



January – February – March 2024 Newsletter

American Legion
Richard Dingle Post 98
328 Broadway Avenue
Saint Paul Park, MN 55071
651-459-8016

Upcoming Weekly Events

Bingo is conducted every Tuesday
starting at 6:00pm

Meat Raffles every Friday @ 5:30

Friday Fish Fry starting February 9th.

If you need any additional information
regarding the upcoming events,
meetings, or Legion activities. please
visit our website at

www.richarddinglepost98.com

Upcoming Events:

Concert Night featuring Mayfair 3 –
January 19, doors open at 6:00pm and
starts at 7:00pm

Auxiliary Chili Cookoff – January 28,
starts at noon until 3:00pm

**Concert Night featuring Smokin
Whiskey** – February 3, doors open at
6:00pm and starts at 7:00pm

**Concert Night featuring Jonah and
The Whales** – March 23, doors open at
7:00pm and starts at 8:00pm

As always, feel free to email either the
Post or Adjutant at the following email
addresses:

Post 98 Email Address

post98spp@gmail.com

Post 98 Adjutant Email Address

aladjutant98@outlook.com

**As always, keep your eye on the
website, Facebook for updates for
more information on upcoming events!**

Commander's Call

Hello everyone.

It's been too long. I apologize for missing the last newsletter. We had a short-term leave of absence and we're filling the position as best we could. I would like to thank everyone who stepped up to the occasion.

Many things have happened since I last wrote. We had our post everlasting ceremony. Also, our kids Christmas party's as well. Our Toys for Tots drop off was a huge success, we are once again an official drop off site for Toys for Tots.

I also would like to thank everyone who helped decorating our post and making it look magical.

The new year is just right around the corner which means so are Fish Fry's, all volunteers are welcome.

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Stay safe and stay warm.

Gerald Wright
Commander



Adjutant's Notes

We are currently sitting at 79.2% with a paid membership of 316. For those that still haven't renewed your membership for 2024, please get them in.

Membership

As we discussed in the Membership meeting about this time last, the National and Department dues were increasing. Currently, the dues breakdown is as follows: National - \$18.50, Department - \$13.50, Hospital Association - \$.25, Third District - \$3.00 - totaling - \$35.25. This upcoming year's breakdown will be: National - \$23.50, Department - \$16.50, Hospital Association - \$.25, Third District - \$3.00 totaling - \$43.25. Our current membership dues are \$45, this Post will only make \$1.75 on each membership. As this is one of the Post's sources of revenue, it was voted in December's Membership meeting to increase the Post 98 dues to \$50.

The 3-year pay ahead membership was available effective Dec 4.

- Anyone who HAS NOT renewed their membership for 2024 can renew for up to three years at the current membership rate. (Before the dues increase). You must go onto MyLegion to renew, you cannot do it through your post (at this time).
- For those that have already renewed for 2024 please don't fret, your time is coming, National is doing a bit more testing and hopefully they will have something for you early next calendar year.

- If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Hope everyone had a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mike Solei
Post 98 Adjutant



If you have a change in contact information, please reach out to the Post Adjutant, Auxiliary Treasurer or S.A.L. Adjutant and he/she will get

your information updated. This is important as we are trying to keep our postal costs to a minimum. Last newsletter mailing we had \$20 in returned newsletters.

Taps – Covering since previous newsletter.

**Michael Skweres, Robert Zietlow,
Richard Graf, Gary Mathison,
Lawrence Praml, Forrest Bailey,
Robert Dassow, James Schafer,
James Wolcott, Byron Glime,
Dennis Mackley**

Legion Meeting Dates

***Monday, January 15, 2024 @ 7pm
Monday, February 19, 2024 @ 7pm
Monday, March 18, 2024 @ 7pm
Monday, April 15, 2024 @ 7pm***

Service Officer

Wishing you all a fabulous New Year!

I want to first – say thank you to all who attended and helped with the headstone dedication at Newport Cemetery for PVT French. The weather almost didn't cooperate but, in the end, we had good weather for the ceremony.

Toy for Tots has come to an end and a great big Thank You to all who donated (both time, money, and gifts). Thank you

to the SALs for including us in their fundraiser – what a difference it made. Check out the Facebook post with the Post’s appearance on KARE 11.

