



FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

AUGUST 2016

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Area Four - Rodger German
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IMPORTANT DATES

August 12, 2016 - Membership drop off at Adams Post 146 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

August 14, 2016 - District Picnic Veterans Park in Grand Meadow. Se details below for directions and instructions.

August 26 through September 1, 2016 - The American Legion National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio

September 8, 9, 10 & 11, 2016 - Legionville Camp Out at Legionville. With the Department Harvest Rally on Saturday September 10, 2016.

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DISTRICT PICNIC

The district picnic will be held on August 14, 2016 at Veterans Park in Grand Meadow, MN which is located at 209 2nd Ave NE.

We plan on eating at between 12:30 and 1:00 pm. Bring a dish to pass, eating utensils and your beverage.

This is open to ALL First District Family members. Please plan on attending for great socializing.

Legion Family,

I am humbled by your trust in me to be your Commander of the 1st District. I would not be here if it weren't for those who saw something in me and mentored me over the past several years. I am truly grateful to them. I extend a thank you to those who have shown their hospitality at the installations and other functions I have already attended. I look forward to working with President Cindy Nelson as well as Commander Ron Wolff. We are going to try and put some fun back into our functions. One thing we want to do this year is have a fun program for kids prior to our rallies. Our Vice Commanders are working on that for each of the rallies so bring your kids. We would also like to extend an invitation to the Junior Auxiliary to all our functions. After all, they and all our kids are our future.

We have started out the year exactly like we should. All officers reports and consolidated reports are in as well as the 1st District is off the goose egg for membership. A HUGE thank you to all of you and especially to our Vice-Commanders, Membership Director, and Adjutant for making it happen. I don't know when the last time was or if it has ever happened but either way you should be proud of yourselves for a job well done. Now let's stay ahead of the game and keep it going with membership goals.

This year I would like to see us focus on one of the pillars of the American Legion. Americanism. There are many, many programs that fall under Americanism. Some of them that we need to focus on and get kids involved with are Boys State, Oratorical, Jr Sports etc. You can go out to legion.org and find all the programs. We will try and visit some of them at our rallies. Sometimes it is difficult to go in depth in any one program but we can at least go over some of them or take questions about some of them. This year Jr Shooting Sports is my project. The 1st District has 2 programs of Jr Shooting Sports. With buying the guns, targets, ammo and all the other expenses it can be a strain on finances for those who partake in the sport. My theme this year is Mentor you Membership. Find someone who you think you can help along within your Post and spend the time with them but, don't pressure or over do it. Mentoring takes time. It is not something that is accomplished over night. It might take a year or more but you need to start mentoring now.

We just finished Department Convention. Denise Milton is our new Department Commander. I am confident that she will do great job. We also need to thank our 1st District members Past Department Commander Jim Kellogg and Past President Sandy Fredrickson for a job well done. The incoming leadership has some big shoes to fill.

Our first function of the year is our District picnic. This year it will be held at City Park in Grand Meadow, MN. I need to make one thing perfectly clear. This is not just a District Officers picnic it is intended for EVERYONE in the District. Jim Kellogg will once again prepare the meat so all we ask is that you bring a dish of some kind. You also need to bring your own utensils and beverage. Most importantly, bring your children, grand kids, great grand kids etc. We will try and have some games that they can play so let's make a day of it. We will be eating around 12:30-1:00 so come early and enjoy the comradeship.

God Bless You

Sy Fix Commander

FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The First District newsletter can be found on these post web sites. Please go to them and have a look. It not only will give you access to the newsletter but also to the events happening at each of these posts. They are as follows:

First District Website at mnmightyfirst.org

Albert Lea Post 56 at americanlegionpost56.com

Austin Post 91 at austinpost91.com

Rochester Post 92 at post92.org

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

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

FROM AREA ONE

Well, the new membership year has started, State Conv. is over and now the real work starts. The first rally has already been set for the 1st of Oct. in Lake City. As the first one of the season, there should be no weather problems and also in the Area 1's area all the posts in area 1 should have a least one person at this rally, be it the Commander, Adj., or the membership chairman.

