



# FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

## APRIL 2024

### Legion Contacts

#### Commander

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#### Adjutant

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#### Membership

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Austin, MN 55912  
507—440—3606

#### Chaplain

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LEGION 1 thru 17  
AUXILIARY 18 thru 27  
SAL 28 thru 33  
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### VICE—COMMANDER INFORMATION

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**Area Four** - Cole Wilcox  
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### IMPORTANT DATES

April 13, 2024—Department Jr Conference at Detroit Lakes.

April 20, 2024—First District Leadership Testimonial at Eyota Post 551. RSVP in in this newsletter.

April 22, 2024 - First District Suicide training seminar. Four (4) PM at Stewartville Post 164. More info in the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter.

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.



### 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

APR 20, 2024-----Commander & President Testimonial ---------Eyota  
11 Madison Ave SW, Eyota, MN----5PM social, 6PM dinner, 7PM Program

APR 22, 2024 ————Suicide Prevention Training—Stewartville Post 164 - 4 PM

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

MAY 4, 2024 -----First District ALR Convention ----- Austin Post 91  
809 12<sup>th</sup> 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

### !!!!!!! Important !!!!!!!

If anyone has a resolution that will be coming up at the District Convention, it needs to be in the Resolution Chairman’s (Jim Kellogg) hands at least thirty (30) days prior to the Convention. So if you have one or plan on writing up one, make sure that you remember that.

### ENDORSEMENTS AND OR REQUESTS

Mark Maloney - Commander 24—25 - from Post 551

#### NATIONAL DELEGATES

Myron Ehrich - Commander 24—25—from Post 295

Mary Hanson

Josh Erickson - SAL Commander - 24-25 Squadron 9

Myron Ehrich

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

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

Well, it is already April. Wow where did the year go? I had a busy year learning the job and planning events and helping people finding the answer they did not know the answers to. It was said that the district officers cannot do anything to help post and with post issues well I found that statement completely wrong after hearing that statement 11 years ago, I did not believe it and I have worked my way up to the ranks and found the secret hiding places of the books that stated the opposite. I have shown people the books and helped the post officers understand them and had classes to convince them that the things the officers before me and the way that things were handled was out dated and there is no room in today's American legion with everyone's personal agendas .

To be the biggest veterans support organization we need to work as we did in the military as one big well-oiled machine after same objective ending the need to belong for our veterans and their families and the community understand the needs for them.

We cannot do that if we are picking and bickering with each other having post commanders thinking they are kings of the post and they do not answer to no one.

Well sorry to tell those type that is not the way it is the way is checks and bounces and there I not anytime for such games in who post belong to it was built by the members and we hold ourselves tom them not them to us and we as leaders are the mouth piece for them and we do their bidding what they want we do our best to make it happen.

Rember we are the American legion we are a team, and our goal is to help veterans and their families and community awareness we cannot do that if we are a team if you do not know the job of your position ask or even check it out before you take the job don't take just to fill a spot but to learn and go to any training that's available ask and the past leaders mentor the young so they can do the job as great as you did any use all the training aids we have it makes your job easier and make everyone more confidant in you and if you do not the answer then find the answers. God bless America and God bless our troops.

First District Commander  
Mark A Maloney III

## **FROM YOUR CHAPLAINS CORNER**

### **Matthew 5**

#### **The Sermon on the Mount**

[1] Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

#### **The Beatitudes**

[2] And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

[3] “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[4] “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

[5] “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

[6] “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

[7] “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

[8] “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

[9] “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

[10] “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[11] “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. [12] Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

### **Salt and Light**

[13] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

[14] “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. [15] Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. [16] In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

### **Christ Came to Fulfill the Law**

[17] “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. [18] For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. [19] Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. [20] For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

### **Anger**

[21] “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ [22] But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. [23] So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against 4



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER CONTINUED

[24] leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. [25] Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. [26] Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

### Lust

[27] "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' [28] But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. [29] If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. [30] And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

### Divorce

[31] "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' [32] But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

### Oaths

[33] "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' [34] But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, [35] or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. [36] And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. [37] Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

### Retaliation

[38] "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' [39] But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. [40] And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. [41] And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. [42] Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

