



FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

MAY 2024

Legion Contacts

Commander

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Adjutant

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Membership

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IMPORTANT DATES

May 4, 2024—The First District SAL Convention at 9 AM in Austin American Legion Post 91. More info in the Call to Convention in the SAL section of this newsletter.

May 4, 2024—The First District Riders Convention at 1 PM in Austin American Legion Post 91. More info in the Riders section of this newsletter.

May 18, 2024 - The First District Convention at (:30 AM in Austin American Legion, Austin, MN

May 18, 2024 is Armed Forces Day.

May 27, 2024—Memorial Day, please attend a service somewhere.



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LEGION	1 thru 12
AUXILIARY	13 thru 24
SAL	25 thru 28
LEGION RIDERS	29 and 30
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MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

Kasson Post 333 has a over supply of medical equipment which includes hospital beds with mattresses, wheel chairs (both regular and electric), motorized scooters and much more. If interested please call Richard Denny at 507—259—2081 for more information.

DEPARTMENT & DISTRICT DATES

MAY 4, 2024-----First District SAL Convention ----- Austin Post 91
809 12th St SW, Austin, MN-----9AM

MAY 4, 2024 -----First District ALR Convention ----- Austin Post 91
809 12th St SW, Austin, MN-----1PM

MAY 18, 2024 ---First District Legion & Auxiliary Convention-----Austin Post 91
809 12th St SW, Austin, MN-----9:00 AM

July 10 thru 13, 2024 ---Department of Minnesota Convention---Wilmar Convention
Center, Wilmar, MN

ENDORSEMENTS AND OR REQUESTS

Mark Maloney - Commander 24—25 - from Post 551

Myron Ehrich - Commander 24—25—from Post 295

Josh Erickson - SAL Commander - 24-25 Squadron 9

Gary Weaver - Finance Officer - 24 -25 La Crescent 595

NATIONAL DELEGATES

Mary Hanson

Myron Ehrich

Gary Miller

Chuck Kruger

ATTENTION GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMBERS

The District wants to compile a list of Gold Star Families in our district. So if you are or know of a Gold Star Family please sent their contact number and address for them to Mary Hanson at 1701 4th Ave SW, Austin, MN 55912 or Wayne Hammon at PO Box 135, LeRoy, MN 55951. We would like to honor them at our District Convention on May 18, 2024 in Austin, MN.



FROM YOUR COMMANDER

Wow what a quick year, it seems like yesterday that I was elected as your district commander ,I am very grateful that you had put your trust in me and I hope I have served you well .Well last year I had the opportunity to show everyone if we act as a family we can get great things done . We have dropped in the percentage of membership we are 9th but if you look at our membership number we are third with 6,425 members with 3rd district in 1s place with 9,218,and 6th district in 2nd place with 7,006 members. Not bad at all so everyone should pat themselves on the back to keep up the membership we have a new year ahead of us. We still have work to do. With that in mind, you should never judge a veteran who is disabled they are the reason that the American legion is here we Have a long list of the things we do for them and their families .Case in point I and my wife had helped a veteran who was told he could never join the American legion he was suicidal he didn't want anything to do with anyone or anything . His son got him on the honor flight and then when had seen the American legion riders doing a flag line for him and the rest of the honor flight it made this day. But he was still unhappy he still wanted to join and belong to a group of people that would understand him and the things that war can do to people and how much it changes them .Well it has been 90 days since he joined he is the proudest man happy to talk about things that he was ashamed of being a veteran who served as many of us had did .It just goes to show the smallest things you do can make a difference .It good to see a man happy to talk to people and be included as someone in a family who does judge the things we had to do to survive the harness of what man is forced to do in the name of freedom. So, in closing remember ark. (act of random kindness) goes along way if we work together in our post and in the district, we can do anything, but we need everyone to help the aux, legion, Sal, and riders we make an effective team and work well together. God bless our country and God bless our troops.

First District Commander
Mark A Maloney III

A prayer for Memorial Day: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we ask that Your blessings be bestowed on our friends and loved ones, We thank you for this opportunity to share with them this special occasion to honor our dead on this Memorial Day. Let us always honor the memory of those brave soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who made the supreme sacrifice, so we may live in a country that is free.

Heavenly Father, keep their families in Your kind care. Bless them and comfort them in their time of sorrow. Let us be reminded of life, liberty, justice, freedom and democracy that we may ever be grateful to You for these comrades who gave so much for their country.

Psalm 91. He who dwells in the shelter of the most High, will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. ²I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." ³Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. ⁵You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. ⁷A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. ⁸You will only observe with your eyes, and see the punishment of the wicked. ⁹If you make the Most High your dwelling---even the Lord, who is my refuge---¹⁰then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. ¹¹For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. ¹⁴"Because he loves me," says the Lord, I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. ¹⁵He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. ¹⁶With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."

1 Peter 5: 6-9⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷Cast your anxiety on him because He cares for you. ⁸Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Finally, my fellow Legion family members, remember we are a family, a team and that when truly united in deeds as well as words that we are certainly more than just the sum total of our parts. Until next time, go with God and God be with you. For God and Country.

FIRST DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION

May 18, 2024

American Legion Post 91, Austin, MN

The First District American Legion Convention will be held at Post 91 in Austin, MN. Please fill out this form and before **April 30, 2024**, mail to:

**First District Convention
C/O American Legion Post 91
809 12TH St SW Austin, MN 55912
Austin, MN 555912**

Please make the items with an "X" and total up the amount.

_____ Pre-registration Fee \$15.00 registration, at the door it will be \$20.00.

_____ Saturday lunch \$10:00 (Lunch consists of : (Soup and Sandwich)

Total Amount _____

Make the checks out to "American Legion Post 91" and send to the address above.

NAME _____ **PHONE** _____ / _____ / _____

ADDRESS _____ **CITY** _____ **ZIP** _____

Circle one **Delegate** **Alternate** **Guest**

Put an "X" by your organization and fill out Your organization number.

If you are a dual or triple member, you only need to register for one organization. This form will get

you registered for the SAL or Riders Convention on Saturday, May 4, 2024

(ONLY PREREGISTERED MEMBERS WILL GET A CONVENTION BOOK)

Legion _____ **Post #** _____ **Auxiliary** _____ **Unit #** _____ **SAL** _____ **ALR Chap-**
ter _____

You must register as a delegate, alternate, or guest if you are attending the convention. One person per registration form please. You can make copies if needed. More than one registration and lunch fee may be put on one check.

_____ cut off _____

Hotel information for the First District Convention in Austin, MN

The post has blocked some rooms for Friday night May 17, 2024, at the following:

**DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON
1701 4TH St NW - AUSTIN, MN
507-433-1000**

Rooms are \$139.00 plus tax. for a double queen

You will need to call the motel and make your reservation. They are blocked under the American Legion.



2024 First District Call to Convention

To: All Posts of the First District

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and By-Laws of the American Legion, Department of Minnesota, I, First District Commander, Mark Maloney, do hereby call a convention of the First District to convene at Austin, Minnesota, Saturday May 18, 2024.

The business sessions of the convention will be held n the Austin American Legion Post 91 located at 809 12th St SW, Austin, MN, commencing at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 18, 2024, and will continue until adjournment.

The purpose of this convention is to elect a District Commander, four (4) District Vice- Commanders, District Chaplain, District Finance Officer, Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention and to do other business of the First District that may properly come before the Convention.

The voting strength of each Post will be, as provided in the Department Constitution and By-Laws, Article 5, Section 3 based upon the membership certification sent to the District Commander by the District Adjutant.

