

THE MIGHTY FIRST DISTRICT

The American Legion Department of Minnesota

August 2026



Commander

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Veterans Crisis Line

988 Press 1 for live chat or text

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Minnesota Legion Depart Office

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Minnesota ALA Office

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THE MIGHTY FIRST DISTRICT

The American Legion Department of Minnesota

August & September 2026 Events

Date	Event	Time / Place	Details
Aug 14-16	Junior Fun Weekend	Check-in: Friday, Aug 14th 5:00–8:00 p.m. (Please do not arrive before 5:00 p.m.) Dinner will be served after 6:00 p.m. Check-out: Sunday, Aug 16th by 11:00 a.m.	Come enjoy a weekend filled with fun, friendship, and activities for our Junior members!
Aug 16	District Picnic	Noon Veteran's Memorial Park Grand Meadow, MN	Chicken and sweet corn provided. Bring a dish to share. Bring a seat to sit on, your beverages, and your utensils. ALL MEMBERS OF THE FIRST DISTRICT FAMILY ARE INVITED!
Aug 28	National Convention	Louisville, KY	
Sept 9-13	Camporee	Legionville	The 60th annual Camporee is a fundraiser for the Legionville Education Center.
Sept 17-20	ALR Romp	Legionville	
Sept 26	Fall Rally	Byron Post 119	
Sept 29-30	Zgoda Memorial Deer Hunt	Legionville	

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**



1st DISTRICT FAMILY PICNIC

1st DISTRICT FAMILY PICNIC

★ JOIN US FOR A DAY OF CELEBRATION ★

WHERE: **VETERANS
MEMORIAL PARK**

200-298 Main Street North, Grand Meadow



Site of old school



★ WHEN: **AUGUST 16th AT NOON** ★

FOOD & FUN!

CHICKEN
and
SWEET CORN
will be
PROVIDED

★ BRING YOUR OWN: ★

Drinks



Utensils



and a Dish to share



1st District Legion Contacts



Veterans ★ Defense ★ Youth ★ Americanism ★ Communities

Commander

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Adjutant

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Membership

Mary Hanson
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Chaplain

Empty

Area One Vice Commander

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Area Two Vice Commander

Richard W Klindworth Jr.
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Area Three Vice Commander

Sy Fix
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Area Four Commander

Mary Hanson
507-440-3606
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Members of the 1st District American Legion Family.... After a great deal of consideration...I have. decided that after the occurrence of certain things, it is time to publish the following Statement: As per discussion with Department personnel, I have found out the District Commander has the final word about what articles are printed in the District Newsletter. If an article does not meet the Standards of the District- it will not be published.... period!

Newsletter Submission Reminder All articles must be submitted by the 26th of each month. Any submissions received after that date—without prior communication to Michelle regarding the delay—will not be included in that month's newsletter. Newsletter items should be emailed to bigredonenewsletter@gmail.com. Please note: There will not be a July newsletter. Per the District Legion Bylaws, the District publishes 11 newsletters per year, August through June. Thank you for helping us keep our District communications timely and organized.

The 1st District Leadership

The opinions and viewpoints expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the individual authors. They do not necessarily reflect the official positions of the 1st District American Legion Family, the Department of Minnesota American Legion Family, or the National American Legion Family. Inclusion of any article, announcement, or advertisement does not constitute endorsement



FROM YOUR COMMANDER DESK

GREETINGS, LEGION FAMILY.

As we move into August, I want to extend my sincere thanks to all who attended both the District Convention and the Department Convention this year. Your presence, your engagement, and your commitment to our mission made a tremendous impact. It was truly encouraging to see such a strong turnout from across the Mighty First—your dedication continues to strengthen our District and the work we do for veterans, families, and our communities.

During convention season, I also had the pleasure of seeing the Legion Riders as they rolled through Dodge Center. Their energy, camaraderie, and visible pride in representing the American Legion Family are always inspiring. Moments like that remind us how connected we are across our Posts, Units, and Squadrons.

Looking ahead, I'm optimistic about the year before us. With the momentum we've built and the passion our members continue to show, I know we are positioned for a productive and meaningful year of service.

I hope to see many of you at the **District Picnic on August 16th in Grand Meadow**. It's a wonderful opportunity to gather, share fellowship, and enjoy a summer afternoon together. Your participation is what makes these events special.

Thank you again for all you do. The Mighty First District is strong because of you.

Respectfully,

Myron Enrich

District Commander

First District, Department of Minnesota

Chaplain's Corner

As the new year starts, our District is missing a Chaplain, as are many posts. Seems people are hesitant for this role because they are afraid of what it means so here it is, straight from the American Legion.

The chaplaincy has many purposes.

1. To help persons grow in their relationship with God and one another.
 2. Serve as a reminder of the transcendent and seek to develop an environment within which Legionnaires are encouraged in their personal and collective moral and spiritual growth.
 3. We are to remind all Americans that God is the source of all rights and privileges.
 4. The American Legion is comprehensive in nature embracing all religions, faiths, and denominations within its ranks.
 5. The chaplaincy being non-denominational and non-sectarian, wishes to minister to the spiritual needs of all without regard to either affiliation or non-affiliation.
 6. Chaplains seek to minister to people wherever there is a need. For many, chaplains are the only ministers they will ever know, as they have no affiliation with church, synagogue, or other religious institution.
 7. The role of the chaplain is ever increasing due to the aging of our membership.
 8. Each Legionnaire should be alert to the physical and spiritual needs of his/her comrades.
 9. The chaplain should be notified when there is death, illness, or special concern in the membership. At that point the chaplain should provide all ministry and service available.
-

Granted that sounds like a full-time job, and it can be, as any of the positions (elected or appointed) can be; so, I'm going to simplify it.

1. A Chaplain is a person of faith who cares about their brothers and sisters in the Legion.
2. They do the invocation and benediction at meetings.
3. They lead memorial events, so we do not forget our POW/MIA brother and sisters.
4. They do as much as they can.

For those of you who are spiritual, please pray about if you could be a chaplain at the District or Post level. If so, and there's a need, let the current commander know.

Deb

Adjutant's Corner

And thus, a new year begins! Membership Chairs are busy getting cards out. Adjutants are busy wrapping up last year and getting ready for this year. Directors, Vice Directors, County Commanders, Post Officers, and EVERY other officer is busy trying to figure out whether they've gotten themselves into or why they're still doing it. Another Legionnaire shared with me a document titled "*How to Ruin Your American Legion Post*". The points have stayed with me, but they are judgmental and passive, in my opinion, so I'm going to share them here in a positive tone. The hope is at least one point will help at least one point gain one member, get involved in one more thing, set one more goal, regain a little more hope.

Attend Post and meetings and activities.

Arrive on time and participate.

Support the officers and other members, we are all volunteers.

Thank people for their time and work, it is a sacrifice.

Attend committee meetings if you accept an appointment.

Do give your thoughts and opinions in a positive, contributive way-arguing does not get anything accomplished.

Roll up your sleeves even if for just one event, fund raiser, or membership drive.

Pay your dues early.

Reach out to all veterans in the community and encourage them to join.

Educate yourself with all the benefits of the Legion so you can share them with those you reach out to.

When you get a new post member, introduce yourself and make them a part of your family.

As a "family" organization, ensure activities meant to be for the family include ALL the family members, and don't forget the community either.