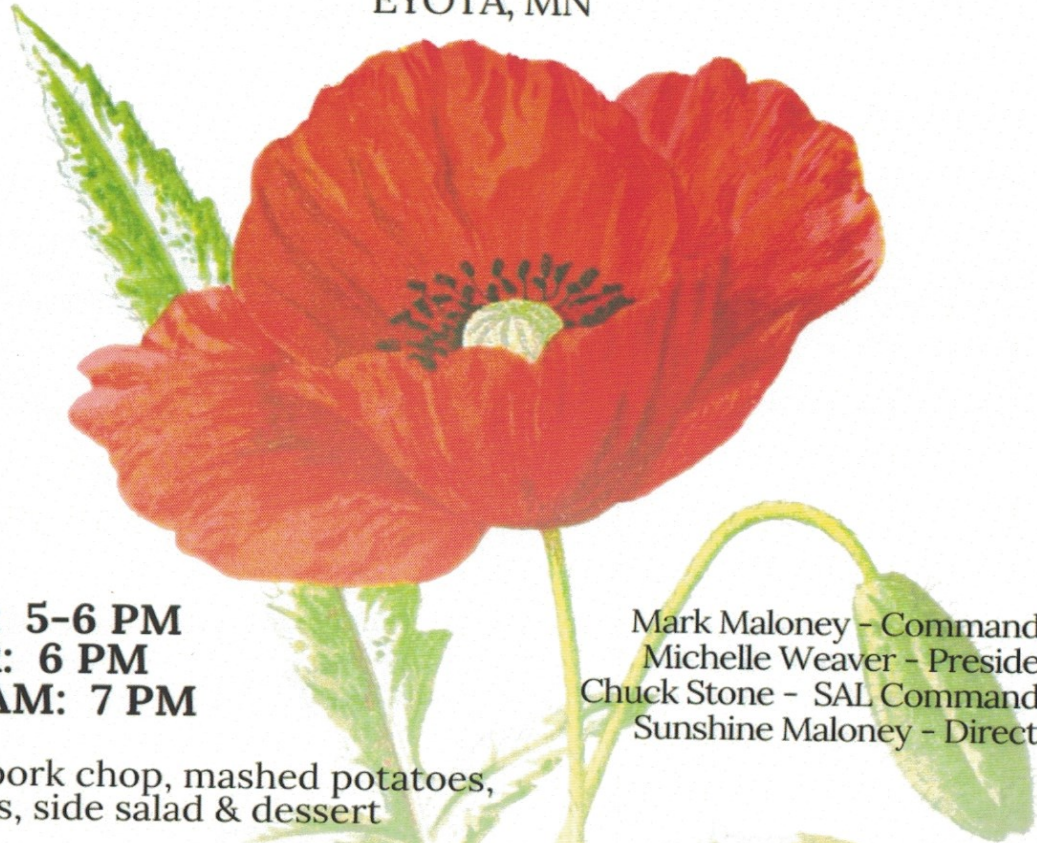
### Love Your Enemies

[43] "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' [44] But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, [45] so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. [46] For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? [47] And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? [48] You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

**FIRST DISTRICT FAMILY**  
**TESTIMONIAL DINNER**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024**

AMERICAN LEGION POST 551  
11 MADISON AVE NW  
EYOTA, MN



**SOCIAL: 5-6 PM**  
**DINNER: 6 PM**  
**PROGRAM: 7 PM**

Mark Maloney - Commander  
Michelle Weaver - President  
Chuck Stone - SAL Commander  
Sunshine Maloney - Director

Thick-cut pork chop, mashed potatoes,  
green beans, side salad & dessert

**\$18 per plate**

Please RSVP by April 2nd

CUT OFF AND SEND WITH PAYMENT

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO **"EYOTA AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS"**  
and MAIL TO: Mark Maloney  
845 54th Avenue, Apt E  
Winona, MN 55987

# 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 12<sup>TH</sup> 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 4<sup>TH</sup> 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 in the Austin American Legion Post 91 located at 809 12<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup>.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_





**Pictures of last year's Military Ball at Spring Grove, MN**

**The invitation for the ball and info is on the following page**







***YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED  
TO THE 17TH ANNUAL MILITARY BALL  
HOSTED BY THE MILITARY FAMILY***

***OPEN TO THE PUBLIC***

***PLACE: SPRING GROVE FEST BUILDING***

***110 NORTH DIVISION***

***DATE: APRIL 20, 2024***

***TIME: COCKTAILS & PHOTOS 4:30 P.M.***

***(ONE PHOTO INCLUDED )***

***DINNER: 5:45 P.M.***

***PLATE INCLUDES PORK AND CHICKEN***

***DANCING: 8:00 PM-10:30 P.M.***

***\$30 / PER PERSON***

***PLEASE RSVP BY APRIL 10, 2024***



FEEL FREE TO COPY AND SHARE THIS INVITATION  
DIRECT QUESTIONS TO:  
GARY OR JAN LEE BUXENGARD AT 507-498-3461  
OR JANLEEBUXENGARD@GMAIL.COM

Cut along dotted line

**17TH ANNUAL MILITARY BALL ATTENDEES**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER IN YOUR PARTY \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LIST NAME OF OTHER GUESTS ON BACK OF THIS PORTION.

IF YOU HAVE SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS PLEASE EXPLAIN ON BACK

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: MILITARY BALL

MAIL TO:  
MILITARY BALL  
21465 SOUTH VIEW ROAD  
SPRING GROVE, MN 55974

**NOTICE**

Please and make sure you get your Blood reports and your Children and Youth reports in to Myron Ehrich.

They are due in March and April so pay attention to the due dates and get them in on time.

We usually get a poor return of these reports so lets try and do better this year.

Myron Ehrich - Blood and Children and Youth Chairman.



## WHAT IS A VETERAN?

A "VETERAN" - WHETHER ACTIVE DUTY, DISCHARGED, RETIRED, OR RESERVE - IS SOMEONE WHO, AT ONE POINT IN HIS LIFE, WROTE A BLANK CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO "THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA," FOR AN AMOUNT OF "UP TO, AND INCLUDING HIS LIFE"

## THAT IS HONOR.

AND THERE ARE WAY TOO MANY PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY TODAY, WHO NO LONGER UNDERSTAND THAT FACT.

**From Area One**

Happy Easter to all Legion Family members. I hope that you were able to celebrate it with your families and friends. Thanks to all members for doing great things for the Legion. The recent training event in Leroy went very well. However, it seemed to be missing something. Yes, it was missing many Post Commanders, Post Adjutants, and other post leaders. Things are changing within the Legion and it is important to attend the training events to stay current with these changes. It is a great time to learn new things, get updates, and talk with other Legion members and leaders. The 1<sup>st</sup> District Convention will be held in Austin, MN on May 18, 2024. It is a busy world; however, we seem to be able to find time to do other things. Please consider attending the convention as ELECTIONS are on tap. As a member of this great organization, you have one voice and one vote, so please attend and let your voice be heard. We continue to lag in membership. Help with your post membership by encouraging members to sign up for another year and be on the lookout for the next new member. YOU and the MEMBERSHIP are the life's blood of your Post and the Legion. Please remember that YOU can BE THE ONE!

