

# Special Memorial Issue



The Apple Valley Veterans Memorial was erected by Apple Valley American Legion Post 1776 in honor of men and women who died in service to the United States.



In Bagley, at the intersection of U.S. Highway 2 and Minnesota Highway 92, stands the Clearwater County Veterans Memorial.

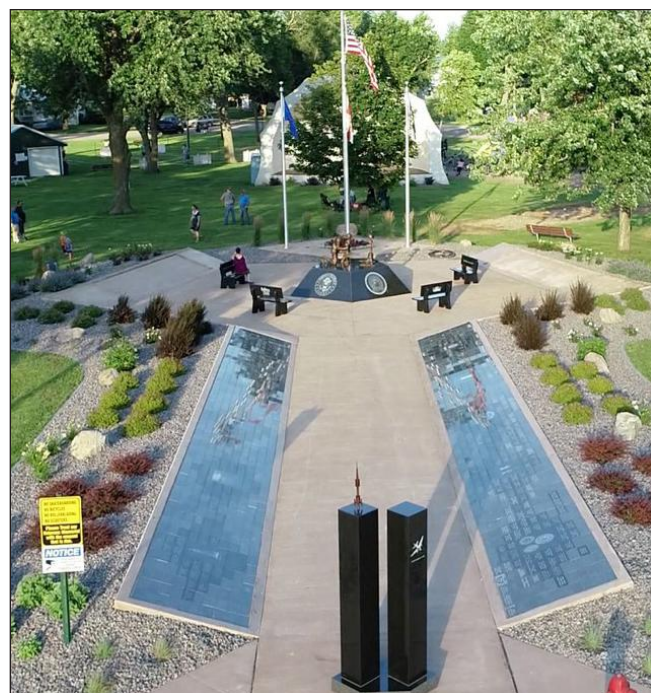


The "Iraq and Afghanistan Fallen Veterans Memorial Becker Minnesota" is an apple tree orchard owned by Lee Peterson. There is one dogtag for each military servicemember who died in Iraq and Afghanistan. there are more than 6,600 dogtags.



The Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial, shown at its dedication, has become a gathering point for many veterans and their families. A fund drive began in 2014 with a goal set to raise \$250,000. That goal was exceeded, and, to date, more than \$330,000 has been raised. The memorial currently has 533 wall pavers.

Photo by Howard Lestrud



The Brewster Veterans Memorial includes 1:200-scale models of the World Trade Center's Twin Towers, with laser-engraved images from the 9/11 attacks. The centerpiece is a bronze likeness of Sgt. Kyle Miller, who was killed in action in Iraq on June 29, 2006, kneeling before a battlefield cross to honor all veterans. There are items to honor all eras, such as jump boots for WWII.



This rendering shows the proposed design for the Bloomington Veterans Memorial, planned for the Bloomington Civic Plaza. The group Bloomington Remembers Veterans is the 501c3 nonprofit raising the funds. Visit [bloomingtonremembersveterans.org](http://bloomingtonremembersveterans.org).



The Brownsville Veterans Memorial was dedicated on Memorial Day in 2021 and is outside the Brownsville Community Center. It was led by Brownsville VFW Post 6801.



Veterans Memorial Park in Cambridge dedicated three engraved granite walls in October 2020. There are now eight walls in place, each supporting 90 blocks.



Veteran's Memorial Park was dedicated by Deer Creek American Legion Post 283 on Memorial Day 2021. It was completed through the efforts of many members and local supporters. It honors all branches of the military, with pavers honoring local individuals.