Mentor the new and younger members, learn their desires, interests and skills before asking them to take on a leadership role.

Let's make this year a great year. Heal wounds. Support our families. Grow our members. Take care of each other. Keep the Buddy Checks going, one is too many! Serve when and where you can. Say no thought if you know you can't, it's okay.

Deb

From Your Membership Director

Hi All,

Here is an update on missing membership cards from National. Please see below. If you have any questions, please contact me.

The primary TAL, SAL and DR1 card runs have been completed and mailed. However, the following card types are temporarily delayed:

- Paid Up For Life (PUFL) cards
- SAL cards for members who hold both TAL and SAL memberships

Department-requested replacement or reprinted cards

Although the primary SAL card run has been completed, cards for dual TAL/SAL members require a separate extract and print process. That process, along with PUFL and replacement-card printing, is currently unavailable because of temporary cybersecurity-related system access restrictions and specialized production requirements.

They have reviewed the available alternatives, but no reasonable temporary work-around will allow these orders to be processed safely and accurately.

They currently expect processing to resume on Wednesday, July 29. Requests already submitted will remain in the queue and do not need to be resubmitted. They will notify departments promptly if the expected timeline changes.

**** The district goals have been submitted to Department. As soon as all districts are uploaded we should start seeing membership reports.

Please get memberships submitted as soon as possible. There is no reason to hold back on dues payments. Do not sit on them. Do not hold them for any reason.

I am looking forward to another membership year.

Thank you,

Mary Hanson

1st District Membership Director

mfhanson52@charter.net

507-440-3606

Area 3 Vice Commander

Another fiscal year has come and gone. New Department officers. Pam Krill elected our Department Commander. Attendance to Department Convention continues to decline. The 1st didn't have enough folks there to have an individual attend committee meetings. It gets a bit frustrating when members want to know the why's and how's and how comes but won't attend a convention. We have had District Conventions just several miles down the road from a Post yet nobody from that Post showed up. Its great to have membership. We just need to be more active. Some folks want to blame the good old boys syndrome. I firmly believe that is not the case. In many cases we have gone past that. The younger generation seem to think a Post is someplace for the older members to socialize. Can that happen? Sure. But most Posts these days don't even have a home Post yet they are still put in that category. Some folks say there's no incentive to join or there's nothing for them or their family. I say why not try it out and if you feel there's nothing then step up and make something happen. One cannot rely on the same folks year after year after year. Point being if you know of someone that wants to be an officer at any level get their names in. There are openings within the District or there could be. I took Area 3 Vice Commander only because nobody stepped up. Some of us have taken up more then 1 Chairmanship in the District. I always hope that someone would step up and say hey Sy can I have Oratorical Chairman or Americanism Chairman. I will say tho that I am Americanism Chairman because I am also on the Department Americanism committee and on National Americanism Council so it just make sense but doesn't mean I have to stay on as District Chairman.

The long and the short of it is let's find new blood. Not just in new members but long time members who may not be very active but have just never been pushed a little or encourage to try. Never hurts to try.

Sy Fix

Area 4 Vice Commander

Legionnaires,

I will be the Area 4 Vice Commander again for the district. I will be contacting the posts to schedule post visits. I will say, I enjoy attending membership dinners and other functions if I am available.

I hope to see you at the District Picnic on August 16th at the Veterans Park in Grand Meadow at noon. Fellowship and good food. What more can you ask for?

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or issues.

Mary Hanson

1st District Area 4 Vice Commander

507-440-3606



Changeover in Stewartville

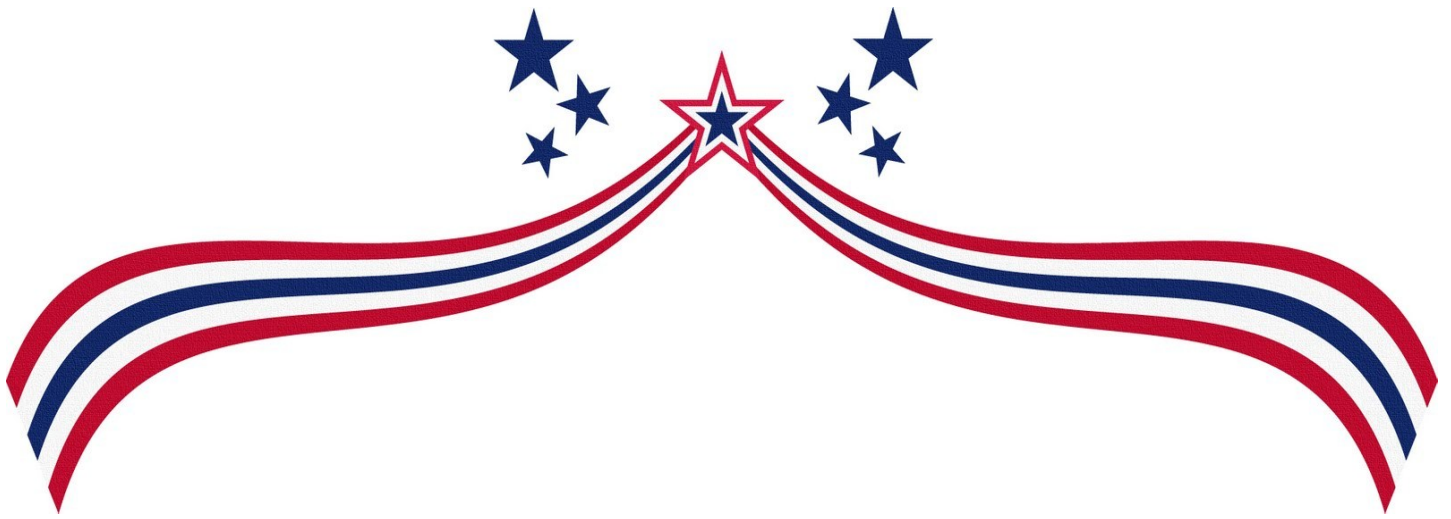


Commander Myron Ehrich and Past Commander Brian Medinnus

LEGION LEADERSHIP — 2026–2027 —



Left to right Historian Sandy Gessler, Judge Advocate Check Kreuger, Membership and Area 4 Vice Commander Mary Hanson, Richard Grobe Area One Vice Commander, Sy Fix Area 3 Vice Commander, Gary Weaver Finance Officer, and Commander Myron Ehrich



Commander Brian and President Wanda at Department Convention



The First District
Department of Minnesota
The American Legion



Proposed Constitution & Bylaw Changes

Will be discussed and voted on at First District Convention 2027

Constitution Revision 6 states

GRAMMAR AND SPELLING CORRECTIONS

- Make Grammar changes throughout to make document tense consistent.
 - Rationale: make document read proactive not reactive.
- Add 'classes and the' to Preamble to make it correct.
 - Rationale: was, "to combat the autocracy of both the masses;"

ARTICLE IV - ELIGIBILITY

Proposed Change:

Section 1: The LEGION Act offers American Legion membership eligibility to any U.S. military veteran who served at least one day of active military duty since Dec. 7, 1941, and was honorably discharged or is serving now.

Rationale: Per The American Legion membership page and the LEGION Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-35), "If you have served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and were honorably discharged or you are still serving active military duty honorably, you are eligible for membership with The American Legion."

