



FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

DECEMBER 2025

Legion Contacts

Commander

Brian Medinnus
1813 3rd Ave NE
Austin, MN 55912
507-219-7188
minnkid58@gmail.com

Adjutant

Deb Williamson
816-807-2362
adjutantmnmighty-
first@gmail.com

Membership

Mary Hanson
1701 4th AVE SW
Austin, MN 55912
507—440—3606
mfhanon52@charter.net

Chaplain

Richard Skillestad
219 6th St SW Eyota, MN
55934
507-545-2885 or 507-250-5329
richardh33@embarqmail.com

VICE—COMMANDER INFORMATION

Area One - Mark Maloney
845 54th Ave Apt E
Winona, MN 55987—1584
507-513-1582
markmaloney1962@gmail.com

Area Two -

Area Three - Sy Fix
1930 County 3
Brownsville, MN 55919
507-313-3376
papafixone@gmail.com

Area Four - Mary Hanson
1701 4th AVE SW
Austin, MN 55912
507-440-3606
mfhanon52@charter.net

IMPORTANT DATES

December 1 - Civil Air
Patrol Birthday

December 6 – Pearl
Harbor Rally – Buffa-
lo Post 270 – 11a
Turn-in

December 7: Pearl
Harbor Remembrance
Day

December 7th at
noon! 1st District
Christmas Party Glen-
ville American Le-
gion Post Potluck-
bring a dish to pass.
Plates, Napkins & Sil-
verware provided. Hot
chocolate, coffee &
water.



MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

Kasson Post 333 has a over supply of medical equip-
ment 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 infor-
mation.



FROM YOUR COMMANDER DESK

Happy Holidays...! Thanksgiving is now over and Christmas is coming. I hope you and yours have a Blessed Holiday Season.

This year has been racing by.... it is December....where has this year gone?

A lot of things have happened this year.... some good some bad but all have been a learning experience.

Let us look ahead to the new year...Mid-Winter if Jan 24th, 2026, at Stewartville Post 164 ...E Board...at 8 30am Main Meeting 10:00 am

We are looking for Members to run for District Officer Positions for 2026-2027 ...Committee Chairs and County Commanders. We will have many Positions open and would love to see new members come forward and run.

It is easy to forget sometimes that Leadership is not always an easy task. people forget the amount of work that goes into a Leadership position. The time and effort can be exhausting but someone needs to lead. No organization can operate without people in charge...so when given the chance to be in Charge please take it.

Brian

1813 3rd Ave NE

Austin Mn 55912

507 219 7188

minnkid58@gmail.com

As the year winds down and the winter chill settles across our districts, December arrives, wrapping the world in a unique blend of reflection and anticipation. This month carries profound significance, especially for us in the American Legion family. It is a time marked by the soft glow of holiday lights, the warmth of family gatherings, and, most importantly, the enduring commitment to our four pillars: Veterans Affairs, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.

The holiday season often compels us to look back at the accomplishments of the past year and the blessings we enjoy, many of which are secured by the dedication and sacrifice of our fellow veterans. It is a time to redouble our efforts in service, ensuring that the spirit of giving and community extends deeply into our Posts, our local communities, and, crucially, to those veterans and military families who may be struggling.

Lighting the Way Home

December is inherently a month of light—whether it is the flickering of candles during holiday celebrations or the illumination of hope we strive to bring to others. For a veteran facing loneliness, hardship, or health challenges, a simple phone call, a friendly visit, or a helping hand from a comrade can be that essential light. I urge every member to reach out this month. Check on a shipmate, a battle buddy, or a fellow Post member you haven't seen in a while. A few minutes of genuine connection can make all the difference.

The True Meaning of Remembrance

Amidst the cheer, we must also pause for solemn remembrance. The greatest dedication we offer to those who have served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice is not just remembering them in passing, but living a life of service that upholds the principles they fought for. Their memory is the foundation upon which our continued mission rests.

Let the spirit of this season inspire us to be kinder, more generous with our time, and fiercely committed to the ideals that bind us together as a Legion. Let us carry the light of service forward into the new year.

May you and your families find peace, joy, and meaningful moments of connection this December.

For God and Country,

Richard Skillstad

FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Hi Legionnaires,

This report is from the 19th as we did not get one this week.

This is encouraging, we are still in 3rd place behind District 2 & 6.

The 1st District is in a tie for 2nd place, with the 2nd District, 4 points behind the 6th District, in 1st for the membership challenge. The next target date is 75% on 12/20, which we have already passed.

Please start calling the members on your roster who have not renewed. We can't start to slide backwards. We need to keep the momentum going.



The American Legion, Dept of MN, First District 2026 Membership Report for November 19, 2025

Dist	Post	Location	New 2026	PUFL 2026	Online 2026	Trad 2026	Paid 2026	HQ Trans 2026	Total Membr 2026	Goal 2026	% of Goal	HQ Trans 2025	Last yr at this date
1	9	Winona	6	32	0	336	374	5	379	456	83.11%	0	0
1	90	Lewiston	0	9	0	43	52	0	52	81	64.20%	0	0
1	190	St Charles	0	13	0	57	70	0	70	85	82.35%	0	0
1		Winona County	6	54	0	436	496	5	501	622	80.55%	0	0
1	50	Wabasha	2	40	0	96	138	0	138	182	75.82%	0	0
1	110	Lake City	4	16	0	110	130	1	131	169	77.51%	0	0
1	179	Plainview	4	23	0	66	93	0	93	135	68.89%	0	0
1	546	Kellogg	0	6	0	27	33	0	33	50	66.00%	0	0
1	573	Elgin	0	3	0	17	20	0	20	28	71.43%	0	0
1	579	Millville	1	17	0	63	81	0	81	104	77.88%	0	0
1	588	Mazeppa	0	8	0	41	49	0	49	63	77.78%	0	0
1		Wabsha County	11	113	0	420	544	1	545	731	74.56%	0	0
1	92	Rochester	5	82	0	473	560	7	567	681	83.26%	0	0
1	119	Byron	1	13	0	77	91	1	92	127	72.44%	0	0
1	164	Stewartville	9	20	0	183	212	2	214	259	82.63%	0	0
1	446	Rochester	0	2	0	5	7	0	7	6	116.67%	0	0
1	551	Eyota	1	23	0	106	130	0	130	173	75.14%	0	0
1		Olmsted County	16	140	0	844	1000	10	1010	1246	81.06%	0	0
1		Area One	33	307	0	1700	2040	16	2056	2599	79.11%	0	0
1	295	West Concord	0	6	0	21	27	0	27	36	75.00%	0	0
1	330	Hayfield	6	12	0	134	152	0	152	179	84.92%	0	0
1	333	Kasson	2	29	0	130	161	0	161	228	70.61%	0	0