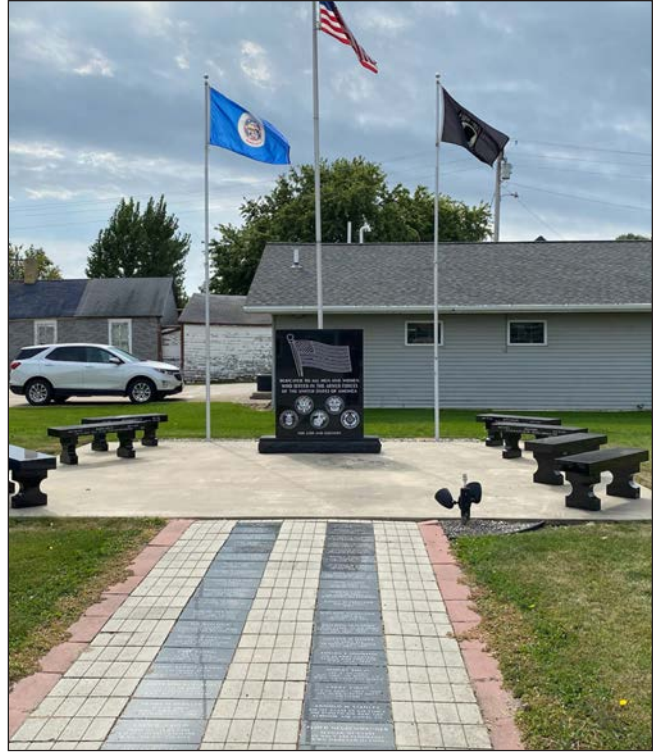
# Special Memorial Issue



The Veterans Memorial Walkway in Crookston was established in 2002.



A major monument at the Gettysburg Battlefield is dedicated to the 1st Minnesota Volunteer Regiment.



The Grygla Veterans Memorial in Grygla has 200 stepping stones and seven benches.



Memorial Park in Dent was established in 2010 by American Legion Post 148 in Dent. The post maintains and administers it, too. It was expanded in 2022.



Planning the Dodge Center Veteran Memorial started in 2010 as a joint effort between the city, American Legion Post 384 and the Dodge County Veteran Service Office. It honors all area veterans from the Civil War to present and was dedicated Nov. 8, 2016.



Vietnam veteran John Mallo spearheaded the effort to build a monument to veterans at Purgatory Creek Park in Eden Prairie, and it was dedicated in 2007. The design committee worked with SRF Consulting Group. It wanted to show how servicemembers desire peace.



Approximately 335 individual veterans are honored at Eden Valley Memorial Park. The memorial was installed in 2008, and it is on Minnesota Highway 22.



The Edgerton Veterans Memorial was dedicated May 31, 2004. The tablets are black granite from India with white lettering for 866 names, with one tablet front and center dedicated to Gold Star veterans. There are 19 flags flown in their honor on holidays.



The Martin County Veterans Memorial in Fairmont has a Cobra helicopter that flew in Vietnam, a black granite memorial wall, bronze statues depicting a funeral flag presentation and other bronze statues of soldiers from many eras, along with benches. Fairmont American Legion Post 36 members have been instrumental in the effort.

# Special Memorial Issue



Fergus Falls is known for its Walk of Flags, but it also has Veterans Memorial Park right along the Otter Tail River. The first pieces were installed in 2016.



Foley American Legion Post 298 built the veterans memorial in their community. It was dedicated on Memorial Day 2021. It is by the Benton County Courthouse.



Harmony American Legion Post 81 raised the funds this past year to install the Harmony Area Veterans Memorial at Harmony's Selvig Park.



Hastings American Legion Post 47 is on the Mississippi River and Levee Park, and along the levee is the Hastings Veterans Memorial. Stone columns represent service branches, and a plaque on the rock indicates the memorial is for those who gave their lives.



Veteran's Memorial Park in Hokah has a memorial established in 2020 in remembrance of all veterans. The memorial was led by Hokah Post 498 and the path to it has 208 bricks so far.



The Lake of the Woods Veterans Memorial in Baudette was dedicated July 1, 2020. At its center is a bronze statue of a veteran reading a letter. The statue is titled "Letter From Home."



Veterans Memorial Park in downtown Long Prairie possesses a monument to the first flag-raising on Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima. The mural scenes were selected to personify the struggle, savagery and sacrifice that all wars bring.



The Wright County Veterans Memorial in Maple Lake depicts two local women who joined the service to help a young wounded soldier who fought during World War II. The two women epitomize love of freedom and of this country.

## We will have to continue this in the next issue

We had such a strong response to the call for photos of veterans memorials that we ran out of pages to print them all in this issue.

You probably noticed that we got from A to M in terms of cities. In the December issue, we plan to print the ones in cities M to Z.

Sorry, Zimmerman. Just know that The

Minnesota Legionnaire can't wait to share the beautiful image you sent us.

In all, we had 56 veterans memorials to print, and we didn't want to shrink the pictures down so small no one could see their beauty.

Thanks for your patience.

— Editor Tim Engstrom



**Veterans  
Crisis Line**  
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

# Listening Post



Tom Olson with the Bruno Post 563 presents a \$1,500 check to Tom Lyons with the Minnesota Military Family Foundation.