Bylaws Revision 6 states

GRAMMAR AND SPELLING CORRECTIONS

- Make Grammar changes throughout to make document tense consistent.
 - Rationale: make document read proactive not reactive.

10) Eligibility

Proposed Change:

Second Paragraph: District Officers, elected and appointed, shall present documentation of an honorable discharge or proof of separation.

Rationale: IRS Letter TEGE-04-1113-21 dated 26 Nov 2013 and correspondence from Mark Seavey, National Judge Advocate, these documents are not to be kept any longer once eligibility is proven due to privacy laws.

12) Remote Communication

Proposed Change:

Meetings can be held via electronic means if members have a reasonable need to be absent. The Commander and Adjutant will determine the need for this.

The Technology Team, along with the Public Relations team, should form a committee to determine how Rallies, Conferences and Conventions can be properly streamed or recorded, ensuring privacy laws are followed.

Rationale: When the original bylaw was written, a pandemic was happening and virtual was the only way to keep things going. Now that we're past it, it's time to get back to in person. While there are valid times people cannot be present and adjustments should be made; the general rule for an action-oriented organization is presence. One reason participation is due to the fact that people are not present.

REGULATIONS GUIDELINES FOR FIRST DISTRICT FUNCTIONS

COMMANDERS AND ADJUTANTS SCHOOL

Proposed Change:

Officer Training

All District Officers are strongly encouraged to attend MN Legion College at the first possible opportunity if they have not already done so. All post officers are also encouraged to do the same; or, at a minimum, complete the online Basic Training Course of The American Legion.

Rationale: Redundancy consumes resources.

MID-WINTER

Proposed Changes:

1. Registration of \$10 and meal prices of \$15 are to be reviewed by the District Legion Executive Committee. The number of attendees at the previous year's event and the cost of goods can be reconsidered if modest changes (up or down) are warranted.
2. As this is hosted by the Auxiliary, the Auxiliary Public Relations committee will handle programs, flyers, etc.
3. Legionnaires, Sons, and Riders will help in any facet requested and capable.
 - a. Each group facilitating sessions, i.e., meeting or training separately, is responsible for their own agenda, minutes, etc., for that segment.

Rationale:

1. Prices removed so economic conditions could be considered when setting the prices.

2 & 3 Added to help facilitate returning responsibilities that had been taken on by a previous adjutant to help others out.

SECTION G

Registration

Proposed Change:

SECTION G-Registration

For planning purposes, all attendees must register at least 14 calendar days prior to Convention start.

1. All attendees must be in good standing with their membership and will present proof of current membership at sign in.
2. National, Department or visiting District Officers are not charged. Registration is for paperwork purposes only.
3. Distinguished Guest Chairman shall provide the registration table with an updated list.
4. Registration is \$15.00 if pre-registered; \$20.00 at the door.
5. Sign-in / registration will be at a convenient location for attendees and determined by the District Executive Committee.
 - a. Registration monies offsets cost of Convention Badge, Convention Brochure and any other information deemed appropriate.
 - b. One registration per person, regardless of number of memberships.

Rationale: Clarity

SECTION J

District Convention Noon Luncheon

Proposed Change:

1. The Host Post arranges lunch. Lunch is \$15; however, it is to be the District Legion Executive Committee and based on the number of attendees at the previous year's event and the cost of goods, can be reconsidered if modest changes (up or down) are warranted. The District Commander shall act as the Master of Ceremonies.

Rationale: The last two years the Convention has cost more than brought in, mainly because of meals. With this change, the host post won't have to foot the bill, which discourages posts from volunteering as host.

The American Legion



Certificate of Appreciation

This certificate of appreciation is gratefully presented to

Leon J. Wetzel Post 9

In recognition and sincere appreciation of outstanding service and financial assistance which contributed to the advancement of The American Legion community service programs and activities dedicated to God and Country.

*Presented by The Department of Minnesota
This 10th Day of July 2026*

Linda M. Avoval

Department Commander

Dennis D. D.

Community Service Chairman

The American Legion



Certificate of Appreciation

This certificate of appreciation is gratefully presented to

Everett H. Hale Post 68

In recognition and sincere appreciation of outstanding service and financial assistance which contributed to the advancement of The American Legion community service programs and activities dedicated to God and Country.

Presented by The Department of Minnesota

This 10th Day of July 2026

Linda M. Avonah

Department Commander

Donna D.

Community Service Chairman



Most Dollars Spent
Community Service Projects
Community Service Award

Category III, 251-700 Members

AUSTIN POST 91
AUSTIN

Dept. of Minnesota
2025 - 2026





MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AVAILIABLE

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.

The 1st District Leadership

IMPORTANT INFO

The district needs your help. We need young-er members to step up and accept an officer position before all the experience to help mentor them is gone.. Call Jim Kellogg for more information at 507-438-1123

1st District Auxiliary Contacts



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1st Vice President

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Parliamentarian

Louise Kleiboer
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Past President

Michelle Weaver
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From the desk of Auxiliary President

Hello to all Auxiliary members of the 1st District! Another year is behind us and we start a new one!

I hope to see many of you at our **District Picnic in Grand Meadow on Sunday, August 16th** starting at noon at Veterans Memorial Park. Fried chicken and sweetcorn will be provided by the district. Please bring a dish to pass. Let's have a great turnout!!

As we begin the new Auxiliary year, we all need to promote membership not just our membership chairs! Membership is the hardest job the Auxiliary has by retaining and recruiting new members each year. As of July 22th, 1st District was at 2950 members or 91% of last year.

My President's Project will remain the same as last year: **Funds for a Putting Green at the Preston Veterans Home, which will be handicap accessible.** Thank you to units who have supported the project. A big thank you to Bryon Post 119, Stewartville Post 164 and the 1st District American Legion for also helping with the project. To date \$5000 has been raised. Gambling funds can be used, if anyone is interested in making a donation, please call me or email me. I can walk you thru the process. They do not want checks for the project sent to the Preston Veterans Home please.

Serving Those Who Served is my theme again this year. It is what we as Auxiliary members and units do. Our mission is to serve our veterans and military however we can. Be involved within our communities and to educate our youth about patriotism.

Welcome to Nancy Lewison and Chandra Gilles from Adams on joining the District Executive Board this coming year! If anyone is interested, I have a few chairmanships that still are in need of a chairman.

Juniors, Finance Committee member, Standing Rules Committee member and Risk and Compliance Committee member.

I look forward to visiting your units this coming year, last year was very disappointing. It can just be a regular meeting you have, nothing special. I hope to hear from some of you!

From the desk of Auxiliary President

At Department Convention July 8th-10th

Certificates of Merit wear given out to the following Units.