Thank you to the Park High School students who participated in Boys State this summer. We heard high praise for all of them and one of our students, DJ, was chosen to represent Minnesota at the National event. Great job to you all – DJ, Cole, Nowale and JC.

A gentle reminder – please make sure to enter your volunteer hours in the binder. These need to be included in the annual report but I need records to back it up. I happen to know there is a lot of time donated by members in support of our activities, so let’s show that!

Feel free to contact me via email or phone if you have questions about benefits. We want to make sure you access what you have earned. I may not have the answer, but we will work together to find it.

Thank you,

Danielle Horan Post
Service Officer

Chaplain

Well, here we are again. The wonderful but sometimes stressful time of year. It’s normal to feel the stress of gift-giving, financial burdens, hosting social situations, family dynamics, past memories to live up to and travel. But for many of us, these stressors may even become unbearable. So, you ask yourself, “Is this holiday stress thing a

normal thing?” The simple answer is “YEP”, but experts tell us there are some things we can do to help us through these times.

These are some practical tips, and they may help us enjoy the holidays maybe even more than we expected.

1. **Plan ahead.** Often some social events will happen on the same day. Think about which ones you want to attend and plan ahead. People will understand.
2. **Say No.** It is OK to say no, especially if it will take some of the stress and triggers out of our life.
3. **Plan Spending.** Make a budget and stick to it.
4. **Create relaxing surroundings.** Music you enjoy, decorate the way you want...it’s your home,
5. **Stay with health habits.** Just because it is the holidays, you don’t need to overdo your drinking and eating. You will feel better if you behave yourself.
6. **Try your best not to fight with your loved ones, even if you want to.** Try to forgive and forget and don’t rehash the same old arguments.
7. **Give yourself a break.** Don’t forget about your own needs. Take a nap, go for a short walk, watch that movie you have wanted to see again.

Holidays should be a fun enjoyable time with your family and friends.

They should be but you might have to work a little at it. I hope these tips from pros will help. Happy holidays!

Jim Kaempfer
Post 98 Chaplain

Auxiliary News

The Auxiliary has been busy the last few months. We once again coordinated with the Legion to plan the annual Kids Halloween Party held on October 31st. In December we held a New Member Initiation Ceremony in lieu of the monthly meeting. The five new members initiated were Dorothy Flottesmesch, Sally Strasser, Sarah Wilwert, Charlotte Wright, and Mae Wright. We closed out December with the annual Special Needs Christmas Party on the 16th.

As we move into the New Year the Auxiliary will be having its first fundraiser on Sunday January 28th. We are very excited for our Annual Chili Cook-Off this year and the additional events planned for the day. Watch for the banners on the building, signs around the Post, Facebook postings and Legion website updates. If you see something on social media that you can share with your friends or groups regarding this event, please do!

We have been asked to volunteer at the Lenten Fish-Frys if you are able to help serve food or collect money, please be sure to sign-up on the sheets that will be located in the bar.

In closing, I would like to again say

Thank You to all the Auxiliary Members for your continued support of Unit 98, Our Veterans, Community, and each other.

Kind regards,

Jeorgia Appel-Cluckey
Auxiliary President

Auxiliary Meeting Dates

Monday, January 8, 2024 @ 6:30pm

***Monday, February 5, 2024 @
6:30pm***

Monday, March 4, 2024 @ 6:30pm

Monday, April 1, 2024 @ 6:30pm

Jr. Auxiliary News

Mark your calendars. April 12 and 13 is the Department Junior Conference in Detroit Lakes. Remember our December meeting is canceled due to an employee Christmas party. Our next meeting is January 7, 2024, at 6 p.m.

Time is flying by so keep working on your patches.

See you soon.

Lynn Duffy
Junior Chairman

Jr. Auxiliary Meeting Dates

Sunday, January 7th, 2024 @ 6pm
Sunday, February 4th, 2024 @ 6pm
Sunday, March 3rd, 2024 @ 6pm
Sunday, April 7th, 2024 @ 6pm

S.A.L. News

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years.

The Sons of the American Legion have been growing here at our post over the past few months. I would like to thank every one of you for your support.

We have some exciting news coming up for the next four months. The Sons of the American Legion will be hosting four more live bands. What a great kick off to winter down at the Legion. I could not be prouder of our members and their continued support and helping the Sons of the American Legion grow. The December 2nd event with Jonah and the Whales was a great success not only for the SAL squad but also for the Post.