Legion members from Wheaton Post 80 and from Rosholt, S.D., Post 48 ride on a float in the annual Threshing Bee Parade in Rosholt. The Wheaton Auxiliary and SAL prepared the float and helped veterans aboard. First row: Wally Johnson and Don Gaulrapp. Second row: Harry Fischer and Francis Finke. Third row: Marv Bach and Ken Luebke. Fourth row: Gene Lundquist, Tom Wagner and Jim Nelson.



St. Francis Post 622 Commander Ray Laudenbach received a free flagpole and flag from Wadena-based Free Flags for Vets. The pole was installed by Boy Scout Troop 90 in Elk River.



Several delegates from Minnesota to the National Convention in Milwaukee joined forces to attend a Milwaukee Brewers game on Monday, Aug. 29.



Dent Post 148 held its annual flag retirement ceremony at St. Paul's School. Kids from St. Paul's and St. Henry's schools participated.



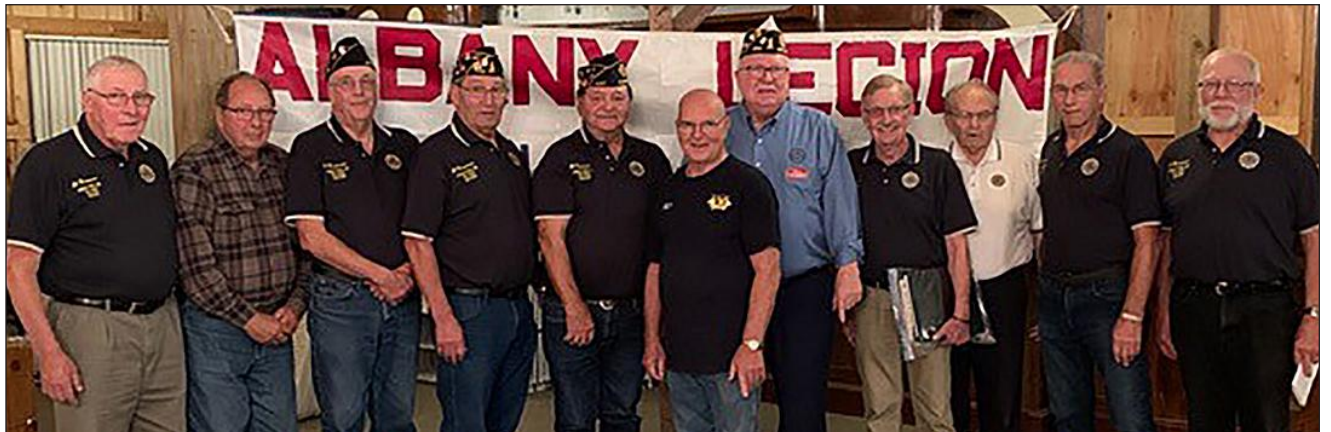
Chippewa County Pheasants Forever and a large turnout for its 2022 Veterans Hunt. There were 71 veterans, with 99 people in total. Thanked were Minnesota Heartland Preserve, Minnesota Deer Hunters: Two Rivers Chapter, Montevideo FFA, CCM Health EMS, all the guide dogs (and their handlers), Fagen Fighters WWII Museum for the flyover and the men and women who have served and those currently serving in the U.S. military.



Lowry Post 253 Commander Tom Hills, right, presents a \$1,000 check to Minnewaska Fairways Fore All President Scott McDonald, whose organization was founded in 2019 to expand access to the game of golf in Pope County. This includes free instruction to veterans.



Ashby Post 357 held a walleye fish fry for residents and staff at the Fergus Falls Veterans Home on Sept. 21. From left are David Ford, Paul Ellingson, Al Boe, Larry Sonmor and fry cook Fred Hanson.



Albany Post 482 celebrated 100 years Oct. 5. From left are Kenneth Schmidt, Vice Commander Mike Deters, Chaplain Glen Breth, Finance Officer Dennis Mareck, Commander Ray Fuchs, Sgt.-at-Arms Arvid Richter, Past Department Commander Lloyd Ricker, Adjutant Roger Wolf, PSO Terence Schwab, Membership Director David Mareck and Honor Squad Commander Michael Noll.



Fairmont Chamber of Commerce Office Manager Kandi Menne accepts a \$6,000 donation for the Junior Achievement Program, which educates 1,200 school youth, from Fairmont Post 36 Commander Steve Fosness.

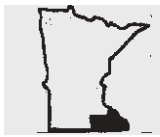


Melrose Post 101 on Sept. 27 provided a field trip for Sacred Heart School sixth-graders to Camp Ripley. The children went through the Conservation Center, Military Museum, state cemetery, dining hall and got to watch C-130 transport planes.