Please send certification of your Post Delegates and Alternates to :
Wayne Hammon, PO Box 135, LeRoy, MN 55951 before May 5th.

All Members are encouraged to attend.

First District Commander
Mark Maloney

Delegate Certification to the First District Convention in Austin, Minnesota, May 18, 2024, please send it to the District Adjutant as soon as possible.

POST _____ MN

DELEGATES

ALTERNATES

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 1. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 3. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 8. _____ |

SIGNED _____

ADJUTANT, POST # _____

FROM AREA TWO

Greetings American Legion Family,

Amazing how time flies. In less than 30 days we'll have the opportunity to allow our current Commander to continue his work for another year. I realized when I became Commander that the first year you really just get your feet wet. You have goals and sometimes it takes longer than one year. That's why I pushed the district to change the by-laws and allow a consecutive year for the Commander if he/she desired to run for a second term and if he/she was elected. Well, we will have the opportunity to make a choice at our convention in May. As always, there can still be nominations from the floor as well. Hope you are making plans to attend; you do make a difference!

On another note, for those Legionnaires in Area Two, I'm looking for someone to fill the Area 2 Vice Commander position that I currently hold as I will not be able to continue after this year. It's been a pleasure to serve, and I'm really impressed with the way Commander Maloney is taking the 1st District. **If you have any questions about the position, please contact me and we'll discuss the duties.**

Hope to see you at Convention May 18th.

BE THE ONE

God Bless America and our Veterans!!!

Mike Parry, Area 2 Vice Commander
1st District American Legion
507-382-8447
Mparry57@gmail.com

FROM AREA FOUR

Greetings Area 4,

Let's continue to get those memberships in and recruit new members.

Cole Wilcox
Area 4 Vice Commander

FROM AREA ONE

Where has this year gone? It seems to have flown by quickly. Post and District elections are upon us. The 1st District Conference will be held at Austin Post 91 on 18 May 2024. Consider attending as your vote does count.

The District meetings and Training Seminars are educational and informative. Please step up and become involved within your post or District. Our membership numbers are important. Please check renewals for this year. Help your membership chairman. If you meet a new veteran in your community, ask them if they are a member. There may be a good chance that they have never been asked to join. If you know of someone that is serving in the military on Active Duty, Reserve's or National Guard ask them to join our great organization. Memorial Day is on 27 May 2024. It is a time to remember and honor those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Please attend your area ceremonies and visit your local cemeteries and memorials. IT IS A TIME FOR REFLECTION, NOT VACATION.

Robert Schmidt – Vice Commander



Attention Minnesota Legion Family: Minnesota Legion College Needs You!

We need your help spreading the word about the upcoming Minnesota American Legion College, April 25-28, 2024, at Camp Ripley. Despite the immense value Legion College provides, the response has been underwhelming so far. With open registration ongoing, we need a major push to fill the limited slots available. Advertise this opportunity to suitable candidates in your posts and communities. We rely on word-of-mouth recommendations to reach worthy Legion Family members. With your support, we can make the 2024 Legion College the most successful yet!

Legion College builds knowledge and skills for both new and experienced Legionnaires that they can bring back to better serve their posts and communities. The structured curriculum covers Legion history, programs, parliamentary procedure, leadership strategies, and more through impactful workshops, activities, and networking.

Graduates leave motivated and equipped to take on leadership roles in the Legion Family at all levels. They gain connections with Legionnaires across the state along with lifelong friends. This training pays dividends for both the attendees and their posts for many years to come.

The \$200 registration fee should not be a barrier for interested candidates. Often posts or districts cover this cost, understanding the value of a more knowledgeable, skilled member and mentor. For those needing financial assistance, just reach out.

This is a call to all Legion posts and leaders. Encourage qualified members in your post to apply. Tap that talented individual you know who could become an asset to your leadership team. Share this opportunity with Legion Family in neighboring posts as well. Let's make sure every open spot gets filled!

Invest in your post and the Legion by sending participants to the 2024 Minnesota American Legion College. Graduates will return energized to take on post and district responsibilities. Join us by applying today at <https://mnlegion.org/legion-college/> – your Legion needs you!





BREAKING: 3-year American Legion memberships now available, even if you already renewed for 2024!



Multi-Year Membership is Now Available!

ST. PAUL — The multi-year membership is now live on the national website for our members who have paid and are current in their 2024 membership dues.

This means those members who paid their 2024 dues prior to 4 December 2023 are now eligible to purchase a multi-year membership at today's dues rate. When a multi-year membership is purchased, your membership will be paid up for the next three years — the 2025–2026–2027 membership years.

RENEW FOR MULTIPLE YEARS TODAY BEFORE DUES GO UP THIS SUMMER

The multi-year membership can only be purchased on the national website or through an active MyLegion.org account.

Please be patient as the site maybe slow due to high traffic because our members are taking advantage of this opportunity to save. We anticipate this program is going to be extremely popular due to the annual membership dues increase effective 1 July 2024.

For our members who are still to renew their 2024 dues, the opportunity to purchase a multi-year membership is still available and has not changed. Please spread the word to all our members in The American Legion Department of Minnesota.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us. Thanks

The American Legion, Dept of MN, First District 2024 Membership Report for April 24, 2024

Dist	Post	Location	New 2024	PUFL 2024	Online 2024	Trad 2024	Paid 2024	HQ Trans 2024	Total Membr 2024	Goal 2024	% of Goal	HQ Trans 2024	Last yr at this date
1	9	Winona	9	32	0	395	436	3	439	466	94.21%	0	0
1	90	Lewiston	6	10	0	62	78	1	79	79	100.00%	0	0
1	190	St Charles	0	15	0	83	98	0	98	109	89.91%	0	0
1		Winona County	15	57	0	540	612	4	616	654	94.19%	0	0
1	50	Wabasha	5	39	0	153	197	1	198	206	96.12%	0	0
1	110	Lake City	9	14	0	130	153	3	156	177	88.14%	0	0
1	179	Plainview	1	25	0	102	128	0	128	145	88.28%	0	0
1	546	Kellogg	0	7	0	46	53	0	53	57	92.98%	0	0
1	573	Elgin	0	3	0	23	26	0	26	27	96.30%	0	0
1	579	Millville	0	19	0	86	105	0	105	105	100.00%	0	0
1	588	Mazeppa	2	8	0	51	61	1	62	65	95.38%	0	0
1		Wabsha County	17	115	0	591	723	5	728	782	93.09%	0	0
1	92	Rochester	9	92	0	532	633	5	638	705	90.50%	0	0
1	119	Byron	0	18	0	79	97	0	97	112	86.61%	0	0
1	164	Stewartville	8	21	0	241	270	1	271	279	97.13%	0	0
1	446	Rochester	2	2	0	9	13	0	13	12	108.33%	0	0
1	551	Eyota	2	23	0	152	177	0	177	187	94.65%	0	0
1		Olmsted County	21	156	0	1013	1190	6	1196	1295	92.36%	0	0
1		Area One	53	328	0	2144	2525	15	2540	2731	93.01%	0	0
1	295	West Concord	2	6	0	30	38	0	38	41	92.68%	0	0
1	330	Hayfield	2	16	0	159	177	0	177	174	101.72%	0	0
1	333	Kasson	9	31	0	184	224	2	226	249	90.76%	0	0
1	384	Dodge Center	2	7	0	57	66	0	66	70	94.29%	0	0
1	422	Claremont	2	3	0	23	28	0	28	30	93.33%	0	0
1		Dodge County	17	63	0	453	533	2	535	564	94.86%	0	0
1	52	Blooming Prairie	2	16	0	58	76	0	76	84	90.48%	0	0
1	77	Owatonna	2	51	0	280	333	1	334	372	89.78%	0	0
1	296	Ellendale	1	4	0	30	35	0	35	36	97.22%	0	0
1		Steel County	5	71	0	368	444	1	445	492	90.45%	0	0
1	75	New Richland	1	9	0	36	46	0	46	45	102.22%	0	0
1	228	Waseca	2	22	0	234	258	0	258	276	93.48%	0	0
1	281	Janesville	0	5	0	69	74	0	74	86	86.05%	0	0
1	587	Waldorf	0	0	0	19	19	0	19	20	95.00%	0	0
1		Waseca County	3	36	0	358	397	0	397	427	92.97%	0	0
		Area Two	25	170	0	1179	1374	3	1377	1483	92.85%	0	0