I will be going to as many of the Posts as I can this year even if just for a short visit on a regular night. I didn't get off to a good start, at convention as I reinjured an old injury again, and now just getting back to putting pressure on my left leg.

I am also sorry to hear about Roger and wishing him a very speedy recovery. Let's all send a card if you haven't already.

If you have any questions and I can't answer I will find out the answer, (after all that's way we have a Dist. Adj.)
Again thanks for electing me and let's help Sy have a great year and also Dst.1 @ Area 1.....

Dist. 1 Area 1 Vice Commander - Gary Miller

FROM AREA TWO

I am back again as your area Two Vice Commander!!

A huge Thank you to Sy Fix for thinking of me!

We are off and running again. Let's make this year a GREAT one for Commander Sy!

I was recently at the Blooming Prairie annual 4th of July celebration. I was able to participate in their parade. It was a very nice parade and I enjoyed being there.

Hope to see you at the District Picnic in Grand Meadow on Aug 14th. Let's hope that we get a beautiful day.

God Bless America!

Vice Commander Myron

FROM AREA THREE

Another year has started for the American Legion. I hope that this year will be as good or better than last year. I am very happy with Area Three for the final results for the Membership for last year. With a little hard work we can do better. We got a good start this year as we got the consolidated reports done and all the Officers lists are in for the coming year. We are also off the goose egg for the year.

On August 14th in Grand Meadow, we will have our annual American Legion picnic. All members and their families are invited. We are looking forward to involving our children in our events that the American Legion will have this year. Grand Meadow has a nice park so bring your children and grandchildren so they can have an enjoyable time at our picnic. I'm looking forward to seeing a lot more members at our picnic this year.

Make sure you take time to honor our military in uniform who keeps us safe 24/7 and at the same time, take time to shake the hands of veterans when you meet them.

Area Three Vice Commander Carroll Hill

FROM AREA FOUR

Area Four Vice Commander, Rodger German is having some health issues right now so the District Adjutant is writing his articles for the time being. Please feel free to call him and if he can not make it to your post he will have one of the Past District Commanders fill in for him as they have all volunteered to help. A big thank you to them.

Area Four is off the goose egg as of July forth (4) and the area also has sent in sent in one hundred (100) percent of consolidated post reports for the 2015—2016 membership year. Congratulations to all the posts in Area Four.

We will be holding the First District Picnic at Veterans Park in Grand Meadow on August 14, 2016. Lunch will be between 12:30 and 1:00. More information can be found on the front page of this newsletter.

Rodger German—Area Four Vice Commander

DISTRICT OFFICERS FOR THE LEGION YEAR 2016-2017

	<u>NAME & ID NUMBER</u>		<u>ADDRESS</u>		<u>CITY-STATE-ZIP CODE</u>
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DISTRICT COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN FOR THE LEGION YEAR 2017**American Education Week**

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American Legion Baseball

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Children and Youth

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMANS CONTINUED

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Greetings, First District, hi and welcome to the start of the new American Legion year! We pray to God for a successful year for our nation and for the American Legion family. Every day is a day of grace, knowing that whatever trials we may face, the Lord will not let us be tempted beyond what we can bear through Him.

There are many purposes to the chaplaincy. One of the main purposes is to help people grow in their relationship with God. Also, we serve as a reminder of the transcendent and we seek to develop an environment within which Legionnaires and Legion family members are encouraged in their personal and collective moral and spiritual growth. We are nondenominational, nonsectarian, and wish to minister to the spiritual needs of all, without regard.

The American Legion's God and Country program is very good, but only if it is executed. We need to do our duty, to inculcate our individual obligation to the community, state, and nation, as it is only through vigilance will our nation survive. Alexis de Tocqueville is quoted as saying "America is great because she is good. If America ceases to be good, America will cease being great."

I am looking forward to a wonderful year as the District Chaplain. Thank you for allowing me to humbly serve.