Robert Schmidt  
Vice Commander  
Area One



# VETERANS DAY ON THE HILL 2024

**WHEN:**  
**APRIL 17TH, 2024**

**DAV of MN Presents:**  
**Free Veterans and Supporters Lunch**

**Doors Open @ 10:00AM FOR COFFEE**  
**LUNCH @ 11:30AM**

(One Block from Capitol at 600 Cedar Street, St. Paul)

**Veterans March to the Rally @ 1:00pm**

(Short Walk from Armory to State Veterans Service Building  
20 West 12th St, St. Paul )

**CTF, UVLC, and MACVSO Present:**  
**Rally in the Rotunda 1:15-2:00pm**



**ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT-**  
**TRENT@DAVMN.ORG:**

**NO MEMBERSHIP IN  
ANY ORGANIZATION  
REQUIRED.**  
**ALL SUPPORTERS ARE  
WELCOME!**



**Topics Include:**

PASSING A CLEAN  
VETERANS OMNIBUS  
BILL

INCREASING THE  
AMOUNT OF THE PROP  
TAX VALUE EXCLUSION

**NEW THIS YEAR!!**

A MINIBUS RUNNING  
FROM THE ARMORY TO  
THE HOUSE AND  
SENATE OFFICE

BUILDINGS 10-1130.  
MAKE YOUR  
APPOINTMENTS TO SEE  
YOUR LAWMAKERS!



**DAV** OF MINNESOTA  
**BENEFITS  
PROTECTION**



## 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 March 27, 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	Last yr at this
1	9	Winona	8	32	0	388	428	3	431	466	92.49%	0	0
1	90	Lewiston	5	10	0	57	72	1	73	79	92.41%	0	0
1	190	St Charles	0	15	0	81	96	0	96	109	88.07%	0	0
1		<b>Winona County</b>	13	57	0	526	596	4	600	654	91.74%	0	0
1	50	Wabasha	5	39	0	153	197	1	198	206	96.12%	0	0
1	110	Lake City	9	14	0	123	146	2	148	177	83.62%	0	0
1	179	Plainview	0	25	0	99	124	0	124	145	85.52%	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		<b>Wabsha County</b>	16	115	0	581	712	4	716	782	91.56%	0	0
1	92	Rochester	9	92	0	526	627	4	631	705	89.50%	0	0
1	119	Byron	0	18	0	79	97	0	97	112	86.61%	0	0
1	164	Stewartville	8	21	0	240	269	1	270	279	96.77%	0	0
1	446	Rochester	2	2	0	9	13	0	13	12	108.33%	0	0
1	551	Eyota	2	23	0	147	172	0	172	187	91.98%	0	0
1		<b>Olmsted County</b>	21	156	0	1001	1178	5	1183	1295	91.35%	0	0
1		<b>Area One</b>	50	328	0	2108	2486	13	2499	2731	91.50%	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	6	31	0	180	217	1	218	249	87.55%	0	0
1	384	Dodge Center	2	7	0	56	65	0	65	70	92.86%	0	0
1	422	Claremont	2	3	0	22	27	0	27	30	90.00%	0	0
1		<b>Dodge County</b>	14	63	0	447	524	1	525	564	93.09%	0	0
1	52	Blooming Prairie	2	16	0	58	76	0	76	84	90.48%	0	0
1	77	Owatonna	2	51	0	279	332	1	333	372	89.52%	0	0
1	296	Ellendale	1	4	0	28	33	0	33	36	91.67%	0	0
1		<b>Steel County</b>	5	71	0	365	441	1	442	492	89.84%	0	0
1	75	New Richland	1	9	0	33	43	0	43	45	95.56%	0	0
1	228	Waseca	2	22	0	233	257	0	257	276	93.12%	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		<b>Waseca County</b>	3	36	0	354	393	0	393	427	92.04%	0	0
		<b>Area Two</b>	22	170	0	1166	1358	2	1360	1483	91.71%	0	0

1	1640	Lanesboro	5	13	0	83	101	0	101	106	95.28%	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	83	93	1	94	88	106.82%	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		<b>Fillmore County</b>	12	81	0	501	594	4	598	634	94.32%	0	0
1	191	Caledonia	0	13	0	108	121	0	121	130	93.08%	0	0
1	249	Spring Grove	1	11	0	114	126	1	127	133	95.49%	0	0
1	423	Houston	0	9	0	86	95	0	95	98	96.94%	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		<b>Houston County</b>	1	75	0	503	579	1	580	622	93.25%	0	0
1		<b>Area Three</b>	13	156	0	1004	1173	5	1178	1256	93.79%	0	0
1	56	Albert Lea	6	35	0	376	417	3	420	455	92.31%	0	0
1	264	Glenville	1	8	0	50	59	1	60	61	98.36%	0	0
1	266	Hartland	0	1	0	12	13	0	13	14	92.86%	0	0
1	317	Emmons	0	3	0	38	41	0	41	46	89.13%	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		<b>Freeborn County</b>	8	55	0	559	622	4	626	694	90.20%	0	0
1	91	Austin	4	47	0	317	368	0	368	396	92.93%	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		<b>Mower County</b>	7	83	0	594	684	0	684	730	93.70%	0	0
1		<b>Area Four</b>	15	138	0	1153	1306	4	1310	1424	91.99%	0	0
1	1111	Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0
1		<b>District Totals</b>	100	792	0	5431	6323	24	6347	6894	92.07%	0	0

## DISTRICT VICE COMMANDER STANDINGS

Vice Commanders											
<b>Area One</b>	50	328	0	2108	2486	13	2499	2731	91.50%	0	0
<b>Area Two</b>	22	170	0	1166	1358	2	1360	1483	91.71%	0	0
<b>Area Three</b>	13	156	0	1004	1173	5	1178	1256	93.79%	0	0
<b>Area Four</b>	15	138	0	1153	1306	4	1310	1424	91.99%	0	0