1	140	Lanesboro	5	13	0	84	102	0	102	106	96.23%	0	0
1	68	Spring Valley	0	8	0	50	58	1	59	64	92.19%	0	0
1	81	Harmony	0	1	0	20	21	1	22	23	95.65%	0	0
1	94	Rushford	1	9	0	84	94	1	95	88	107.95%	0	0
1	166	Preston	2	13	0	34	49	0	49	52	94.23%	0	0
1	197	Chatfield	0	2	0	33	35	0	35	38	92.11%	0	0
1	299	Mabel	3	29	0	101	133	0	133	145	91.72%	0	0
1	369	Wykoff	0	0	0	16	16	1	17	17	100.00%	0	0
1	400	Canton	1	0	0	20	21	0	21	24	87.50%	0	0
1	492	Fountain	0	0	0	9	9	0	9	11	81.82%	0	0
1	526	Peterson	0	4	0	25	29	0	29	35	82.86%	0	0
1	544	Ostrander	0	2	0	17	19	0	19	20	95.00%	0	0
1	637	Whalan	0	0	0	10	10	0	10	11	90.91%	0	0
1		Fillmore County	12	81	0	503	596	4	600	634	94.64%	0	0
1	191	Caledonia	0	13	0	108	121	0	121	130	93.08%	0	0
1	249	Spring Grove	1	11	0	116	128	1	129	133	96.99%	0	0
1	423	Houston	0	9	0	87	96	0	96	98	97.96%	0	0
1	498	Hokah	0	1	0	18	19	0	19	22	86.36%	0	0
1	595	LaCrescent	0	41	0	177	218	0	218	239	91.21%	0	0
1		Houston County	1	75	0	506	582	1	583	622	93.73%	0	0
1		Area Three	13	156	0	1009	1178	5	1183	1256	94.19%	0	0
1	56	Albert Lea	8	35	0	380	423	3	426	455	93.63%	0	0
1	264	Glenville	1	8	0	52	61	1	62	61	101.64%	0	0
1	266	Hartland	0	1	0	12	13	0	13	14	92.86%	0	0
1	317	Emmons	0	3	0	39	42	0	42	46	91.30%	0	0
1	404	Alden	1	3	0	60	64	0	64	86	74.42%	0	0
1	552	Freeborn	0	5	0	23	28	0	28	32	87.50%	0	0
1		Freeborn County	10	55	0	566	631	4	635	694	91.50%	0	0
1	91	Austin	4	47	0	323	374	0	374	396	94.44%	0	0
1	105	Lyle	0	8	0	64	72	0	72	83	86.75%	0	0
1	140	Grand Meadow	0	3	0	30	33	0	33	36	91.67%	0	0
1	146	Adams	2	21	0	136	159	0	159	153	103.92%	0	0
1	161	LeRoy	1	4	0	37	42	0	42	50	84.00%	0	0
1	570	Austin Spam	0	0	0	10	10	0	10	12	83.33%	0	0
1		Mower County	7	83	0	600	690	0	690	730	94.52%	0	0
1		Area Four	17	138	0	1166	1321	4	1325	1424	93.05%	0	0
1	1111	Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0
1		District Totals	108	792	0	5498	6398	27	6425	6894	93.20%	0	0

DISTRICT VICE COMMANDER STANDINGS

Vice Commanders												
	Area One	53	328	0	2144	2525	15	2540	2731	93.01%	0	0
	Area Two	25	170	0	1179	1374	3	1377	1483	92.85%	0	0
	Area Three	13	156	0	1009	1178	5	1183	1256	94.19%	0	0
	Area Four	17	138	0	1166	1321	4	1325	1424	93.05%	0	0

The American Legion Department of Minnesota 2024 District Membership Report

Dist	Rank											
1	9th	Mark Maloney	108	792	0	5498	6398	27	6425	6894	93.20%	
2	5th	James Olson	120	575	0	4411	5106	28	5134	5403	95.02%	
3	1st	Rod Reifsteck	256	1552	0	7439	9,247	147	9,394	9,609	97.76%	
4	3rd	Teresa Ash	54	256	0	1316	1626	18	1644	1,711	96.08%	
5	8th	Dick Ward	43	286	0	1099	1428	10	1438	1536	93.62%	
6	2nd	Anthony Koop	282	1066	0	7756	9104	114	9,218	9,430	97.75%	
7	4th	Jan Ekert	99	632	0	4067	4798	20	4818	5,044	95.52%	
8	7th	Jennifer Havlick	81	306	0	2525	2912	37	2949	3128	94.28%	
9	10th	Steve NaSalle	90	526	0	4298	4914	20	4934	5339	92.41%	
10	6th	Matthew Berens	211	920	0	5875	7006	72	7078	7466	94.80%	
99			25	202	0	1672	1899	0	1899	2654	71.55%	
Totals			1369	7113	0	45,956	54,438	493	54,931	58,214	94.36%	

FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Hello Legionnaires,

Our last membership report has the 1st District in 9th place. We can only go one lower and we will be dead last. Since I have been here, the 1st District has never been this low in the rankings. The 1st District Vice Commanders have been given the expired list for each post in his area. They will be contacting each post.

I have been sending emails to all post commanders I have an email address for. I am sending out the membership report each week. Also, sending reminders out about the officer list. Once your post has had the yearly elections make sure the form is filled out and mailed to Department. Please make sure you send one copy to Wayne Hammon or myself. We need these, along with the CPR submitted for each post to get off the goose egg.

The 1st District convention is on May 18th at Post 91 in Austin. I hope to see many of you there. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Mary Hanson
mfhanson52@charter.net
 507-440-3606



Auxiliary Contacts

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

President

Michelle Weaver
1305 Willow St Apt 39
La Crescent, MN 55947
608-304-8773
weaver.michelle595@gmail.com

Secretary

Sharon Hammon
115 East Cabot St
LeRoy, MN 55951
507-923-7205
1stadjutant@gmail.com

Membership

Sharon Hammon
115 East Cabot St
LeRoy, MN 55951
507-923-7205
1stadjutant@gmail.com

Treasurer

Tonia Betterman
1625 Crestview Lane
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-456-2315
betttm88@outlook.com

Welcome to May with so many exciting things going on.

I want to first thank all the Units that have donated to my project this year last report there was \$1840 to be divided between Believet and the Armed Forces Servicemen's Center.

Thank you for your annual reports it was wonderful reading about all the things your have done and accomplished this year.

Thank you to all that attended the 1st District Family Testimonial April 22nd it was wonderful to see all of you and thank you so much for your support this year.