MN First District Chaplain,

Ralph Schneekloth

Public Relations August 2016

Hey there, PR is doing well. Keep moving forward and talking and taking pictures and demonstrating all the American Legion Family does on a daily basis. It is too big a task for just a few people. Be proud of the organization, if everyone regularly shows what we do, it might lead to increased membership. I was privileged to speak to the Department Convention about PR. It was a great experience. Also we now have a Department Press Association modeled after the national model, NALPA. The Department page on FB is MALPA, feel free to like it. The intent is to build a media clearing house and have press there. Also moving on we will be posting to the website again, as we are beginning the new membership year. Finally, a big part of PR is dealing with post histories, as the Department Historian, I am placing extra emphasis on post histories along with preparing for the Centennial year coming up. It is a great opportunity to compile histories and have them documented so those who come after can know what and how we did things.

Thank you for allowing me to humbly serve,

MN First District PR,

Ralph Schneekloth

FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY NEWS



Auxiliary Contacts

President

Cindy Nelson
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Northwood, IA 50459
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Greetings from President Cindy

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to a new Auxiliary year!

Our district theme is the ***"Power of One,"*** the symbol is ***the "half dollar,"*** my project is ***MN Creative Arts and the Armed Forces Service Center*** at the Minneapolis airport. Donations will be divided equally.

We are district #1. We stand for one nation under God. We are all one Legion Family working together for the good of our organization, and working for our Veterans and their families!

We are one country, so we must all work together to keep it free and keep peace. The list goes on and on for reasons of WHY we there is power in one!

Let's all work together as a family to get the job done this year. We must build our district to where we all have a reason and purpose of what we do, and why we do the things we do for the good of our organization!

I look forward in working with Commander CY, Sons of the American Legion Commander Ron, and ALR president Denny Lewison.

District picnic will be August 14, 2016 in Grand Meadow. Please bring a dish to pass. Bring membership as the membership cards are out! Let's get on it now and not wait until National sends a mailing! If you would like me and the secretary to visit your Unit please contact me via mail, e-mail, or phone. All information is on the officers list.

Prayers go to all who are in need of any kind!

God Bless you, God Bless our Troops, and God Bless America!

President Cindy

Secretary

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Audrey Farnsworth
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First District Officers & Chairman for 2016-2017

Position	Name	Unit#	Street Address	Town	Zip	Phone	Cell	Email Address
President	Cindy Nelson	264	91 14th St. N	Northwood	50459	507-383-3456	507-383-3456	tindylo@hotmail.com
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2nd Vice President	Michelle Weaver	595	183 N 3rd St.	LaCrescent	55945	507-551-2058		weaver.michelle595@gmail.com
Executive Committee	Wanda Prescher	164	3321 VistaView CT SW 325 Fireside DR	Rochester	55902	507-280-4027	507-254-0304	w.prescher@kmbwb.net
Executive Committee	Rachel Schuttenhelm	595		LaCrescent	55947	608-738-5298		
Jr. Past President	Patricia Miner	146	106 E Oak, PO Box 136	Rose Creek	55970	507-433-1326		minerpa24@gmail.com
Chaplain	Jacquelyn Wolff	228	809 5th St SW	Waseca	56093	507-676-5447		jackiewolff26@hotmail.com
Secretary	Sandy Fredrickson	264	771 2nd St. SW	Glenville	56036	507-448-3438	507-383-3776	dsfredrick@gmail.com
Treasurer	Audrey Farnsworth	164	302 1st ST. E	Stewartville	55976	507-533-4454		harlee@charter.net
Parliamentarian	Louise Klieboer	299	329 W. Minnesota Ave	Mabel	55954	507-493-5007		kleibor@mabeltel.coop
Sgt At Arms	Sharon Hammon	161	115 E Cabot ST	LeRoy	55951	507-421-9095		1stadjutant@gmail.com
Americanism Constitution & Bylaws & Standing Rules	Nancy Lewison	146	68127 150th ST Sandy Fredrickson (same as secretary)	Adams	55909	507-582-3390		nalewison@hormel.com
Aux. Emergency Fund	Lynette Wolff	228	1213 Clear Lake DR	Waseca	56093	507-456-3617		
Children & Youth	First Exec Comm Member		Wanda Prescher	See above address				
Community Service	Arlene Hajek	264	88915 145th ST	Glenville	56036	507-433-2403		
Music	Pat Nelson	330	9317 80th Ave SW	Stewartville	55976	507-365-8916		
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Finance	Joyce Olson	56	1930 Wilby RD	Albert Lea	56007	507-373-2896		
	Ardell Swenson	91	89968 290th St	Austin	55912	507-433-2450		
	Gloria Njos	330	PO Box 195	Waltham	55982	507-477-3259		