## The American Legion Department of Minnesota 2024 District Membership Report

Dist	Rank											
1	8th	Mark Maloney	100	792	0	5431	6323	24	6347	6894	92.07%	
2	5th	James Olson	109	575	0	4370	5054	26	5080	5403	94.02%	
3	2nd	Rod Reifsteck	239	1550	0	7333	9,122	139	9,261	9,609	96.38%	
4	3rd	Teresa Ash	50	256	0	1301	1607	18	1625	1,711	94.97%	
5	9th	Dick Ward	41	286	0	1074	1401	10	1411	1536	91.86%	
6	1st	Anthony Koop	257	1066	0	7705	9028	93	9,121	9,430	96.72%	
7	4th	Jan Ekert	93	631	0	4012	4736	19	4755	5,044	94.27%	
8	7th	Jennifer Havlick	79	306	0	2500	2885	29	2914	3128	93.16%	
9	10th	Steve NaSalle	83	526	0	4240	4849	18	4867	5339	91.16%	
10	6th	Matthew Berens	182	918	0	5795	6895	70	6965	7466	93.29%	
99			23	202	0	1659	1884	0	1884	2654	70.99%	
<b>Totals</b>			1256	7108	0	45,420	53,784	446	54,230	58,214	93.16%	

### FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Hello Legionnaires,

We are still in 8th place. Please get your renewals in ASAP.

There are 20 posts that need 3 or less to make 100%. Please review the membership report in this newsletter. Reach out to members that have not renewed and I can provide a copy of the 1982 list for your area.

Still lots of questions on the 3 year renewal. Do not hesitate to call or email me on this subject.

I hope you had a very Blessed Easter.

Mary Hanson

District Membership Director

507-440-3606

[mfhanson52@charter.net](mailto:mfhanson52@charter.net)



## 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

Hello 1<sup>st</sup> District.

Hope you all had a wonderful Easter.

I want to thank the LeRoy Legion Family for hosting our District Jr. Conference on March 16<sup>th</sup>. We had a nice turnout, and our new District Honorary Junior President is Regan McElroy.

A reminder that annual reports should be to the District Chairperson by April 15<sup>th</sup> to be considered for certificates to be presented at the District Convention on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to all the Units that had sent their Per Capita payments to Treasurer Tonia. If you have any questions, please reach out.

April is the Month of Military Child. In this country there are more than 16 million military children. April is the month that is dedicated to them. April 15<sup>th</sup> is "Purple Up Day!" for Military Kids. It is a day that we can really show our support by just wearing purple. Why purple? Purple is a combination of all branches of military. Army-Green, Coast Guard-Blue, Air Force-Blue, Marine-Red, and Navy-Blue,

Also remember to submit your nominations for Youth Hero and Good deed Award. This can be done on the National website. Is there a youth in your community that has done something this past year, something incredible that deserves recognition?

April, National Volunteer Month. In the US, National Volunteer Week this year is April 21<sup>st</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. It is an opportunity to thank, celebrate and honor your American Legion Family members for their service to our organization and the community.

American Legion Family Day is April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Posts are encouraged to open their doors to members of their community for the day to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of the American Legion Family.

1st District Convention will be held May 18<sup>th</sup>, registration should be returned by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the Austin Post for hosting.

Thank you to the members that have contacted me to help at the convention. We are still looking to fill officer position and chairperson for the 2024-2025 year.

Until next month enjoy the spring weather. Let us remember that our obligation to our Country can be fulfilled only by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. 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.

Respectfully  
Michelle Weaver  
1st District Auxiliary President  
608-304-8773

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.



# 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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 12<sup>th</sup> St Room 314  
St Paul MN 55155

Forms are also on our website and completed forms may be emailed to [deptoffice@mnala.org](mailto: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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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. 12<sup>th</sup> St. Suite #314 - St. Paul, MN 55155 | P: (651) 224-7634 | F: ((651) 224-5243) | (888) 217-9598  
[deptoffice@mnala.org](mailto:deptoffice@mnala.org) | Website: [www.mnala.org](http://www.mnala.org)



# April The Month of the Military Child



Purple Up! to celebrate these unsung heroes for who they are:  
unique, brave, resilient future history makers

# APRIL IS THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD



National President Lisa Williamson will be visiting Minnesota!



Make your plans to meet with President Lisa at one of the following:

**Monday, April 29th Dinner at Sauk Center Post 67**

Social Hour @ 5:30 pm with Dinner @ 6:30 pm  
Cost is \$15 Deadline to register April 19<sup>th</sup>

For Reservations Contact Jessie Hoppe 320-290-8761

**Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> Dinner at Redwood Falls Post 38**

Social Hour @ 5:30 pm with Dinner @ 6:30 pm  
Cost is TBD Deadline to register April 19<sup>th</sup>

For Reservations Contact Jennette Mertens 507-828-7656

**Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> Lunch at Adrian Post 32**

Social Time @ 11:30 am with Lunch @ 12 pm  
Cost is Free Will Donation Deadline to register is April 22<sup>nd</sup>

For Reservations Contact Diane Strassburg 507-290-0011

**Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> Dinner at Lake Crystal Post 294**

Social Hour @ 5:30 pm with Dinner @ 6:30 pm  
Cost is \$20 Deadline to register April 22<sup>nd</sup>

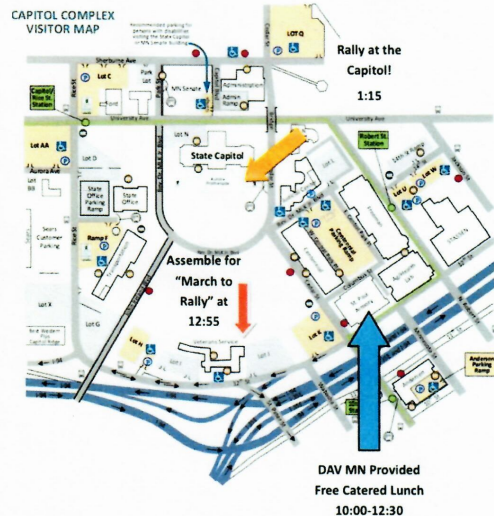
For Reservations Contact Barb Spencer 507-726-2155



Department of Minnesota  
March 2024 Unit Mailing  
Legislation

**PLEASE SHARE DATE OF 2024 VETERANS DAY ON THE HILL**

The 2024 Veterans Day on the Hill is April 17, 2024. Doors opening at 10am for coffee with lunch served at 11:30am. The march to the rally will begin at 1pm. New this year there will be a minibus running from the armory to the House and Senate office building from 10-11:30am.



