



FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

January 2026

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IMPORTANT DATES

January 1 – New Year's Day
January 1 – Baseball & Softball Registration Opens
January 6 – Epiphany
January 15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day (National Day of Service)

January 24 – First District Mid-Winter Rally
• Stewartville Post 164
• Executive Board Meeting: 8:30–9:30 AM
• General Session: 10:00 AM

January 24 – District Oratorical Contest
• Stewartville Post 164
• Immediately following the General Session

January 27 – International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Ongoing Reminders
• CPR & CSR forms available online
• Encourage Posts to submit community service activities
• Continue “Be the One” outreach and veteran check-ins
• Contact members who have not renewed



New number, same support.

| Dial 988 then Press 1.



FROM YOUR COMMANDER DESK

Happy Holidays from my family to yours!!!!

I am putting together my team for 2026-2027...

As of this writing ... These are the Elected positions that I am looking to fill:

4 Vice Commanders

Chaplin

Possibly Sgt at Arms

Committee Chairman openings:

Blood

Children and Youth

Softball

Jr Shooting Sports

Finance...2 openings

Legislative

Boys State

National Security Foreign Relations (Possibly)

I will be very direct....we need younger members to fill these positions. We can't be asking the same people to continue to fill positions when there others who are eligible to do so.

No experience required...

We are still finding our footing. Nothing has been easy or simple. But we soldier on. Each day a new learning experience .

Mid Winter is in Stewartville on Jan 24th...note the changes in Meeting Times...The Legion E Board starts at 8 15 am....the General session starts at 9 30 am.....

Commander Brian....



FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Hi Legionnaires,
Hi Legionnaires,

The 1st District has fallen to 2nd place in the Department for membership. But, only by 0.03%. The 6th District is right behind us out by 0.31%. The race is really on. Please get out your rosters and start calling the delinquent members today.

Membership for 2025 ends on 12-31-2025. Going into 2026 there is a short window for grace. Help your members keep their years and eligibility for the Hospital Association. Once your are expired you have to wait three years to gain it back.

Please plan to attend the 1st District Midwinter on January 24th at the Stewartville Post and January 31st the 1st and 3rd Get Together at the Fairbault Post. The entire Legion family is invited. There will be a training session and time to discuss issues posts are having. Hopefully, other posts will have suggestions to keep you moving forward.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Thank you for your service to our Country and to the American Legion.

Mary Hanson

1st District Membership Director

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.

IMPORTANT INFO

The district needs your help. We need younger members to step up and accept an officer position before all the experience to help mentor them is gone.. Call Jim Kellogg for more information at 507-438-1123

Reminder all submissions to the newsletter need to be in by the 26th of the month. Please email them to bigredonenewsletter@gmail.com

The American Legion, Dept of MN, First District 2026 Membership Report for December 26, 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	9	32	0	369	410	6	416	456	91.23%	0	0
1	90	Lewiston	0	9	0	45	54	0	54	81	66.67%	0	0
1	190	St Charles	0	13	0	63	76	0	76	85	89.41%	0	0
1		Winona County	9	54	0	477	540	6	546	622	87.78%	0	0
1	50	Wabasha	3	40	0	116	159	0	159	182	87.36%	0	0
1	110	Lake City	5	16	0	122	143	1	144	169	85.21%	0	0
1	179	Plainview	4	23	0	81	108	0	108	135	80.00%	0	0
1	546	Kellogg	0	6	0	36	42	0	42	50	84.00%	0	0
1	573	Elgin	0	3	0	19	22	0	22	28	78.57%	0	0
1	579	Millville	1	17	0	80	98	0	98	104	94.23%	0	0
1	588	Mazeppa	0	8	0	44	52	0	52	63	82.54%	0	0
1		Wabsha County	13	113	0	498	624	1	625	731	85.50%	0	0
1	92	Rochester	5	82	0	493	580	8	588	681	86.34%	0	0
1	119	Byron	2	13	0	84	99	1	100	127	78.74%	0	0
1	164	Stewartville	12	20	0	212	244	2	246	259	94.98%	0	0
1	446	Rochester	0	2	0	6	8	0	8	6	133.33%	0	0
1	551	Eyota	1	23	0	120	144	0	144	173	83.24%	0	0
1		Olmsted County	20	140	0	915	1075	11	1086	1246	87.16%	0	0
1		Area One	42	307	0	1890	2239	18	2257	2599	86.84%	0	0
1	295	West Concord	0	6	0	25	31	0	31	36	86.11%	0	0
1	330	Hayfield	6	12	0	144	162	0	162	179	90.50%	0	0
1	333	Kasson	2	29	0	148	179	0	179	228	78.51%	0	0