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Memorial	Jackie Wolff	228	same as above (Chaplain)				
Memory Book	Darlene Heggstad	264	same as above (History)				
National Security	Lana Stanley	264		Austin	55912	507-383-0266	
Past President & PP Panley	Patricia Miner	146	106 E Oak St, Box 136	Rose Creek	55970	407-433-1326	507-251-9219
Poppy	Barb Oakland	330					minerpa_24@msn.com
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Veterans Aff & Rehab	Auxiliary 2nd Vice-President		(see above (2nd Vice-President))				
Service to Our Veterans	Loretta Lechner	333					
Nominating Lead Chair	Jill Mueller	190	548 E 10th St,	St Charles	55972	507-932-4301	507-269-6316
Nominating Comm	Shirley Oberle	92	971 17th St SE	Rochester	55904	507-282-0399	reidoberle@charter.net
Nominating Comm	Ruth Brooks	119	411 3rd Ave NW	Byron	55920	507-775-2725	ruthbrooks@frontiernet.net
Standing Rules L. Chair	Sandy Fredrickson	264	same as above (Secretary)				
Standing Rules Comm	Gloria Njos	330	same as above (Finance committee)				
Standing Rules Comm							

1st District Jr Officers

Honorary Jr President	Johanna Welter	164	11303 55th Ave SW	Stewartville	55976	507-533-9434		
Honorary Jr 1st Vice	Abigayle Wilson							
Honorary Jr 2nd Vice	Mia Lowe	161						
Honorary Jr Secretary	Taylor McElroy	161						
Honorary Jr Treasurer	Haley Schliehter							
Honorary Jr Chaplain	Maizy Lowe	161						
Honorary Jr Historian								
Honorary Jr Sgt at Arms	Bailey Anderson							
Honorary Jr Member at Large								

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



COMMANDER

Ron Wolff

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EAST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

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WEST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

MEMBERSHIP

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548 E 10th St

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From Your Sal Commander

Greetings,

It sure is good to be back as an officer in the 1st District again. I want to start by thanking and congratulating the entire 1st District Legion Family Officers from last year. You all did a great job in keeping the District up and strong.

As I begin my year as Commander I would like to let everyone know that I want to try and make it to as many Squadrons as possible so I can meet you guys. If you have a fundraiser and would like me to help with it just drop me an email and I will be glad to come if I am available or if you want me to come and sit in on a meeting let me know. I pretty much have all my officers in place and I still need a West Vice Commander so if anyone is interested in stepping up to the plate let me know.

We have just started another new Legion year so that means that membership starts over again. I hope by now that all of our Squadrons in the 1st District are off the goose egg and if you are not please send at least one in to Dept. soon so I don't start my year off with nastygrams from my State Commander.

Everyone also needs to send in an Officers list even if you didn't have any changes this year. The Dept. needs this information for contacting you. This can be sent right along with your membership.

I am looking forward to a great year as Commander and please check the newsletter for upcoming District evens as I hope to see some new faces at some of the Conferences and Membership Rally's this year.

Remember to keep our troops and their families in your prayers and hope to see you all soon.

Ron Wolff

1st District SAL Commander

Omelet Breakfast—LaCrescent Squadron 595, 8am to 12pm on the fourth Sunday of every even month all year long.