The flyer has been included again in this newsletter to share and let your posts, units, squadrons, and community members know the importance of making our presence known. Plan to meet your lawmakers!

**Let's show a great presence of the  
American Legion Auxiliary in supporting our Veterans!**

**Robin Dorf,**  
Department Legislation Chairman

## 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*



**AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP REPORT****3/26/24**

Unit	Location	Goal	Previous	Turn In	Total	Precent	Left
9	Winona	125	92	1	93	74.40%	32
90	Lewiston	36	24	3	27	75.00%	9
190	St Charles	12	4	1	5	41.67%	7
50	Wabasha	104	100	2	102	98.08%	2
110	Lake City	71	33	2	35	49.30%	36
179	Plainview	128	95	8	103	80.47%	25
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	101	6	107	81.68%	24
119	Byron	23	13	0	13	56.52%	10
164	Stewartville	165	149	2	151	91.52%	14
551	Eyota	103	81	2	83	80.58%	20
<b>Pod One Total</b>		<b>997</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>79.64%</b>	<b>203</b>
295	West Concord	34	20	5	25	73.53%	9
330	Hayfield	176	139	15	154	87.50%	22
333	Kasson	143	105	10	115	80.42%	28
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	86	4	90	86.54%	14
75	New Richland	42	29	1	30	71.43%	12
228	Waseca	226	204	2	206	91.15%	20
587	Waldorf	20	14	0	14	70.00%	6
<b>Pod Two Totals</b>		<b>918</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>85.73%</b>	<b>131</b>
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	90	3	93	76.86%	28
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	61	6	67	70.53%	28
423	Houston	117	100	0	100	85.47%	17
498	Hokah	19	4	13	17	89.47%	2
595	LaCrescent	161	133	6	139	86.34%	22
<b>Pod Three Totals</b>		<b>958</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>82.57%</b>	<b>167</b>

56	Albert Lea	266	180	14	194	72.93%	72
264	Glenville	97	79	2	81	83.51%	16
404	Alden	43	27	2	29	67.44%	14
552	Freeborn	59	48	3	51	86.44%	8
91	Austin	123	62	17	79	64.23%	44
105	Lyle	53	30	0	30	56.60%	23
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
<b>Pod Four Totals</b>		<b>889</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>75.59%</b>	<b>217</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>3762</b>	<b>2857</b>	<b>2866</b>	<b>3044</b>	<b>80.91%</b>	<b>718</b>

### FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Ladies; We have slipped to fourth place in the Department at 80.91 percent. We have one Unit, congrats to Rushford Unit 94, at 100 percent. We also have five Units which are over 91 percent so congrats to them also. We Need to keep pushing to get the not paid members to pay. Happy April and remember “April showers bring May Flowers” Sharon Hammon - First District Auxiliary Membership Chairman.

### District President's Projects

#### 2023-2024

Any donations to my project during my time as 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN

Minnesota ALA Girls State

Remember the deadline for Minnesota Girls State is March 31<sup>st</sup>. If you have an applicant but do not have the funds to send, there are a few scholarships available through the department office. You would need to call Chris Avanti. From my own experience I know it is not easy to get into the schools to present the program for some of our units. Email the info from the February unit mailing to your guidance office if you can. If I can help, please contact me at [w.prescher1951@gmail.com](mailto:w.prescher1951@gmail.com). The program will only be accepting 200 girls this year, so get your applications in as soon as you can!

Wanda Prescher-Girls State

## FROM YOUR PRESTON VETERANS HOME REPRESENTATIVE

Preston Veterans Home

I have been asked to let you know, they are not able to take anymore quilts at this time. They have 100 plus in storage, and have no more space to store them. So please hold on to them, or find another veteran's home/project. Maybe a veteran in your community/care-center. The home is so amazed with everything that has been donated to them from the various veteran's programs. If you have things you are doing for the home, but cannot get them there let me know. We can work on some kind of arrangement. Hopefully, I will have more veterans needs information for you in next month's newsletter. Thank you to everyone who made visits or donated to the home, it is gratefully appreciated by the staff and myself.

Wanda Prescher

Preston Veterans Home ALA Representative



## FROM YOUR HONORAY 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.



This and the following page are is the Northwest Division Public Relations Insider



# Public Relations Insider

## Northwestern Division

*It's the most wonderful time....* Okay, maybe not the most wonderful, but it is a very important time in the ALA year.

You guessed it, It's time to get those annual reports and award submissions together! Here is some information to keep in mind.

### Department Chairman Reports:

Your annual reports are due to your Division Chairman (that's me 😊) and please cc our National Chairman, Pam Bates: (email addresses are in the right hand column) by **May 15<sup>th</sup>**.

Remember this is separate from awards submissions. You can view all of the criteria once logged into the ALA website: <https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Public-Relations-Annual-Reporting-Guidelines> (for convenience, I have highlighted a few points on page 2).

### Awards Information & Deadlines:

New for this year! Any member can submit an award submission online – it does not have to go to your Department first. Just as last year though, all awards submissions are to be done online using Formstack. You can find the link under each award on the website, or use this link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

Please be sure to read through all of the criteria as each award has its own submission requirements. ALL entries must be received by **5pm EST on June 1<sup>st</sup>**. Please note anyone submitting an award will need their membership number handy. (If your card isn't nearby, you can find it in your member profile on the website once logged in.)