1	384	Dodge Center	1	8	0	28	37	1	38	63	60.32%	0	0
1	422	Claremont	0	3	0	21	24	0	24	28	85.71%	0	0
1		Dodge County	9	58	0	334	401	1	402	534	75.28%	0	0
1	52	Blooming Prairie	0	16	0	38	54	1	55	76	72.37%	0	0
1	77	Owatonna	2	51	0	186	239	3	242	342	70.76%	0	0
1	296	Ellendale	0	5	0	34	39	0	39	45	86.67%	0	0
1		Steel County	2	72	0	258	332	4	336	463	72.57%	0	0
1	75	New Richland	0	8	0	23	31	0	31	40	77.50%	0	0
1	228	Waseca	2	20	0	171	193	0	193	244	79.10%	0	0
1	281	Janesville	1	3	0	53	57	0	57	66	86.36%	0	0
1	587	Waldorf	0	0	0	9	9	0	9	18	50.00%	0	0
1		Waseca County	3	31	0	256	290	0	290	368	78.80%	0	0
		Area Two	14	161	0	848	1023	5	1028	1365	75.31%	0	0
1	40	Lanesboro	1	12	0	70	83	0	83	97	85.57%	0	0
1	68	Spring Valley	0	6	0	39	45	0	45	58	77.59%	0	0
1	81	Harmony	0	0	0	15	15	0	15	20	75.00%	0	0
1	94	Rushford	1	9	0	65	75	0	75	99	75.76%	0	0
1	166	Preston	1	15	0	24	40	0	40	47	85.11%	0	0
1	197	Chatfield	0	1	0	34	35	0	35	35	100.00%	0	0
1	299	Mabel	2	26	0	92	120	0	120	131	91.60%	0	0
1	369	Wykoff	0	0	0	13	13	0	13	16	81.25%	0	0
1	400	Canton	0	0	0	6	6	0	6	21	28.57%	0	0
1	492	Fountain	0	0	0	6	6	0	6	9	66.67%	0	0
1	526	Peterson	0	4	0	24	28	0	28	32	87.50%	0	0
1	544	Ostrander	0	2	0	10	12	0	12	19	63.16%	0	0
1	637	Whalan	0	0	0	5	5	0	5	10	50.00%	0	0

1		Fillmore County	5	75	0	403	483	0	483	594	81.31%	0	0
1	191	Caledonia	7	10	0	74	91	0	91	110	82.73%	0	0
1	249	Spring Grove	0	10	0	68	78	0	78	128	60.94%	0	0
1	423	Houston	2	9	0	70	81	0	81	94	86.17%	0	0
1	498	Hokah	1	1	0	15	17	0	17	20	85.00%	0	0
1	595	LaCrescent	0	39	0	97	136	1	137	202	67.82%	0	0
1		Houston County	10	69	0	324	403	1	404	554	72.92%	0	0
1		Area Three	15	144	0	727	886	1	887	1148	77.26%	0	0
1	56	Albert Lea	4	34	0	271	309	3	312	418	74.64%	0	0
1	264	Glenville	3	8	0	48	59	0	59	66	89.39%	0	0
1	266	Hartland	0	1	0	12	13	0	13	14	92.86%	0	0
1	317	Emmons	0	2	0	32	34	0	34	40	85.00%	0	0
1	404	Alden	1	3	0	43	47	1	48	70	68.57%	0	0
1	552	Freeborn	0	5	0	21	26	0	26	28	92.86%	0	0
1		Freeborn County	8	53	0	427	488	4	492	636	77.36%	0	0
1	91	Austin	3	41	0	182	226	1	227	352	64.49%	0	0
1	105	Lyle	0	8	0	35	43	0	43	71	60.56%	0	0
1	140	Grand Meadow	0	4	0	17	21	0	21	31	67.74%	0	0
1	146	Adams	0	17	0	75	92	0	92	137	67.15%	0	0
1	161	LeRoy	0	4	0	24	28	0	28	45	62.22%	0	0
1	570	Austin Spam	0	0	0	8	8	0	8	12	66.67%	0	0
1		Mower County	3	74	0	341	418	1	419	648	64.66%	0	0
1		Area Four	11	127	0	768	906	5	911	1284	70.95%	0	0
1	1111	Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0
1		District Totals	73	739	0	4043	4855	27	4882	6396	76.33%	0	0

		Vice Commanders											
		Area One	33	307	0	1700	2040	16	2056	2599	79.11%	0	0
		Area Two	14	161	0	848	1023	5	1028	1365	75.31%	0	0
		Area Three	15	144	0	727	886	1	887	1148	77.26%	0	0
		Area Four	11	127	0	768	906	5	911	1284	70.95%	0	0
The American Legion Department of Minnesota 2026 10-1-2025 District Membership Report													
Dist	Rank												
1	3rd	Brian Medinnus	73	739	0	4043	4855	27	4882	6396	76.33%		
2	1st	Tom Behrends	62	513	0	3364	3939	10	3949	5104	77.37%		
3	4th	Amy Larsen	112	1483	0	5208	6,803	58	6,861	9,251	74.16%		
4	8th	Jon Haworth	20	246	0	869	1135	3	1138	1,568	72.58%		
5	10th	Lynn Nottage	15	228	0	638	881	4	885	1305	67.82%		
6	2nd	Frank Grittner	123	1011	0	5778	6912	59	6,971	9,043	77.09%		
7	6th	Pete Flannery	36	572	0	2820	3428	4	3432	4,645	73.89%		
8	9th	Steven Birkemeyer	46	284	0	1716	2046	9	2055	2862	71.80%		
9th	7th	Dennis Henkemeyer	60	488	0	3004	3552	16	3568	4829	73.89%		
10	5th	Bill Gordon	103	875	0	4049	5027	38	5065	6846	73.98%		
99			7	194	0	971	1172	0	1172	1751	66.93%		
Totals			657	6633	0	32,460	39,750	228	39,978	53,600	74.59%		

FROM YOUR DISTRICT ADJUTANT

The Dept of MN has forwarded from National, the current Consolidated Post Report forms for the 2025-2026 year. Posts can complete the form online, provided editable forms and fill in or complete a hard copy as in the past. Reminder, if you do hard copy, mail a copy to the Department and keep the original.