Eagan Administrator Mike Sipper, left, holds a U.S. flag with Eagan Post 594 Adjutant John Rayman, with Commander Wayne Beierman on the right. Post 594 annually provides American flags to the city for its locations.

# District commanders



## 1st District

Mary Hanson



Hello, American Legion Family.

Veterans Day is Nov. 11. Go out and enjoy the activities at your posts and local schools. Our organization was founded on the ideal of mutual helpfulness. Visit veterans at nursing homes. Invite a fellow veteran you have not seen in a while out to lunch or dinner. Make somebody's day brighter.

On Oct. 15, the 1st District held its Fall Rally. It was hosted by the Le Roy Post 161 at the community center in Le Roy. It was well-attended, and we had representation across the Legion Family. It is a start, and I am hoping we can make it grow.

The speaker for the rally was Joshua Jensen, the community liaison for Zumbro Valley Health Center in Rochester. He gave a very good presentation on suicide. Joshua used his own experiences, sprinkled with light-hearted humor, to give

us a little better understanding of this emotional subject.

I know I gleaned new insight on the subject of suicide. A better understanding may help us "Be The One."

The post visits by the area vice commanders have begun. Please be welcoming when they come to your post. They are not the enemy and need to be treated with some respect. They are doing the job they were tasked with when they accepted the position with the district. Please bring your questions to them on American Legion matters.

If they don't know the answers, it will be provided in a timely manner. The district leadership is full of knowledgeable members and we are willing to help in any way we can.



## 2nd District

Pam Krill



Congratulations, 2nd District! As of the last membership report the 2nd District is sitting second place in membership. This shows we are out there working and showing our dedication to each and every member of The American Legion. Thank you to everyone who has the commitment and dedication to keep our district out front.

As we move on to the holiday seasons with Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day, please remember to take the time to spend with your family and support the events in your local posts and in the community. Continue to represent The American Legion to your community, our children and their families. Hopefully, those who are eligible will see the unity and the commitment to family The American Legion has to offer. Open your arms to those who may be interested in joining and help them find their purpose to be a member of The American Legion.

Membership is important in The American Legion, but I believe we need to help everyone find their purpose and where they fit into the American Legion Family. Many of our members like to be behind the scenes and support our events, whether they are membership drives, Friday

night dinners, luncheons, parades, we all have our purpose. Let's do what we can to help everyone find their purpose and what they can do to help the American Legion Family!

The 2nd District is planning two membership drives and revitalizations, and we would like to invite anyone from the district who would like to participate. One in Fairmont at Lee C. Prentice Post 36 on Nov. 18. We will start with a post open house during the city's annual Glows Parade and then on Saturday, we will work on calling members on active lists.

Our second event is tentatively scheduled at Troska Post 210 in Wells on Dec. 2. It will host its regular burger burn on Friday evening, and then Saturday, we will be working membership lists and working on transferring members in the area into their post.

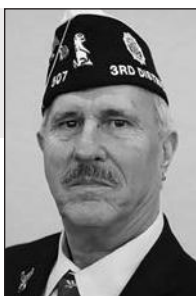
We are looking at hosting one more event and details will follow in upcoming articles.

Keep pushing 2nd District. You are all truly Second 2 None! I thank you for your hard work and dedication. Thank you all, again.



## 3rd District

Gary Richardson



By the time this is published, the Department of Minnesota Fall Conference will be a memory, and it will be time to put what has been learned into action for the remainder of the 2022-23 Legion year. Ask yourselves: What can I do to implement what I have learned.

The national website queried, "How will you observe Veterans Day?"

Nov. 11 is approaching. Now is the time to get the word out to

your local community if you plan to hold services for this important observation of our veterans. The national HQ is encouraging posts and districts to let their know of these events at sbrooks@legion.org.

More information can be found at: [www.legion.org/honor/257145/how-will-](http://www.legion.org/honor/257145/how-will-)

you-observe-veterans-day.

In keeping with the national commander's request to "Be The One," think about what you can do to help a veteran in need or in crisis. Sometimes all it takes is a phone call, Buddy Check, or a simple, "Are you doing OK?" to make a difference.

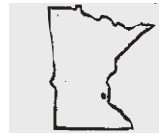
The national website has many resources available to answer your questions or assist in getting someone the help they need. Check it out at [www.legion.org/betheone](http://www.legion.org/betheone). Until next month get out there and make a difference!

to finish out the 2022-2023 term. Please make him feel welcome.

