



# FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

## DECEMBER 2020

### Legion Contacts

#### Commander

Dale Wellik  
17941 Cty Hwy 34  
Dodge Center, MN 55927  
507-374-2766 or 507-421-5674  
treeson34@gmail.com

#### Adjutant

Wayne Hammon Jr  
115 East Cabot St  
LeRoy, MN 55951  
507/696/2707  
1stadjutant@gmail.com

#### Membership

Myron Ehrich  
220 Irvin St  
West Concord, MN 55985  
507-527-2578 or 507-259-5261

#### Chaplain

Larry Otto  
14758SW 52nd Ave  
Ellendale, MN 56026  
507-475-1023  
larryandem2@gmail.com

### VICE—COMMANDER INFORMATION

**Area One** - Mark Maloney  
545 54 Ave E  
Winona, MN 55987  
507-513-1582  
markmaloney1962@gmail.com

**Area Two** - Mike Parry  
601 13th Ave SE  
Waseca, MN 56093  
507-382-8447  
mparry57@gmail.com

**Area Three** - James Westby  
614 East Fillmore Ave  
Mabel, MN 55947  
507-206-9542  
westby@mabeltel.coop

**Area Four** - Mary Hanson  
1701 4th Ave SW  
Austin, MN 55912  
507-440-3606  
mfhanson52@charter.net

You can go to the Minnesota American Legion web site ([mnlegion.org](http://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 open with COVID 19 rules in place, or curb side service only. Please contact your post to see what the times and rules are.

December 7, 2020 - Pearl Harbor Day, Please take time to remember this event.

December 25, 2020 - Please remember the reason for the season and be careful.

### 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----SEASONS GREETINGS-This time 1st District American Legion Family!

Yes it is that time of year!

Thank all of you for YOUR Service and support. I hope everyone had a filling meal at Thanksgiving and stayed well, even if it wasn't celebrated with family and friends around a big table full of food. We still have many things to be Thankful for. Celebrating this time of year will also be different than last year.

Many things will also be held or not held in the next few months.

Watch for emails, phone calls, Flash Bulletins or your post's way of communicating for changes. You will need to check these more often to keep updated. This is our changing times.

**Pearl Harbor Rally is canceled; The District Christmas party at the Eyota post is cancelled. Midwinter, January 9, 2021 at Stewartville is also CANCELED.**

Let's all social distance, Wear a Mask, sanitize, if not feeling well or have any of the covid-19 symptoms stay away from others.

We need to keep thinking of what we can do to and not get together at a single post.

Membership in the first district is important and lagging behind. We are in 6<sup>TH</sup> place this month and the end of the year is coming up fast.

Call these members they may need a gentle reminder. Don't let them lose their continuous years of membership. Benefits go with it.

Pray for our deployed troops and their families. Pray for Peace and good health.

Call to see if these need assistance in getting the snow shoveled or ladies may cook a meal.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS. FOR GOD and COUNTRY!

District Commander

Dale Wellik

## 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, Legion Family!

Thanksgiving just wasn't the same this year; it was just me and Em, not that that was a problem—just the two of us. We still had a great meal and time to spend with each other. These, too, are cherished memories; but I missed our kids, grandkids, and all the activity that goes with a house full of people.

That is all in the past and there's nothing I can do about it. The only thing I can do is look to the future, hope and pray it will be better. My hope doesn't come from this world. My hope comes from the Lord. Psalm 121:1 & 2 says "I look up to the hills, but where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

I could sit and complain about everything that has taken place this year, but again, it won't change a thing. The past is past; let's look to the future and what we can do about it. You might ask, "What can I do?" There is plenty we, as individuals, can do for our fellow country-men and women, and many things Legion members and Legion family members are already doing. All we have to do is look at the 4 pillars of service: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children & Youth. I believe the Bible contains scripture that commands us to serve in all these areas. To some, it might be surprising the things that the Bible teaches us to do for fellow mankind.

Let us never forget the neighbor who has no family near-by, the person down the block who needs a helping hand, the elderly, the sick, or those in need of just a kind word or face. That is what we're called to do both as Legionnaires and as children of God.