Americanism: Rochester Unit 92

Chatfield Unit 197

Mabel Unit 299

Owatonna Unit 7

Blooming Prairie Unit 52

Hayfield Unit 330

Albert Lea Unit 56

Peterson Unit 526

Community Service: Stewartville Unit 164

Chatfield Unit 197

Owatonna Unit 77

Education: Blooming Prairie Unit 52

Glenville Unit 264

Junior History: Albert Lea Unit 56

Junior Activities: Albert Lea Unit 56

Stewartville Unit 164

Senior History: Glenville Unit 264

Poppy: Glenville Unit 264

Hayfield Unit 330

Wabasha Unit 50

From the desk of Auxiliary President

Public Relations: Albert Leas Unit 56

Claremont Unit 422

Freeborn Unit 552

Hayfield Unit 330

Peterson Unit 526

Plainview Unit 179

Stewartville Unit 164

Public Relations Best Unit Report went to Glenville Unit 264

Betty Gartner History Plaque went to Glenville Unit 264

Individual Membership Awards: Marlys Rowe Wykoff Unit 369

Sharon Hammon LeRoy Unit 161

Roberta Copeland Chatfield Unit 197

Sandra Fredrickson Glenville Unit 264

Rita Selthun Claremont Unit 422

Americanism Essay Contest Winners

Class III- 2nd Place went to Serenity Taulbee - La Crescent Unit 595

Class IV- 2nd Place went to Ryan Nelson -Hayfield Unit 330

Class V-2nd Place Kendyl, Hayfield Unit 330

Poppy Contest winner for wearable item went to Nancy Lewison Adams Unit 146

Congratulations to everyone for this recognition at Department Convention!!

Why we do our Annual Reports!



Tonia Betterman, President Wanda Prescher and Lesley Heimer



 **AMERICAN
LEGION**
AUXILIARY

**1ST DISTRICT
PRESIDENT'S PROJECT**

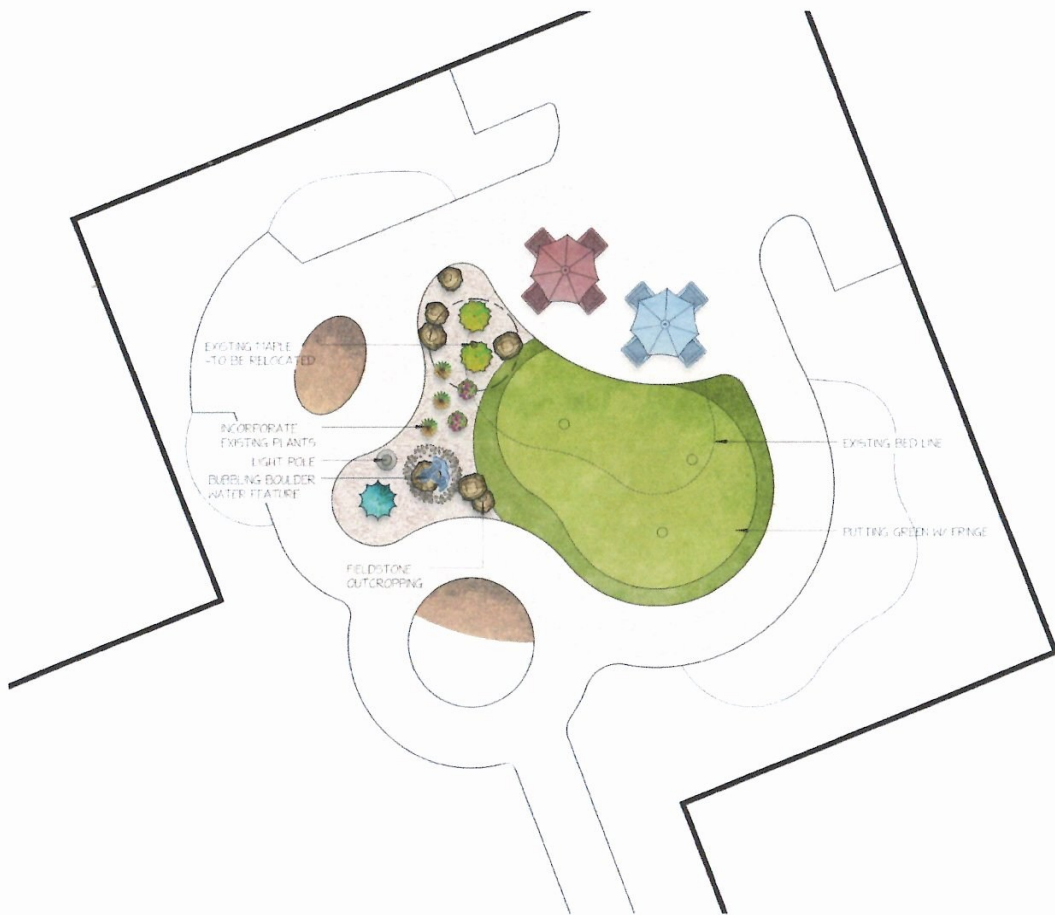
PUTTING GREEN

**for our Veterans at
the Veterans Home
in Preston**

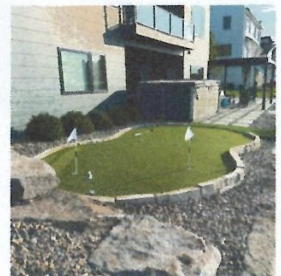
We are raising funds to help construct a putting green with a water feature in the large courtyard at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Preston. This will be an amenity for both Veterans and their families.

To learn more about the project please contact
Wanda Prescher 507-254-0304
w.prescher1951@gmail.com or Gabby Kinneberg
507-808-8927 gabby.kinneberg@state.mn.us





INSPIRATION



Membership Report

Membership Update – July 26, 2026

The American Legion Auxiliary's Mighty First District continues to demonstrate strong dedication as we move toward the close of the 2026 membership year and prepare to launch 2027. According to the latest District report, our Units have collectively processed **2,948 members out of 3,240**, placing the District at **90.98%**. This reflects steady, committed work across southeastern Minnesota.

District Overview

- **Total members processed:** 2,948
- **New members added:** 181

District percentage: 90.98%

Your efforts are clearly visible, and many Units are already showing exceptional strength.

Top-Performing Units

Several Units have surpassed 100% or are very close to it — an outstanding achievement:

- **Saint Charles – 140%**
- **Wykoff – 133%**
- **Chatfield – 118%**
- **Glenville – 116%**
- **Lanesboro – 102%**

Alden, Claremont, Freeborn, Millville, Waldorf – 100%

These Units are leading the way, and many others are within reach of their next milestone. Thank you for your continued dedication to growing and sustaining our Auxiliary membership.

Membership Report

2027 Membership Year Information

All Units **should have already received or will be receiving their 2027 membership packets soon**. Please watch for these materials and begin preparing your early outreach.

Although **National will not mail renewal notices until mid-September**, Units **may begin collecting and submitting 2027 membership starting August 1st**. Early processing helps build momentum and ensures your Unit stays ahead of goals.

First Department Goal

25% by September 15, 2026

Now is the perfect time to begin contacting members, encouraging renewals, and welcoming new faces into your Unit.

Reminders for Success

- Submit memberships promptly — avoid holding transmittals.
- Review your roster and reach out to unpaid members early.
- Keep communication warm, welcoming, and personal.

Reconcile ALAMIS regularly to ensure accuracy.

Your work strengthens our mission, our communities, and our District. Let's carry this momentum into the new membership year and reach that 25% goal together.

If you have any questions, please reach out. **Michelle Weaver, First District Membership Chairman** weaver.michelle595@gmail.com

A Look at Our Programs & A Call to Serve

One of the greatest strengths of the American Legion Auxiliary is the wide variety of programs that allow every member to make a meaningful difference. Whether your passion is supporting veterans, mentoring youth, preserving our history, promoting patriotism, or serving your community, there is a place for you to get involved.