Our meetings will continue to be held on our normal date, which is the 4th Monday of every month.

The SAL's have a Facebook page so if you have not followed the page yet you can do so by going to Sons of the

American Legion Post 98 and click follow. There you will find all the events that the SAL's have upcoming including our meeting dates.

Also, if you have not yet been receiving emails from our SAL Adjutant, please email James Swing at saladjutant98@outlook.com so we can keep you up to date on meetings and events.

Until next time,

Gregg Wilwert
S.A.L Commander

S.A.L. Meeting Dates

Monday, January 22, 2024 @ 6pm
Monday, February 26, 2024 @ 6pm
Monday, March 25, 2024 @ 6pm
Monday, April 22, 2024 @ 6pm

Gambling Manager

I wanted to share some financial facts about the first half of the gambling year. So far, we've grossed \$1,836,117.25, we paid the state of Minnesota \$57,468.20 in taxes and donated \$124,085.97 to the community or expenses to keep the post running smooth, this was a great year for charitable gambling, once again thank you to all my employee's, it could not have happened without you.

Here are some of the details of where the dollars go:

Total Lawful Purpose Expenses including below - \$ 124,085.97.
Donations to 501(c)(3) - \$8,600.00
Military Recognition - \$5,038.03
Youth - \$3,588.46

Total Allowable Expenses - \$123,592.53
Total Gross - \$ 1,849,495.25
Total Prizes – \$ 1,628,554.30
Total Net/Gross Profit - \$ 220,940.95

Thank you all,

Mike Solei
Gambling Manager

Bar Manager

I hope that this newsletter finds everyone in good health and had a very Merry Christmas! I can't believe that it is already 2024 and with a new year comes new beginnings!

Over the past months we have had Heritage Days, Booya, Comedy Shows, Halloween Party for the kids, after the Halloween party we had the Vikings Street Team show up and gave a set of tickets to customers, Veterans Day celebrating all of our Veterans, Post Everlasting (which is always an emotional ceremony for all of us), we became an official sponsor of Toys For Tots, Christmas Party for Kids, an employee Christmas Party and more!!!

During the upcoming months we have some exciting things happening at the Legion. Bands, Comedy Shows, Bingo

on Tuesdays, Karaoke every other Friday Night, Fish Fry's will be starting in February, St Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage and so much more!

As we enter the New Year and everyone always has grand New Year Resolutions, I have an idea let's everyone treat others the way they would like to be treated with kindness and respect. I have said in past newsletters that you don't know what someone else is going through and a simple Hi or smile can go a long way. Also, maybe please take the time to thank all the staff at the Legion whether it be a bartender, waitress, food runner or the staff from 328 Grill, they all work very hard, and the Legion wouldn't be able to do the things we do without ALL of them. I really love seeing the familiar faces, and the new faces that come into drink, eat, and gamble and we have the staff to thank for that.

It has been a pleasure being the Bar Manager for the Legion and I really couldn't do it without the amazing staff that I have. Everyone goes through different things at different times, but I am truly lucky to have the staff I have that steps up when needed!!!! We cannot choose our families, but we do get to choose those who become family, and to my Legion family I say THANK YOU!!!

Have a very Happy and Blessed New Year!!!!

Your trying to smile more Bar Manager

Colleen

Operational Items

Bar Hours

Sunday - Monday 11 am til 10 pm
Tuesday - Thursday 11 am til 11 pm
Friday - Saturday 11 am til 1 am

Gambling Booth Hours

Sunday - Monday 11 am til 9 pm
Tuesday - Thursday 11 am til 10 pm
Friday - Saturday 11 am til 12 am

328 Grill Hours

Monday - Saturday - 11am to 8pm
Sunday - 11am - 6pm

Hall Rental Rates

Members \$200.00
Auxiliary, S.A.L. Members \$300.00
Celebration of Life \$100.00

Table Rental Rates

For your graduation, other parties / celebration events coming up, we have available for loan or rental folding tables. We have an 8-foot rectangle and 6-foot round tables. Post 98 Family Members are free, and non-members are \$10, Post Family Members are responsible for any

damage on return. Contact Post 98 for more information and rental, 1-week notice is required to make sure that we have a stock of tables available.