The district bought video equipment from department for \$350. We will use this equipment for all our meetings the rest of the year. If you would like to learn how to use equipment,

please let me know.

I attended Junior Auxiliary fun day Oct. 8 in Melrose. It was great to meet the Juniors and our Honorary Junior Auxiliary president. Ashley Stai is a wonderful addition to our Legion Family as are all the wonderful girls. Stay warm.



## 4th District

David Dahl



All veterans are welcome.

Finally, I'd like to invite everyone (veterans, family, and neighbors) to participate in this year's Veterans Day Walk starting at 1 p.m. The walk begins and ends at the Veterans Service Building, 20 West 12th St. This is at the south end of the Capitol Complex.

Note: If you are reading this column from a printed paper, point your smartphone camera at the QR codes to get fliers for each of these two events. If you are reading this column online, simply click on the blue links.

Still serving. Serving veterans and serving our communities!

In this month's column I'm going to ask you to do three things.

First, I want everyone to get out on Nov. 8 and VOTE!

Consult your county elections office to see if you have options for early voting. You may also get additional information at the Minnesota secretary of state's website.

Second, we need help to spread the word among Twin Cities metro area veterans regarding our new Veteran's Coffee Talk. This is a group which meets every Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. at the Veteran's Resource and Empowerment Center (also known as Every Third Saturday) located at 5402 43rd Ave. S. in Minneapolis.



## 5th District

Lynne Nottage



Happy fall!

Although it seems more like winter as I write this, with spring coming again this weekend. Only in Minnesota!

The 5th District is working very hard on all sorts of different projects, with membership being on the top of our list. I would like to remind all posts, that your officers of the district are here to help you with anything you may need. Each Post has an officer assigned to be there for your assistance. If you are not sure who your assigned officer is and there is something you need help with, or even just a question, please contact me at [lynnenot@gmail.com](mailto:lynnenot@gmail.com) or Adjutant Ray Eiden.

Fifth District SAL Commander Shawn David, President Jill Davis and I have been coordinating on restarting the newsletter for the 5th District

(different from our E-Flash). If you have any articles or events that you would like to see in the newsletter, please contact one of us prior to Nov. 15.

With Veterans Day coming up, I would like to suggest to everyone to reach out and thank a veteran that you don't know. Most of us are pretty easy to spot! Many of us veterans don't have someone who remembers to thank them. It will make them feel good, and probably do the same for you.

Minneapolis Post 1 will have a free meal and beverage on Veterans Day for any veteran, and a reduced meal for anyone traveling with you. Stop in and meet the members of Post 1!



## 6th District

Karen O'Bar

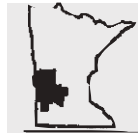


Happy fall/winter my fellow Legion Family members.

Halloween will be over by the time this comes out so I hope everyone got their fill of candy. Now on to the turkey. We held our 6th District Executive Committee meeting in Park Rapids on Oct. 2. Lots of things were covered.

Sixth District West Sub Vice

Leslie Krufft is currently undergoing medical issues and asked to step down. Mike VanHeel, who was endorsed for same position 2023-2024, accepted the executive committee's nomination and will step in early



## 7th District

Karen Welander



Hello fellow veterans.

Fall has arrived and winter is approaching with the holiday season just around the corner.

Let us reflect on all that we have to be thankful for — our freedom of speech to speak freely, live and work where we want, and worship as we choose.

We have veterans to thank for all the sacrifices they have made, by choice. Stop and thank a veteran. Attend one of the many excellent programs that our posts, schools and communities provide.

Always

remember to thank a veteran, especially on Veterans Day. Freedom is not free. Support those who defend your right to live free. A veteran is a veteran.

I need all post commanders and adjutants to call their unpaid members and do a Buddy Check. Let's work together to get all our renewals in ASAP. Our members are the power of The American Legion.



## 8th District

Larry Pocrnich



Hello veterans.

I hope you attended one of the Veterans Day celebrations at the post or other places that were offering meals to veterans. The posts are there to help veterans and their families in situations that they need help in. The department is putting training classes to help you do just that. The department has a training group that will help the post or come to the Fall Conference in St. Cloud and find out more on Oct. 28.

Membership is coming in but some posts are under the 50% mark yet, let's try and get the veterans into the organization. We are in 5th place in standings, and would like to be in the top three by spring. The 8th can do it, we were 2nd last year and it felt great. If you need help with anything contact your vice commander or me, we are glad to help.