Our 1st District convention is being held Saturday May 18th in Austin starting at 9:30 am. Come and make your voices heard this is your District and we want to hear what you have to say. Also consider taking on a chairmanship. Information can be found in the newsletter

May includes National Military Appreciation Month. This includes Military Spouse Appreciation Day, and Armed Forces Week. The month concludes with Memorial Day-May 27th, a day to honor our fallen.

Don't forget Mother's day May 12th.

Let service to the community, state and nation be ever a main objective. of the American Legion Auxiliary and its members. Let us ever be watchful.

of our organization and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of Justice, Freedom, Loyalty and Democracy.

Michelle Weaver
1st District Auxiliary President
608-304-8773
weaver.michelle595@gmail.com

Auxiliary Call to Convention 2024

The annual First District Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota is hereby called. It is to be held in Austin, Minnesota on Saturday May 18, 2024. The Auxiliary session will be held at the Mower County Historical building located at 1303 6th Ave SW Austin, Minnesota.

The opening session will be called on May 18, 2024, at 9:30 am.

The purpose of the convention is to:

Elect District Officers for the 2024 – 2025 year

Receive reports of Unit Presidents

Receive reports of District Chairman's

Elect delegates and alternates to the National Convention

Conduct such other business as may be brought before the Convention in conformity with the provisions of the Department and National Constitutions.

District Chairmen

All District Chairmen must file/type a report for the District Book of Annual Reports, which will be distributed at the Convention. Reports should include information from the Unit annual reports forwarded to each respective Chairman by the Department office shortly after April 15 and any pertinent information regarding District projects or activities in your program area. Reports should be forwarded to the First District President **No later than April 15, 2014**. If possible, reports should be typewritten and ready to print.

District Chairmen are also responsible to judge the Annual Reports in their respective program area for trophies, awards and certificates of merit according to the District Standing Rules. They should notify the District President of winners of Certificates of merit prior to the opening of the Convention so that the certificates can be properly prepared, signed and awarded at the Convention.

Unit Color Bearers

Units are encouraged to bring their flags to the Convention to be presented as part of the opening ceremonies, posted during the Auxiliary sessions, and retired at the close of the convention. Auxiliary members who are carrying in their flags at the District Convention are asked to meet at the session meeting room at 8:00 am on Saturday, May 18, 2024, to rehearse.

Pages and Color Bearers

Pages and color bearers are expected to wear **white blouses, navy blue skirts or slacks, and comfortable shoes**. No jewelry except rings, watches and small earrings should be worn while acting as a page or color bearer.

Unit Presidents

All Unit Presidents are asked to take part in the **Opening Ceremonies** at the District Convention regardless of whether or not their Unit Colors will be present. Please be at the session meeting room at 8:00 am to rehearse.

All Unit Presidents are expected to prepare a two minute report about unit activities throughout this past year.

Reports may include summaries of Unit activities or specific activities unique to the Unit that may provide ideas for other Units. **Presidents will present their report** during the convention sessions and submit a **written copy of that report** to the District Secretary upon completion of their presentation. Unit Presidents who are unable to attend the convention may prepare a report to be read by another unit member or may forward a written report to the District Secretary prior to the Convention.

County Council Presidents

County Council Presidents are expected to be prepared to report on their county's activities, what their county does to keep their council active, and ideas that may help other counties start a council.



DEPARTMENT CONVENTION POPPY CONTESTS

Cash Prizes for each contest will be awarded as follows:

1 st Place	\$25.00
2 nd Place	\$20.00
3 rd Place	\$15.00
People's Choice Award	\$10.00

Please be creative for these contests and “think outside the box” when submitting your entries.

Entries must be submitted at Department Convention at the Willmar Event Center on Thursday, July 11th by 10:00 AM.

CONTEST #1 – *Wearable item Using ALA Poppies or a Poppy motif*

Something wearable with poppies included that you might wear when you distribute poppies. Please be creative. This can be anything – jewelry, clothing, hair accessories, hats, etc.

CONTEST #2 – *Poppy Donation Container*

A Poppy Donation Container that was created by one of your unit members and used when your unit distributed poppies. Again, be creative.

Contests are open to all Auxiliary members. You do need to have a poppy of some sort in your entry, but you do not have to use the ALA poppy. All entries must include an attached sealed envelope with a card inside that states your name, unit number and unit location. If using ALA poppies, remember to remove the white tags. Small or large poppies may be used.

Voting for the People's Choice will be by donation, with the funds going to the Department President's Special Project of purchasing a player piano for the Minnesota Veterans Home in Bemidji and funds for activities at the Veterans Homes in Preston and Montevideo.

INFORMATION ON "BE THE ONE MISSION"

We know ALA members are playing a big role in supporting the Be the One mission. However, tying the phrase into a theme is diminishing the power of the words *Be the One*. We understand the tradition of having themes and we are not pointing fingers, punishing anyone, or assigning blame. However, our members may want to step back from using Be the One as a theme. Remember: This serious topic is not just an ALA focus, but an American Legion Family mission.

- Be the One is about suicide prevention and awareness.
- It originated as be the one to save one. It's estimated that between 17 and 22 veterans or servicemembers take their own lives each day.
- It's not a catchphrase. It's not a campaign. The American Legion is now calling it a mission.
- It's a mission to destigmatize asking for mental health support, provide peer-to-peer support and resources, and educate everyone on how they can Be the One.
- The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion joined The American Legion to promote the Be the One mission. So, ALA members should follow the guidelines from The American Legion. Go to BetheOne.org to learn more.
- The words "Be the One" should not be use as part of a lighthearted theme, to invite someone to a meeting, or to pay their dues. Uses other than suicide prevention/awareness diminish its power.
- Use of "Be the One" should be reserved for topics related to suicide prevention and awareness.
- The No. 1 issue facing the veteran community is suicide.
- The approved logos for Be the One are subject to the same usage rules as The American Legion brandmark.
- Think of Be the One as a standalone phrase such as "Just Do It" and "Got Milk".

How can you Be the One?

- Ask veterans in your life how they are doing.
- Listen when a veteran needs to talk.
- Reach out when you think a veteran might be struggling.
- Increase awareness about the veteran and military suicide epidemic.
- Have a list of resources in your area for veterans who may be struggling.
- Spread the word about the Veterans Crisis Line at 988.



Department of Minnesota Dates to Remember and General Updates

- March** – Women's History Month & Community Service Month
- March 1** – "Be the One Day"
- March 2** – ALA Department of Minnesota DEC Meeting Montgomery Post #79 11am
- March 2** – Appreciation Rally Montgomery Post #79 4:00pm
- March 10** – Daylight Savings Starts
- March 10** – Poppy Making Class – Melrose American Legion – 1pm
- March 15** – Unit Due Forms due to the Department Office
- March 29** – Good Friday (office closed)
- March 31** – Easter
- March 31** – Girls State Reservations due to Department Office
- April 1** – "Be the One Day"
- April 12-13** – Junior Department Conference
- April 15** – Annual Reports Due to District Chairman
- April 17** – Veterans Day On The Hill
- April 27** – Testimonial Department President – Melrose American Legion
- April 29-May 1** – National President's Tour
- June 1** – 2024-2025 Unit Officers List Due to Department Office

American Legion Family Day

American Legion Family Day is Saturday, April 27. On this date, American Legion posts throughout the nation will open their doors to their members and the members of their local communities with the intent of celebrating all great deeds and works of The American Legion Family with the intent to educate, recruit, recognize, and to give back to those members who continually support the gift of giving. The day will also place special emphasis and awareness on the Legion's "Be The One" program.

