the American Legion, and Honoring all of our Veterans.

Our goal for November 9th is 65% and we are now real close to that, less than 1%. Keep working on them.

The end of the year is also coming up.

Let's see if we can get to or over the top (100)% by years end.

When we get new members keep in contact with them by a follow up phone call or a welcoming letter or your post newsletter.

Veterans Day is coming up November 11th many school programs and dinners at many businesses, Legion posts, churches. Good places, to wear something military and be proud of your service.

November 19th is a district rally in the Hayfield American Legion.

All members are invited to attend.

Pray for our deployed troops and their families that are working here on the home front to keep things going.

Pray for our Military and our leaders for help to make the best decisions

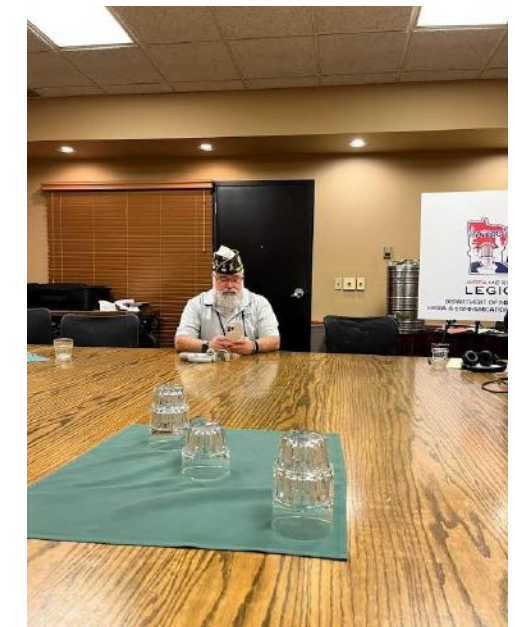
And for peace.

Membership Director.

Dale Wellik



ABOVE - PICTURES FROM THE FIRST DISTRICT OPEN HOUSE AT DEPARTMENT FALL CONFERENCE



DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE GETTING SET UP TO DO PODCASTS AND LIVE STREAMING FROM FALL CONFERENCE.



On right is Ron Wolff and on the left is Chuck Stone



Department American Legion Commander Jennifer Havlick on the dance floor during the the Legion Family Event



The Minnesota American Legion Adjutant Mike Maxa.



Leading Candidate for National American Legion Commander Daniel Seehafter (left), Waseca post 228 Commander, Shelby Barbknecht (center) and Department American Legion NEC Bill Barbknecht (right)



Peggy Moon, the Department Alternate NEC, (left) being interviewed by Kelly Adelsman (right) on "Why do we Volunteer".



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

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From the President's Desk

Greetings,

This year is going by so quickly. I can't believe it is already November. The fall is just cruising by. Please don't forget to turn your clocks behind an hour on November 8th.

The month of November is going to be a busy month for me. I have been invited to a few membership dinners and I am looking forward to visiting everyone. On November 19th there is a First District Rally in Hayfield starting at 10 am until 2 pm. It would be great to see new faces and have all the Legion Family attend. There will be a speaker there and this will be good to see.

On December 11th there will be a First District Christmas Party and all Legion Family is invited. This will be in Blooming Prairie at 1 pm at the Veterans Service Center. Please RSVP so we know how much food to prepare. Hot Roast Beef sandwiches with mashed potatoes. Price will be \$10.00. We are not able to do a potluck. We will be having donations for Toys for Tots. There will be an ugly sweater contest plus other activity. No caroling outside the building this year.

There is also a Pearl Harbor Rally for the Department on December 3rd. This is in Spicer and the time is 11 am turn in following the program.

I am selling raffle tickets for my project and if anyone is interesting, please let me know. My project is for a plaque on the new veteran's home in Preston. The cost of the raffle tickets is \$5.00 a piece and the prizes are fun.

Please let me know if you have any meetings, you would like me to attend. I would love to come visit your unit and see all the wonderful things you all do.

Thank you everyone for all you do.

Thank you,

Tonia Bettermann
1st District Auxiliary President



Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary Ten District Presidents at the Department Fall Rally in St Cloud.

Mighty Minnesota Membership

DISTRICT	# of Units	Goal	Period Gain	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year	Difference from Last Year
One	48	3,810	379	1,665	43.70%	1702	37
Two	72	3,819	343	1,385	36.27%	1755	370
Three	46	3,800	321	1,465	38.55%	1834	369
Four	7	572	21	233	40.73%	297	64
Five	7	518	23	200	38.61%	232	32
Six	62	4,991	387	2,020	40.47%	2593	573
Seven	57	2,938	360	953	32.44%	1296	343
Eight	23	1,237	66	519	41.96%	550	31
Nine	47	3,305	210	1,411	42.69%	1895	484
Ten	43	3,764	432	1,418	37.67%	1898	480
1982 Dept	1	203	9	155	76.35%	143	-12
District Totals:	413	28,957	2,551	11,424	39.45%	14195	2,771