As we enter into this month of December, let us never forget the reason for the season. A child was born and a few short years later would die to give us salvation. It's not about presents, or the holidays, or the family get-together. It's about a baby in a manger sent to earth to save us from ourselves.

May you find peace and joy at this time of year.

Blessings to you and yours. Merry Christmas and

Happy Hanukkah to our Jewish friends!

In Service to God and Country,  
Larry Otto, 1<sup>st</sup> District Chaplain



## FROM AREA ONE

Well it's that time of the year Christmas hope everyone is safe and doing buddy checks remember the American legion is still here and we still have our projects even though we are in a pandemic doesn't mean we can't call our video chat with others. This is the time we bring the best out of our post. We just have to be more creative in what we do. Merry Christmas and hope to see everyone soon.

Thank You.

Area One Vice  
Mark a Maloney



## FROM AREA THREE

Greeting to the 1st District Legion Family

As we navigate through the tail end of this year, most of us are looking forward to putting 2020 in our rearview mirror. This year has been one for the records that hopefully will never be repeated in our lifetime. To add to everything that has been thrown our way we do not have an accurate handle on how many of our members have been impacted. We need to keep working on our membership drive and try to increase membership by making phone calls.

Remember every single day our courageous Legion family defends our liberty and freedom. Please work safely and stay healthy. As you give thanks this month take a moment for yourself to appreciate what we have been given, for the opportunities that we have had and for the people who have made the sacrifices necessary for us to have something to be grateful for. Without their commitment, dedication and hard work we would not be where we are today.

I wish you and your families the healthiest and happiest holiday.

James Westby Semper FI

## FROM AREA TWO

Greetings Comrades,

What an interesting time we are in today. The holidays are here and time to connect with family and friends. I would ask all to reach out via phone, e-mail, Facebook and here's a unique idea...write a letter. We are at a crossroads. How do we stay connected with our loved ones? Our friends? Be creative. Do something out of the norm. Reach out. I think it would be an injustice to just sit and not do anything. I'm off my soap box and want all to be happy and embrace the life we have right now. Enjoy each and everyday to the fullest.

May you have the Happiest of the Holidays, embrace life as it is and share goodness and Hope!  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mike Parry, Area Two Vice Commander

## FROM AREA FOUR

Greetings Legion Family,

Just a few words about membership. It is everyone's job. Please check on members that you have not seen in a while. Make sure their dues are paid up. Your home post may be closed, but membership is a pressing issue. I would hate to see a proud member lose their continuous service years or eligibility for the American Legion Family Hospital Association.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a BETTER New Year.

Please say a prayer of thanks to God for the blessings we did have this year, our families and friends and especially for those we have lost.  
God Bless,

Mary Hanson  
Area 4 Vice Commander

**FIRST DISTRICT MID-WINTER PLANNED FOR JAN 9,  
2021 IN STEWARTVILLE HAS BEEN CANCELED.**



## INFORMATION FROM EAGLES HEALING NEST

Veterans, this is not an ask, this a tell. We are almost out of room at the Eagles Healing Nest and other Veterans facilities. They are working around the clock and taking in 4 to 7 Veterans from across the US and more being pushed on the street daily is leaving many desperate. We have buildings that can be made livable to house more but we do have the manpower or funds. This is getting across the country and it's getting worse. If you can help we need construction people, electrical, HVAC, painters, paint, building supplies and again funding. Please go to your local Legion, VFW, anyone who can help. If you find someone or resources, please call or PM me. We said we'd have our Brothers and Sisters backs. Check on your local Veterans NOW!!! This lockdown is hitting them HARD!!! Make sure they are Okay. That is where this is. If you don't see it, open your eyes, it's time we hold up our end of the bargain.

This article was sent to me by Tim Burley who is the Commander of the Hutchinson American Legion Post in Hutchinson, MN. He is very active in Veteran help and assistance programs and is very dedicated to this endeavor.

