



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

February, 2026

My Fellow Legionnaires.

Welcome to February! After the last couple weeks, I found that you spell January, Brrrrrrrrrrrr.....

OK, enough of that. I'm going to get right down to it. As you read thru the other departments, you will find what they have for activities for the month of February. So I will bring up just the Legion part. First, mark February 13th on your calendar to attend the Legion Valentines Day Dinner! You will have four choices of main course, New York Strip, New York Strip and Shrimp, Walleye or Cornish Game Hen. With your dinner choice you get a twice baked potato, creamed corn and roll.....and of course a dessert which will be a turtle cheese cake. Following your dinner you can listen and dance to "The Music Men". They will be playing 70's lite rock and roll, 70's Disco and current Country Line Dancing music. This should be a great time for everyone! We must have reservations for this event. Reservations must be made by 10 February. Don't forget! We ARE open to the public!

Here's the part I never like bringing up. We are running out of money. We have been able to stay open thanks to grants we've applied for and some very helpful members. We have run thru those funds. This is a very costly building to operate. We have cut every where we can cut from water to lights and employee wages. We cannot cut any more and we have no financial safety net. We've done what we can to maintain what you as members have requested to have. We've been putting on extra events to help bring those extra funds in. But those events also need your participation to be successful. We need your help as members to keep the doors open! Look at how you can help. Keep your club alive.

Be careful out there everyone. It's cold and we're not thru half the Winter yet. I look forward to seeing you at the Valentines Day Event!

God Bless All of You!

Ole

For God and Country

Quilts of Valor

February 20th – 3 pm

The Veterans being honored with a quilt are
C. Thayne Nordland, Robert Nyman, Carroll Han-
son, Sherrie Anderson, Barry Blum
Please join us as we thank those who have served
our country to protect our Freedom

VALENTINE DINNER

February 13th

Bring your special valentine to the American
Legion for an amazing meal and dancing.
Reservations must be made by Feb.10

NO exceptions

New York Strip - \$21

New York Strip & Shrimp - \$25

Walleye - \$21

Cornish game Hen - \$18

With twice baked potato, creamed corn, roll

Of courseDessert!!

Dance to "The Music Men" – 7 pm

OPEN SATURDAYS

Beginning February 7th, the Legion
will be open on Saturdays
Noon – 6 pm

There will be a limited menu available.
Now serving alcohol free Mock-tails.

Stop in for lunch & a beverage while shopping!!

Featured Newsletter
Sponsor of the Month

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FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 CLUB CLOSED	2 CLUB CLOSED DAV Mtg 7 pm	3 Garlic Chicken Bites / pasta Burger Baskets Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Cloverleaf Lions 6 pm	4 Women Vets Lunch 11:30 am Cook’s Choice Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Auxiliary Meat Raffle 5 pm Bingo 6 pm	5 Mushroom & Swiss Burger / FF Wine & Wings Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Line Dancing 6:30 pm	6 Hot Beef Commercial Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Karaoke 7 pm	7 Bar Open Noon – 6 pm Limited menu Mock-tails available
8 CLUB CLOSED	9 CLUB CLOSED Exec. Board Mtg 6:30 pm VFW Mtg 7 pm	10 “TACO BAR” 4 – 7 pm Burger baskets Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm	11 Cook’s Choice Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Riders Meat Raffle 5 pm Bingo 6 pm	12 Rueben / FF Wine & Wings Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Line Dancing 6:30 pm	13 VALENTINES DINNER By reservation only In Event Center Shrimp Dinner in bar Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Dance to “Music Men”	14 Junior Auxiliary Mtg. 9 am Bar Open Noon – 6 pm Limited menu Mock-tails available
15 CLUB CLOSED	16 CLUB CLOSED Post Mtg. 7 pm	17 BAKED POTATO BAR 4 – 7 pm Burger Baskets Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Cloverleaf Lions 6 pm	18 Cook’s Choice Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Legion Meat Raffle 5 pm Bingo 6 pm	19 Chicken Sandwich / FF Wine & Wings Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Line Dancing 6:30 pm	20 Quilts of Valor 3 pm FISH FRY Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Karaoke 7 pm	21 Bar Open Noon – 6 pm Limited menu Mock-tails available
22 Pancake Breakfast 8 am – 12 pm	23 CLUB CLOSED	24 Chicken Bacon Casserole Burger Baskets Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Riders Mtg 6:30 pm	25 Cook’s Choice Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm SAL Meat Raffle 5 pm Bingo 6 pm	26 Legion Burger / FF Wine & Wings Open Menu 4 - 7:30 pm Line Dancing 6:30 pm Auxiliary Mtg. 7 pm	27 Bacon Cheeseburger Ramen Casserole Open Menu 4 - 7:30 pm Karaoke 7 pm	28 Bar Open Noon – 6 pm Limited menu Mock-tails available
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

www.americanlegionpost56.com

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Hello Riders,

The holidays are over and the cold weather has arrived. I hope everyone’s holidays were wonderful and that you are staying warm.