*"All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope. Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm."*

~ Winston Churchill

### Contact information:

Tammy Harris  
PO Box 634  
Green River WY 82935

307-389-2705  
tjharris@wyoming.com

### National Chairman:

Pam Bates  
[pamelabates9@gmail.com](mailto:pamelabates9@gmail.com)



*Happy Spring!*



## Public Relations Annual Report Criteria Highlights:

- Department reports are limited to 1,000 words.
- Deadline to email reports is **May 15<sup>th</sup>**.
- Reports can only be sent via email.

Your report should answer these questions (more noted online)

- How did you use social media and newspaper/magazine/written articles to promote events to members and the community?
- Were ALA members branded at all events?
- Were video conferences (Zoom, etc.) and/or newsletters used to keep members informed?

## Awards Highlights:

- Check each award for its narrative limits or specific needs.
- Deadline **5pm EST on June 1<sup>st</sup>**. – no exceptions.
- Anyone can submit an award submission using the link.
- There are 4 different PR Awards!
  - Member Award: ALA Brand Ambassador
  - Unit Award: ALA Mission Focused Social Media Account
  - Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Public Relations Program (per division)
  - Department Award: Best Department Public Relations (per division)

Please login to the ALA website in the Member section to view all criteria and awards information.

Report Criteria: <https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Public-Relations-Annual-Reporting-Guidelines>.

Awards Information: <https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Awards/Public-Relations-Committee-Awards>.

Awards Submission link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>.

On a side note, please make sure all members are aware of the National President's Awards for Excellence. These are not PR specific, but please use your good PR skills and get the word out. Members can see more information and submission criteria here: <https://www.legion-aux.org/member/award-for-excellence>.





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

**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](mailto:minnkid58@gmail.com)/1-507-219-7188**

**1st District SAL Advisor**

To all Squadrons of the First District.

By the virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Minnesota, I, Chuck Stone, First District SAL Commander, do here by call a Convention of the First District Sons of the American Legion to convene at the Austin American Legion Post 91 located at 809 12<sup>th</sup> St SW, Austin, MN on Saturday May 4, 2024, at 9 AM.

The purpose of this Convention is to elect a District Commander, two (2) District Vice Commanders, a District Chaplain, a District Finance Officer and to conduct such business of the First District Sons of the American Legion that may properly come before the Convention.

The voting strength of each Squadron will be, as provided in the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws, based upon the Membership certified to the District Commander by the Detachment Adjutant.

Please send certification of your Squadron Delegates and Alternates to:

1<sup>st</sup> District SAL Commander  
Chuck Stone  
1625 Crestview Ln  
Owatonna, MN 55060

All District SAL Members are urged to attend.

Chuck Stone  
1<sup>st</sup> District SAL Commander

SAL Delegate certification to the First District SAL Convention in Austin, MN on Saturday, May 4, 2024.

Squadron \_\_\_\_\_ MN  
Delegates Alternates

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_



# FROM YOUR SAL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

## SAL 1<sup>st</sup> District Membership Summary as of 3/23/24

The 1<sup>st</sup> District slipped to a disappointing 9th place out of 10 Districts sitting at 85.38%. That's an increase of just over 1.3% from last month. As a District we have already surpassed the March goal. The April 10th goal is 90%. We have some work to do to get there based on last month's performance. Come on guys, we still can't let up. We need to move the needle and hit that April



### DETACHMENT OF MINNESOTA

2024 MEMBERSHIP TOTALS

Report Date: 3/29/2024

2023 Results as of 6/30/2023	10906
Current Received as of 3/29/2024	<b>10256</b>
2024 Detachment Goal	11139

**92.07%** \*Includes traditional and online renewals  
0 #DIV/0! set from national

	2023 Results	2024 Goal	Current at Dept.	Percentage	Placing
Vice Commanders					
1st and 3rd	3705	3778	3361	88.96%	4
2nd and 7th	2081	2122	2020	95.19%	2
4th and 5th	675	689	676	98.11%	1
6th and 9th	2462	2512	2287	91.04%	3
8th and 10th	2129	2170	1912	88.11%	5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11052</b>	<b>11271</b>	<b>10256</b>	<b>90.99%</b>	

\*The above goals are set by the District Leadership

Districts	2023 Results	2024 Goal	Current at Dept.	Percentage	Placing
1st District	1646	1683	1448	86.04%	9
2nd District	1212	1235	1233	99.84%	1
3rd District	2059	2095	1913	91.31%	5
4th District	348	354	351	99.15%	2
5th District	327	335	325	97.01%	3
6th District	1580	1610	1439	89.38%	7
7th District	869	887	787	88.73%	8
8th District	536	546	451	82.60%	10
9th District	882	902	848	94.01%	4
10th District	1593	1624	1461	89.96%	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11052</b>	<b>11271</b>	<b>10256</b>	<b>90.99%</b>	

\*The above goals are set by the District Leadership

1982 MN SAL AT-LARGE 1

2024 Original Goal	Percentage	Ranking
3996	84.11%	5
2273	88.88%	1
761	88.78%	2
2707	84.47%	4
2209	86.54%	3

\*The above goal set by the Detachment Membership Director

2024 Original Goal	Percentage	Ranking
1795	80.67%	10
1302	94.68%	1
2201	86.92%	5
390	90.04%	2
372	87.45%	4
1715	83.92%	8
970	81.11%	9
509	88.65%	3
993	85.41%	7
1701	85.90%	6

\*The above goal set by the Detachment Membership Director

## National Goal Milestones



Month	Year	Percentage	Target Date
2 January	18' 2024	90%	10 July 24' 2024 (2024)
4 December	13' 2023	42%	8 May 12' 2024
3 November	12' 2023	32%	8 April 10' 2024
5 October	18' 2023	52%	1 March 13' 2024
1 September	13' 2023	10%	9 February 14' 2024