The fillable PDFs for this year's CPR & CSR have been posted to [legion.org](https://www.legion.org) and are now available for download.

You can check the updated forms on the following pages:

CPR: <https://www.legion.org/information-center/in-the-media/publications/organization-membership-awards>

CSR: <https://www.legion.org/information-center/in-the-media/publications/sons-of-the-american-legion>

Please remember, the importance of this report is that it is our communication tool to the Congress.

Officers with valid emails listed in [legion.org](https://www.legion.org) should have received an email with this information. If you did not, please let me know and also confirm your personal information there.

Thank you

Deb Williamson



The American Legion – Department of Minnesota

First District

Happy Holidays

By the time this Newsletter arrives to your, it will be December. Turkey day will have past and bank accounts smaller thanks to attractive “Black Friday” deals that now start before Halloween, but I would like us to pause for a moment and look at some history.

Forgetting history causes people to make the same mistakes again and again, which I Believing is the definition of insanity.

October 3, 1863, 162 years ago, President Abraham Lincoln, issued the Proclamation of Thanksgiving and a Day of Praise institute a formally, federally, recognized holiday. Congress passed it overwhelmingly. Very few people realize this, let alone know. the proclamation, I encourage you to look it up. Why did he feel this need? After what the country had gone through, he felt everyone needed to pause, examine, and remember what they were truly thankful for.

Our Legion family has so very much to be thankful for. We have a great program with Columbia Lighthouse working on Suicide Prevention (Be the One). Vested leaders like Chip Manson, Paul Edwards and Dick Ward investing time to examine district layouts to help find the best way forward for strength. The Sons of the American Legion growing.

programs like the Disabled Vet Deer hunt to include a Turkey hunt. Department

Commander Linda Dvorak who understands solid foundations are important and has. the goal of “Back to Basics: The Four Pillars.” National Executive Committeeman Carl Moon working to remind everyone about the four rules of the Legion Program, Leadership, Rules, Reports, and Controls. And the Auxiliary and Riders, my gosh, donations at the last conference were UNBELIEVEABLE! We truly have a Legion family.

from the top down working to make things better for the Legion Posts and for individuals! Thank you to all of you.

Locally, what is going on in your Post or in your area to help our brothers and sisters?

Some things I know about and invite you to put on your calendars, no one has to just go. to their post, we can visit others. I am including links where I have them.

- ☐ Dec 6, 2025, Post 270 Buffalo MN Pearl Harbor Rally
- ☐ Dec 7, 2025, Post 264 Glenville MN First District Christmas Party
- ☐ Dec 10, 2025, Target Field Winter Salute & Stand Down
- ☐ Dec 13, 2025, Wreaths Across America
- ☐ Jan 1, 2026, Baseball / Softball Registration begins
- ☐ Jan 24, 2026, Post 164 Stewartville District Oratorical Contest

DID YOU KNOW?

There is a new Department of Minnesota website? It is great! Check it out! mnlegion.org.

There is an Armed Forces Service Center at the Minneapolis Airport for all active duty, Purple Heart recipients, DOD ID card holders including dependents and 100% disabled veterans? Terminal 1.

As this year ends, I wish you all a very blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year. I know that some of you face tough times now, but we are brothers and sisters. We are a family. We are here for each other. I encourage all of us to reach out to at least one of your family members and check in with them. I also encourage all of us to be honest. with ourselves and others if there is a moment, an hour, or more, that we need a friend.

Adjutant Deb

Alone we do little, together we do great things!

- Jan 1, 2026, Baseball / Softball Registration begins
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Adjutant Deb

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MN AMERICAN LEGION
FIRST DISTRICT FAMILY

MID-WINTER RALLY

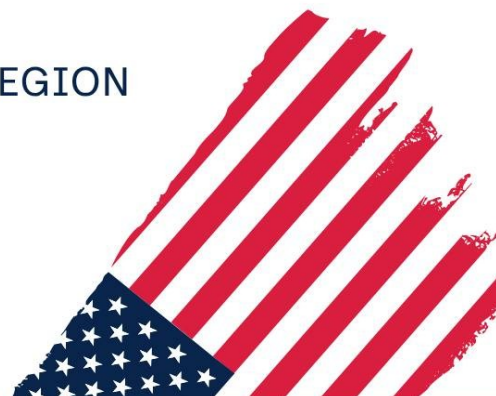
Saturday, January 24, 2026

EXEC BOARD MEETING 8:30-9:30

GENERAL SESSION 10am



STEWARTVILLE AMERICAN LEGION
1100 2ND AVENUE NW



FROM YOUR AREA ONE VICE COMMANDER

I would like to thank area One for the excellent job we are doing in membership we are in first place in the district I found this and found it remarkably interesting, the breakdown of counties and how many veterans there are in first district.

Olmsted Co. 8,088	Freeborn Co. 2,040
Goodhue Co. 3,092	Wabasha Co. 1,416
Winona Co. 2,713	Fillmore Co. 1,237
Mower Co. 2,337	Houston Co. 1,162
Steele Co. 2,074	Dodge Co. 1,101

Total of 25260 veterans in the first according to the report of KTTC on veterans' day news report. We only have about 3.66% of them why what are we not doing to get more .Well one is we need to meet the members needs and listen to what they see that might work having things placed on face book where people can see what the legion is doing changing with the times not sticking to the things we have done in the past that was then today's world and veterans have changed they are more to the point they do not like to waste time

As I here in the VA hospital I am shown by older and younger veterans on how we still believe in helping our fellow veteran in need by answering questions that the new patient may have to help them move them in the while being in the wheelchair things that I have seen that we forgot in the American legion pointing fingers at each other and having your own agendas and not putting the legions needs above your own .I think we need to have meetings and have them as classes and we need to remember what we are forgetting is the

By clearly presenting the aims of the American Legion and highlighting its positive influence—while keeping in mind its founding principles—we can draw in more people by staying optimistic about our mission. We should keep in mind that everyone starts out equal; what truly matters is how we choose to act moving forward.

Thank you.

Area one vice commander

Mark a Maloney III



Auxiliary Contacts

President

Wanda Prescher
4826 Tee Court SW
Rochester, MN 55902
507-254-0304
w.prescher1951@gmail.com

Secretary

Lesley Heimer
71365 160th St
Taopi< MN 55977
612-756-1649
lesleyheimer@hotmail.com

Membership

Karla (Sunshine) Maloney
84554th Ave E
Winona, MN 55987
507 459 5962
928 sunshine@gmail.com

Treasurer

Tonia Betterman
1625 Crestview Lane
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-456-2315
bettm88@outlook.com

First District American Legion Auxiliary

December is here! Where did the year go! Our District American Legion Family Mid-Winter is coming up on Saturday, January, 24th, 10am-3pm. Stewartville Post 164 will be our host.