We did not meet in December due to many of the riders being gone and the weather. We will meet on January 27th at 6:30 p.m. in the event center. Please join us if you are interested in riding with a bunch of awesome riders and see what we are involved in. We would love to have you check us out and see what we do!!

If you haven’t been to a QOV, (Quilts of Valor) program, please check one out. It’s an amazing opportunity to see the Veterans being honored and receive a quilt. The riders are handing out a coin to each recipient.

If you haven’t paid your dues, this includes Legion Riders, SAL, Auxiliary and the Legion please do so. We want to keep our records updated and get this finished up for 2026.

Be sure to stop by and support your local Legion. We couldn’t keep the doors open without you.

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Knudtson
ALR Secretary

Donations and Memorials

Donald/Elaine Ehrich	Donation
Darlene Riess, Alice Laudon, Lois Law, Vicki Schoonover, Zane Schoonover	Mem of Jerry Dunford

Hello Fellow Veterans:

I find it hard to believe that January 2026 is almost over. I am busy with the VFW and more so with the DAV and their clothing program. I must say that I am amazed at the amount of donations that we receive every week. The people of Albert Lea are very generous and all the money that we get from this program goes directly back to the veterans and their families in Freeborn County.

I also am the editor of a newsletter for the assault helicopter company that I served with in Viet Nam 1964/65. I tell you this as I was working on this and I got an article from a fellow Huey crew chief/door gunner to add to the next publication. It is a four-page piece that depicts a complete story of preparation and accounting of all the timing and the setting of the whole operation from the briefing the night before, through the night, up before dawn, getting all the weapons and ammo ready, pre-fighting all the aircraft, and a minute-by-minute detail. Also, the sounds and the smells as they sat and waited in the early morning heat and humidity. Setting on the runway waiting to fire up and lift off in formation headed to pick up troops and drop them into the next fire fight, go back and get more troops and when the battle was over to fly back in and pick up the survivors, the wounded and the dead and bring them back to the base.

I myself, did the same thing as a crew chief/ door gunner on a Huey many times, hundreds of times, on search and destroy missions, resupplying outposts, and picking up wounded and KIA. The reason I am telling you this is because as I was reading this it shocked me because I had in fact lost track of this and how it affected my life. It has been 60 years since I was there, and I just realized that I had forgotten all the intricate details of my life there doing my job just like thousands of other young men answering the call to serve our great country.

I think we all need a wake-up call once in a while just to remind us of how very lucky we were to survive and come home and continue to serve our fellow veterans and the community we live in.

If you would like to read that article, just contact me and I will get you a copy.

God bless you all and God bless America!

Robert Sharp, CMDR.

VFW Post 447

Albert Lea, MN.

Greetings from the Auxiliary!

Cold hands, warm heart. Indeed, it has been cold lately yet my heart fills with warmth as we see good people doing great things. It was fun to see the group that showed up for the Junior Auxiliary meeting in January. Paulette Anderson is leading that crew that has now grown to 14 young people with two more pending. It is fun to see the excitement and dream of the possibilities of what these wonderful individuals may accomplish. The Auxiliary jumped in to take the Legion Breakfast in January to designate the funds to projects we will do alongside the Juniors. If you know of someone younger that would like to be a part of something special talk to one of the Auxiliary members!

Thank you to those that have already paid your 2026 dues. We are at 82% with 164 members paid. Thank you to all the auxiliary members that give and do consistently. Another spot that warms my heart is seeing what we do each day for our veterans. Your membership and faithful service is vital to the work we do in the community for our veterans. If you are near or far, young or a bit older you matter, and we are glad to have you!

Quilt of Valor is on February 20th at 3 pm in the event center. Please join us as we honor our veterans with presentations. All are welcome! If you can sew please let us know as we always needed assistance. And of course, donations are always appreciated.

Our auxiliary meeting will be on February 26th at 7pm.

And as always stop at the club for meal, beverage or fellowship OR all three. We need our club and our club needs us.

I was looking at quotes from Presidents regarding military as it is President's Day this month and of course we should honor our military always. It is hard to choose as there are many good things said by many great people. I look forward to using others throughout the year.

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." Franklin D Roosevelt

Enjoy every moment!

Beth Birch, Auxiliary President

Taps 

Eugene D Anderson, 72 yrs, died December 21, 2025, served in the Army National Guard during Vietnam era. Member of the Post for 32 continuous years.

John E Szymanski, 74 yrs, died January 16, 2026, served in the Army during the Vietnam era. Member of the Post for 25 continuous years..

Gary L Anderson, 80 yrs, died January 17, 2026, served in the Air Force during the Vietnam era. Member of the Post for 53 continuous years.

LEO MARTIN CAREY



American Legion Post 56
Albert Lea, Minnesota



"Stay Active"

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February 2026

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Monthly meetings are on
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date!

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meetings.

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Meetings are held on the
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Post 447 VFW 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.