1	384	Dodge Center	1	8	0	33	42	1	43	63	68.25%	0	0
1	422	Claremont	0	3	0	22	25	0	25	28	89.29%	0	0
1		Dodge County	9	58	0	372	439	1	440	534	82.40%	0	0
1	52	Blooming Prairie	0	16	0	43	59	1	60	76	78.95%	0	0
1	77	Owatonna	4	51	0	219	274	4	278	342	81.29%	0	0
1	296	Ellendale	0	5	0	34	39	0	39	45	86.67%	0	0
1		Steel County	4	72	0	296	372	5	377	463	81.43%	0	0
1	75	New Richland	0	8	0	23	31	0	31	40	77.50%	0	0
1	228	Waseca	2	20	0	188	210	0	210	244	86.07%	0	0
1	281	Janesville	1	3	0	55	59	0	59	66	89.39%	0	0
1	587	Waldorf	0	0	0	9	9	0	9	18	50.00%	0	0
1		Waseca County	3	31	0	275	309	0	309	368	83.97%	0	0
		Area Two	16	161	0	943	1120	6	1126	1365	82.49%	0	0
1	40	Lanesboro	1	12	0	78	91	0	91	97	93.81%	0	0
1	68	Spring Valley	0	6	0	43	49	0	49	58	84.48%	0	0
1	81	Harmony	0	0	0	18	18	0	18	20	90.00%	0	0
1	94	Rushford	1	9	0	69	79	0	79	99	79.80%	0	0
1	166	Preston	1	15	0	25	41	0	41	47	87.23%	0	0
1	197	Chatfield	0	1	0	34	35	0	35	35	100.00%	0	0
1	299	Mabel	2	26	0	97	125	0	125	131	95.42%	0	0
1	369	Wykoff	0	0	0	13	13	0	13	16	81.25%	0	0
1	400	Canton	1	0	0	18	19	0	19	21	90.48%	0	0
1	492	Fountain	0	0	0	7	7	0	7	9	77.78%	0	0
1	526	Peterson	0	4	0	24	28	0	28	32	87.50%	0	0
1	544	Ostrander	0	2	0	14	16	0	16	19	84.21%	0	0
1	637	Whalan	0	0	0	6	6	0	6	10	60.00%	0	0

1		Fillmore County	6	75	0	446	527	0	527	594	88.72%	0	0
1	191	Caledonia	8	10	0	86	104	0	104	110	94.55%	0	0
1	249	Spring Grove	0	10	0	92	102	0	102	128	79.69%	0	0
1	423	Houston	2	9	0	74	85	0	85	94	90.43%	0	0
1	498	Hokah	1	1	0	15	17	0	17	20	85.00%	0	0
1	595	LaCrescent	0	39	0	132	171	1	172	202	85.15%	0	0
1		Houston County	11	69	0	399	479	1	480	554	86.64%	0	0
1		Area Three	17	144	0	845	1006	1	1007	1148	87.72%	0	0
1	56	Albert Lea	5	34	0	300	339	3	342	418	81.82%	0	0
1	264	Glenville	3	9	0	58	70	0	70	66	106.06%	0	0
1	266	Hartland	0	1	0	12	13	0	13	14	92.86%	0	0
1	317	Emmons	0	2	0	33	35	0	35	40	87.50%	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	9	54	0	467	530	4	534	636	83.96%	0	0
1	91	Austin	3	41	0	223	267	1	268	352	76.14%	0	0
1	105	Lyle	0	8	0	48	56	0	56	71	78.87%	0	0
1	140	Grand Meadow	0	4	0	18	22	0	22	31	70.97%	0	0
1	146	Adams	3	17	0	85	105	0	105	137	76.64%	0	0
1	161	LeRoy	0	4	0	29	33	0	33	45	73.33%	0	0
1	570	Austin Spam	1	0	0	9	10	0	10	12	83.33%	0	0
1		Mower County	7	74	0	412	493	1	494	648	76.23%	0	0
1		Area Four	16	128	0	879	1023	5	1028	1284	80.06%	0	0
1	1111	Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0
1		District Totals	91	740	0	4557	5388	30	5418	6396	84.71%	0	0