I encourage members to attend, we can learn so much from each other. Registration is \$10 and Lunch will be \$10.

The Oratorical contest will also be held after lunch. If you have never seen this happen, it is amazing what our young people know about our Constitution.

The Auxiliary will be doing the ALA Emergency Fund Silent Auction during the event. Please help us by bringing something for the auction if you plan to attend. We will have visitations from Department during the day, let's show them how well the 1st District is represented.

Sandy Fredrickson and myself attended the ALA Mission Training in Minneapolis on November 15th. There was great information and discussion on our programs. The biggest take is social media/technology going forward. Use our Department MNALA.org. which has just been redone and updated. Use the National website, ALA for Veterans.org there is so much information for you to use.

All scholarship info is right there to send to your schools. I encourage everyone to go and look at the websites and see what is available. I will be sending out more information from the Mission Training to our Unit Presidents.

Remember if your 990 is not up to date, you will not be able to distribute poppy's. If you need help please let me know, so we can get this corrected and up to date.

Thank you to Freeborn Unit 558 for hosting our first Coffee Talk session. It was very casual and attended by 4 Auxiliary units with 13 members, our District Rider Director and the Post Commander who is also Freeborn County VSO. Open discussion on whatever members wanted to talk about good or bad. We had good discussion with good input and sharing from everyone. There were a couple really younger members, we asked for their input to attract younger people. The PHONE.....post everything we do, who we are and what we do, and why we do it. This should be our challenge for this year in our District, just not Facebook. We will be setting up 2 more sessions for February for members to attend which ever one works for them.

Thank you to our Mabel Unit 299 for doing the Veterans Day Program at the Preston Veterans Home.

It was well done and appreciated by the residents and staff!

Remember to get your Poppy orders into Dept.

New Girls State video and info will be sent to schools right after winter break, early January.

December 8th - ALA Gift Shop at Preston Veterans Home

December 13th - Wreaths Across America

Remember our servicemen and women during this Christmas season.

Try to help those in your community that need a little extra help. It is the season of giving!

Many of our Units are very giving, and I thank you for that.

"America without her Soldiers would be like God without His angel." - Claudia Pemberton

Wishing everyone a Wonderful Christmas with family and friends!

1st District President

Wanda Prescher



Hello First District ALA Members-

As of today (11.26.25) I'm happy to share that in the Northwest Division - the Department of MN is in 2nd place at 69.16% -- just behind #1 Nebraska at 71.21%.

At the Department level we are in 3rd place at 71.05%. Great job to our First District Unit Membership Directors for getting memberships in. Thank you to all ALA members for renewing your membership & supporting our Veterans.

Please consider attending the Pearl Harbor Rally next Saturday Dec 6 in Buffalo, any unit that reaches 75% will be entered into a drawing for \$75 (there are going to be two winners).

Next Sunday, Dec 7 is the First District Christmas Party. Glenville Post is hosting a potluck dinner at noon. What a great way to start the Season with our Legion Family! Have a blessed Holiday season.

~ **SUNSHINE MILLER MALONEY** ~

Be the Change You Wish to See in the World

	UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT	25% by 9/15	60% by 11/11	85% by 3/15/26	95% by 6/12/26	100% by 7/4/26	102% by 8/1/26
01	0009	Winona	111	1	80	81	72.97%	10/25/25	10/25/25				
	0040	Lanesboro	98	0	82	82	83.67%	11/18/25	11/18/25				
	0050	Wabasha	110	2	90	92	83.64%	9/15/25	10/7/25				
	0052	Blooming Prairie	86	0	61	61	70.93%	10/15/25	10/15/25				
	0056	Albert Lea	200	2	135	137	68.50%	10/7/25	10/30/25				
	0068	Spring Valley	47	1	30	31	65.96%	10/25/25	11/25/25				
	0075	New Richland	30	0	22	22	73.33%	11/4/25	11/4/25				
	0077	Owatonna	95	1	63	64	67.37%	10/7/25	11/25/25				
	0081	Harmony	42	9	24	33	78.57%	11/11/25	11/11/25				
	0090	Lewiston	28	4	20	24	85.71%	10/30/25	11/25/25	11/25/25			
	0091	Austin	91	0	44	44	48.35%	11/25/25					
	0092	Rochester	112	3	71	74	66.07%	9/30/25	10/30/25				
	0094	Rushford	49	0	36	36	73.47%	10/7/25	10/15/25				
	0105	Lyle	44	4	16	20	45.45%	11/4/25					
	0110	Lake City	35	1	24	25	71.43%	11/4/25	11/4/25				
	0119	Byron	13	0	12	12	92.31%	9/9/25	9/30/25	10/15/25			
	0140	Grand Meadow	61	4	43	47	77.05%	9/15/25	10/15/25				
	0146	Adams	116	8	48	56	48.28%	11/11/25					
	0161	Le Roy	40	9	18	27	67.50%	10/15/25	10/15/25				
	0164	Stewartville	158	1	111	112	70.89%	9/15/25	10/25/25				
	0179	Plainview	111	1	66	67	60.36%	10/15/25	11/18/25				
	0190	Saint Charles	5	0	7	7	140.00%	9/3/25	9/30/25	10/15/25	10/15/25	10/15/25	10/15/25
	0191	Caledonia	62	2	53	55	88.71%	9/3/25	10/15/25	11/25/25			
	0197	Chatfield	17	0	19	19	111.76%	10/30/25	10/30/25	10/30/25	10/30/25	10/30/25	10/30/25
	0228	Waseca	221	10	164	174	78.73%	10/30/25	11/4/25				
	0249	Spring Grove	72	0	41	41	56.94%	10/7/25					
	0264	Glenville	83	9	76	85	102.41%	9/30/25	10/7/25	11/18/25	11/18/25	11/25/25	11/25/25
	0295	West Concord	25	0	1	1	4.00%						
	0299	Mabel	102	2	56	58	56.86%	10/15/25					
	0330	Hayfield	171	10	110	120	70.18%	10/15/25	11/11/25				
	0333	Kasson	123	3	72	75	60.98%	10/15/25	11/4/25				
	0369	Wykoff	17	0	22	22	128.13%	11/4/25	11/4/25	11/4/25	11/4/25	11/4/25	11/4/25
	0384	Dodge Center	54	6	30	36	66.67%	10/25/25	11/18/25				
	0404	Alden	34	2	24	26	76.47%	10/25/25	11/18/25				
	0422	Claremont	19	0	3	3	15.79%						
	0423	Houston	105	2	82	84	80.00%	10/25/25	10/25/25				
	0498	Hokah	17	0	15	15	88.24%	10/25/25	10/25/25	10/30/25			
	0526	Peterson	43	1	36	37	86.05%	9/3/25	9/15/25	9/15/25			
	0544	Ostrander	8	0	7	7	87.50%	11/11/25	11/18/25	11/18/25			
	0551	Eyota	85	2	56	58	68.24%	10/25/25	11/18/25				
	0552	Freeborn	53	9	42	51	96.23%	9/3/25	9/3/25	9/23/25	11/11/25		
	0573	Elgin	7	0	5	5	71.43%	11/25/25	11/25/25				
	0579	Millville	39	0	34	34	87.18%	10/15/25	10/25/25	11/18/25			

	UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT	25% by 9/15	60% by 11/11	85% by 3/15/26	95% by 6/12/26	100% by 7/4/26	102% by 8/1/26
	0587	Waldorf	14	0	5	5	35.71%	9/3/25					
	0588	Mazeppa	32	0	22	22	68.75%	10/30/25	11/25/25				
	0595	La Crescent	142	8	98	106	74.65%	10/15/25	11/25/25				
	0637	Whalan	13	0	9	9	69.23%	11/11/25	11/11/25				
	Total		3,240	117	2185	2302	71.05%						

From Past District President Sharon Hammon

I want to extend my deepest thanks to everyone who has reached out with cards, calls, and prayers. Your kindness has meant the world to me.

I'm home now, resting and recovering until the next round of treatment. It's such a blessing to feel surrounded by love and support—especially during times like these. The road ahead may be long, but with the strength I draw from friends and family, I know I'll make it through.

Please keep the prayers coming—they're working, and I feel them every day.





Greetings Legion Family Members

FROM

YOUR HONORARY AUXILIARY JR PRESIDENT

Hello everyone, I'm Regan McElroy and I'm the First District Honorary Auxiliary Jr President. I hope everyone had a great summer. I have talked to President Wanda and she is also doing her project of the Preston Veterans Home. I am going to continue my project from last year, which is the recreational fund for the Preston Veterans Home.

On the weekend of October 24 and 25 I might be attending Fall Conference in St Cloud if my school schedule allows it. As Jr members we need to attend more of these events through out the year. There as to be more Jr's in Minnesota than show up. Let's pass the word for members to show up.

Regan McElroy—First District Honorary 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 an introduction to the District. I am 12 years old. I live in Riceville, Iowa with my mom (Missy) my Dad (Joe), my sister (Taylor), and I also have an older sister (Melanie). I play basketball, softball and volleyball. In my spare time, I enjoy hanging out with my friends and going shopping.

My project this year in the Outdoor Recreation Activities Fund for the Preston Veterans Home. The project is to help take the veterans hunting, fishing and ect. I would like to thank everyone who has donated so far. Remember that the check needs to be made out to the First District American Legion Auxiliary and in the memo line put – Honorary Jr Presidents project.

Regan McElroy - First District Auxiliary Honorary Jr President

Everyone is welcome to the Glenville Legion on Sunday, December 7th at noon! Potluck-bring a dish to pass. Plates, Napkins & Silverware provided. Hot chocolate, coffee & water.

Please bring a new unwrapped toy for Toys4Tots &/or canned food goods for the local food shelf.



First District Family Holiday Party

Sunday, Dec 7

Noon

Glenville American Legion

Everyone is welcome

Potluck Lunch --- Bring a dish to pass

Provided: plates, napkins & silverware
Hot Chocolate & Coffee

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



COMMANDER

Josh Erickson
PO Box 376 - Winona, MN 55987
507-313-5861
josheric@hbci.com

ADJUTANT

Dave Bilderback
4409 22nd Ave NW, Rochester, MN 55901
507-250-1057
dbilderbackb@aol.com

EAST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

Brian Tomashek
560 East Fifth St - Winona, MN 555987
507-454-5998
btoma0210@gmail.com

WEST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

Open

MEMBERSHIP

Greg Lemmer
140 Jederman Drive, Winona, MN 55987
507-312-2222
gslemmer@hbci.com

FINANCE OFFICER

Gary Weaver
29 North Elm St—La Crescent, MN 55947
507-895-2818 or 507-450-9580
gweaver@acegroup.cc

PARLIMENTERIAN

Gary Weaver
29 North Elm St—La Crescent, MN 55947
507-895-2818 or 507-450-9580
gweaver@acegroup.cc

CHAPLAIN

Brian Tomashek
560 East Fifth St—Winona, MN 99987
507-454-9598
btoma0210@gmail.com

Sgt at ARMS

Greg Lemmer
140 Jederman Drive, Winona, MN 55987
507-312-2222
gslemmer@hbci.com

FROM YOUR COMMANDER

Greetings District Legion Family,

As I write this, I am left wondering where the entire month of November has gone. I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving. Sometimes we take things for granted, but I think there is much to be thankful for.

Personally, I am thankful for good health, the opportunities, and resources I have been blessed with, my family and friends, and of course, each of you. I am also grateful for the freedoms and liberty we enjoy, and especially those who have sacrificed much to secure those for us.

The National Judge Advocate recently published an opinion pertaining to the Sons of the American Legion based on some posts including SAL members on their post membership roster for the purposes of tax audits. While there may be some merit to that based on the applicable tax code and cited IRS guidance, I am not qualified to comment on that aspect of the Judge Advocate's position. What I can comment on is the sentiment that the SAL is just a program of the American Legion that is to be treated the same as any other youth program such as Boy's State, Legion Baseball, Oratorical, etc.

Is National stepping back from the Legion Family concept? Yes, the Sons of the American Legion is a program of the American Legion, and each SAL organization is under the direct control of the Executive Committee of the American Legion organization that sponsors it. However, we are not the youth program we were in the 1930's. We have grown and evolved. We operate under a national framework adopted by the National Executive Committee, and we have nearly 400,000 members paying dues to the National organization. Our purpose is to promote the policies and programs of the American Legion; promote patriotism and national security; and support veterans, children, and our local posts. We do this well. Among our support of Legion programs, the SAL has been the top contributor to the Legion's Child Welfare Foundation. We continually work to support veterans' affairs, children, and first responders in our communities. Our squadrons work tirelessly to support their posts, and increasingly, support from our squadrons is becoming necessary in sustaining the ongoing operation of their posts.