1st District SAL Officers List

COMMANDER

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CHAPLAIN

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WEST VICE COMMANDER

NONE AT THIS TIME

HISTORIAN

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MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

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AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



RIDERS CONTACT INFORMATION

Greetings,

DIRECTOR

Dennis Lewison
Adams, MN
507/440/6067

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Brett Naylor
Austin, MN

SECRETARY

Tonia Bettermann
Owatonna, MN

SGT AT ARMS

Jim Rinehart
Austin, MN

HISTORIAN

Nancy Lewison
Adams, MN
507/440/2090

CHAPLAIN

Zack Naylor
Austin, MN

ROAD CAPTAIN

Lee Dority
Austin, MN
641/210/9035

The "Second Annual Tour of the First District" was completed on July 9-10th, 2016. We had approximately 100 riders and 100 support vehicles. The article below was written by Nancy Lewiston, ALR Historian and Committee Member, which explains the event.

On behalf of the "Tour of the First District Legions" Committee, Lee Dority, Karla Miller & Roe Naylor and I had a part in this event.

I will admit, when we left the Kasson Post escorted by the police and fire department, I had tears in my eyes and stopped at our legion posts. It was an awesome site to see police and fire departments guarding the riders waiting outside for our arrival.

We cannot express our gratitude enough for the fun, donations and hospitality shown.

For those of you who rode with us, thank you for being alert, safe and considerate of others on the road.

Thank you Riders for your quick response to one of our riders who needed our help. Some of you attended to her that she got on her way for medical attention.

Thank you to the support vehicle for having our back. We needed you and you were there.

We raised over \$14,000 for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Many of us met for the first time and I must admit there was a lot of hugs at the end of the ride.

I am so very proud of all of you. We all have a passion and I can see that this is ours.

Safe Travels ALR

Nancy Lewiston

The First District picnic is Sunday, August 14th, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. at Veterans park in downtown Grand Meadow. (street address else where in this newsletter) Please bring a dish to pass and bring your own alcoholic beverage if desired.

The Department ALR Legacy rides are scheduled. The south area will be Friday-Sunday, August 5-7th, 2016 with a kickoff party hosted by the Austin ALR. The north ride will be Friday-Sunday, August 12-14th, 2106 and ending in Fridley.

Tonia Bettermann
ALR 1st District Secretary



The Legion Family Post 56 2016 Golfing Event



Sunday, August 14, 2016

Green Lea Golf Course • 101 E. Richway Dr., Albert Lea, MN • 507-373-1061

**** Open To Public ****

Noon Registration

1:00 PM SHOTGUN START:

4 Person Best Shot

Beverage Cart Available

Prizes - On Course Games,

Dinner, Cash Bar

Golf: 1:00 Start

Dinner Starts: 5:00pm



RAISING FUNDS TO SUPPORT LEGION FAMILY ACTIVITIES

EACH GOLFER OR 4-SOME MUST COMPLETE REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Sign Up Your 4-Some: _____

GOLF / DINNER: \$50.00 / Per Person

DINNER ONLY: \$10.00 / Per Person

IF QUESTIONS CONTACT:

Barry Coughlin 373-5536

Rex Stotts 373-1586

Mike Levisen 373-1782

Check for Cart Reservation **\$15.00** Per person

Return to Legion OR mail to AMERICAN LEGION, P.O. BOX 1056, ALBERT LEA, MN 560

Checks Payable to American Legion Golf Event



**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA
"FOR GOD AND COUNTRY"**

With over 80,000 members, the Minnesota American Legion is the largest service organization in the state. There are 550 Posts in over 520 communities throughout Minnesota. In Minnesota, American Legion Posts have an impact of millions of dollars and thousands of volunteer hours in making our hometowns better places to live. Legionnaires are proud of their service and are proud to be "Still Serving America."

Referral Card

This card is a tool to use to help recruit new members. Who do you know that is a veteran, (or still serving) that would be interested in joining The American Legion Family? Ask the prospect how The American Legion can help him/her and if they would like more information, point them in the right direction. First impressions are very much determiners if they will come back.

Veterans Name _____

Address, or POC _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Cell, Home, Work _____

Email _____

Recruiter _____ Address _____

Post # _____

Email Address _____

Minnesota American Legion Department PR Committee 2016



The 4 Pillars



- I. Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
- II. National Security
- III. Americanism
- IV. Children and Youth