		Vice Commanders											
		Area One	42	307	0	1890	2239	18	2257	2599	86.84%	0	0
		Area Two	16	161	0	943	1120	6	1126	1365	82.49%	0	0
		Area Three	17	144	0	845	1006	1	1007	1148	87.72%	0	0
		Area Four	16	128	0	879	1023	5	1028	1284	80.06%	0	0
The American Legion Department of Minnesota 2026 12-26-2025 District Membership Report													
Dist	Rank												
1	2nd	Brian Medinnus	91	740	0	4557	5388	30	5418	6396	84.71%		
2	1st	Tom Behrends	74	515	0	3725	4314	11	4325	5104	84.74%		
3	4th	Amy Larsen	144	1485	0	5998	7,627	69	7,696	9,251	83.91%		
4	8th	Jon Haworth	25	246	0	1007	1278	3	1281	1,568	81.70%		
5	10th	Lynn Nottage	24	228	0	759	1011	5	1016	1305	77.85%		
6	3rd	Frank Grittner	142	1010	0	6412	7564	68	7,632	9,043	84.40%		
7	5th	Pete Flannery	47	572	0	3232	3851	4	3855	4,645	83.00%		
8	9th	Steven Birkemeyer	61	284	0	1933	2278	14	2292	2857	80.22%		
9	6th	Dennis Henkemeyer	67	489	0	3394	3950	26	3976	4829	82.34%		
10	7th	Bill Gordon	124	875	0	4578	5577	54	5631	6846	82.25%		
99			7	194	0	1081	1282	0	1282	1751	73.22%		
Totals			806	6638	0	36,676	44,120	284	44,404	53,595	82.84%		

FROM AREA FOUR VICE COMMANDER

Legionnaires,

I have attended a few more post visits in December. Looking forward to getting three more in. January depends on the weather. I always enjoy going back and seeing what the posts have accomplished since I was there a few years ago.

We have two important dates coming up. On January 24th, the 1st District is holding its Midwinter Rally in Stewartville. I am sure there will be candidates for Department Offices coming and the Oratorical Contest is amazing to see. The candidates are so well-spoken and knowledgeable, please come out and support them.

On January 31st we will hold a joint rally with the 3rd District. Everyone is welcome to attend. There will be training and time to share ideas. After lunch there will be minnow races and other games. It should be a fun time. More information will be coming soon.

Mary Hanson

Area 4 Vice Commander

1st District Area 4
Vice Commander



FROM YOUR DISTRICT ADJUTANT

What's Happening?

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 are:

- ☐ Jan 1 Baseball / Softball Registration begins
- ☐ Jan 24 Post 164 Stewartville Midwinter Conference
- ☐ Jan 24 Post 164 Stewartville District Oratorical Contest
- ☐ Mar 14 Post 550 Bloomington Dept Appreciation Rally
- ☐ May 22 St Paul AL Night at St Paul Saint Baseball
- ☐ Jul 9 – 11 Post 167 Willmar 107Th Department Convention
- ☐ Oct 22 – 24 St Cloud Dept Fall Conference

I am working on a Post / District / Department calendar. We cannot support each other if we do not know what is happening. I cannot share things if I do not know about them. Please forward to me at adjutantmn-mightyfirst@gmail.com the event name, date(s), sponsoring post and if there is a website, include that.