The Friday before Memorial Day is National Poppy Day – May 24th

It's never too early to start planning! ALA National Headquarters is already preparing! We'd love to hear from you and make your unit/post home a part of our ALA media coverage. Send us an email and tell us about any of the following:

- What are your plans for National Poppy Day?
- How have you used poppy funds to help veterans, military, and their families?
- Share a success story about how poppy funds helped someone in your community.

HOLD THE DATE

Department Convention July 11-13, Willmar, MN
Look for more information coming in the April Unit Mailing

Department of Minnesota Webpage – www.mnala.org

I have been working hard to keep the webpage up to date with current information. If you have any suggestions of what you would like to see added, please, let me know. I am hoping the webpage can become a tool for our members when looking for information about our programs and general information about the department. –Christie

will be mailed to each Senior member of our Unit next September. Below is the address to be printed on each Renewal Notice showing where our members are to mail their dues for this Unit.

It is understood that no change in the dollar amount of dues or the address to which the dues are to be sent can be made after a deadline which Department Headquarters will establish based on the requirements of National Headquarters. **When determining your dues amount, please make sure that the amount charged is at least \$30.00 for Senior members and \$6.00 for Junior members amounts that are sent to the Department office.**

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA UNIT NUMBER _____ DISTRICT _____
UNIT LOCATION _____

2025 SENIOR DUES OF THE UNIT ARE
(Amount each Senior member pays to your Unit) \$ _____
Dues sent to Department per Senior = \$30.00

2025 JUNIOR DUES OF THE UNIT ARE
(Amount each Junior member pays to your Unit) \$ _____
Dues sent to Department per Junior = \$6.00

Name of individual in the Unit to receive membership dues _____

Address (Please be certain it is the current/correct address) _____ Check Box if this is the Legion Post address.

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

() _____
Area Code Telephone Number E-mail address _____

Name of Membership Chairman _____

Date _____ Signature _____ Title _____

EVERY UNIT MUST COMPLETE & RETURN THIS FORM

Return no later than **March 15, 2024** to:

American Legion Auxiliary
State Veterans Service Building
20 W 12th St Room 314
St Paul MN 55155

Forms are also on our website and completed forms may be emailed to deptoffice@mnala.org.



American Legion Auxiliary

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

2024 - 2025 UNIT OFFICERS LIST

The Department is in the process of compiling the 2024 - 2025 Unit mailing list. We need the information noted below from your Unit for the 2024 - 2025 Auxiliary year. You can also find this form in a fillable format on our Department website mnala.org. **Please type or print** each person's information and make sure you have the current/complete address for each. One copy is to be sent to the Department Office and one copy to your District President (or your District President-elect) **no later than June 1st 2024**. This needs to be sent as soon as your Unit has held Election of Officers. **This 2024 - 2025 form is required of all units even if the same officers are re-elected.** Mail to the address below or email to deptoffice@mnala.org. If mailing address is a PO Box, please include street address as well. We do not always use USPS for mailing. Thank You!

UNIT # _____ UNIT LOCATION _____ DISTRICT # _____

President: Name _____ Member ID # _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____ Phone () _____

e-mail _____

Secretary: Name _____ Member ID # _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____ Phone () _____

e-mail _____

Treasurer: Name _____ Member ID # _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____ Phone () _____

e-mail _____

Membership Chairman: Name _____ Member ID # _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____ Phone () _____

e-mail _____

Dues Remit to (if Different from Membership Chairman): _____

This 2024 - 2025 form is required of all units even if the same officers are re-elected. 2024 Membership cards will only be sent to Units who have submitted this form.

***Unit mailing is to be sent to: _____

Address: _____

Unit Mailing Preference: Mail _____ or Email _____

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota

State Veterans Service Bldg. - 20 W. 12th St. Suite #314 - St. Paul, MN 55155 | P: (651) 224-7634 | F: ((651) 224-5243) | (888) 217-9598
deptoffice@mnala.org | Website: www.mnala.org

FOR SALE BY ADAMS UNIT 146

RIGHT - The Adam's unit has 45 plates and 39 cups of auxiliary dishware that has not been used in a long time. Please contact Nancy Lewison at 507-582-3390 if your unit would be interested in buying it.



**AUSTIN LEGION RIDER'S
BREAKFAST**

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
DECEMBER—MARCH
SERVING 9AM—12PM
\$10.00
(SCRAMBLED EGGS, SAUSAGE, BISCUITS & GRAVY, MILK, OJ, COFFEE & ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKES)

AUSTIN AMERICAN LEGION, POST 91

(December 3, January 7, February 4, March 3)

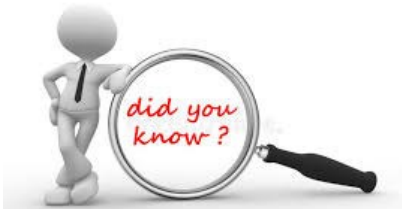
Plan on spending Mother's Day with us also for an extra special start to the day for those MOMS






Public Relations Insider

Northwestern Division



The American Legion Auxiliary's website is free and easy to navigate! It's easy to subscribe 1st visit www.alaforveterans.org 2nd click create an account, then add your name, member number and email...that's it you're in! Then you can go on to build your member profile or save it for later and start enjoying your journey. Here you will find about every answer to every question you ever wanted to ask! Please join today! Below we will share some of the great opportunities of our site.

The opportunities to gain experience are many. We have the ALA Academy it is easy to find on our website, just click the meetings/trainings button and then ALA academy. Once you launch the academy you can browse the catalog for a course, watch previous webinars, and it keeps a record of your progress, a fantastic way to learn from home!

Facebook is another great resource for ALA members. All our national committees have Facebook pages. You can easily find these groups and other social media links here: www.ALAforVeterans.org/social-media



This is where chairs, committee members, and ALA members share their unit and department activities. What a terrific way to gain information and a great place to be inspired or inspire others. As a bonus, our National President has a Facebook page (@ALANationalPresident), and we can all enjoy her visits and travels through the year.

Contact information:

Tammy Harris

Northwestern Division Chairperson

Public Relations Committee

tjharris@wyoming.com

307-389-2705

Feel free to contact me for more information or any questions.

The American Legion Auxiliary is also on



What can I do on the ALA website? Here are some examples, but there is so much more.

Pay your dues

Download important forms and membership applications

Research our Programs and Missions

Print out scholarship applications or fill them out online

Download certificates

Download all our Unit Guides and Handbooks

Print out resolution forms

Emblem request forms for Emblem usage

Download PR templates for easy access

Request a help ticket for ALAMIS

Download Youth coloring books

Download the Poppy days guide

There is a link to emblem sales...Let's get branded!

Basic Parliamentary procedure

Get the information for National Conventions and Mission Training

And of course the ALA Academy is right at your finger tips!

As a wise man once said "We learn something new everyday"

So let today be day that you take a journey and discover the advanatges of the ALA online!



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN

Girls State:

The Girls State packets just went on April 29th to the units that are sponsoring Girl Stater's!

Wanda Prescher

FROM YOUR PRESTON VETERANS HOME REPRESENTATIVE

Preston Veterans Home:

The home asked do NOT send anymore puzzles! They have more than enough now! Thank you to all that helped with that donation.

We would like to help fill their library with used paperback books, please NO war books.

Some of the residents are going to be gardening soon. Raised planting beds are around the outside patio area, where they will garden. Donations would be greatly appreciated either the tools or money to help them purchase the tools needed. If your unit or post are looking to donate to veterans, this would be a great help to them. Please note on your check-Garden donation.