Tim Burley (Welcome Home. Vet, Eagles Healing Nest)

Phone—1-320-292-9947

Email—tankertim66@gmail.com



## 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 58<sup>th</sup> 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



6 The American Legion, Dept of MN, First District 2021 Membership Report as of NOV 25, 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	47	342	420	1	421	536	78.54%	0	417
1	90	Lewiston	3	8	3	40	54	0	54	69	78.26%	0	60
1	190	St Charles	5	19	11	87	122	1	123	133	92.48%	0	110
1		<b>Winona County</b>					596	2	598	738	81.03%		587
1	50	Wabasha	0	48	15	106	169	0	169	221	76.47%	0	168
1	110	Lake City	4	17	12	87	120	0	120	157	76.43%	0	117
1	179	Plainview	0	28	15	79	122	0	122	159	76.73%	0	129
1	546	Kellogg	0	9	0	43	52	0	52	63	82.54%	0	59
1	573	Elgin	0	2	2	19	23	0	23	29	79.31%	0	22
1	579	Millville	0	22	23	88	133	0	133	148	89.86%	0	167
1	588	Mazeppa	1	9	1	48	59	0	59	72	81.94%	0	65
1		<b>Wabsha County</b>					678	0	678	849	79.86%		727
1	92	Rochester	4	91	107	512	714	3	717	905	79.23%	9	755
1	119	Byron	1	17	13	56	87	0	87	133	65.41%	0	91
1	164	Stewartville	2	26	28	205	261	0	261	303	86.14%	0	248
1	446	Rochester	0	2	3	2	7	0	7	20	35.00%	0	9
1	551	Eyota	1	21	20	92	134	0	134	186	72.04%	0	137
1		<b>Olmsted County</b>					1203	6	1209	1547	78.15%		1240
1		<b>Area One</b>					2477	8	2485	3134	79.29%		2554
1	295	West Concord	0	8	2	31	41	0	41	65	63.08%	0	47
1	330	Hayfield	0	18	15	98	131	0	131	199	65.83%	0	164
1	333	Kasson	2	32	23	152	209	0	209	264	79.17%	0	230
1	384	Dodge Center	0	8	5	40	53	0	53	78	67.95%	0	60
1	422	Claremont	1	1	3	21	26	0	26	27	96.30%	0	25
1		<b>Dodge County</b>					460	0	460	633	72.67%		526
1	52	Blooming Prairie	1	16	4	61	82	0	82	94	87.23%	0	85
1	77	Owatonna	4	52	33	261	350	0	350	460	76.09%	0	332
1	296	Ellendale	0	3	3	23	29	0	29	39	74.36%	0	30
1		<b>Steel County</b>					461	0	461	593	77.74%		447
1	75	New Richland	0	8	1	40	49	0	49	48	102.08%	0	37
1	228	Waseca	4	21	21	189	235	1	236	310	76.13%	0	245
1	281	Janesville	1	9	9	65	84	0	84	88	95.45%	0	81
1	587	Waldorf	0	0	1	18	19	0	19	22	86.36%	0	17
1		<b>Waseca County</b>					387	1	388	468	82.91%	0	380
		<b>Area Two</b>					1308	1	1309	1694	77.27%	0	1353

