



AMERICAN LEGION POST 56

Our Mission

To support and assist all veterans and their families; To provide child, youth and community programs that instill teamwork, citizenship, and patriotism; To encourage our elected leaders to support legislation that ensure our service members are properly trained, equipped, and receive the benefits they have earned; To honor the sacrifices made by our veterans in defense of our nation.

“Serving Veterans, Serving the community”

142 North Broadway, Albert Lea, MN * 373-7993 * www.americanlegionpost56.com

April, 2024

While I write this it has snowed, rained, sleeted, snowed and now it's raining once more. Yep! We're still in Minnesota and it's still March. You gotta love it! This is opening the door to Spring! Watch what April will bring us.

You know.....sometimes when you know you need to write something and.....you really don't know what to write about. Well.....this is one of my times.....I do wish to take this opportunity to say Thank you to the following people and groups within the Legion:

The staff we have like Carla, Cathy, Tony, Gabby, Jake and Kayla who deal with the business end of it all. Without these people to consistently and continually be there, we would not be open each day.

I have an immense gratification for our volunteers who spend hours and hours of their own time at the Legion to make sure things are fixed, the rooms are cleaned and the operations are running as smooth as possible. Volunteers like Beth, Ellie, Sandy and Tom, Lynn and Bill, Theresa and Craig, Kurt and Cheryl, Jeff and Carol, Orrian and Barb, Sid, Ron and Barb. Several of these have given their own personal finances to keep this building's doors open I might add.

Then you have the entire Honor Guard who always has someone at the ready to show respect for our fallen, our flag and for ourselves. They will properly present the flag, respect the flag and explain the flag and its meaning.

We have the veteran service groups that work within the Legion....The DAV and the VFW. These two groups support the Legion in so many ways. Not only thru financial help but they also give a "home" to those that need the medical support and help to support the community thru the many donations they give out. They can give those that have fought in the many far off lands a place to talk, to remember and to help one another.

Then there are the two groups that support the veterans from behind the scenes. Those are the Auxiliary and the SAL. The Auxiliary has always been a strong entity behind the veterans supporting all endeavors taken. Up until the last year the SAL was quiet. However, recently it has taken on a resurgence and began to grow again thru its new leadership.

One of our newer organizations is the Legion Riders. Here we have a mixture of veterans and non veterans with the primary purpose of enjoying riding their motorcycles. This group has done a tremendous job of bringing in new people to both the Legion, SAL and Auxiliary. They have also done a great job of financially supporting the Legion when we needed it.

These organizations have done a great job financially supporting the Legion and giving vets and non-vets alike a place to come to socialize and participate in helping one another.

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Now imagine not having these because there wasn't the building to support this?

I guess I did have something to say after all.

God Bless Each and Everyone of You

Ole - For God and Country

Quilts of Valor

Our next presentation will be on Friday, April 19th.
Recipients are: Chris Christianson, Ernest Halvorson,
Raymond King, Marc Schaub, & Thomas Winjum
Come and join us as we honor these veterans!

Continuous Year / Legionnaire of the Year

The Post will be honoring our members who have reached the milestone of 50 & 60 continuous years as dedicated members of Post 56. We will also be presenting the award for the Legionnaire of the Year. A meal will be served at 5:30 pm with the program to follow. A free will donation will be appreciated by the family and friends attending. RSVP to Sandy @ 507-383-0821 by April 12, 2024.

APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 EASTER SUNDAY	1 CLUB CLOSED DAV Mtg 7 pm	2 Burger Baskets Open Menu 4 - 7:30 pm Cloverleaf Lions 6 pm	3 Women Vets Lunch 11:30 am Bingo 6 pm Open Menu 4 - 7:30 pm	4 Meat Raffle 5 pm Fish Nugget Special Open Menu 4 - 7:30 pm Line Dancing 6:30 pm	5 Meat Loaf Special Open Menu 4 - 7:30 pm Karaoke 7 - 11 pm	6 CLUB CLOSED
7 CLUB CLOSED	8 CLUB CLOSED Exec. Board Mtg 6:30 pm VFW Mtg 7 pm	9 Burger Baskets Open Menu 4 - 7:30 pm	10 Bingo 6 pm Open Menu 4 - 7:30 pm	11 Meat Raffle 5 pm Fish Nugget Special Open Menu 4 - 7:30 pm Line Dancing 6:30 pm	12 Taco Salad Special Open Menu 4 - 7:30 pm Karaoke 7 - 11 pm	13 CLUB CLOSED
14 CLUB CLOSED	15 CLUB CLOSED Continuous Years / Legionnaire of the Year 5:30 pm Post Mtg to follow	16 Burger Baskets Open Menu 4 - 7:30 pm Cloverleaf Lions 6 pm	17 Bingo 6 pm Open Menu 4 - 7:30 pm	18 Meat Raffle 5 pm Fish Nugget Special Open Menu 4 - 7:30 pm Line Dancing 6:30 pm	19 Quilts of Valor 3 pm Fish Fry Open Menu 4 - 7:30 pm Karaoke 7 - 11 pm	20 CLUB CLOSED
21 CLUB CLOSED	22 CLUB CLOSED	23 Burger Baskets Open Menu 4 - 7:30 pm Legion Riders 6:30 pm	24 Bingo 6 pm Open Menu 4 - 7:30 pm	25 Meat Raffle 5 pm Fish Nugget Special Open Menu 4 - 7:30 pm Line Dancing 6:30 pm	26 Steak & Shrimp Special Open Menu 4 - 7:30 pm Karaoke 7 - 11 pm	27 CLUB CLOSED
28 Riders Pancake Breakfast 8 am - 7:30 pm	29 CLUB CLOSED	30 Burger Baskets Open Menu 4 - 7:30 pm	1 Bingo 6 pm Open Menu 4 - 7:30 pm	2 Meat Raffle 5 pm Fish Nugget Special Open Menu 4 - 7:30 pm Line Dancing 6:30 pm	3 Taco Platter Special (Cinco de Mayo) Open Menu 4 - 7:30 pm Karaoke 7 - 11 pm	4 CLUB CLOSED