Thank you to all that have helped somehow with the home, the staff cannot say enough great things about all that has been done for them, so know that it is greatly appreciated.

Thank you, 1st District for your generous support of our veterans and the Preston Veteran's Home!

Wanda Prescher



FROM YOUR HONORARY AUXILIARY JR PRESIDENT



Hi, I am Regan McElroy, I am the new Honorary Junior President of the First District American Legion Auxiliary. I would like to give introduction to the district! I am 11 years old. I live in Riceville, Iowa with my mom (Missy), my dad (Joe), my siter (Taylor) and I also have an older sister (Melanie). I play basketball, softball, and volleyball. In my free time, I enjoy hanging out with my friends and going shopping. My project and symbol are undecided as of right now. I am looking forward to this upcoming year.

"Cruising the Sea for Members!"

DISTRICT	# of Units	Goal	Period Gain	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year	Difference from Last Year
						4/15/2023	
One	47	3,762	28	3,110	82.67%	3,275	165
Two	71	3,890	26	3,156	81.13%	3,296	140
Three	46	3,882	45	3,242	83.51%	3,348	106
Four	7	579	7	445	76.86%	470	25
Five	7	522	7	307	58.81%	412	105
Six	61	5,031	38	4,164	82.77%	4,342	178
Seven	53	2,955	15	2,399	81.18%	2,507	108
Eight	19	1,185	8	1,033	87.17%	1,064	31
Nine	46	3,348	36	2,668	79.69%	2,881	213
Ten	42	3,812	28	3,054	80.12%	3,126	72
1982 Dept	1	332	4	267	80.42%	236	-31
District Totals:	400	29,298	242	23,845	81.39%	24,957	1,112

Group 1 (Even)	200	14,497	107	11,852	81.75%	12,298	446
<i>Robin Dorf</i>							
Group 2 (Odd)	199	14,469	131	11,726	81.04%	12,423	697
<i>Judy Ackerman</i>							

RANKINGS

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
87.17%	83.51%	82.77%	82.67%	81.18%	81.13%	80.12%	79.69%	76.86%	58.81%
District #8	District #3	District #6	District #1	District #7	District #2	District #10	District #9	District #4	District #5



AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP REPORT						4/22/24	
Unit	Location	Goal	Previous	Turn In	Total	Precent	Left
9	Winona	125	93	2	95	76.00%	30
90	Lewiston	36	24	3	27	75.00%	9
190	St Charles	12	4	1	5	41.67%	7
50	Wabasha	104	105	1	106	101.92%	-2
110	Lake City	71	33	2	35	49.30%	36
179	Plainview	128	103	4	107	83.59%	21
573	Elgin	15	1	6	7	46.67%	8
579	Millville	46	35	1	36	78.26%	10
588	Mazeppa	38	31	1	32	84.21%	6
92	Rochester	131	107	2	109	83.21%	22
119	Byron	23	13	0	13	56.52%	10
164	Stewartville	165	151	5	156	94.55%	9
551	Eyota	103	83	1	84	81.55%	19
Pod One Total		997	783	29	812	81.44%	185
295	West Concord	34	20	5	25	73.53%	9
330	Hayfield	176	154	10	164	93.18%	12
333	Kasson	143	115	2	117	81.82%	26
384	Dodge Center	58	52	1	53	91.38%	5
422	Claremont	22	3	16	19	86.36%	3
52	Blooming Prairie	93	80	1	81	87.10%	12
77	Owatonna	104	90	3	93	89.42%	11
75	New Richland	42	29	1	30	71.43%	12
228	Waseca	226	206	1	207	91.59%	19
587	Waldorf	20	14	0	14	70.00%	6
Pod Two Totals		918	763	40	803	87.47%	115
40	Lanesboro	96	83	1	84	87.50%	12
68	Spring Valley	47	39	7	46	97.87%	1
81	Harmony	54	35	6	41	75.93%	13
94	Rushford	47	43	4	47	100.00%	0
197	Chatfield	27	17	0	17	62.96%	10
299	Mabel	121	93	4	97	80.17%	24
369	Wykoff	20	17	0	17	85.00%	3
526	Peterson	50	41	1	42	84.00%	8
544	Ostrander	13	6	1	7	53.85%	6
637	Whalen	19	13	0	13	68.42%	6
191	Caledonia	72	60	1	61	84.72%	11
249	Spring Grove	95	67	3	70	73.68%	25
423	Houston	117	100	4	104	88.89%	13
498	Hokah	19	4	13	17	89.47%	2
595	LaCrescent	161	133	6	139	86.34%	22
Pod Three Totals		958	751	33	802	83.72%	156

56	Albert Lea	266	180	14	194	72.93%	72
264	Glenville	97	79	2	81	83.51%	16
404	Alden	43	29	5	34	79.07%	9
552	Freeborn	59	48	3	51	86.44%	8
91	Austin	123	79	5	84	68.29%	39
105	Lyle	53	30	11	41	77.36%	12
140	Grand Meadow	67	58	2	60	89.55%	7
146	Adams	131	113	2	115	87.79%	16
161	Leroy	50	27	6	33	66.00%	17
Pod Four Totals		889	643	50	693	77.95%	196
Total		3762	2940	2676	3110	82.67%	652

FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Hello Ladies

As of April 22, 2024, we are in fourth (4th) place in the Department. We are .10 out of third (3rd) and .84 out of second (2nd). So, keep up the good work. We have two and one half (2 ½) months until the Friday of the Department Convention (That is the cutoff date to get membership in for this year).

I hope to see you all at the District Convention in Austin on May 18, 2024.

Sharon Hammon – First District Auxiliary Membership Chairman

District President's Projects

2023-2024

Any donations to my project during my time as 1st district President will be divided between Believet and The Armed Forces Service Center.

Believet provides highly trained service dogs, free of charge, to disabled veterans, helping them lead more productive, independent lives. The dogs are specially-trained to perform mobility and psychiatric tasks. They can wake a veteran from a nightmare, ease their anxiety in a crowded place and provide comfort through companionship and physical contact. The dogs are custom-trained, the cost is around \$30,000 from start to finish and again no cost to the veteran.

The armed Forces Service Center is an “all-free” stop located at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport for active-duty military personnel and their dependents, Reservists, National Guardsmen and Military Retirees and their dependents. It is supported by a volunteer workforce and contributions. They are not affiliated with the USO, and do not receive funds from the US Government. Since opening on November 22, 1970, over 1 million active-duty military personnel, dependents and retirees have passed through the Armed Forces Service Center.

Hello everyone!

I wanted to give a quick update about what's been happening so far during the year! The planning for the Department Jr Conference is underway so if you are planning to go, please submit your registration as we are trying to get committees divided among attendees. Another reminder to please wear **PURPLE** on Saturday, April 13th.

I have been active throughout the state and am trying to make it to as many meetings as I can. If you have any meetings that you would like me to attend in April or May, please reach out and I will try to be there.

I have recently visited Carter at BelieVet. The trainers have expressed their love for Carter. He has the best personality and will be ready for a veteran in the next two months. BelieVet is planning to be at my conference to demonstrate some commands and training that they do with the dogs. They will also be able to share more information about their organization. I am planning to present them with a check in September at Carter's graduation from the program; however, my project amount update will be provided to them at the conference.

I have received orders for AIT (Advanced Individual Training) from the Army stating that I will leave on May 30, 2024. This means that unfortunately, I will not be here for the Department Convention this summer.