Each Auxiliary program plays a vital role in fulfilling our mission of serving veterans, military members, and their families. Below is a brief look at each program and the important work it accomplishes throughout our District and beyond.

Americanism

Promotes patriotism, respect for our nation's flag, and appreciation for American values. Members participate in patriotic ceremonies, parades, school programs, flag etiquette education, and activities that foster love of country.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF)

Provides temporary financial assistance to eligible American Legion Auxiliary members who experience unexpected hardships or disasters, offering support when it is needed most.

Children & Youth

Dedicated to improving the well-being of children, especially military children, through educational opportunities, community programs, family support, and youth-centered activities.

Community Service

Encourages members to strengthen their communities through volunteer service, charitable outreach, partnerships with local organizations, and projects that improve the lives of others.

Constitution & Bylaws

Helps ensure that Units operate according to proper governance by maintaining current governing documents and promoting knowledge of parliamentary procedure and organizational policies.

Education

Supports students, educators, and schools through scholarships, classroom assistance, teacher recognition, literacy initiatives, and educational resources.

Girls State

Offers young women an unforgettable hands-on experience in government, leadership, and citizenship by participating in a mock state government while developing confidence and lifelong leadership skills.

History

Preserves the rich legacy of the American Legion Auxiliary by documenting achievements, milestones, events, and the stories of our members for future generations.

Junior Activities

Encourages our youngest members to become active participants in service, leadership, patriotism, and the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Leadership

Provides education, mentoring, and training opportunities that help members develop the knowledge and confidence needed to become effective leaders.

Legislation

Keeps members informed about legislative issues affecting veterans, military families, and the Auxiliary while encouraging advocacy and civic engagement.

Membership

Focuses on welcoming new members, retaining current members, and encouraging meaningful participation that keeps our organization strong and growing.

Memorial/Chaplain

Provides spiritual support, conducts memorial services, offers comfort during times of loss, and honors the memory of members who have gone before us.

National Security

Supports active-duty military personnel, veterans, first responders, and military families while promoting emergency preparedness and community awareness.

Past Presidents Parley

Encourages mentorship, recognizes the contributions of past leaders, supports women veterans, and provides healthcare scholarships.

Poppy Program

Honors the sacrifice of fallen veterans while raising funds to assist veterans and their families through the distribution of the memorial poppy. This year's dedication was truly inspiring—during one special event, **154 volunteers handcrafted an incredible 3,729 poppies in just two hours**, demonstrating the remarkable commitment of our Auxiliary family.

Public Relations

Shares the story of the American Legion Auxiliary by promoting our mission through local media, social media, newsletters, community outreach, and positive public awareness.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R)

Provides comfort, care, and support to veterans through volunteer service, donations, rehabilitation programs, hospital visits, and countless acts of kindness that improve quality of life.

A Call to Serve

Every successful Auxiliary program is made possible by dedicated members who are willing to serve as District Program Chairmen. These leaders educate, encourage, coordinate activities, and inspire Units throughout the District to carry out our mission.

Serving as a chairman is a rewarding opportunity to develop leadership skills, build lasting friendships, and make a meaningful impact on the lives of veterans, military families, children, and communities.

If you have a passion for serving others and would like to become more involved, we encourage you to consider accepting a District Program Chairmanship.

If you are interested in serving as a District Program Chairman, please contact District President Wanda. Your willingness to step forward today helps ensure that the American Legion Auxiliary continues its proud tradition of service for generations to come.

Together, we can continue strengthening our District, supporting our veterans, and fulfilling our mission of **Service Not Self**.

Albert Lea Auxiliary

The Albert Lea Junior Auxiliary presented their flag presentation debut to the public on July 4th at 11 am and 1 pm at the American Legion. The half hour presentations displayed the history of our first flag to our present flag. The presentation was very educational and did a splendid job of displaying the flag's evolution. Paulette Anderson and Anna Goedke assisted the Juniors. The public was quite impressed with the presentation.







On July 19th Paulette Anderson and Carrie Schmitz, Albert Lea Post 56 Auxiliary members, presented a donation of \$1000 to the Board Members of the North Star Honor Flight. It was a pleasure and honor to give this to assist our veterans.

North Star Honor Flight is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that flies veterans on all all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. for a day of recognition and to visit monuments and memorials that have been built in their honor. For more information <https://northstarhonorflight.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/northstarhonorflight>

American Legion Auxiliary – Department of Minnesota

17th Annual Junior Fun Weekend

The American Legion Auxiliary invites all **Junior members ages 3–18** and their **Advisors/Chaperones** to join us for a weekend of friendship, learning, and fun at **Legionville near Brainerd, Minnesota!**

Who Can Attend

- All Junior members, whether or not they belong to an active Junior group
- Advisor/chaperone ratio: 1 adult for every 3 Juniors

Registration is first-come, first-served

For questions, contact the Department Office at [651-224-7634](tel:651-224-7634) or email **deptoffice@mnala.org**.

Friday, August 14 – Sunday, August 16, 2026

- Check-in: Friday, 5–8 p.m. (please do not arrive before 5 p.m.)
- Dinner served after 6 p.m.

Check-out: Sunday by 11 a.m.

Legionville near Brainerd, Minnesota

\$25 per person (includes meals, snacks, and activities) Registrations received after **Friday, July 17, 2026** will be **\$30**. No refunds will be issued.

Send registration and payment to: **American Legion Auxiliary** State Veterans Services Building 20 West 12th St. #314 St. Paul, MN 55155

The registration form can be found online at <https://www.mnala.org/>

This weekend brings Junior members from across Minnesota together to learn more about Auxiliary programs and enjoy organized activities coordinated by the **Department Junior Activities Chairman** and dedicated **ALA volunteers**. Each Junior must bring a completed permission form at check-in. Senior Advisors and chaperones will supervise their Juniors and assist with activities.

A nurse will be on site for minor boo-boos, and no one needs to bring snacks—they're included!



1st District SAL Contacts



Commander

Josh Erickson
507-313-5861
josheric@hbc.com

Adjutant

Dave Bilderback
507-250-1057
dbilderbackb@aol.com

SAL Advisor

Brian Medinnus
507-219-7188
minnkid58@gmail.com

Chaplain

Chri Taulbee
ctaulbee76@gmail.com
608-799-6965

East Side Vice Commander

Empty

West Side Vice Commander

Empty

Membership

Greg Lemmer
507-312-2222
gslemmer@hbc.com

Finance Officer

Gary Weaver
507-450-9580
gweaver@acegroup.cc

Parliamentarian

Gary Weaver
507-450-9580
gweaver@acegroup.cc

Sgt at Arms

Greg Lemmer
507-312-2222
gslemmer@hbc.com

SAL Commander's Corner



Greetings Legion Family,

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying summer, at least as much as the weather has allowed. I also hope you all had a great 4th of July.

Thank you to all the active duty and retired veterans who served to protect this great Country and secure the freedom and liberty we all enjoy. We would not be celebrating 250 years without your sacrifice.



If you are like me, you probably didn't pay much attention to soccer until we hosted the World Cup this year. Likewise, the international soccer community largely held some preconceived notions about America until we hosted the World cup this year.