The 8th District had a Coast Guard enlisted person in Duluth who took the honor of being the Outstanding Guard/Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year. It is Petty Officer 2nd Class Ryan

Bradley.

Congratulations! We need more applications of our service officers sent in. The Iron Range has many of these members here. Not only that field but law enforcement, fire, EMS, get them signed up in the field they are in. Contact any American Legion post to find out.

There is also competition for the students also — Boys State, Girls State, Oratorical — there are scholarships for being in the programs. Competition is at its best. The forms are sent to each post adjutant after February of the year. Talk to the post officers to find out when these begin.

Be The One who has the next veteran at the meeting to introduce to the post, person may just be the next leader to take over the post.

If your post does a function, put it on Facebook and advertise it and put it on your CPR. Thank you for all you do to help veterans.



## 9th District

Terry Buraas



By voting we use the right to select the people who govern us. If you do not like the people who make the laws, use your vote and ask others to make sure they vote. The last president seems to feel he won the election and pushed followers to make a stand.

To me that was stupid people pushing their agenda against the majority. Our political system has worked for many years, and I hope it continues to work. Guns are not votes and storming the

congressional offices is the mistake of the small minded who feel they know what is best for the majority. A country where majority rules by use of the vote will continue to rule justly. Majority is rule by the people for the people

Hope this gets across to the small minded.

See Page 16 for the 10th District.





# The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 23 Vol. 4

President Mary Kuperus • Treasurer Cathy Radil, cathy@mnala.org

Dept. HQ: Veterans Service Building, St. Paul, MN 55155 651-224-7634 November 2022

## Learn about the birth of the Legion Auxiliary

### President's Column

Mary Kuperus



The Auxiliary membership notices are in the mail; hopefully, you have received yours. Please, continue to send in memberships in a timely manner. We all know that membership is the backbone of our organization. A national dues increase of \$6 a year was voted in at the National Convention in Milwaukee.

Starting in 2024, \$30 total will be sent to department for yearly dues for national and department. Please be sure that your unit dues will cover that amount plus any district dues you pay.

The Northwestern Junior Meeting along with Mission Training is being held on Nov. 5 in Minneapolis at the Radisson Blu Mall of America hotel. I sure hope you are able to attend and are bringing your Junior members. This is time to learn about our programs, meet new friends, and to discover more about the American Legion Auxiliary.

The American Legion Auxiliary's 103rd birthday is on Nov. 10. The Preamble and the Constitution of The American Legion was approved, and on Sept. 16, 1919, the U.S. Congress chartered The American Legion. During The American Legion's first convention Nov. 10, 1919, members and officials "birthed" the American Legion Auxiliary. At the Legion's second convention in September 1920, the Legion sanctioned the Auxiliary. The Legion's Committee on Women's Auxiliary presented some recommendations to the Legion, one being that the women decide upon their name.

And the women did just that at the Auxiliary's first convention in 1921, omitting the word "women's" — thus becoming the *American Legion Auxiliary*. Male spouses of female veterans who are American Legion Auxiliary members can now join as an Auxiliary member. The ladies in 1921 were really forward-thinking!

Veterans Day is on Nov. 11. Veterans Day is the day to honor all veterans! Minnesota Veterans Day Program will be held on Nov. 11 at the Veterans Memorial Community Center in Inver Grove Heights starting at 8:30 am with a breakfast with the program following at 10. Many local posts, units, schools and community members will be hosting Veterans Day programs. Please attend if you are able.

I was able to spend some time with the Past 6th District presidents at their luncheon hosted by Elk River Unit 112. I had a great time! I attended the Legionnaire Board of Publications meeting, also. Very interesting. Thank you for all the invitations to your units and districts. I look forward to attending as many as I can.

The Pearl Harbor Membership Rally is on Dec. 3 in Spicer hosted by the American Legion Riders.

It starts at 11 a.m. with a social hour and membership turn-in for the American Legion Auxiliary. Watch for more information.

The job posting for our department executive secretary is in this issue. Please encourage those you know who would be interested to apply. Thank you.

As we "Serve and Honor Every Day," let's remember all veterans who have served our country at home and abroad. Continue to support our military and their families whether serving overseas or stateside. Our communities continue to need our support in many ways. Thank you for all you do for our veterans!