To imply that the Sons of the American Legion is just another Legion youth program is disingenuous at best. We continue to prove ourselves as a vital component of the Legion Family. Why should the privilege of using the Post bar or restaurant be excluded from the SAL members when, in many cases, the Post relies on the SAL to help operate those areas? If there are legal issues with this, the Legion should work through their legislative channels to correct it. This in no way implies that SAL members are members of the American Legion, it only implies that SAL members are part of the Legion Family.

Josh Erickson

SAL District Commander

1st District - 2026 Squadron Membership Goals

Sqdrn.	Location	2024 Results (7/31/2024)	2025 Results (7/28/2025)	2026 Assigned In-crease	2026 As-signed Goal
9	Winona	145	153	4	157
40	Lanesboro	68	68	0	68
50	Wabasha	20	23	1	24
52	Blooming Prairie	39	34	0	34
56	Albert Lea	109	94	2	96
77	Owatonna	102	105	3	108
90	Lewiston	46	48	1	49
91	Austin	58	61	2	63
92	Rochester	77	85	2	87
94	Rushford	26	38	3	41
105	Lyle	27	31	2	33
119	Byron	24	25	1	26
146	Adams	104	100	0	100
161	Leroy	37	35	1	36
164	Stewartville	120	116	1	117
166	Preston	42	55	2	57
179	Plainview	10	7	0	7
190	St Charles	3	3	0	3
191	Caledonia	7	8	0	8
228	Waseca	134	140	2	142
264	Glenville	54	72	1	73
266	Hartland	11	10	0	10
281	Janesville	7	6	0	6
299	Mabel	17	19	1	20
317	Emmons	31	51	3	54
330	Hayfield	48	54	2	56
333	Kasson	42	37	0	37
384	Dodge Center	4	9	2	11
404	Alden	54	54	0	54
423	Houston	10	13	0	13
446	Rochester	32	31	2	33
546	Kellogg	12	12	0	12
551	Eyota	39	36	0	36
552	Freeborn	26	26	0	26
579	Millville	23	23	0	23
595	La Crescent	62	63	2	65
1st District Totals		1670	1745	40	1785

SAL 1st District

Membership Summary as of 11/30/25

As I compile this newsletter, District 1 comes in 6th place out of 10. If we compare this to last year at this same time we were in 8th place. From a percentage standpoint we are at 48.63% compared to 38.43% last year. A year over year improvement over the past three years.

On the same report, District 1 is now down to 3 out of 36 squadrons still sitting at zero. (commonly known as the goose egg). That is an improvement from 8 goose eggs from last year at this time. However, we are still well off the mark. We can, and must get that goose egg number to zero. What is holding some squadrons back? What can we do as SAL leadership? to help? Let us strive to get those memberships in, let us move the needle and at least get into the top three.

We cannot do it without every member's support.

This is the latest membership report from the District that I have, showing numbers for each district to date as well as 2026 membership goals.

Review how your squadron is doing. If you are squadron is on the goose egg please take action to get your memberships turned in. The Commander, East Vice Commander, and I want to help each and every Squadron get their memberships turned in. We would also like to see each squadron be active and take credit for being active. So, reach out to us and let us know how we can help. This includes utilizing MY SAL on the line tool.

Remember doing your renewals online speeds up the process and those renewals are actually, accounted for much sooner in all the reports. Please consider using this tool.

Being a member is important, however being an active member is key to carrying out our SAL mission. Membership in the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) is important as it supports veterans and their families while promoting patriotism and American values. Additionally, we members engage in community service and youth programs, fostering a sense of good citizenship and camaraderie among those who share a common heritage of military service.

Please engage with Veterans over this holiday season, and remember their needs during these cold and snowy times.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, you, and your families.

Respectively Submitted

Greg Lemmer

1st District SAL Membership Director

Districts	2025 Results	2026 Goal	Grand Total	Percentage	Placing
1st District	1745	1785	868	48.63%	6
2nd District	1225	1265	643	50.83%	3
3rd District	2247	2287	1137	49.72%	4
4th District	410	450	126	28.00%	10
5th District	318	358	177	49.44%	5
6th District	1643	1683	904	53.71%	1
7th District	995	1055	417	39.53%	9
8th District	479	519	224	43.16%	8
9th District	951	985	520	52.79%	2
10th District	1641	1680	740	44.05%	7
Totals	11654	12067	5756	47.70%	



Squadron Summary

1st District										
Sqdrn.	Location	2025 Results (7/29/2025)	2026 Goal	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Grand Total	% of Goal	Date Goal Reached
9	Winona	153	157	9	0	125	0	134	85.35%	
40	Lanesboro	68	68	0	0	15	0	15	22.06%	
50	Wabasha	23	24	0	0	2	0	2	8.33%	
52	Blooming Prairie	34	34	0	0	2	0	2	5.88%	
56	Albert Lea	94	96	1	0	56	0	57	59.38%	
77	Owatonna	105	108	3	0	34	0	37	34.26%	
90	Lewiston	48	49	0	0	47	0	47	95.92%	
91	Austin	61	63	0	0	17	0	17	26.98%	
92	Rochester	85	87	6	0	46	0	52	59.77%	
94	Rushford	38	41	7	0	14	0	21	51.22%	
105	Lyle	31	33	0	0	1	0	1	3.03%	
119	Byron	25	26	0	0	14	0	14	53.85%	
146	Adams	100	100	0	0	2	0	2	2.00%	
161	Leroy	35	36	0	0	14	0	14	38.89%	
164	Stewartville	116	117	1	0	52	0	53	45.30%	
166	Preston	55	57	7	0	12	0	19	33.33%	
179	Plainview	7	7	1	0	1	0	2	28.57%	
190	St Charles	3	3	0	0	2	0	2	66.67%	

191	Caledonia	8	8	1	0	0	0	1	12.50%	
228	Waseca	140	142	4	0	85	0	89	62.68%	
264	Glenville	72	73	11	0	50	0	61	83.56%	
266	Hartland	10	10	0	0	10	0	10	100.00%	9/14/2025
281	Janesville	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	
299	Mabel	19	20	0	0	14	0	14	70.00%	
317	Emmons	51	54	1	0	34	0	35	64.81%	
330	Hayfield	54	56	5	0	37	0	42	75.00%	
333	Kasson	37	37	0	0	21	0	21	56.76%	
384	Dodge Center	9	11	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	
404	Alden	54	54	0	0	14	0	14	25.93%	
423	Houston	13	13	0	0	1	0	1	7.69%	
446	Rochester	31	33	0	0	24	0	24	72.73%	
546	Kellogg	12	12	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	
551	Eyota	36	36	3	0	4	0	7	19.44%	
552	Freeborn	26	26	0	0	5	0	5	19.23%	
579	Millville	23	23	0	0	23	0	23	100.00%	11/9/2025
595	La Crescent	63	65	0	0	30	0	30	46.15%	
1st District Totals		1745	1785	60	0	808	0	868	48.63%	