1	40	Lanesboro	0	13	11	63	87	0	87	107	81.31%	0	97
1	68	Spring Valley	0	8	1	51	60	0	60	76	78.95%	0	67
1	81	Harmony	0	2	0	21	23	0	23	32	71.88%	0	22
1	94	Rushford	0	14	10	60	84	0	84	116	72.41%	0	72
1	166	Preston	0	18	3	27	48	0	48	61	78.69%	0	60
1	197	Chatfield	0	2	1	36	39	0	39	45	86.67%	0	44
1	299	Mabel	5	31	13	88	137	0	137	165	83.03%	0	137
1	369	Wykoff	0	0	0	16	16	1	17	16	106.25%	0	16
1	400	Canton	1	0	1	10	12	0	12	18	66.67%	0	15
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	30
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		<b>Fillmore County</b>					563	1	564	720	78.33%	0	596
1	191	Caledonia	0	17	8	64	89	0	89	150	59.33%	0	138
1	249	Spring Grove	0	15	12	81	108	0	108	151	71.52%	0	119
1	423	Houston	0	8	9	71	88	0	88	101	87.13%	0	90
1	498	Hokah	1	1	2	14	18	0	18	22	81.82%	0	17
1	595	LaCrescent	0	47	26	139	212	0	212	273	77.66%	0	229
1		<b>Houston County</b>					515	0	515	697	73.89%	0	59
1		<b>Area Three</b>					1078	1	1079	1417	76.15%	0	655
1	56	Albert Lea	1	40	46	356	443	2	445	543	81.95%	0	458
1	264	Glenville	0	9	0	54	63	0	63	70	90.00%	0	59
1	266	Hartland	0	1	0	12	13	0	13	13	100.00%	0	12
1	317	Emmons	0	3	2	33	38	0	38	53	71.70%	0	51
1	404	Alden	0	4	13	65	82	0	82	106	77.36%	0	79
1	552	Freeborn	0	5	1	22	28	0	28	33	84.85%	0	27
1		<b>Freeborn County</b>					667	2	669	818	81.78%	0	686
1	91	Austin	2	56	27	293	378	2	380	502	75.70%	1	397
1	105	Lyle	0	8	6	37	51	0	51	84	60.71%	0	73
1	140	Grand Meadow	0	2	5	31	38	0	38	41	92.68%	0	34
1	146	Adams	1	20	7	73	101	0	101	187	54.01%	0	132
1	161	LeRoy	0	4	5	32	41	0	41	52	78.85%	0	44
1	570	Austin Spam	0	0	2	12	14	0	14	15	93.33%	1	12
1		<b>Mower County</b>					623	2	625	881	70.94%	0	692
1		<b>Area Four</b>					1290	4	1294	1699	76.16%	0	1378
1	1111	Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	0.00%	0	0
1		<b>District Totals</b>	46	859	632	4616	6153	11	6164	8009	76.96%	11	6474

## FIRST DISTRICT VICE COMANNDER STANDINGS AS OF 11-25-20

Vice Commanders												
	Area One					2477	8	2485	3134	79.29%	0	2554
	Area Two					1308	1	1309	1694	77.27%	0	1353
	Area Three					1078	1	1079	1417	76.15%	0	655
	Area Four					1290	4	1294	1699	76.16%	0	1378

## THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA 2021 DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 11-25-20

Dist	Rank												
1	6th	Dale Wellik	46	859	632	4616	6153	11	6164	8009	76.96%	11	6474
2	9th	Bradley Pagel	30	649	404	3570	4653	11	4664	6189	75.36%	3	5124
3	1st	Linda Dvorak	90	1557	1344	5762	8753	27	8780	10,938	80.27%	65	8868
4	3rd	Joseph Jansen	20	286	247	1073	1627	4	1631	2,091	78.00%	23	1725
5	10th	Wade A. Larson	10	305	306	767	1388	0	1388	2164	64.14%	3	1661
6	4th	Paul D. Edwards	84	1110	884	6059	8137	27	8164	10,598	77.03%	16	8684
7	2nd	Dean Knutson	25	702	319	3380	4426	23	4449	5,646	78.80%	38	4652
8	7th	D Marvin Hill	14	319	314	2103	2750	4	2754	3591	76.69%	5	2919
9	8th	Steven Sundstrom	36	552	479	3443	4510	40	4550	5953	76.43%	12	4822
10	5th	Thomas H. Allen	81	911	1100	4652	6744	16	6760	8780	76.99%	10	7084
99			8	178	360	1200	1746	0	1746	2997	58.26%	0	1483
To-			444	7429	6389	36,625	50,887	163	51,050	66,956	76.24%	186	53,496

**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. As of 11-30-20 the First District had 524 members who had not paid their 2020 dues and 1589 members who had not paid their 2021 dues. We need to work on these members to renew before the 18th of December so they do not lose any benefits. Mary and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

**Myron Ehrich - First District Membership Director**

**A MESSAGE FROM THE MAKER OF THESE LARRY OTTO**

The final totals are phone numbers of the winners are listed below.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in this fundraiser and the total amount raised for the Commander's project was \$535.00.