Websites to visit frequently and why

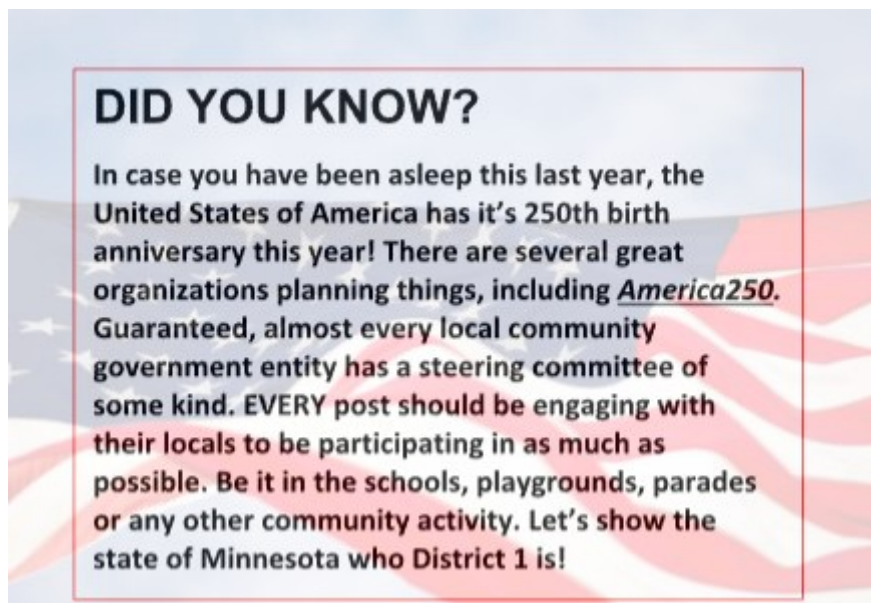
The American Legion Portal mylegion.org Manage your membership and personal information. Find support information. See what is happening throughout the Legion.

Dept of Minnesota mnlegion.org Keep up to date with Department of Minnesota activities.

and actions The Minnesota Legionnaire legionnaire.org Magazine online, helps save printing costs by reading the journal here. Back editions and other information are also.

available.

Mighty 1st Facebook Public group for the Mighty 1st where information and encouragement for our District Legion members can be found.



Adjutants Corner

Happy 2026

We all remember being younger and feeling time passed slowly. As we 'mature', it begins to fly by. Anymore, a constant theme I hear, and am guilty of saying, is, "Next year will be better". Or "I want to see the terms and conditions of the New Year before I ring it in". It's like so many can't get out of the past or just feel weighed down by current situations it's hard for them to see ahead. So let's look ahead.