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF MINNESOTA

APPLICATION FOR PAID UP FOR LIFE (PUFL) MEMBERSHIP

- 1 This plan shall become available commencing with the 2007 membership year, beginning July 1, 2006. The Detachment of Minnesota SAL PUFL Committee shall be authorized to change the Minnesota SAL PUFL Membership plan subject to the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee and The American Legion Department of Minnesota Executive Committee.
- 2 The entire amount of the Minnesota SAL PUFL Membership must accompany this application unless other arrangements are approved by the Detachment PUFL Committee for the payment plan. The payment plan is as follows: 25% paid with application, and the balance to be paid in 3 payments of 25 % every 3 months. No credit card payments will be accepted. NOTE: Current membership dues must be paid in full. If paying after October 01, pay the upcoming membership year to allow for processing.
- 3 There will be no refunds to any member that participates in the Minnesota SAL PUFL Membership Plan.
- 4 Increases in District, Detachment or National dues will be absorbed by the SAL PUFL Fund.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE																		
AGE	0 - 4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+
COST	\$640	\$615	\$595	\$575	\$550	\$525	\$500	\$470	\$435	\$400	\$360	\$320	\$275	\$240	\$200	\$165	\$135	\$115

PLEASE COMPLETE THE APPLICATION BELOW. PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION. PLEASE
PRINT LEGIBLY OR TYPE.

Thank you for your continued dedication and service to the Sons of The American Legion and everything we stand for. Together, we can lead the way for another year of growth, action, and pride in our mission.

For God and Country.

God Bless our troops, past and present and God Bless the USA.

Greg Lemmer

Membership Director S.A.L. District One

gslemmer@hbc.com Cell 507-312-2222

2025 – 2026 FIRST DISTRICT ALR OFFICERS

DIRECTOR – Wes Halverson

Phone: (507) 383-7983

Email: weshalverson@gmail.com

Vice Director – Roe Naylor

Phone: (507) 438-5804

Email: roe.land@yahoo.com

Secretary – Sunshine Maloney

Phone: (507) 459-5962

Email: sunshin1alr@gmail.com

Treasurer – Mark Maloney

Phone: (507) 703-0026

Email: markmaloney1962@gmail.com

Historian – Tricia Peterson

Phone: (507) 500-0449

Email: Tlynn1318@gmail.com

Chaplain – Jill Reed

Phone: (507) 450-5525

Email: jill22kimber@gmail.com

Sgt at Arms – Bruce Camerer

Phone: (507) 850-2025

Email: bcam2224@gmail.com

Parliamentarian – Chuck Stone

Phone: (507) 213-7517

Email: castoney@hotmail.com



Are you interested in joining the 1st District American Legion Riders? Want to know who to reach out to about a Chapter near you? Below are contacts for the Chapters in the 1st District. Also listed are the District ALR officers and their contact info.

ADAMS – CHAPTER #146

Dennis & Nancy Lewison – lewisonnancy@gmail.com

ALBERT LEA – CHAPTER #56

Terry Lewis - Director - 507-573-2926

AUSTIN – CHAPTER #91

Roe Naylor - Director - 507-438-5804

EYOTA – CHAPTER #551

Mark Maloney - Director - 507-703-0026

GLENVILLE – CHAPTER #264

Bruce Camerer - Director - 507-850-2025

OWATONNA - CHAPTER #77

Chuck Stone – 507-213-7517

RUSHFORD – CHAPTER #94

Ray Steichen – Director – Raysteichen@gmail.com 507-273-8972

WASECA – CHAPTER #228

Ryan Berg - Director - 507-461-5245

WINONA – CHAPTER #9

Brian Degnan - Director - 507-458-3043

You can also get information about the District ALR on our Facebook page. **1st District ALR of MN**

Sunshine Miller Maloney, 1st District Secretary

FROM THE ALR DIRECTOR

Hello Everyone-

Several First District Rider Chapters have been very busy the past several weeks collecting toys & monetary donations for Toys4Tots. What a great way to support our communities during this Holiday season.

Next Sunday, Dec 7 is the First District Christmas Party. Glenville Post is hosting a potluck dinner at noon. Please plan to attend & start the Season with our Legion Family!

On Saturday, January 24 at the Stewartville Legion will be the First District Mid-Winter Rally. Director Wes is planning to have a modified meeting. Please plan to attend or send a representative from your Chapter. Wes would like to update the Legion Family on how many members are in your Chapter and what you have been doing. Also bring information/flyers on your upcoming events.

Lastly, the ALR Dept Fund 85 Ride - July 22 to July 25 - is in the early stages of planning. They are looking for Posts (do not have to have a Riders Chapter) to host stops. The route this year will be in the southern half of MN. Several Posts in the 1st District have expressed interest and that information has been passed along to Dept Road Captain Jody Hassing & Dept Director Duane Moban. Please contact Wes Halverson, Director First District, with any questions.

Have a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Wes Halverson, Director



ADAMS AMERICAN LEGION POST 146

Chicken, Fish, & Steak Fry Schedule



Serving Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.*

(*Unless Noted) (507) 582-3266



2025 SCHEDULE

Chicken & Steak Fry, SAL	September 20
Chicken & Steak Fry, Legion	October 4
Chicken & Steak Fry, Southland Trap Shoot	October 18
Chicken & Steak Fry, Legion	November 1
Steak Fry, Knights of Columbus	November 22
Chicken & Steak Fry, Legion (Christmas Tree Decoration Group)	December 6
Chicken & Steak Fry, Cancer, Snowmobile Club	December 13
Windsor Chops, New Years Eve, Legion	December 31

2026 SCHEDULE

Chicken & Steak Fry, Legion	January 10
Chicken & Steak Fry, SAL	January 24
Chicken & Steak Fry, Legion	February 7
Chicken & Steak Fry, SAL	February 21
Fish Fry, Auxiliary	March 6
Steak Fry, Sportsman Club	March 14
Fish Fry, SAL	March 20
Fish Fry, Legion	March 27
Chicken & Steak Fry, Auxiliary	April 11
Chicken & Steak Fry, Legion Baseball Team	April 25
Chicken & Steak Fry, Legion	May 2
Chicken & Steak Fry, Southland Trap Shoot	May 16
Steak Fry, Legion, Dairy Days	June 13
Chicken & Steak Fry, Legion, Dairy Days	June 14

