



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, 2026

Greetings My Fellow Legionaries!

Here we are already going into April! I always figure April is two faced.....1. We're so happy to almost be done with Winter! April is the first month where we're beginning to feel Spring! 2. OMG! It's already April! It feels like we just got into 2026! It's started going fast already! No matter.....Welcome to April everyone!

Hey! Big news! Post 56 was chosen the Best Large Legion in District 1 for 2026! We received the certificate on the 14th at the Annual Appreciation Ceremony. Once again all of you have helped us get to that level simply by helping us participate in events, helping fellow vets, giving back to the community and helping to educate the younger people! So help us celebrate each time you come in!

Our Thursday morning coffee hour has become a great success! Anyone and everyone can meet at the Legion from 9:00 to 11:00. Anything and everything can be discussed.....and there's a fair amount of B.S. being discussed too! It's all good! Theresa generally has homemade treats for everyone and all the coffee, hot chocolate or tea you can drink. So if you're looking for something to do on Thursday mornings from 9:00 - 11:00, come on down to the Legion and join a swell bunch of guys and gals for coffee, treats and a good laugh. See you there!

We're having our Annual Smelt Fry on Friday, 10 April. We'll have all the fixin's for your feed once again. The times will be from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. We had a lot of compliments on last years feed, so come on down for your smelt fix for the year!

Start your planning for September. We've begun the planning of a Legion Smoke Off! Now, don't get ahead of me here.....We're looking for all those who fancy themselves a Meat Smoker Extraordinaire! The tentative date is 12 September right now.....Stay tuned for more information! Save the date! Start planning for a real good time to spend a Saturday!

Remember, if you have a daughter, granddaughter or niece, consider joining our Junior Auxiliary! Paulette Anderson has done a fantastic job getting this started. I can see a lot of good things coming from this revitalized group.

As you can see, we've been having a special event each month. Most have been working out very well. We're going to continue to do this, in fact we've been thinking of trying 2 events each month. Like I said, it's our thought process right now. Each of these events takes a lot of time and effort to put together each month. As we have these events, the process gets a little bit better to put together. Keep reading the Newsletter for more happenings each month.

That's all for now. Let's all bring in the Spring safely and enjoy the beautiful weather about to come.

Featured Newsletter
Sponsor of the Month



1704 SE Broadway
Phone 373-6161
Members of Post 56

Take care! God Bless You All!

For God and Country

Ole

POST EVERLASTING

Has been rescheduled to be held
April 20th, 5:30 pm
We will be remembering our Post 56
Legion members that have passed
during the year of 2025

Quilts of Valor

April 17th 3 pm

The veterans who will be receiving a quilt are:
Thomas Schleck, Dwight Stevens,
Charles Schmidt, Barbara Babb
We look forward to seeing you as we honor
these Veterans

"SMELT FEED IS BACK"