www.americanlegionpost56.com

American Legion Riders

Greetings from the Riders

Riding season is upon us. A few rides have already been planned, with anticipation of more to come as spring turns to summer.

Alan Whiteaker briefed us regarding the Ride For Heroes. This is on June 15. KSU at 10:30 from the Pour House in Clarks Grove. Registration cost is \$10.

The Freedom Rock Ride will be held July 5th - July 7th. Friday, 7/5 KSU, at 2:00 p.m. Rod Norris is in charge of this and will have more details in the near future.

Nominations for Legion Rider Officers will take place at our May meeting. Election will take place at our June meeting.

The NOP (Nation of Patriots)will arrive on July 14th coming from New Prague. We will deliver to Mason City on July 15th KSU at 11:30 a.m. The launch of the Patriot tour will be May 17th-May 18th in Derby Kansas. The flag will travel our 50 states. Closing ceremonies will be held September 14th back in Derby Kansas.

Since 2009, the Nation of Patriots has organized an annual Patriot Tour to honor past, present, and fallen veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. 100% of the funds raised will provide financial support for U.S. Veterans and their families. The Patriot Tour has successfully raised over 1.9 million dollars and provided much-needed assistance for over 590 families. Each month at our monthly meeting each member who attends gets a chance to win the drawing of a \$30.00 gift certificate to be used at American Legion post 56. Orrin Mortensen was the winner of the February meeting.

The Riders continue to sell meat packets the second Thursday of each month. The fourth Wednesday of each month you will find the Riders helping with bingo.

The American Legion Riders meet the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Albert Lea American Legion event center. If interested please join us Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Cindy Halverson

ALR Secretary

Donations and Memorials

Dick/Darlene Jordahl	Mem of Donna Roisen
Craig/Theresa Knudtson	Mem of Donna Roisen
Larry/Wanda Bagley	Mem of Donna Roisen
Jeff/Carol Olson	Mem of Donna Roisen
Tom/Sandy Norby	Mem of Duane Olson
Donald/Elaine Ehrich	Donation
Donald/Elaine Ehrich	Mem of Duane Olson
Rodger Nelson	Mem of Duane Olson
Beth Birch	Mem of Mark Will
Beth Birch	Mem of Paula Gray
Beth Birch	Mem of Doug Wichmann
Beth Birch	Mem of Wendy Niebuhr

Honor Guard Donations

Arnie/Pat Mulso	Mem of Sue Olson
Al/Sue Allan	Mem of Sue Olson
Lowell/Barbara Peterson	Mem of Sue Olson
Tom/Susan Westland	Mem of Duane Olson
Charles Vollum	Mem of Jim Veldman
Doug Olson & Family	Mem of Duane Olson

Roof Replacement Donations

Al/Sue Allen	Mem of Jack Allison to air cond. fund
Al/Sue Allen	Mem of L. Ray Motley to air cond. fund
Al/Sue Allen	Mem of Rollie Somnis to air cond. fund

Hello Fellow Veterans:

Well, March (Basketball tournament) weather has not let us down again this year. We are much more fortunate than other parts of the state and we were able to get some of the moisture that we need. So goes the price of Spring and with that we also have Holy Week for all of us Christians to worship and celebrate The Risen Christ. I hope you all were able to worship as you like.

I would like to put out a plea to ALL veterans and their families to take some time and support your local Veterans organizations and clubs. I would also like to invite you to come and join us as I have a charter bus reserved for April 17th. We will be going to Vets Day on The Hill at the Minnesota State Capitol. Just be at the N/W corner of the Wal-Mart parking lot at 08:00 hrs. and ready to depart at 08:15 (no reservations, first come first serve) for the Armory in St. Paul, MN. You will be dropped by the front door and welcomed with free coffee and cookies/rolls and a short informational program and meet State Department dignitaries with information of the goings on in the State and House. You will then be served a free noon luncheon and then we will form up and walk up to the State Capitol and meet in the Rotunda for meetings with your State Representatives and speeches from other dignitaries concerning our Veterans Rights issues. WE NEED YOUR VOTE! They do hear us if we take the time to show up and make ourselves heard! Please plan to attend and bring your spouse/significant other, friend or family member and wear a patriotic form of clothing and/or your Military Branch Cap.