~ E-Tabs & Bingo Now Available ~

***** MUSEUM OPEN 6-8 P.M. EVERY FRY *****

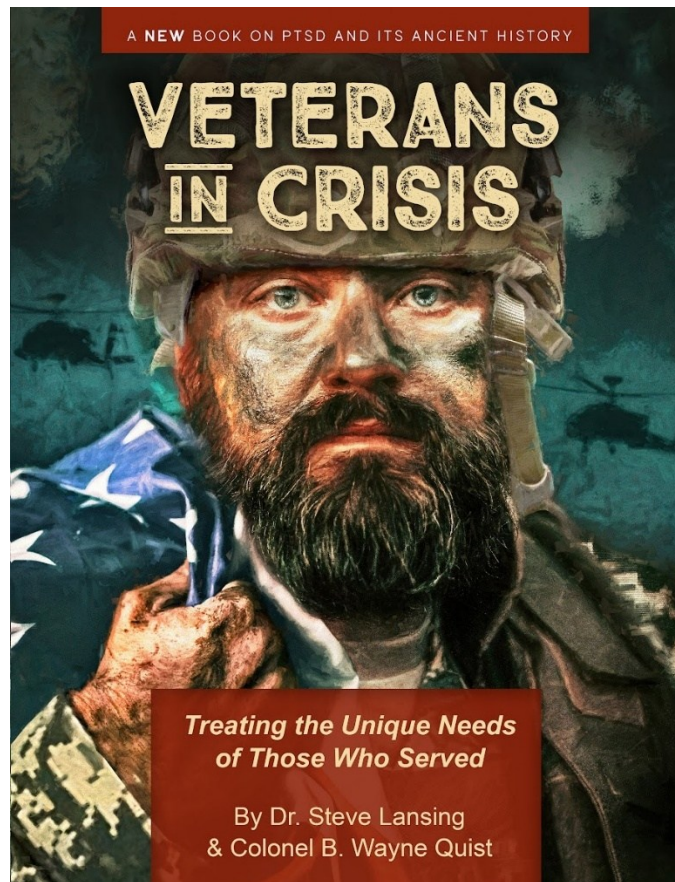
www.adamslegionpost146.com • Facebook - visit: Adams Post 146



VETERANS EMPOWERED INC.

SERVING AND SAVING VETERAN LIVES

We provide free books and free PTSD therapy for disabled veterans in our Rochester clinical office.



PLEASE HELP WITH A CONTRIBUTION TO RAISE \$50,000 TO PRINT 10,000 ADDITIONAL COPIES OF OUR BOOK

LEGION RIDERS

ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST

FIRST SUNDAY EACH MONTH 9AM—12 PM

\$12.00 AT THE DOOR

BREAKFAST INCLUDES: EGGS, SAUSAGE, BISQUITS & GRAVY,
COFFEE, MILK OR ORANGE JUICE AND
ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKES

PROCEEDS GO TO THE VETERANS HONOR FLIGHT

AUSTIN AMERICAN LEGION POST 91

809 12TH ST SW, AUSTIN MN

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS POST 91

Winona American Legion

SAL Squadron 9

2025 Chicken Q Dates

January 4	SAL Chicken Q
February 22	UAW Veterans Group. They will sell tickets and serve the meals. SAL will grill the chicken.
March 15	Event Sponsor is Pickwick Mill Inc. They will sell tickets and serve the meals. SAL will grill the chicken.
April 5	SAL Chicken Q
September 6	SAL Chicken Q
October 4	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.

★ ★ ★ EYOTA LEGION RIDERS ★ ★ ★

**CHILI &
GRILLED CHEESE
SANDWICH DINNER**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 24
4:30PM - 6:30PM**

\$12 - MEAL (includes cornbread)

\$5 - ADDITIONAL CHILI OR SANDWICHES

**\$5
CHILI**

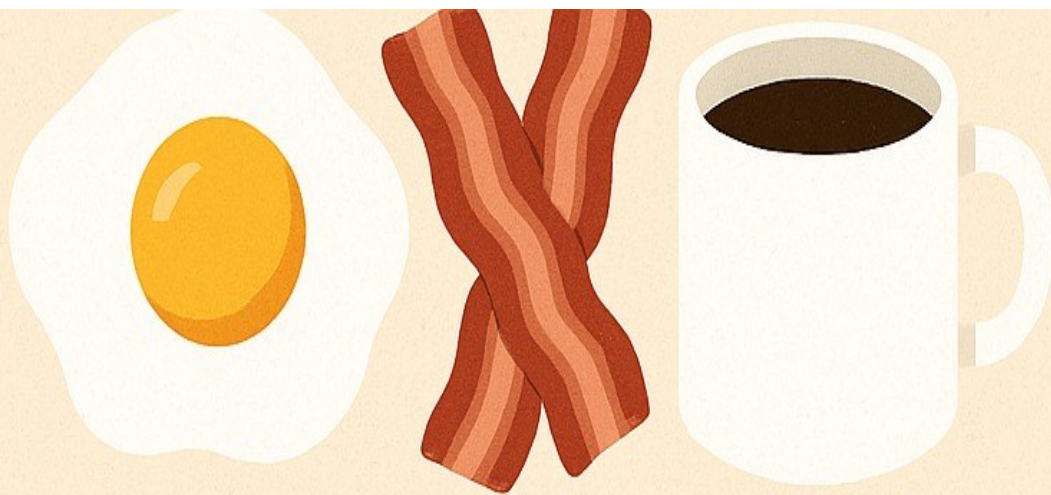


**\$5
SANDWICH**

Proceeds will go to North Star Honor Flight



**EYOTA AMERICAN LEGION
11 Madison Ave SW**



WEEKEND BREAKFAST HAS ARRIVED AT THE LEGION!

**Join us this weekend—breakfast
served fresh every
Saturday & Sunday, 8 AM–12 PM.**

DODGE CENTER AMERICAN LEGION

All articles, flyers, suggestions etc. should be submitted to bigredonenewsletter@gmail.com by the 26th of the month be it is to be published. Also any suggestions are welcome. This is your newsletter.

Our Facebook Group is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1471971407427018>

We will have contact information for the District leadership and resources available on there.