April 10 4 - 7 pm

Join us for another feast of Smelt!!
No reservations necessary

APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 CLUB CLOSED	30 CLUB CLOSED	31 Philly Cheese Steak / FF Burger Baskets Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm	1 Womens Vet Lunch 11:30 am Club 56 / FF Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Auxiliary Meat Raffle 5 pm Bingo 6 pm	2 Coffee for Vets 9- 11 am Grilled Ham & Cheese Wine & Wings Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Line Dancing 6:30 pm	3 Fish Sandwich / FF Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Karaoke 7 pm	4 Club Open 12 – 6 pm Limited Menu
5 HAPPY EASTER CLUB CLOSED	6 CLUB CLOSED DAV Mtg 7 pm	7 Scalloped Potatoes & Ham / side salad Burger Baskets Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Cloverleaf Lions 6 pm	8 Legion Burger / FF Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Riders Meat Raffle 5 pm Bingo 6 pm	9 Coffee for Vets 9- 11 am Chicken Strip Basket Wine & Wings Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Line Dancing 6:30 pm	10 "SMELT FRY" Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Karaoke 7pm	11 Club Open 12 – 6 pm Limited Menu
12 CLUB CLOSED	13 CLUB CLOSED Exec. Board Mtg 6:30 pm VFW Mtg. 7 pm	14 "TACO BAR" Burger Baskets Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm	15 Mushroom Swiss Burger / FF Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Legion Meat Raffle 5 pm Bingo 6 pm	16 Coffee for Vets 9- 11 am Shrimp Basket Wine & Wings Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Line Dancing 6:30 pm	17 Quilts of Valor 3 pm FISH FRY Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Karaoke 7 pm	18 Club Open 12 – 6 pm Limited Menu
19 CLUB CLOSED	20 CLUB CLOSED Post Everlasting 5:30 pm Post Mtg to follow	21 "BAKED POTATO BAR" Burger Baskets Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Cloverleaf Lions 6 pm	22 BLT & Cup of Soup Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm SAL Meat Raffle 5 pm Bingo 6 pm	23 Coffee for Vets 9- 11 am Patty Melt / FF Wine & Wings Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Line Dancing 6:30 pm Auxiliary Mtg 7 pm	24 Hot Beef Commercial Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Karaoke 7 pm	25 Club Open 12 – 6 pm Limited Menu
26 Robotics Team Pancake Breakfast 8 am – 12 pm	27 CLUB CLOSED	28 "BBQ BAR" Burger Baskets Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Riders Mtg 6:30 pm	29 Meat Eaters or Deluxe Pizza Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Auxiliary Meat Raffle 5 pm Bingo 6 pm	30 Coffee for Vets 9- 11 am Grilled Chicken / FF Wine & Wings Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Line Dancing 6:30 pm	1 Steak & Shrimp Dinner Open Menu 4 – 7:30 pm Karaoke 7 pm	2 Club Open 12 – 6 pm Limited Menu

www.americanlegionpost56.com

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Hello Riders,

Just when we thought summer had arrived early, with 80 degrees, then reality came around the next day in the 30's Uffda!! Mother Nature must have quite the sense of humor!

The riders have been busy with breakfast, installing a ramp for a veteran, meat raffles presenting coins at the QOV ceremony and the list goes on. Speaking of the coins, if any rider is interested in presenting the coins to the QOV recipients, please let Beth or I know and we will get you a month to do this. It's a great experience to be working with the QOV team on this.

The Legion is doing coffee for Veterans on Thursday mornings from 9-11 a.m. Join them for fellowship and a home-made treat to go with your coffee.

There will be a lot going on at the Legion this Spring, Summer and Fall and the riders will be helping out where we are needed.

We have a couple of parades coming up, so be sure to watch for us and wave a flag.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Knudtson

ALR Secretary

Additions to our Tuesday Menu

Folks are enjoying our added special food bars
Second Tuesday = TACO BAR
Third Tuesday = BAKED POTATO BAR
Fourth Tuesday = BBQ BAR
Come in and give them try!!

Donations and Memorials

Jim/Judi Olson	Mem of Irv Zenk
Donald/Elaine Ehrich	Donation
Glen/Leann Juveland	Mem of Gary Anderson
Gregory/Kathryn Lutteke	Mem of Gary Anderson
David Olson	Mem of Gary Anderson
Jill/Kurt Barickman	Mem of Thayne Nordland
Tom/Sandy Norby	Mem of Bernie VanVooren
Tom/Sandy Norby	In Honor of Lupe Gasca's 104th Birthday
Beth Birch	Mem of Don Yokiel
	Mem of Gary Anderson
	Mem of Phyllis Tomschin
	Mem of George Wichmann
	Mem of Steve Sorenson

Honor Guard Donations and Memorials

David Olson	Mem of Gary Anderson
Dennis/Mary Jensen	Mem of Steve Sorenson
	Mem of George Wichmann
Dan/Cynthia Bodensteiner	Mem of Irv Zenk
Arnie/Pat Mulso	Mem of Irv Zenk
	Mem of Thayne Nordland

Well, it seems that we have past the "Ides of March", the 15th. And have endured the typical March weather associated with the State Basketball Tournaments, our 12" snowstorm and now this weekend of 78 degrees! What a roller coaster ride! We sat around last week while it stormed and had businesses, schools and church closures. I read a book, napped, and watched some movies. I had the opportunity to sit and visit with my baby brother this afternoon, he is 81, and he said he has lived too long. I asked him why and he said he has run out of his HSAs to cover his medical insurance and everything is creeping up on him.