I will be on active orders at my unit in March, but I will be back on the weekends in order to make it to the Department Appreciation Rally, the Birthday Dinner in Anoka, 2nd District Jr Conference, and the 1st District Jr Conference.

I also want to say Thank You to everyone who has contributed to my project so far this year. Here is a goofy picture of Carter!

Taylor McElroy

ALA Department of Minnesota Honorary Jr President



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



COMMANDER

Chuck Stone
1625 Crestview Lane, Owatonna, MN 55060
Phone - 507—213—7517
EMAIL - castoney@hotmail.com

ADJUTANT

EAST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

WEST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

MEMBERSHIP

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

FINANCE OFFICER

Gene Luedtke
325 Hoffman Dr, Apt 305 Owatonna,
MN 55060
507—451—5731
gene.luedtke@hotmail.com

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Josh Erickson
278 1/2 East 3rd St , Winona, MN
55987
507—313-5861
josheric@hbc.com

CHAPLAIN

Sgt at ARMS

Tim Weaver
1305 Willow St Apt 39
Phone - 608-304-6532
EMAIL - saltimweaver@gmail.com

Saturday May 4, 2024 at 9:00 AM is the First District Sons of The American Legion Convention.

Please try to attend this event. In the past attendance has been very poor and we would like to see that improve.



The 1st District SAL has following District Leadership positions open for the 2024-2025 Year:

West Vice Commander

Chaplin

Sgt at Arms

Parliamentarian

Adjutant

Historian

No experience is required . Training will be provided. Specific Job descriptions can be obtained by contacting the undersigned .

Questions about any of these positions can be addressed to the undersigned.

Thank You.

Brian Medinnus

minnkid58@gmail.com/1-507-219-7188

1st District SAL Advisor

Squadron Summary

Congratulations to the 21 Squadrons who are at or above goal at this time. Job well done, and an example for all of us to follow. So 21 of 36 Squadrons have hit the goal, that's great news. Let's get the remaining 15 Squadrons to reach their goal. Are you a member of one the 15? If so, ask what you can do to help get your Squadron on pace and at goal. A huge THANK YOU to the 11 Squads at 100% or greater. GREAT JOB!!!

Think of those family members that you are representing through your SAL membership. Would they consider your current role meaningful and honoring their years of service? Or should you give more time and commitment to Veterans, the Legion family and your Squadron.

I know everyone is busy these days and volunteering seems to be more difficult all the time. We all must find a way to honor those we represent and place high importance on preserving our American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for Veterans and their families, and perhaps most importantly teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.

See our District membership detail in the reports following this summary. How is your Squadron Doing, and are you OK with your status?

Please see the links below, I thought they may be helpful to some of our SAL members or leaders. As always if you have questions or need help with membership or questions in general feel free to reach out to me.

The current SAL membership report can be accessed on the national website at www.legion.org/membership/standings.

SAL Online Renewal - members can login and renew direct via www.myLegion.org or quick renew by clicking here [SAL Online Renewal](#).

SAL New Member Kit is now online and ready for purchase. [New Member Kit \(SAL\) - American Legion Flag & Emblem](#).



SAL 1st District

Membership Summary as of 4/22/24

We made some good progress, however we missed the April goal by 1.41%. The 1st District remains in 9th place out of 10 Districts sitting at 88.59%. That's an increase of 2.55% from last month. We are approximately 3 percentage points out of 8th place. As a state, we have surpassed the April goal of 90%. More importantly as District 1 we need to hit that May 15th goal of 100% sooner than later. Hitting our 2024 goal will only get more difficult as the membership drive for 2025 will soon be upon us.

Districts	2023 Results	2024 Goal	Current at Dept.	Percentage	Placing
1st District	1646	1683	1491	88.59%	9
2nd District	1212	1235	1244	100.73%	2
3rd District	2059	2095	2041	97.42%	4
4th District	348	354	367	103.67%	1
5th District	327	335	329	98.21%	3
6th District	1580	1610	1473	91.49%	8
7th District	869	887	855	96.39%	5
8th District	536	546	457	83.70%	10
9th District	882	902	867	96.12%	6
10th District	1593	1624	1536	94.58%	7
Totals	11052	11271	10660	94.58%	

National Goal Milestones



2024 National Membership Target Dates			
1	September 13, 2023	10%	6 ♥ February 14, 2024 ♥ 75%
2	October 18, 2023	25%	7 March 13, 2024 80%
3	November 15, 2023	35%	8 April 10, 2024 90%
4	December 13, 2023	45%	9 May 15, 2024 100%
5	January 18, 2024	60%	10 July 24, 2024 (DSTG) 105%

Squadron Summary

Congratulations to the 24 Squadrons who are at or above goal at this time. This is up from last month. Job well done, and an example for all of us to follow. So 24 of 36 Squadrons have hit the goal, that's great news. Let's get the remaining 12 Squadrons to reach their goal. Are you a member of one the 12? If so ask what you can do to help get your Squadron on pace and at goal.

A huge THANK YOU to the 11 Squads at 100% or greater. GREAT JOB!!!

See our District membership detail in the reports following this summary. How is your Squadron Doing, and are you OK with your status?

Recruiting new members into the SAL can help strengthen your Squadron and our District. Our current membership is aging and we need to ensure the legacy of our Veteran's is carried on. What better way than to help get others involved in our organization.

Think of your Squadron like a sports team back when you were young. Comparing the importance of a sports team and a squadron of the Sons of the American Legion involves considering various aspects:

Community Engagement: Both entities engage with the community but in different ways.

Sports teams often bring communities together through entertainment and shared passion for the game, while Sons of the American Legion squadrons engage in community service and support for veterans and their families.

Social Cohesion: Sports teams' foster camaraderie among players and fans, promoting teamwork and unity. Similarly, the Sons of the American Legion squadron provide a sense of belonging and support among its members through shared values and missions.

Tradition: Both sports teams and Sons of the American Legion squadrons often have rich histories, traditions, and legacies that contribute to their importance within their respective communities. These traditions can instill pride and a sense of continuity among members and supporters.

Sons of the American Legion squadrons offer opportunities for veterans and their families to connect, receive support, and give back to their communities through service and advocacy.

Cultural Significance: Sports teams often hold cultural significance within their communities or even on a national or international scale, shaping identities and influencing societal norms. Similarly, the Sons of the American Legion can play a crucial role in preserving and promoting American values, patriotism, and the legacy of veterans' service.

In summary, while sports teams and Sons of the American Legion squadrons serve different purposes and engage in different activities, both play important roles in their respective communities, promoting unity, well-being, and service. Their significance lies in their ability to bring people together, foster a sense of belonging, and make positive contributions to society. Are you on the team? If not join up, or ask a friend to join up and make this world a better place.

Sincerely,

Greg Lemmer

1st District Membership



July



2024

To Post Commander, Unit President, Squadron Commander:

Again this year the First District American Legion Riders are hosting a **Tour of the First District Day**. This event not only brings the First District American Legion Family together but raises awareness to our communities on the good things that each member of the American Legion does for others in need.

I am personally inviting all of you to join us on **Saturday, July 20, 2024**. If you are not able to attend, I ask that you please consider donating to one or both causes that we have chosen to support this year. By sending your most generous gift, we can continue to provide comfort and care to these heroic U.S. servicemembers and their families who are so highly deserving of everything we can possibly do for them.