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.

# 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  
bettm88@outlook.com

### Treasurer

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

However you may have celebrated Thanksgiving, I hope you had a happy one!

Despite the year's challenges, we have managed to serve our veterans, military and their families! Thank you to our loyal ALA members. Even at this time of learning and doing things differently, we are finding ways to continue to do what we do best, to help our veterans and our communities. Thank You!

**Due to Covid 1<sup>st</sup> District Mid-Winter Rally scheduled for January 9<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled.**

Since we can't visit our Units, which is very disappointing, know that myself and our program chairs are here to help, however we can.

I want to share this quote which says a lot for what we are going through. "This is not the year to get everything we want. This is the year to appreciate all that we have."

I want to wish all of you a Blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year! It will get better!

Please stay safe and healthy!

President Wanda



**1st District American Legion Auxiliary Membership  
As of November 25, 2020**

Unit	Location	Goal	Previous	Turn In	Total	Percent	Left
9	Winona	141	68		68	48.23%	73
90	Lewiston	36	24		24	66.67%	12
190	St Charles	51	32		32	62.75%	19
50	Wabasha	110	72		72	65.45%	38
110	Lake City	64	40		40	62.50%	24
179	Plainview	120	93		93	77.50%	27
546	Kellogg	110	73		73	66.36%	37
573	Elgin	13	9		9	69.23%	4
579	Millville	51	40		40	78.43%	11
588	Mazeppa	37	24		24	64.86%	13
92	Rochester	136	100		100	73.53%	36
119	Byron	41	18		18	43.90%	23
164	Stewartville	175	142		142	81.14%	33
551	Eyota	97	75		75	77.32%	22
<b>Pod One Total</b>		<b>1182</b>	<b>810</b>		<b>810</b>	<b>68.53%</b>	<b>372</b>
295	West Concord	32	21		21	65.63%	11
330	Hayfield	173	138		138	79.77%	35
333	Kasson	135	115		115	85.19%	20
384	Dodge Center	64	32		32	50.00%	32
422	Claremont	20	1		1	5.00%	19
52	Blooming Prairie	91	68		68	74.73%	23
77	Owatonna	111	79		79	71.17%	32
75	New Richland	45	36		36	80.00%	9
228	Waseca	240	153		153	63.75%	87
587	Waldorf	21	18		18	85.71%	3
<b>Pod Two Totals</b>		<b>932</b>	<b>661</b>		<b>661</b>	<b>70.92%</b>	<b>271</b>
40	Lanesboro	97	42		42	43.30%	55
68	Spring Valley	39	37		37	94.87%	2
81	Harmony	52	37		37	71.15%	15
94	Rushford	45	0		0	0.00%	45
197	Chatfield	30	25		25	83.33%	5
299	Mabel	116	84		84	72.41%	32

## 1st District American Legion Auxiliary Membership as of November 25, 2020 continued

369	Wykoff	17	16	16	94.12%	1
526	Peterson	46	44	44	95.65%	2
544	Ostrander	14	11	11	78.57%	3
637	Whalan	21	17	17	80.95%	4
191	Caledonia	75	64	64	85.33%	11
249	Spring Grove	109	59	59	54.13%	50
423	Houston	126	102	102	80.95%	24
498	Hokah	18	17	17	94.44%	1
595	La Crescent	171	107	107	62.57%	64
<b>Pod Three Totals</b>		<b>976</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>67.83%</b>	<b>314</b>
56	Albert Lea	285	202	202	70.88%	83
264	Glenville	90	64	64	71.11%	26
404	Alden	43	33	33	76.74%	10
552	Freeborn	62	56	56	90.32%	6
91	Austin	134	83	83	61.94%	51
105	Lyle	52	45	45	86.54%	7
140	Grand Meadow	65	55	55	84.62%	10
146	Adams	127	83	83	65.35%	44
161	Leroy	46	28	28	60.87%	18
<b>Pod Four Totals</b>		<b>904</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>71.79%</b>	<b>255</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>3994</b>	<b>2782</b>	<b>2782</b>	<b>69.65%</b>	<b>1212</b>

### FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

#### Mining for Members...Each One is a Gem

In the hard time in the world I realize it is difficult to keep membership going. It is difficult not be able to meet and work with people. The Auxiliary is a group that works together to help the veterans. I understand that this is a difficult time and we must work together to keep our veterans, friends and family happy/healthy as best we can. Keeping your membership will help this and keep us together as a team to get through this pandemic. Please continue to work on membership so we can stay together to make our Auxiliary great to be part of.

“Cultivate the habit of being grateful for every good thing that comes to you, and to give thanks continuously. And because all things have contributed to your advancement, you should include all things in your gratitude.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Thank you for all your hard work.

Tonia Bettermann, Membership Chairman



## 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 fifteen and I am a freshman Riceville High School in Riceville, Iowa. 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 would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to those of you who put up Christmas decorations before December. It's truly the best time of the year !!!!**

**Remember if you want to donate to my project, the checks need to 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.

These 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](http://believet.org)

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

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

Every year we lose members. 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 1<sup>st</sup> District back on top. If we all work together, great things can be accomplished.

Enclosed in this mailing is a listing of your UNITS per capita for 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> District operates on for the year. ***This will only be printed this mailing – so, please keep for future reference and inform your unit treasurer.***

<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

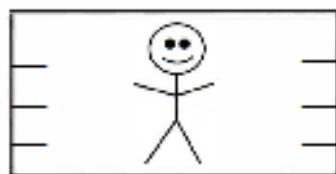
Lewiston	35	\$ 70	\$10	\$ 80
Lyle	51	\$102	\$10	\$112
Mabel	115	\$230	\$10	\$240
Mazeppa	36	\$ 72	\$10	\$ 82
Millville	50	\$100	\$10	\$110
New Richland	44	\$ 88	\$10	\$ 98
Ostrander	13	\$ 26	\$10	\$ 36
Owatonna	110	\$220	\$10	\$230
Peterson	45	\$ 90	\$10	\$100
Plainview	119	\$238	\$10	\$248
Rochester	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**

**WRONG**



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: <a href="http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records">www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records</a>	
<b>Veteran Served:</b>	
<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
<b>Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:</b>	
<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.)	
<b>To Be Completed By The American Legion Post Adjutant/Officer</b>	
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!	
<b>I am interested in learning more about:</b>	
<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

### COMMANDER

Greg Lemmer  
140 Jederman Drive  
Winona, MN 55987  
507-312-2222  
gslemmer@hbc.com

### ADJUTANT

Dave Bilderback  
44092 2nd Ave NW  
Rochester, MN 55901  
507-250-1057  
dbilderback@aol.com

### EAST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

Brian Tomasheck  
560 East fifth St  
Winona, MN 55987  
507-454-5998  
btoma0210@gmail.com

### WEST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

Chuck Stone  
1625 Crestview Ln  
Owatonna, MN 55060  
507-213-7517  
castoney@hotmail.com

### MEMBERSHIP

Glenn Mueller  
548 East 10th St  
St Charles, MN 55972  
507-932-4301 or 507-316-3977  
glm01311962@gmail.com

### FINANCE OFFICER

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

Hello Legion family,

Greetings from your district SAL, hoping everyone is staying safe and taking the proper safety measures. Due to the tight state restrictions the Winona Legion is closed again for four weeks. I'm not sure how other Legions are doing. I hope all the measures and sacrifices we are making are giving us the results needed to get through this terrible time.

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, and take the proper precautions.

In December we of course have Pearl Harbor Remembrance on December 7<sup>th</sup>. As stated by President Franklin Roosevelt at the time; **"December 7, 1941 – a date that will live in infamy – the United States was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan."** This is a day that will never be forgotten in America's history. I can't imagine what the soldiers were feeling as that attack was taking place. Pearl Harbor remains an important part of the history and we must never forget the sacrifices and bravery of our soldiers. The USS Arizona Memorial is truly a heart throbbing experience. I have seen it and hope to be able to visit again, it's a great way to show your respect and honor to the brave soldiers that served during that time.