As it turns out, we are friendly, welcoming and hospitable. We even greet people on the street whether we know them or not. Our cities are generally clean and safe with beautiful outdoor spaces. We serve large portions of amazing food, give free refills on soda, and apparently Costco and Waffle House provide mind-blowing experiences. But the one thing that left the biggest impression is the pride and respect we show for our national anthem and flag. We truly are a great Country, and thanks to the World Cup, tens of thousands of people experienced that first-hand. One fan from Germany summed it up best, "if you want to hate America, watch the news; if you want to love America, drive through it."



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Josh Erickson".

Josh Erickson
First District SAL Commander

SAL Chaplain's Corner

As summer begins to wind down and we prepare for another busy season of service, August gives us an opportunity to pause, reflect, and be thankful for the many blessings we have received.

The Sons of The American Legion is built on the values of service, patriotism, and caring for one another. Those values are never more important than during the everyday moments when a kind word, a helping hand, or simply taking the time to listen can make a tremendous difference in someone's life. We never truly know what burdens another person may be carrying, but we can always choose to respond with compassion and understanding.

As Chaplain, I encourage each of us to keep our veterans, active-duty military, first responders, and their families in our daily thoughts and prayers. Their sacrifices allow us to enjoy the freedoms we sometimes take for granted. Let us also remember our fellow members who may be facing illness, loss, loneliness, or personal struggles. A phone call, a visit, or a simple message reminding someone they are not alone can be one of the greatest ministries we offer.

As our Squadrons begin planning fall activities, membership drives, and community events, let us approach each opportunity with grateful hearts and a servant's spirit. Every act of kindness, every volunteer hour, and every moment spent supporting our communities reflects the mission of The American Legion Family.

May we continue to be examples of integrity, respect, and hope wherever we serve. Let us encourage one another, celebrate our successes together, and lift each other up during difficult times.

May God bless each of you, your families, our veterans, our military, and the communities we proudly serve. May He continue to guide our District and grant us wisdom, strength, and compassion as we carry out His work through service to others.

Have a safe, healthy, and blessed August.

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." —
Galatians 6:2

Chris Taulbee, District Chaplain

SAL Advisor

Good afternoon 1st District Family:

I am here to remind our District Officers... Posts....Squads...Units...that if they have a an questions or concerns about the SAL..please contact me. I am ready and willing to help you in any way I can.

My plan is to try to visit as many Squads as possible to check in and see first hand how they are doing.

Brian Medinnus

1st District SAL Advisor



SAL 1st District

Membership Summary as of 07/25/2026

Greetings to all my fellow SAL members. Hope you are enjoying your summer.

As I compile this newsletter District 1 remains in 6th place out of 10. It appears we just can't seem to do better than 6th place. From a percentage stand point we are at 96.97 percent. That's an increase of 1.79% from our last newsletter.

We have 18 out of 36 squadrons at 100% or better. Increase of one prior to the last report.

There are 163 members who still have not renewed their 2026 memberships. There is still time to renew to keep your continuous years of membership.

District Report Numbers:

Districts	2025 Results	2026 Goal	Grand Total	Percentage	Placing
1st District	1745	1785	1731	96.97%	6
2nd District	1225	1269	1383	108.98%	1
3rd District	2247	2287	2196	96.02%	7
4th District	410	450	422	93.78%	9
5th District	318	358	321	89.66%	10
6th District	1643	1683	1734	103.03%	3
7th District	995	1065	1122	105.35%	2
8th District	479	529	535	101.13%	4
9th District	951	985	974	98.88%	5
10th District	1641	1680	1592	94.76%	8
Totals	11654	12091	12010	99.33%	

Please take immediate action and review how many of your members from 2026 have not yet renewed their membership and take action now!

Now let's discuss how we proceed for the 2027 memberships.

2027 Membership

Membership packets will soon be coming out for 2027. This year's plan is for a rep from each squad attend one of two meetings we will be setting up. One will be held for the east section and one for the west. Squadrons are **expected** to send at least one person to the respective meeting for their area to pick up their packet. More information to follow on the dates, and locations.

The other option is to reach out to me and set up a time for your squadron to pick up your packet here in Winona.

Either way works, the squadrons are expected to take more ownership and pick up their packets so renewals can start. Sorry, but the days of the commander, east vice and myself driving all over our district to get packets will not happen this year.

Speaking of starting... on line renewal is available now for 2027 membership.

Hats off to the 7 members who recently renewed their 2027 membership on line. These seven members represent 5 different squadrons. They are squadrons 0090 Lewiston, 0009 Winona, 0092 Rochester, 0094 Rushford, and 0077 Owatonna. Congratulations, your actions got your squadron off the goose egg, your renewals early on are much appreciated

For your 2027 SAL membership target a date no later than Dec 1, 2026.



QUICKLY AND EASILY RENEW ONLINE
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



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

Respectfully Yours,
Greg Lemmer
SAL 1st District Membership Director



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF MINNESOTA

APPLICATION FOR PAID UP FOR LIFE (PUFL) MEMBERSHIP

- 1 This plan shall become available commencing with the 2007 membership year, beginning July 1, 2006. The Detachment of Minnesota SAL PUFL Committee shall be authorized to change the Minnesota SAL PUFL Membership plan subject to the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee and The American Legion Department of Minnesota Executive Committee.
- 2 The entire amount of the Minnesota SAL PUFL Membership must accompany this application unless other arrangements are approved by the Detachment PUFL Committee for the payment plan. The payment plan is as follows: 25% paid with application, and the balance to be paid in 3 payments of 25 % every 3 months. No credit card payments will be accepted. NOTE: Current membership dues must be paid in full. If paying after October 01, pay the upcoming membership year to allow for processing.
- 3 There will be no refunds to any member that participates in the Minnesota SAL PUFL Membership Plan.
- 4 Increases in District, Detachment or National dues will be absorbed by the SAL PUFL Fund.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE																		
AGE	0 - 4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+
COST	\$640	\$615	\$595	\$575	\$550	\$525	\$500	\$470	\$435	\$400	\$360	\$320	\$275	\$240	\$200	\$165	\$135	\$115

PLEASE COMPLETE THE APPLICATION BELOW. PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION. PLEASE
PRINT LEGIBLY OR TYPE.

Thank you for your continued dedication and service to the Sons of The American Legion and everything we stand for. Together, we can lead the way for another year of growth, action, and pride in our mission.

For God and Country.

God Bless our troops, past and present and God Bless the USA.

Greg Lemmer

Membership Director S.A.L. District One

gslemmer@hbc.com Cell 507-312-2222



Flying Flags For Heroes

The Sons of The American Legion National Americanism Commission adopted ongoing support of Flying Flags for Heroes as an official program via S.A.L. Resolution X in the Spring of 2022. It is the goal of the Sons of The American Legion for the Flying Flags for Heroes program to help inspire true patriotism within our communities and help promote national pride in our country, its ensign, its military, and veterans throughout the entire Legion family.

Help the Commission reach our dual goals of 1,000,000 flag placements and 100% Detachment participation in 2026 prior to the 54th National Convention by reporting the flag placements of your Post, Squadron, Unit, or Chapter before **August 8th, 2026**.

Visit **FlyingFlagsForHeros.com** for more information or use the QR code below to take you directly to the reporting area of the website.

AMERICANISM



COMMISSION



SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

1st District ALR Contacts



Are you interested in joining the 1st District American Legion Riders?