10/26/2021

Group 1 (Even) <i>Judy Ackerman</i>	207	14,383	1,249	5,575	38.76%	7,093	1,518
Group 2 (Odd) <i>Sharon Thiemecke</i>	205	14,371	1,293	5,694	39.62%	6,959	1,265

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
43.70%	42.69%	41.96%	40.88%	40.47%	38.83%	38.58%	37.73%	36.13%	32.44%
District #1	District #9	District #8	District #4	District #6	District #5	District #3	District #10	District #2	District #7

#	Unit Name	2023 DNO	2023 Period Gain Juniors	2023 Period Gain Seniors	2023 PUFL Members	2022 Paid Online Juniors	2022 Paid Online Seniors	Period Gain Totals	Juniors To Date	Seniors To Date	To Date Totals	Percent	ATH	Year
9	Winona	124	1	33			1	35	1	42	43	34.68%	502	1949
40	Lanesboro	92						0		12	12	13.04%	120	1985
50	Wabasha	103					1	1	1	44	45	43.69%	289	1999
52	Blooming Prairie	92						0	1	66	67	72.83%	131	2011
56	Albert Lea	265		29				29		132	132	49.81%	772	1987
68	Spring Valley	46						0		25	25	54.35%	213	1948
75	New Richland	41					1	1		3	3	7.32%	223	1976
77	Owatonna	103					1	1		49	49	47.57%	399	1978
81	Harmony	53						0		2	2	3.77%	110	1989
90	Lewiston	35						0		0	0	0.00%	110	1991
91	Austin	122						0		1	1	0.82%	454	1982
92	Rochester	130						0	2	73	75	57.69%	443	1996
94	Rushford	44						0		27	27	61.36%	132	1984
105	Lyle	52						0		0	0	0.00%	123	1979
110	Lake City	70						0		2	2	2.86%	165	1955

119 ¹⁷	Byron	22		1				1		15	15	68.18%	178	1997
140	Grand Meadow	66						0	5	42	47	71.21%	135	1984
146	Adams	130		1			6	7	8	71	79	60.77%	195	2004
161	LeRoy	49						0			0	0.00%	116	1957
164	Stewartville	164	1	31				32	2	92	94	57.32%	249	2001
179	Plainview	127						0	1	42	43	33.86%	215	2010
190	St Charles	10						0		2	2	20.00%	213	1988
191	Caledonia	71						0	1	51	52	73.24%	207	1977
197	Chatfield	26						0		1	1	3.85%	105	1964
228	Waseca	225		99				99	8	138	146	64.89%	316	2001
249	Spring Grove	94		41				41		45	45	47.87%	240	1963
264	Glenville	96						0	5	34	39	40.63%	132	1987
295	West Concord	34						0		1	1	2.94%	94	1948
299	Mabel	120					1	1	3	26	29	24.17%	150	2009
330	Hayfield	175						0	9	90	99	56.57%	268	2007
333	Kasson	142						0	3	75	78	54.93%	298	1997
369	Wykoff	19						0		15	15	78.95%	59	1963
384	Dodge Center	57						0		3	3	5.26%	137	1960
404	Alden	42						0		1	1	2.38%	90	1984
422	Claremont	21						0		2	2	9.52%	66	1949
423	Houston	116	5	77				82	5	81	86	74.14%	189	1974
498	Hokah	17					1	1		3	3	17.65%	56	1951
526	Peterson	49					1	1	1	32	33	67.35%	45	2020
544	Ostrander	12						0			0	0.00%	47	1982
546	Kellogg	101		16				16	1	60	61	60.40%	192	2005
551	Eyota	102	1	29				30	1	56	57	55.88%	162	1995
552	Freeborn	58						0	7	49	56	96.55%	78	1984
573	Elgin	14						0		1	1	7.14%	81	1972
579	Millville	45						0		21	21	46.67%	77	1981
587	Waldorf	19						0			0	0.00%	49	1956
588	Mazeppa	37						0	1	21	22	59.46%	80	1997
595	La Crescent	160					1	1	1	36	37	23.13%	383	2004
637	Whalan	18						0		14	14	77.78%	41	2007
	1st District Totals	3,810	8	357	0	0	14	379	67	1,598	1,665	43.70%		

FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

I want to congratulate everyone on a getting membership turned in now that the notices have finally been mailed out from National. You should not be holding memberships for any reason, try to get in weekly or at least bi-weekly. As of October, 25th we were at 1st Place - 43.70%! Thank you, chairman and member's, we are currently down 37 members from last year at this time! Well done ladies!

Harmony, Lyle, LeRoy, Ostrander and Waldorf on the goose-egg! If you have membership's please turn in as soon as you can, 25 of our 48 Units are over the 43.70%

I want to thank our members that attended Fall Conference this past weekend, and took part in our District Membership Skit! You all were amazing, teamwork at its best!