The **Minnesota Veterans Assistance Fund** falls under our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) pillar. Through MVAFA, assistance and provides help to maintain the basic needs of a Veteran, Deployed Serviceman's family, or to assist surviving minor children, (applicant), of eligible Veterans. The purpose of the grant is to maintain a stable environment for the applicant by helping them meet the costs of shelter, food, utilities, transportation, and medical expenses. Donation checks can be made out to the **Minnesota American Legion Foundation and place Fund 85 in the memo line.**

Believet™ provides highly trained service dogs, free of charge, to disabled veterans, helping them to lead more productive, independent lives. Trained service dogs can provide an essential source of security, affection, and connection for our veterans. Believet's dogs are specially trained to perform mobility and psychiatric tasks. They can wake a veteran from a nightmare, ease their anxiety in a crowded public place, and provide comfort through companionship and physical contact. Our dogs also help keep veterans on a schedule because the dogs need care and attention on a regular basis. A service dog provides a sense of security, greater independence, non-judgmental acceptance, affection, physical assistance, and peace of mind. Donation checks can be made out to **BELIEVET.**

Since 2014 the First District American Legion Riders have continually worked to ease the burdens facing our veterans, military, and their families. We step up every year and collectively provide our assistance to our veterans and communities.

Fulfilling our obligations to veterans whose needs go far beyond the treatment they receive in the VA health care system is an expensive task, so we must rely on the generosity of our loyal supporters to continue our goal.

Thank you for your consideration of supporting our veterans and their families.

Karla "Sunshine" Maloney
First District Legion Riders Director
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Winona, MN 55987

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HISTORIAN - TRICIA PETERSON

ROAD CAPTAIN



FROM YOUR DIRECTORS DESK

As the first year of my term as Director comes to an end, I would like to thank my officers for their help and dedication to this organization. A huge thank you to the First District Family for showing your support as we helped raise money to help our Veterans. A very special thank you to my husband, Commander Mark, for believing in me and convincing me that I can be a leader. And finally thank you to the Riders of the 1st District for proving that we are NUMBER ONE!!

Our District ALR Convention is this coming Saturday, May 4th at 1300 at the Austin American Legion. All are welcome. We will be reviewing the proposed Department Constitution and By-Laws; electing 2024-2025 officers and plan the route/stops for the Tour of the 1st District Day on Saturday, July 20th.

Together We Can Make A Difference
Sunshine Maloney, Director
sunshine1alr@gmail.com

Armed Forces

DAY

Honoring all who served

2nd Annual UTV/ATV

Ride for a Reason

When: Saturday June 15th

Time: Registration begins at 11:00

**Where: Starts at Shar's Country Palace, backroads to the
Chatfield Trail**

Food to follow at Shar's



\$20/person
50/50 Raffle
Other Giveaways

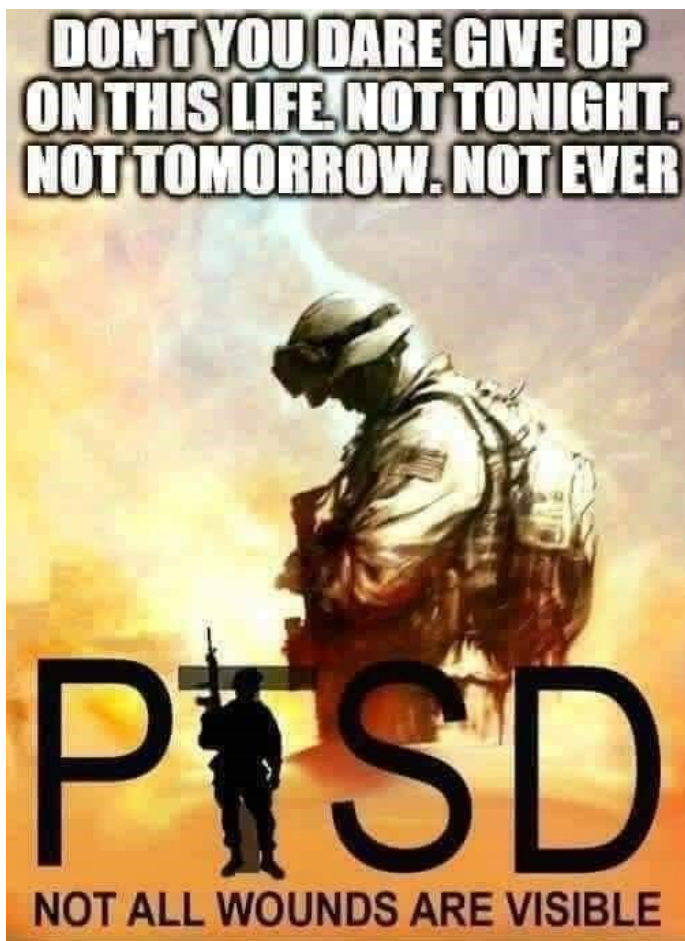


**All Proceeds Benefit
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention**



Jim
507-440-0903

Jen
507-990-1301



An app for on line mental health

[https://](https://www.facebook.com/100019040483031/posts/1054342938543712/?sfnsn=mo&mibextid=LROouL)

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crisis-now-eligible-free-care-
nationwide/%3foutputType=amp](https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.kttc.com/2023/01/17/veterans-crisis-now-eligible-free-care-nationwide/%3foutputType=amp)

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

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

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

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

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

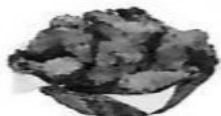
Video links: Vimeo playlist includes videos that can be downloaded and played while offline. They can be shared on social media, posted to the web and played at post events.

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

How to scan a QR code:

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

ADAMS AMERICAN LEGION POST 146 Chicken, Pork, Fish, & Steak Fry Schedule



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

(*Unless Noted) (507) 582-3266



January & 2024 SCHEDULE

BURGER NIGHT EVERY MONDAY - Serving 5 to 8 p.m.

Chicken & Pork Fry, Legion	January 20
Chicken & Pork Fry, Legion	February 3
Fish Fry, SAL	February 16
Fish Fry, Auxiliary	March 1
Steak Fry, Sportsmen	March 9
Chicken & Pork Fry, Legion	April 6
Chicken & Pork Fry, Legion Baseball	April 20
Windsor Chops, Legion	May 4
Chicken & Pork Fry, Trap Shoot	May 18
Dairy Days Steak Fry, Legion, *4:00-7:00 p.m.	June 8
Dairy Days Chicken & Pork Fry, *4:00-8:00 p.m.	June 9

~ E-Tab's & Bingo Available ~

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

www.adamslegionpost146.com

• Facebook - visit: Adams Post 146

CHICKEN & PORK FRY WORKERS

Saturday, January 20, 2024

4:45 pm to 7:30 pm

Ron & Shelly Kiefer
Jim & Brenda Kellogg
*Dale & Sandy Bissen

Bob & Dawn Gilles
Tom & Carrie Schneider

Gene & Jeanine Kiefer
Tony & Karen Emanuel
John & Rebecca Wolterman

Winona Chicken Q Dates

January 6 th	SAL Chicken Q
February 10 th	Event Sponsor is Winona Chiefs Baseball Team. They will sell tickets and serve the meals. SAL will grill the chicken.
March 9 th	Event Sponsor is Pickwick Mill Inc. They will sell tickets and serve the meals. SAL will grill the chicken.
April 6 th	SAL Chicken Q
May 11 th	Event Sponsor is Kids Sport. They will sell tickets, grill the chicken, and serve the meals.
September 7 th	SAL Chicken Q
October 5 th	Event Sponsor is Winona Cotter HS Speech Team. They will sell tickets and serve the meals. SAL will grill the chicken.

All events offer dine in or carry out. We would hope you dine in, and experience the great family environment at the Winona American Legion.