*Mary Kuperus of New London Unit 537 is the president of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota. Her theme is "Serve and Honor Every Day."*

## Please send JPGs, not PDFs, for photographs in Legionnaire

If your unit wishes to have photos of its activities in The Minnesota Legionnaire, please send a JPG with a caption. This means attaching the JPG to the an email to Treasurer Cathy Radil, then having the caption either in the email itself or as a Word attachment.

Also, it's best not to shrink the JPG file size. Bigger is better so that it can be printed on paper without fuzzy resolution.

Please do not send your photos and captions combined together as a PDF. Once you make a PDF, it is its own design and cannot be paginated into a Legionnaire-style layout.

Imagine trying to make a cake out of ingredients given to you, and one of those ingredients is a whole other kind of cake. It doesn't work! You can't make a chocolate cake out of someone's angel food cake. You end up just setting it aside, right?

Thank you for understanding.

— Editor Tim Engstrom



Fifth District Past President's Luncheon at Carbone's in Minneapolis on Sept. 24. Front row: Bonnie Brenna, Julie Martin, Carol Fasching, Ramona Nack, Deb Bayer. Back row: Sherry Wright, Sonnie Dauphin, Cari Lamb, Becky Nelson, Colleen Grill.

## This kind of PPP helps mentor new members

November is Past Presidents Parley Month. I hope that every unit and district has past presidents. Through the Past Presidents Parley, members who have served as unit, district, department and national presidents can continue in active service to the Auxiliary to help ensure a strong leadership future for the organization.

Past Presidents Parley can play an important part in mentoring of current members to develop knowledgeable leadership within the unit and district.

### Past Presidents Parley

Jean Walker



They can support and assist in a recruitment effort for new members, provide guidance and constructive feedback that should help the unit or district maintain continuity and good cooperation. This group should hold a luncheon to share news and activities within their unit or district. You can also as a group choose to donate funds or raise

funds for the Past Presidents Health-care scholarship.

Remember, the deadline for the Past Presidents Parley Health Care Scholarship is earlier than the annual report. If you have

any questions, please feel free to contact me for more information at 218-686-1829 or jmwalker1992@hotmail.com. The Unit Guide is also a great tool for information. This guide has all the information for the scholarships. Past presidents are the best ambassadors for the American Legion Auxiliary, so share your knowledge and help us grow as an organization.

*Jean Walker is the chairman of the Past Presidents Parley Committee.*



## POSITION OPENING: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Resumes with cover letters are being accepted for the position of Executive Secretary for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota. Persons who are interested must be an American Legion Auxiliary member.

This position provides the leadership, management, and supervision necessary to ensure that the organization has the proper operational controls, administrative and reporting procedures, and systems in place to effectively grow the organization and to ensure financial strength and operating efficiency. This is a full-time position and is based in the St. Paul office. This position requires some weekend meetings and may include out of state travel.

Applicants must have a degree in business administration or ten years equivalent experience to include at least five years in a managerial or supervisory capacity, preferably in a nonprofit environment.

Resumes and cover letters should be sent to: Mary Kuperus American Legion Auxiliary Department President 313 Pine St. SW, New London MN 56273 Or emailed to: wmkuperus@tds.net.

A job description and application form are available on request.

This position open until filled. Interviewing will begin on Dec. 10, 2022.

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
<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>28,957</b>	<b>2,551</b>	<b>11,424</b>	<b>39.45%</b>	<b>14195</b>	<b>2,771</b>
<b>Group 1 (Even)</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>14,383</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>5,575</b>	<b>38.76%</b>	<b>7,093</b>	<b>1,518</b>
<i>Judy Ackerman</i>							
<b>Group 2 (Odd)</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>14,371</b>	<b>1,293</b>	<b>5,694</b>	<b>39.62%</b>	<b>6,959</b>	<b>1,265</b>

ALA Department of Minnesota membership as of Oct. 25.

# All Legion organizations need to work together

By Sandy Wersal  
Membership Chairman

Pay it forward. Do you have a member who needs a little financial help this year paying dues? Don't let their membership lapse. Renew it for them, and next year they can do this for someone else. Maybe there is a Junior member you can support, or your last year's Girl State citizen, after checking with her parents.

Membership efforts in Minnesota are an American Legion Family mission. We need to work together as one organization. When signing up a new Auxiliary members, ask about any family members who our eligible for the Legion, SAL and Riders.



Our next department membership rally, Pearl Harbor, is hosted by the American Legion Riders. It is Dec. 3 in Spicer. Wear or bring your plaid shirt for the pay off part of the program. It will be fun!

If you have questions call me at 320-354-4517.