There were 5 of us boys in our family and three of us served in the military. I was the first as the oldest and then the second and the third. The third brother passed 19 years ago, and I am so fortunate to be able to visit with my next brother whenever I should want. I think that there are a lot of things that we can be grateful for as all of us that have served in the military share a brotherhood that none of the civilians will ever understand. The people we worked with and others, including relatives, never can share that type of camaraderie.

It makes no difference which Branch of the military you served in as you are all veterans and each branch picks on the other like we are enemies, but it is all in jest, just like we brothers picked on each other.

Don't miss the chance to pick up the phone and dial one of your "Brothers" when you think of them as the time passes so very quickly. Don't pass on the opportunity to have a bunch of laughs and reminisce about the 'Good Old Days' even if they weren't that good.

Also, remember that it is "Old Glories" 250th. Birthday this year! Plan on having an awesome Birthday Party!

God Bless you all and God Bless America!!

Bob Sharp, Cmdr. VFW Post 447. Albert Lea, MN

Greetings from the Auxiliary!

As I write this, we are experiencing a warm spring day of 80 degrees. Very crazy to see the recent snow quickly fade away and watch the green tops push their way out of the thawing ground. Our resiliency to do good in our world could be compared. While not always strongly performing we might be waiting for the right moment to burst through, show our talents and strengths and amaze all of those around. We need moments to rest and refresh to return to the fullest version of ourselves. Once rejuvenated we will be better able to give and do for others, especially for our veterans as they have given so much for all of us.

Thank you to those that have already paid your 2026 dues. Membership keeps rolling in. Hope we can continue to climb in numbers and volunteer work that happens within our group and community. If you are near or far, young or a bit older you matter, and we are glad to have you! Come and join the Auxiliary and the Juniors as we support our Veterans and the community.

Quilt of Valor is on April 17th 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. Thank you to the Union Center for the donation of \$1,000.00 to our Quilts of Valor.

Our next auxiliary meeting will be on April 23rd 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.

Spring adds new life and new beauty to all that is. – Jessica Harrelson

Enjoy every moment!

Beth Birch, Auxiliary President

CONTINUOUS YEARS & LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

Awards will be presented on Monday, May 18, 2026
5:30 pm



Dwayne Hagen, 94 yrs, died Feb 14, 2026, served in the Army during the Korean era. Member of the Post for 30 continuous years.

Clifford T Nordland, 73 yrs, died February 19, 2026, served in the Navy during the Vietnam era. Member of the Post for 24 continuous years.

Paul W Hanson, 94 yrs, died February 28, 2026, served in the Navy during the Korean era. Member of the Post for 56 continuous years.

Bernard VanVooren, 92 yrs, died March 2, 2026, served in the Army during the Korean era. Member of the Post for 44 continuous years.

LEO MARTIN CAREY



American Legion Post 56
Albert Lea, Minnesota



"Stay Active"

Monthly Bulletin Published by American Legion Post 56
P.O. Box 1056 • Albert Lea, MN 56007-1056
Volume 3 Issue No. 4
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April 2026

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LEGION AUXILIARY

Monthly meetings are on
the 4th Thursday starting
at 7:00 pm
Check our calendar for the
date!
We invite you to attend our
meetings.

Your AWESOME CHOICE



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"We can cross this bridge together"



Meetings are held on the
4th Tuesday of every
month at Post 56 - 6:30 pm

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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.