With Veterans Day coming up, it might be a good time during your events in getting some renewals from your members. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends, remember those serving and their families.

Happy Thanksgiving

Wanda Prescher - Membership Chair



1st & 3rd Department Vice Commander Duane Anderson (left) Department Auxiliary Second Vice President Judy Ackerman (center), Chuck Stone, SAL 1st & 3rd Vice Commander (left)



Department American Legion Chaplain, Larry Otto (right) and Department American Legion Auxiliary Chaplain, Donna Barbknecht (left).



Northwestern Division National Security Chairman, Carol Kottom (Left) Northwest Division Poppy Chairman, Sandy Fredrickson (center) and Northwest Division Membership Chairman, Tamara Opland (left)



First District Legion Commander Mary Hanson (left) and First District Auxiliary President Tonia Betterman (right)



Department Auxiliary Honorary Jr President Sydney Borntreger



Department Auxiliary President Mary Kuperus



FROM YOUR HONORARY AUXILIARY JR PRESIDENT

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



LEADERSHIP BASICS

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY---

BACK TO THE BASICS

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

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

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

Some basic information:

Our ALA mission:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

District Leadership Chairman,

Sandy Fredrickson

SOME INFORMATION ON BELIEVET SERVICE DOGS

OUR PROGRAM

The Need

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

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

Our Response

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

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

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

Our Dogs

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

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

Our Facility

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

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



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



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(L to R) American Legion /riders Director, Ted Berg, Honorary Jr President, Sydney Borntreger, Sons of the American Legion Commander, Tim Weaver, American Legion Commander Jennifer Havlick and American Legion Auxiliary President Mary Kuperus

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OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR THE 2022—2023 YEAR

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VICE DIRECTOR - CHUCK STONE
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 EMAIL - castoney@hotmail.com

Another Department Fall Conference is in the books. It was a great time to learn, discuss and share ideas on how to help one another and build the bonds in the American Legion. A department ALR meeting was conducted with discussion on the 2023 Department Ride. Details to follow.

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The Tour of the First District Ride on Saturday, July 30th was a success. We will be presenting donations to the Preston VA Home, Toys4Tots and the War on Terrorism Memorial. Thanks to all who supported this event with their time and generosity.

We will be announcing details on a District ALR meeting soon.

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Respectfully submitted,
 Karla Miller Maloney
 Secretary First District ALR

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



POST

NOT ALL WOUNDS ARE VISIBLE

If you served our Nation.

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

**VETERANS
RESOURCE
FAIR**

Brought to you by

Dodge Center

American Legion



When:

Saturday March 26th

2:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Where:

Dodge Center American
Legion

Post 384 Wells-Peterson

401 Hwy St W Dodge Center,

MN 55927

507-633-6420

DCAL.Post384@gmail.com

Organizations Attending

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

Veteran's Coffee Talk

Do you need someone who will listen?

BE THE ONE

TO **ASK** VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING. **Veteran to Veteran!**

TO **LISTEN** WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.

TO **REACH** OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING.



Connect!

Free!

We Listen!

**We are here to support
veterans and their families!**

Engage!

We meet every Tuesday at 9:00 am
Veteran's Resource and Empowerment Center (aka ETS)
5402 43rd Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55417

Do you need to talk now? Dial 988 – Press 1 for the Veteran's Crisis Line

Post-9/11 Veteran Service Bonus Now Available

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



BE THE ONE - New resources are to use in support of the Be The One initiative to be available for American Legion Family Members to reduce the rate of Veteran Suicide at Legion.org

New resources are available for American Legion Family members to use in support of the [“Be the One” initiative](#) to reduce the rate of veteran suicide.

The web page (betheone.org) has been updated with a variety of resources. Among them:

A set of brochures available for download. One brochure is a PDF that can be used to educate agencies with mental health services, community partners, local government leaders and others about Be the One. The other brochure is a Word document that can be downloaded and customized for posts to use at suicide awareness events. The entire back page of the trifold is intentionally left blank (other than directions, which can be deleted) so that posts can fill it with local resources.

Branding materials: A variety of approved American Legion Be the One promotional materials that posts can use to promote the initiative.

Content, including the special two-part magazine series on Be the One. The series includes stories and snippets about how American Legion members and posts are actively participating in events geared toward reducing the stigma associated with mental health counseling.

Video links: Vimeo playlist includes videos that can be downloaded and played while offline. They can be shared on social media, posted to the web and played at post events.

Additionally, headquarters staff has created [a QR Code](#) for the Be the One page. This can be used to direct others to find information and resources related to the campaign.

How to scan a QR code:

1. Open the Camera app on your phone.
2. Make sure you are using the rear facing camera.
3. Hold your device so the QR code appears in the viewfinder in the Camera app.
4. Once steady, your device will recognize the QR code and show a notification.
5. Tap the notification to open the link.