As the Commander of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 16, Albert Lea, I need to make a plea to ALL disabled veterans with a 0-100% rating to please consider joining our Chapter 16. We do a lot of things for the community and our veterans. We are not just a bunch of old vets sitting around drinking beer and swapping war stories. We take care of vets that need help from a temporary motel stay, money for food, rides to Dr. appointments and to the VA Hospital. We also give numerous scholarships each year to high school students and to adults that pursue education in the medical profession. Please consider joining as we now have a promotion where the Chapter will pay 100% of a life membership. I know that you know someone or are related to someone that has been deployed with our local unit numerous times in the past. Just recently when offered to a young vet his response was, "I don't think I am interested right now." Well, I know he is not thinking of the future right now but rest assured that there will be a time when he will want and need access to the benefits that he thinks he deserves. And, yes, he fought just like you and I did for the benefits that we swore our oath to this country to protect and give our all, up to and including our lives for, BUT the government will not give them to us unless we fight for and demand that we get them. THAT'S what the Veterans organization do for the vets!

WE NEED THE VOTES! And if you are a member, whether you choose to participate or not, WE HAVE 1 MORE IMPORTANT VOTE FOR OUR SIDE! So please, consider signing up as it is free to you the veteran. Contact me, Bob Sharp, Cmdr. VFW/DAV at 507-828-3062-ASAP! Remember us now and we will be able to remember and help you when you need it.

God Bless you and God Bless America! Respectfully,
Bob Sharp, VFW Cmdr. Post 447.

Greetings from the Auxiliary!

April showers bring May flowers. We really need moisture for all the plants to have a good base so hoping for the showers to happen. Getting my hands in the dirt is therapy, perhaps from growing up on the farm, so I am in happy anticipation mode. I am ready to shop for seeds as we think ahead to planting our gardens. Are you planning a garden? Do you have any interesting things you plant? We plant okra, more of a southern item but dad discovered this while in the Army, and we have planted those seeds every year. Dad always had us soak the okra seeds overnight on the counter prior to planting which supposedly aids in germination. Do you have any special gardening tricks or tips? The next time you see me please share your thoughts as I would love to hear them.

Please join us on April 19th as we honor 5 of our veterans in the event center. 2024 Quilts of Valor presentations are set for the 3rd Friday of each month at 3 pm. It is wonderful to see people attending these presentations and hearing the stories during the valued fellowship time. We have received additional donations from the Legion Riders as well another donation from Larry & Janice Lestrud and a donation from Paulette and Arlyn Anderson. We accepted bags of patriotic materials as well as meaningful words from the Honor Guard. All of this means so very much and is a reaffirmation of the importance to honor and recognize our veterans, it warms our hearts.

April is Military Child Month. Remember them each day and on April 17th wear purple for Purple Up! Day as we recognize the children of the military. April 17th is also Vets on the Hill. Let us all do what we can for our veterans and their families both near and far.

Stop at our club, have a beverage, play pull-tabs, buy a meat raffle, enjoy some food & fellowship as you support OUR veterans.

Always remember all our veterans with love and kindness!

Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party.' – Roin Williams

Enjoy every moment!

Beth Birch, Auxiliary President



Allen A Kaufman, 86 yrs, died March 9, 2024, served in the Army during Vietnam era. Member of the Post for 41 continuous years.

Line Dancing 4-4-24

April 4 will be the starting date for those who love to dance. Anyone who enjoys line dancing or is interested in learning, is welcome to attend. Lessons will begin at the Legion at 6:30 pm. The dances will be held every Thursday, so come in and join us for some fun.

Membership Dues Increase effective July 1, 2024

Currently Post 56 dues are \$45. We pay \$35.75 of that to the National, MN Department, and District. That leaves us with \$9.25 per paid member for our Post. Effective July 1, 2024, National is increasing their dues \$5, Department increase is \$3, and District is \$2.

Because of those increases, we will be increasing our dues to \$55 effective July 1, 2024. The American Legion now has a 3-year membership available to members, even if you have already renewed for 2024. Those members who paid their dues prior to December 4, 2023 are now eligible to purchase a multi-year membership at today's rate. When a multi-year membership is purchased, your membership will be paid up for the next three years – 2025-2026-2027 membership years. The multi-year membership can be purchased on the national website or through an active MyLegion.org account. For those members who are still to renew for 2024 dues, the opportunity to purchase a multi-year membership is available. It would cover your membership for 2024-2025-2026.

LEO MARTIN CAREY



American Legion Post 56
Albert Lea, Minnesota
"Stay Active"



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Post 447 VFW and Auxiliary meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of every month at the American Legion Post 56 Clubrooms @ 7:00 pm. Come and join VFW Post 447. Veterans helping Veterans.