**2024 National Membership Target Dates**



## 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**



## 1st District

Sqdrn.	Location	2023 Results (6/30/2023)	2024 Goal	Total at Dept		Grand Total	% of Goal	Date Goal Reached
9	Winona	139	140	141	0	141	100.71%	3/29/2024
40	Lanesboro	65	66	68	0	68	103.03%	1/18/2024
50	Wabasha	27	28	20	0	20	71.43%	
52	Blooming Prairie	35	36	38	0	38	105.56%	1/18/2024
56	Albert Lea	108	109	107	0	107	98.17%	
75	New Richland	0	1A	0	0	0	#VALUE!	
77	Owatonna	100	101	89	0	89	88.12%	
90	Lewiston	46	47	46	0	46	97.87%	
91	Austin	66	67	7	0	7	10.45%	
92	Rochester	79	80	79	0	79	98.75%	
94	Rushford	32	33	16	0	16	48.48%	
105	Lyle	31	32	1	0	1	3.13%	
119	Byron	25	26	23	0	23	88.46%	
140	Grand Meadow	0	1A	0	0	0	#VALUE!	
146	Adams	107	108	92	0	92	85.19%	
161	Leroy	38	39	34	0	34	87.18%	
164	Stewartville	105	106	112	0	112	105.66%	2/2/2024
166	Preston	42	43	42	0	42	97.67%	
179	Plainview	12	13	5	0	5	38.46%	
190	St Charles	3	4	3	0	3	75.00%	
191	Caledonia	6	7	7	0	7	100.00%	9/18/2023
228	Waseca	121	123	133	0	133	108.13%	1/11/2024
249	Spring Grove	0	1A	0	0	0	#VALUE!	
264	Glenville	49	50	51	0	51	102.00%	3/23/2024
266	Hartland	11	12	11	0	11	91.67%	
281	Janesville	7	8	7	0	7	87.50%	
299	Mabel	17	18	17	0	17	94.44%	
317	Emmons	25	26	4	0	4	15.38%	
330	Hayfield	38	39	43	0	43	110.26%	1/18/2024
333	Kasson	41	42	7	0	7	16.67%	
384	Dodge Center	5	6	4	0	4	66.67%	
400	Canton	0	1A	0	0	0	#VALUE!	
404	Alden	54	55	52	0	52	94.55%	
423	Houston	15	16	10	0	10	62.50%	
446	Rochester	26	27	32	0	32	118.52%	12/28/2023
546	Kellogg	12	13	12	0	12	92.31%	
551	Eyota	38	39	39	0	39	100.00%	2/16/2024
552	Freeborn	23	24	25	0	25	104.17%	12/21/2023
573	Elgin	0	1A	0	0	0	#VALUE!	
579	Millville	23	24	12	0	12	50.00%	
595	La Crescent	75	76	59	0	59	77.63%	
637	Whalan	0	1A	0	0	0	#VALUE!	
1111	Dakota	0	1A	0	0	0	#VALUE!	
<b>1st District Totals</b>		<b>1646</b>	<b>1683</b>	<b>1448</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1448</b>	<b>86.04%</b>	





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 MVAF, 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  
(507) 459-5962

845 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Apt E  
Winona, MN 55987

**DIRECTOR**  
34  
**SUNSHINE MILLER MALONEY**  
Phone 507-459-5962  
EMAIL - sunshine1alr@gmail.com



**VICE DIRECTOR - CHUCK STONE**  
1625 Crestview Lane  
Owatonna, MN 55060  
Phone - 507 213-7517  
EMAIL - castoney@hotmail.com

**SGT at ARMS - Gene Luedke**  
325 Hoffman Dr. Apt 305  
Owatonna, MN 55060  
PHONE—507—451—5731  
EMAIL - gene.luedke@hotmail.com

**SECRETARY - TONIA BETTERMANN**  
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PHONE—507—456—2315  
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**FINANCIAL ADVISOR - MARK MALONEY**  
845 54th Avenue, Apt E  
Winona , MN 55987  
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EMAIL - markmaloney1962@gmail.com

**CHAPLAIN - JILL REED**

**HISTORIAN - TRICIA PETERSON**

**ROAD CAPTAIN**

Thank you to those who were able to attend the District ALR meeting on Saturday, March 16 at the LeRoy Community Center. If your chapter director or secretary did not receive a copy of the minutes please let me know at [sunshine1alr@gmail.com](mailto:sunshine1alr@gmail.com)  
Spring convention with election of 2024-2025 officers will be Saturday, May 4, 2024, at 1pm at the Austin American Legion. Pre-registration fee is \$15 or \$20 at the door. This will cover your registration for the Legionnaire, Auxiliary and SAL meetings also.

Thank you to the following for accepting nominations:

- Director is Karla (Sunshine) Maloney - start of her 2nd year of a 2-year term
- Vice Director – Chuck Stone
- Secretary – Tonia Bettermann
- Treasurer – Mark Maloney
- Chaplain – Jill Reed
- Historian – Karen (Sassy) Nay
- Sgt at Arms - appointed position - Sarge Luedtke
- Road Captain – appointed position - Jay Reed

Plans are underway for the **Tour of the 1st District Day on Saturday, July 20th**. We will be starting this year at the Winona Legion Post 9 with breakfast. Stops are planned for Saxon Hall in Brownsville and the new VA Home in Preston. Our final stop will be at the Rochester Legion Post 92 with burger basket meal. This event is open to all Legion members and friends. There will be no registration fees again this year, we ask that you consider making a donation to Believet Canine Service for Disabled Vets and Fund 85 (MVAF) MN Veterans Assistance Fund.

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events:

#### AUSTIN

- Steak Dinner & Gun Raffle on April 6, 2024
- Ride for Alzheimer's on June 1, 2024.
- Prevent 22 Ride on July 27, 2024.
- Bob Kvam Memorial Scholarship Cruise on August 31, 2024.