Toys For Tots

Picture from Toys For Tots collection at Kare11. The Post collected \$500.00 and 2 truckloads of toys. In the photograph are Gregg Wilwert, Lynn Duffy, James Swing, Rick Kullman, John Dingle, Scott Hanneman, Jessica Thraen, Teresa Kullman, and William Hoyt.



January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day	2 Bingo – 6:30pm	3	4 40/8 Mtg – 5:00	5 Meat Raffle – 5:30	6
7 Jr. Auxiliary Meeting – 6:00pm	8 Executive Board Mtg – 6:15 Auxiliary Mtg – 6:30	9 Bingo – 6:30pm	10	11	12 Meat Raffle – 5:30	13 CVMA Mtg – 10:00
14	15 Membership Mtg – 7:00	16 Bingo – 6:30pm	17	18 Legions of Laugh Comedy Show – 7:00pm	19 Meat Raffle – 5:30 Concert Night - MayFair3 – 7:00pm	20
21	22 S.A.L. Mtg – 6:00	23 Bingo – 6:30pm	24	25	26 Meat Raffle – 5:30	27 Purple Assoc. Mtg – 10:00
28 Auxiliary Chili Cook Off – 12:00pm	29	30 Bingo – 6:30pm	31			

Events

Meat Raffles

Come join us on Fridays for our Meat Raffle featuring Von Hanson's Meats.

Bingo

Bingo every Tuesday starting at 6:30pm, packets for sale starting around 6:00pm

Auxiliary Chii Cook Off

January 28th starting at 12:00pm

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 40/8 Mtg – 5:00pm	2 Meat Raffle – 5:30pm	3 Concert Night - Smokin Whiskey – 7:00pm
4 Jr. Auxiliary Meeting – 6:00pm	5 Auxiliary Mtg – 6:30pm	6 Bingo – 6:30pm	7	8 Legions of Laugh Comedy Show – 7:00pm	9 Fish Fry – 4:00pm Meat Raffle – 5:30pm	10 Combat Vets Mtg – 10:00am
11	12 Executive Mtg – 6:15pm	13 Bingo – 6:30pm	14	15	16 Fish Fry – 4:00pm Meat Raffle – 5:30pm	17
18	19 Legion Mtg – 7:00pm	20 Bingo – 6:30pm	21	22	23 Fish Fry – 4:00pm Meat Raffle – 5:30pm	24 Purple Heart Assoc Meeting – 10:00am
25	26 S.A.L. Meeting – 6:00pm	27 Bingo – 6:30pm	28	29		

Events

Friday Fish Fry / Meat Raffles

Fish Fry starts on February 9 at 4:00pm
Come join us for our Meat Raffle featuring Von Hanson's Meats.

Bingo

Bingo every Tuesday starting at 6:30pm, packets for sale starting around 6:00pm

Concert Night

Concert Night featuring Smokin Whiskey – 7:00pm

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Fish Fry – 4:00pm Meat Raffle – 5:30pm	2
3 Jr. Auxiliary Meeting – 6:00pm	4 Auxiliary Mtg – 6:30pm	5 Bingo – 6:30pm	6	7 40/8 Mtg – 5:00pm	8 Fish Fry – 4:00pm Meat Raffle – 5:30pm	9 Combat Vets Mtg – 10:00am
10	11 Executive Mtg – 6:15pm	12 Bingo – 6:30pm	13	14 Legions of Laugh Comedy Show – 7:00pm	15 Fish Fry – 4:00pm Meat Raffle – 5:30pm	16
17	18 Legion Mtg – 7:00pm	19 Bingo – 6:30pm	20	21	22 Fish Fry – 4:00pm Meat Raffle – 5:30pm	23 Purple Heart Assoc Meeting – 10:00am Concert Night featuring Jonah and The Whales – 7:00pm
24	25 S.A.L. Meeting – 6:00pm	26 Bingo – 6:30pm	27	28	29 Fish Fry – 4:00pm Meat Raffle – 5:30pm	30

Events

Friday Fish Fry / Meat Raffles

Fish Fry starts on February 9 at 4:00pm
Come join us for our Meat Raffle featuring Von Hanson's Meats.

Bingo

Bingo every Tuesday starting at 6:30pm, packets for sale starting around 6:00pm

Concert Night

Concert Night featuring Jonah and The Whales – 7:00pm