Want to know who to reach out to about a Chapter near you?

Below are contacts for the Chapters in the 1st District.

Also listed are the District ALR officers and their contact info.

Director

Wes Halverson
507-383-7983

Vice Director

Roe Naylor
507-438-5804
roe.land@yahoo.com

Secretary

Sunshine Maloney
507-459-5962
sunshin1alr@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mark Maloney
507-703-0026
markmaloney1962@gmail.com

Historian

Tricia Peterson
507-500-0449
Tlynn1318@gmail.com

Chaplain

Jill Reed
507-450-5525
jill22kimber@gmail.com

Sgt at Arms

James Rinehart
612-991-4699
kgwencl@msn.com

Parliamentarian

Chuck Stone
507-213-7517
castoney@hotmail.com

ADAMS – CHAPTER #146

Dennis & Nancy Lewison – lewisonnancy@gmail.com

ALBERT LEA – CHAPTER #56

Terry Lewis - Director - 507-573-2926

AUSTIN – CHAPTER #91

Roe Naylor - Director - 507-438-5804

EYOTA – CHAPTER #551

Mark Maloney - Director - 507-703-0026

GLENVILLE – CHAPTER #264

Bruce Camerer - Director - 507-850-2025

OWATONNA – CHAPTER #77

Chuck Stone – 507-213-7517

RUSHFORD – CHAPTER #94

Ray Steichen - Director - 563-379-8421

WASECA – CHAPTER #228

Ryan Berg - Director - 507-461-5245

WINONA – CHAPTER #9

Brian Degnan - Director - 507-458-3043



You can also get information about the District ALR
on our Facebook page.

1st District ALR of MN

ALR Director Corner

Hello Riders!

Well I hope you all have enjoyed the last few months of riding, I know I have. Nothing better then getting out on the rode riding with good friends on a nice day. Good camaraderie is the best. That's what we are about. We still have a couple months left to ride. So keep riding and be safe!

The Glenville ALR's hosted the 2026 Nation of Patriots (NOP) Tour that started at the Bergdale Harley Davidson in Albert Lea on the 15th of May. Three members from the chapter: Scott Kallberg, Bruce Camerer and Larry Larson worked for months with the NOP team. They have each received. an American Legion National Award for their work. Congratulations to them and all of Glenville's chapter/post.

I also would like to send out a THANK YOU to everyone that rode the Fund 85 ride this last month. Along with big THANK YOU to all those Legion Post that donated funds .

The Fund 85 Ride was held on Saturday July 25th. It started in the 1st District, at Dodge Center American Legion. Then onward we went to other stops at American Legions in Adams, Austin, Glenville, Albert Lea. The ride ended in Waseca with a great party including a great dinner and live music. A big thank you goes out to the Waseca ALR Chapter 9 for hosting the end of the 3 day ride.

The Fund 85 is an American Legion Department of MN Veterans Assistance Fund that is fast becoming a premier program in the Department. It's is setup to raise funds to help veterans and their families in need of assistance.

ALR Director continued

September 19th is the return of the Nation of Patriots Tour. It will return to Bergdale's Harley Davidson in Albert Lea and will be hosted by Glenville's ALR Chapter 264. The Flag will have been traveling the United States for 115 days. This includes Hawaii and Alaska. One hundred percent of the money raised is to help veterans in need of some assistance.

We also have other rides and events within the 1st District in the month of August to look forward to. Veterans Stand Down the 16th, Austin ALR scholarship Run Aug 23rd and also Winona ALR Ride the 23rd.

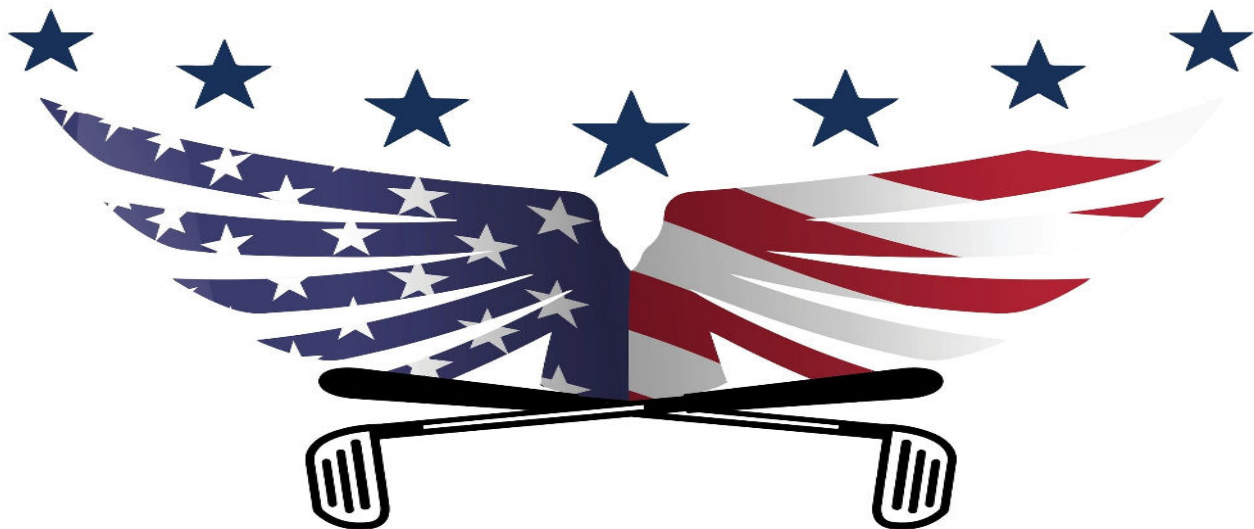
If any chapter has upcoming events and/or rides please let me know so I can post them in the newsletter.

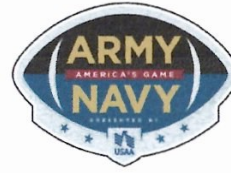
I hope everyone has a great summer of riding motorcycles and can continue to do so the next couple of months!

Be safe everyone!

Wes

ALR Director 1st District





OFFICIAL VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA'S GAME

HONOR THE RIVALRY BY CHEERING ON YOUR TEAM!

The historic Army-Navy Game is one of the greatest rivalries in sports—and this year, we're giving our members a chance to experience it in person!

To honor the rivalry and strengthen our organization, we're launching a **Membership Incentive Challenge** that rewards those who help grow and sustain our membership. Here's how you can get in the game:



WE HAVE 16 TICKETS TO AWARD FOR THE ARMY-NAVY GAME.

8 WINNERS WILL EACH RECEIVE 2 TICKETS!



Top 3 recruiters OR an accumulation from a post from July 1 - November 11, 2026 will each receive 2 tickets.

Minimum qualification: recruit at least 10 new members.

The top department in each of our 5 regions (based on November's target date) will each earn 2 tickets to use within their department.