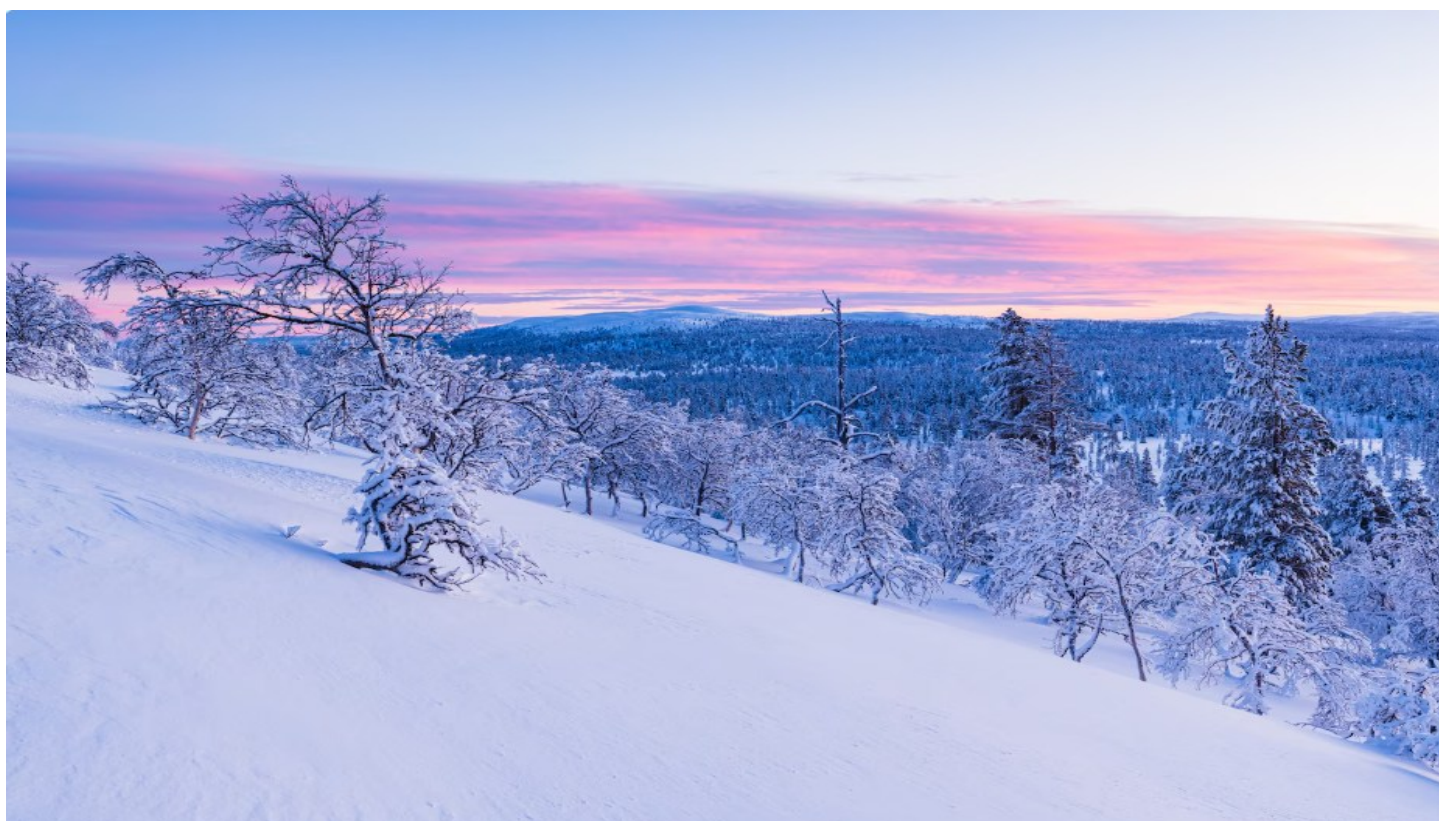
2026 is, according to the Chinese, the year of the *Fire Horse*. The year of the horse encourages action, adventure, enthusiasm, and inspiration of others.



In sharp contrast to this fiery creature, Pantone has chosen *Cloud Dancer* as the Color of the Year. Describing it as a lofty white symbol of calming influence society needs today to rediscover the value of quiet reflection.

The truth is that the year will be whatever we make it to be. We can choose to revel in whatever joys and activities we find ourselves in; and sometimes, it is hard to find them. Or, we can wallow and whine and miss the beauty of life. It is my hope we all choose to work together, to help one another, to build each other up, and to develop our Posts into healthy homes for our Legion family members. May your new year be blessed beyond any dream you have.

Deb



January Reflection

As we step into a new year, January offers us a moment of quiet clarity — a pause between what has been and what is yet to come. The holidays have passed, the decorations are being packed away, and the world settles into a slower winter rhythm. It is in this stillness that we find space for reflection, gratitude, and renewed purpose.