I am Membership Chairman Sandy Wersal. *Mighty Minnesota Membership.*

It was great to see that letter come in the mail!

It said, "Here's Your Membership Renewal Notice for the American Legion Auxiliary," on the front of the envelope. Getting the renewal notice the second week in October from Indianapolis, gave us a late start.

But with the weather turning cold and staying inside more, we can focus on sending in membership. And, yes, we will get caught up! Numbers our looking better already.



Bede Schmidt presents 50-year membership certificates to Geri Dirkes and Marci Mareck at the Albany Post 482 100-year anniversary dinner.

## Awards of Excellence

At the Department Convention in July in Willmar, Departing President Patti Coleman was pleased to present her special President's Award of Excellence to the unit in each program whose annual report and activities was the most outstanding. Each recipient received a plaque. Here are those award-winners:

- Americanism
- Aux. Emergency Fund
- Children & Youth
- Community Service
- Constitution Bylaws & Standing Rules
- Education
- History
- Junior Activities
- Leadership
- Legislation
- Memorial
- National Security
- Past Presidents Parley
- Poppy
- Public Relations
- Service to Veterans
- Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
- Cold Spring Unit 455
- Chaska Unit 57
- Elysian Unit 311
- Karlstad Unit 445
- Shakopee Unit 2
- Elk River Unit 112
- Cold Spring Unit 455
- Trimont Unit 373
- Hackensack Unit 202
- Elysian Unit 311
- Hutchinson Unit 96
- Hutchinson Unit 96
- Faribault Unit 43
- Karlstad Unit 445
- Spicer Unit 545
- Elysian Unit 311
- Shakopee Unit 2

See Page 5 for the All-Legion Family Calendar.



Photo by Lou Michaels

Members of the 4th District Auxiliary gather in October at North St. Paul Post 39 for their monthly meeting.

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Serving veterans is a primary mission for the Elk River American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112. When the need for fidget blankets for the St. Cloud VA Adult Day Care Center was identified, members of the auxiliary went to work. A "fidget blanket bee" was held on Sept. 22 where members and friends met to cut fabric, assemble and sew the 18-inch x 20-inch blankets. Delivery to the VA was made on Oct. 12 by Unit 112 member Diane Telfer and 1st Vice President Michele Smith and accepted by VA Voluntary Services Assistant Debra Breth.



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## Help for veterans and families



Photos by Chuck Stone

There was a successful six-for-six Zgoda Deer Hunt this year at Legionville Education Center in early October. The annual hunt, hosted by the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Minnesota, brings disabled veterans to the woods of Legionville to track down deer.



Hunters get around the woods of Legionville, which is north of Brainerd, on side-by-side ATVs.



## 10th District

William Gordon



The fall colors are impressive this time of year. I have been out visiting posts, and I am sure my historian is not going to be happy with me, because I have not had any pictures taken to send to him. That said, I am grateful for the hospitality the posts members and officers have shown to me. Not every post has a building to meet in. What every post does have are dedicated members. The hour or two you contribute doing your business meeting once a month is only a small part of the magnificent work you do. The service you continue to give to your fellow veterans, families and our communities is the foundation of our great organization.

you out. Also, if you are not receiving our district newsletter, please send me your email address, and I will make sure you do. My email address is wgordon2494@hotmail.com or leave me a voicemail message at 763-515-3686.

I would also like you to take look around our local communities, who is a deserving first responder, police officer, sheriff deputy, or servicemember of the year? Please get the endorsement forms filled out and submitted. Who are you sending to the district oratorical contest to earn a scholarship? Who are you sending to boys/girl's state? How many students from your community are attending Legionville? I know that the students today are remarkably busy with sports and other activities for them to do.

Our federal charter requires us to submit an annual report to Congress on our activities for the year. The Consolidated Post Report or CPR is a discriminator and weighs heavy on requests for National Emergency Fund support. It also provides a way for us to tell the department what your post has been doing. These reports are extremely helpful when giving out rewards for various activities you have accomplished in your communities. The CPR can be worked on all year, so, it will not be a burden at the end of the year.

Yet every student I have ever spoken with who have taken part in these programs are so thankful for the opportunity they had to take part in these programs.

If you are not sure how to accomplish this, please reach out to me or the district adjutant, or your local district vice commander, and we will help

This is another way you can reach out to get members of our community involved, which may also allow our fellow veterans to see how they can be effective as a Legionnaire, Auxiliary, Junior, SAL or ALR member in their local post.

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