WINNERS WILL BE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2026

VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

ALR WING NIGHT

302 E Sarnia Winona, MN

2nd Tuesday

530 PM until 7 PM

Public Welcome

**Wings and Fries with Celery and Dipping
Sauces**



***Spicy Buffalo *Buffalo *Honey BBQ**

***Garlic Parmesan**

\$8.00

**DODGE CENTER
CLASSIC**
Cat & Bike Show
AMERICAN LEGION POST 384



JUNE 2nd • JULY 7th • AUG. 4th 5PM-9PM • SEPT. 5th NOON-9PM



**LET'S ROCK AND RUMBLE
WITH
NASHVILLE BOUND**

**Rockin'
Hep Cats**
COLTAN • TODD • BEN • ERIC

**PLAYING
50's
AND
60's
ROCKABILLY**



SHOWING AT THE AMERICAN LEGION : DODGE CENTER, MN

VETERAN STANDDOWN & RESOURCE EVENT

FREE resources, services, meals, and support
for veterans and their families -

All in one place!

August 15th, 2026

8AM- 2PM

Albert Lea National Guard Armory

410 Prospect Ave.

Albert Lea, MN 56007

**NO COST
TO ATTEND**



FREE SMART TRANSIT RIDES

Southern Minnesota Area Rural Transit

*sponsored by Gaydon Iverson Chapter 16 DAV

Call today to reserve your **FREE** ride:

507-433-2379

Free rides available 9AM-1PM

Mention the Albert Lea Veteran Standdown Event



**FREE
LUNCH**



**CLOTHING
DISTRIBUTION**



**HOUSING
RESOURCES**



REFRESHMENTS



**MENTAL HEALTH
RESOURCES**



**VETERAN
FELLOWSHIP**



**TRANSPORTATION
RESOURCES**

SPONSORED BY:



HEAVY METAL



Austin
Post 91
Freeborn
Post 552
Glenville
Post 264



BARBELL



**RIDE
FOR
HEROES**
EST. 2023



Find us on
Facebook

: Ride For Heroes

ADDITIONAL SPONSERS:

- INJECT TECH
- WAGNER TIRE
- SHADE TREE LIQUOR

2026 Event Dates

April 9	Broasted Chicken: 5:00 to 6:30 or until gone
April 18	SAL Chicken Q. Serving 11:00 to 2:00 or until gone
May 9	Chicken Q - Event Sponsor is Winona Chiefs Baseball. They will sell tickets and serve the meals. SAL will grill the chicken. Serving 11:00 to 2:00 or until gone
May 10	Mother's Day Breakfast Serving time TBD
May 14	Broasted Chicken: 5:00 to 6:30 or until gone
September 10	Broasted Chicken: 5:00 to 6:30 or until gone
September 19	SAL Chicken- Q. Serving 11:00 to 2:00 or until gone
October 8	Broasted Chicken: 5:00 to 6:30 or until gone
October 10	Chicken Q - Event Sponsor is Winona Cotter HS Speech Team (TBD) They will sell tickets and serve the meals. SAL will grill the chicken. Serving 11:00 to 2:00 or until gone
November 12	Broasted Chicken: 5:00 to 6:30 or until gone
December 10	Broasted Chicken: 5:00 to 6:30 or until gone

We hope you can join us and experience the great family environment at the Winona American Legion.

ADAMS AMERICAN LEGION POST 146

Chicken, Fish, & Steak Fry Schedule



Serving Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.*

(*Unless Noted) (507) 582-3266



2025 SCHEDULE

Chicken & Steak Fry, Legion	September 6
Chicken & Steak Fry, SAL	September 20
Chicken & Steak Fry, Legion.....	October 4
Chicken & Steak Fry, Southland Trap Shoot.....	October 18
Chicken & Steak Fry, Legion	November 1
Steak Fry, Knights of Columbus	November 22
Chicken & Steak Fry, Cancer, Snowmobile Club	December 13
Windsor Chops, New Years Eve, Legion.....	December 31

2026 SCHEDULE

Chicken & Steak Fry, Legion.....	January 10
Chicken & Steak Fry, SAL.....	January 24
Chicken & Steak Fry, Legion.....	February 7
Chicken & Steak Fry, SAL.....	February 21
Fish Fry, Auxiliary	March 6
Steak Fry, Sportsman Club.....	March 14
Fish Fry, SAL.....	March 20
Fish Fry, Legion	March 27
Chicken & Steak Fry, Auxiliary	April 11
Chicken & Steak Fry, Legion Baseball Team	April 25
Chicken & Steak Fry Legion	May 2
Chicken & Steak Fry, Southland Trap Shoot	May 16
Steak Fry, Legion, Dairy Days	June 13
Chicken & Steak Fry, Legion, Dairy Days	June 14

~ E-Tabs & Bingo Now Available ~

***** MUSEUM OPEN 6-8 P.M. EVERY FRY *****

www.adamslegionpost146.com • Facebook - visit: Adams Post 146

LEGION RIDERS

ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST

FIRST SUNDAY EACH MONTH 9AM—12 PM

\$12.00 AT THE DOOR

BREAKFAST INCLUDES: EGGS, SAUSAGE, BISQUITS & GRAVY,
COFFEE, MILK OR ORANGE JUICE AND
ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKES

PROCEEDS GO TO THE VETERANS HONOR FLIGHT

AUSTIN AMERICAN LEGION POST 91

809 12TH ST SW, AUSTIN MN

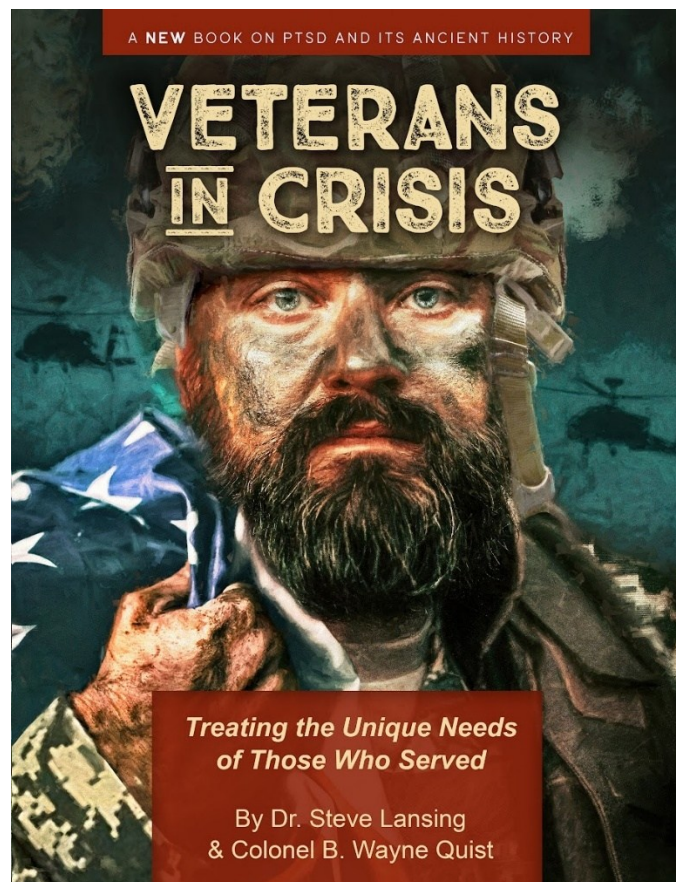
AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS POST 91



VETERANS EMPOWERED INC.

SERVING AND SAVING VETERAN LIVES

We provide free books and free PTSD therapy for disabled veterans in our Rochester clinical office.



**PLEASE HELP WITH A CONTRIBUTION TO RAISE \$50,000 TO PRINT
10,000 ADDITIONAL COPIES OF OUR BOOK**