For the American Legion Family, this month is more than a turning of the calendar. It is an opportunity to recommit ourselves to the values that bind us together: service, community, and unwavering support for our veterans and their families. The work we do is not seasonal — it is steady, faithful, and deeply needed.

A Season of Renewal

January reminds us that every new beginning starts with intention. Whether it is reaching out to a fellow veteran, volunteering at your Post, or simply offering a listening ear, small acts of kindness ripple outward in powerful ways. Let us carry forward the spirit of compassion and connection into the year ahead.

A Call to Check In

Winter can be a difficult season for many. Shorter days, colder weather, and post-holiday quiet can weigh heavily on the heart. I encourage each of you to check on someone this month — a Post member you have not seen in a while, a neighbor, a friend, or a family member. A simple call or visit can be the light someone needs.

Looking Ahead With Hope

As we begin 2026, may we do so with gratitude for those who served before us, strength for the work ahead, and hope for the communities we continue to build together. May this year bring peace, purpose, and meaningful moments of connection to each of you.

*For God and Country,
Richard Skillestad
District Chaplain*





North Star Honor Flight

Since April, 2025 we have supported two missions to Washington DC. There have been approximately 170 veterans able to take the 18-hour trip. Yes, it is a long day for all!

Our service area has grown to 15 counties in SE Minnesota and Northern Iowa. We recently incorporated Goodhue County into our service area.

With over 150 veteran applications, we are planning our third mission for late April, 2026. Funding is always the biggest challenge. Also, when we plan a flight, we need the aircraft, a gate time at Arlington cemetery and 4 charter buses secured to proceed.

Each veteran is accompanied by a guardian. Most of the guardians are the veteran's family member. What a wonderful memory for those who can share this day together. For those who do not have a family guardian, we have community guardians available to travel with the veteran.

So many of our 1st District legion post families have been so very supportive of our hub. We appreciate all that you have/can do to make this a success.

If you are interested in hosting an event as a fundraiser, please let us know. We are also available to attend a Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, ALR meeting. Please reach out by visiting our web site at www.northstarhonorflight.org or calling 507-440-0003

Nancy Lewison
North Star Honor Flight



Happy New Year to our American Legion Auxiliary and Family,

Thank you to our units for helping with their donations to the Preston Veterans Home for Christmas, thru Department Gift Shop donations or Units adopting a veteran. It was a great Christmas for the veterans! Thank you to the Glenville American Legion Family for hosting our District Christmas Party, it was well attended and a great afternoon of visiting with our Legion Family.

Our District American Legion Family Mid-Winter is Saturday, January 24th - 9:30-3:00 In Stewartville at Post 164. Registration \$10 and Lunch \$10. Hope to see a great turnout from the Auxiliary!

Auxiliary will be doing our Silent Auction with proceeds going to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Consider bringing something for the auction if you plan on attending! Every little bit helps!

Legion Oratorical Contest will be held at 1:00 If you have never had the opportunity to watch this, you will be amazed of the knowledge our young people know of our U.S. Constitution.

A new Girls State Video and letter will be going out to the schools the week of January 11th. All units will receive the same info prior in a department email to help with recruiting. Please contact the schools and make sure they received them or you can send the info directly to your school contact.

1st and 3rd Districts are having a combined Rally in Faribault, Saturday, January 31st. This is a great opportunity to share ideas and get new ideas to take back to our Units.

Remember if you are a unit who needs to get their 990 statuses up to date, please get working on it! If you have questions, please contact me.

Thank you to those that have helped with membership as well as our Membership Chairman. Recruiting of new members is crucial to our Auxiliary along with renewals. We also need to be mentoring our newer and younger members. Try pairing them with helping a current chairman this year. A great way to get involved.

I want to thank Adams for the invite back in November, I was remiss in doing this in the December newsletter. It was a great evening with members, thank you again!

Thank you to those that have donated to the District Presidents Project for the Preston Veterans Home.

Wishing everyone the very best for 2026! Remember our veterans and those serving and their families.