Regarding membership; well let's just say we still have work to do. As of Nov 20<sup>th</sup> time frame, District 1 stands in 6th place statewide overall in reaching its membership goal. We're not last in the state but we can do better! Congratulations to the four Squadrons in District 1 that have reached their membership goal in numerical order: Squadron 9 Winona, Squadron 266 Hartland, Squadron 423 Houston, and Squadron 446 in Rochester. That's the good news, the bad news is we still have nine Squadrons that are sitting at zero. I know the Vice Commanders have been working with a few of them to get off that goose egg. Let's see if by next month's report we can at least say we have a couple of them cleared up. 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 to do so. We can help support our Post. Ask your local Post Commander what you and your Squadron can do to help them out. Ask the Auxiliary and the Legion Riders if you can work on a group event or project. There are lots of ways to support your Legion and the Veterans.

Please keep the Veterans and their families in mind during these cold wintery months. I'm sure a few of us know of Veterans that may struggle to get walkways and driveways cleared of snow. Maybe they can't get out to get the mail, or worse yet the medicine and or groceries they need. Now it's more important than ever to do those buddy checks. Check with your Post Commander and ask if there is a list of those in need.

The SAL would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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 because of them.

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

Respectfully Yours,

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

### JUDGE ADVOCATE

Josh Erickson  
278 1/2 East Third St  
Winona, MN 55987  
507-313-5861  
joshheric@hbc.com

### HISTORIAN

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

### SGT AT ARMS

Clint Betterman  
1625 Crestview Ln  
Owatonna, MN 55060

## 1st District

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	112		112	125.84%	11/3/2020
40	Lanesboro	62	65	69	1		1	1.54%	
50	Wabasha	10	11	12	8		8	72.73%	
52	Blooming Prairie	41	43	46	0		0	0.00%	
56	Albert Lea	122	126	133	93		93	73.81%	
75	New Richland	0	5	6	0		0	0.00%	
77	Owatonna	122	126	133	40		40	31.75%	
90	Lewiston	47	49	52	1		1	2.04%	
91	Austin	64	67	71	10		10	14.93%	
92	Rochester	122	126	133	59		59	46.83%	
94	Rushford	24	25	27	8		8	32.00%	
105	Lyle	26	28	30	1		1	3.57%	
119	Byron	39	41	44	25		25	60.98%	
146	Adams	93	97	102	40		40	41.24%	
161	Le Roy	40	43	46	12		12	27.91%	
164	Stewartville	107	111	117	79		79	71.17%	
166	Preston	44	46	49	24		24	52.17%	
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	41		41	85.42%	
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	10		10	62.50%	
317	Emmons	41	43	46	1		1	2.33%	
330	Hayfield	34	36	38	22		22	61.11%	
333	Kasson	37	39	41	38		38	97.44%	
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	24		24	82.76%	
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	808	0	808	44.44%	

# AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



## DIRECTOR

Roe Naylor  
63109 240th St  
Brownsdale, MN 55918  
507-438-5804

## VICE DIRECTOR

Mark Maloney  
545 54th Ave E  
Winona, MN 55987  
507-513-1582  
markmaloney1962@gmail.com

## SECRETARY

Nancy Lewison  
68127 150th St  
Adams, MN 55909  
507-582-3390  
lewisonnancy@gmail.com

## SGT AT ARMS

Joe Smillie  
10017th St NW  
Austin, MN 55912  
641-590-3522  
Joesmillie.js@gmail.com

## HISTORIAN

Kassy Betterman  
1625Crestview Lane  
Owatonna, MN 55060  
507-533-9434

## CHAPLAIN

Karla Miller  
5530W 9th St  
Winona, MN 55987  
928sunshine@gmail.com

## Greetings from the First District ALR

We held a meeting on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Use these guidelines to choose your chapter's nomination. E-mail to [lewisonnancy@gmail.com](mailto: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

**Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year  
To all!!**