#### EYOTA

- Testimonial Dinner April 20, 2024, for the American Legion Family
- PTSD Ride on June 15, 2024

#### RUSHFORD

- Thunder in the Valley on June 1, 2024.

#### WINONA

- Island City Ride for Vets on September 14, 2024

Together we can make a difference ~ Sunshine Maloney,  
First District ALR Director



## **2024 First District American Legion Rider Convention Call**

To all American Legion Rider Chapters of the First District:

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the constitution and by-laws of the American Legion Riders, Department of Minnesota, I, Karla Miller-Maloney, First District ALR Director, do hereby call a convention meeting of the First District ALR to be held at the Austin American Legion at 1 PM, on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The purpose of this convention meeting is to elect District Officers and to conduct such business of the First District ALR that may come before this meeting.

The voting strength of each ALR Chapter will be, as provided in the First District ALR by-laws.

All ALR members are encouraged to attend and register at the convention to support the American Legion Family.

First District ALR Director  
Karla Miller-Maloney

## S.A.V.E.: Teaching communities how to help Veterans at risk for suicide

**S.A.V.E.** will help you act with care and compassion if you encounter a Veteran who is in suicidal crisis.

- **S**igns of suicidal thinking should be recognized
- **A**sk the most important question of all
- **V**alidate the Veteran's experience
- **E**ncourage treatment and Expedite getting help

**Who:** American Legion family and community members

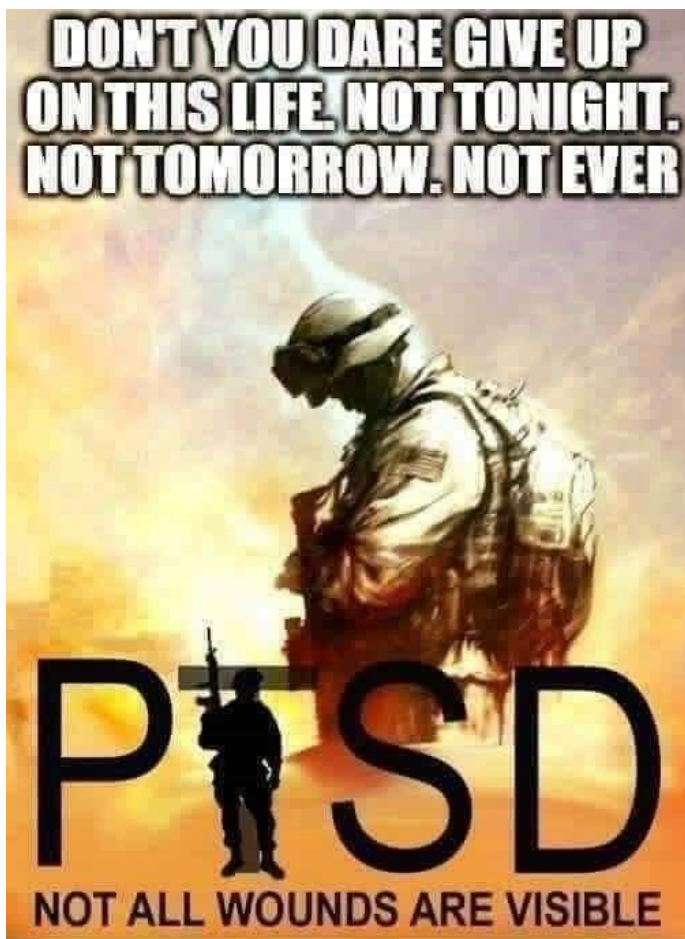
**What:** VA S.A.V.E. Suicide Prevention training

**Where:** Stewartville Legion, Stewartville MN.

**When:** Monday April 22, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m.

**Bonus:** Burger night after meeting open to all. Sen Carla Nelson speaker ask questions on what the state is doing for mental health for Minnesota citizens veterans and non veterans

***Everyone has a role to play in preventing suicide***



## An app for on line mental health

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

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

[sfnsn=mo&mibextid=LROouL](https://www.facebook.com/100019040483031/posts/1054342938543712/?sfnsn=mo&mibextid=LROouL) **Veter-**  
**ans in crisis now eligible for free**  
**care nationwide** [https://](https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.kttc.com/2023/01/17/veterans-crisis-now-eligible-free-care-nationwide/%3foutputType=amp)

[www.google.com/amp/s/  
www.kttc.com/2023/01/17/veterans-  
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](http://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.

## Broasted Chicken

Dinners include a choice of:

**3 Pieces of Chicken or 5 Wings!**

**Plus potato wedges,**

**Coleslaw and Bloedow's bun**

**All for only \$12**

**Thursday April 11<sup>th</sup>**

**5:00 to 6:30**

Choice of Sauces for wings

**BBQ, Ranch, Buffalo**

**Thank you for supporting the**

**Sons of the American Legion Squadron # 9**

## Spring Chicken-Q

**Saturday, April 6, 2024**

**Winona Legion Club**

**302 East Sarnia**

**Serving 11am until Gone**

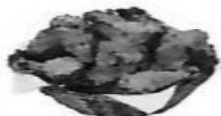
**\*\*Pre-Sales held until 1pm\*\***

**½ Grilled Chicken, Baked Potato, Baked Beans and Bloedow's Roll all  
for just \$10.00**

**Tickets available at the bar or from any SAL member.**



# 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](http://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 <sup>th</sup>	SAL Chicken Q
February 10 <sup>th</sup>	Event Sponsor is Winona Chiefs Baseball Team. They will sell tickets and serve the meals. SAL will grill the chicken.
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	Event Sponsor is Pickwick Mill Inc. They will sell tickets and serve the meals. SAL will grill the chicken.
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	SAL Chicken Q
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Event Sponsor is Kids Sport. They will sell tickets, grill the chicken, and serve the meals.
September 7 <sup>th</sup>	SAL Chicken Q
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	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.**