President Wanda



Auxiliary Contacts

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We will be having a silent auction for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund , please bring some items for it! Thank you Lynette Wolff, Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman



Reminder all submissions to the newsletter need to be in by the 26th of the month. Please email them to bigredonenewsletter@gmail.com

First District ALA Membership

Hello First District ALA Members-

Happy New Year! Here's to a healthy & happy 2026!

In the Northwest Division we are in 2nd place behind Nebraska. At the Department level we are in 4th place at 78.17%. Great job First District Unit Membership Directors for getting memberships in. Thank you to all ALA members for renewing your membership & supporting our Veterans.

First District Mid-Winter Rally is on Saturday, January 24 at the Stewartville American Legion. Executive Board meetings for Legion & Auxiliary will be from 8:30-9:30. General session at 10am. Registration is \$10. Please attend and bring your new members & turn in your membership renewals.

If you need any help with membership, please let me know. I am happy to help!

~ SUNSHINE MILLER MALONEY ~

Be the Change You Wish to See in the World



YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

**EVERY MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!
EVERY MEMBER MATTERS!
YOU MATTER!**

Did you join the American Legion Auxiliary to honor the service of your husband, father, grandfather or other family member who served?

Did you join to support our Veterans? The military? The Community? Or maybe it was our Children and Youth.

Was there another reason that you made the decision to be a member of the nation's most preeminent program that supports our Veterans?

Was it all of the above?

Whatever your reason, whatever your passion, YOU MATTER!

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
0009	Winona	111	1	81	82	73.87%	10/25/25	10/25/25				
0040	Lanesboro	98	0	83	83	84.69%	11/18/25	11/18/25				
0050	Wabasha	110	2	98	100	90.91%	9/15/25	10/7/25	12/2/25			
0052	Blooming Prairie	86	0	64	64	74.42%	10/15/25	10/15/25				
0056	Albert Lea	200	10	147	157	78.50%	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	26	26	86.67%	11/4/25	11/4/25	12/31/25			
0077	Owatonna	95	1	65	66	69.47%	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	45	45	49.45%	11/25/25					
0092	Rochester	112	3	79	82	73.21%	9/30/25	10/30/25				
0094	Rushford	49	0	41	41	83.67%	10/7/25	10/15/25				
0105	Lyle	44	8	31	39	88.64%	11/4/25	12/23/25	12/23/25			
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	46	50	81.97%	9/15/25	10/15/25				
0146	Adams	116	8	50	58	50.00%	11/11/25					
0161	Le Roy	40	13	26	39	97.50%	10/15/25	10/15/25	12/23/25	12/23/25		
0164	Stewartville	158	6	123	129	81.65%	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	11	173	184	83.26%	10/30/25	11/4/25				
0249	Spring Grove	72	2	53	55	76.39%	10/7/25	12/31/25				
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	18	18	72.00%	12/9/25	12/9/25				
0299	Mabel	102	2	65	67	65.69%	10/15/25	12/9/25				
0330	Hayfield	171	10	111	121	70.76%	10/15/25	11/11/25				
0333	Kasson	123	4	92	96	78.05%	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	33	39	72.22%	10/25/25	11/18/25				
0404	Alden	34	2	24	26	76.47%	10/25/25	11/18/25				
0422	Claremont	19	3	16	19	100.00%	12/31/25	12/31/25	12/31/25	12/31/25	12/31/25	
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	64	66	77.65%	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	37	37	94.87%	10/15/25	10/25/25	11/18/25			
0587	Waldorf	14	1	13	14	100.00%	9/3/25	12/16/25	12/16/25	12/31/25	12/31/25	
0588	Mazeppa	32	0	22	22	68.75%	10/30/25	11/25/25				
0595	La Crescent	142	11	109	120	84.51%	10/15/25	11/25/25				
0637	Whalan	13	0	9	9	69.23%	11/11/25	11/11/25				
Total		3,240	149	2384	2533	78.17%						



FROM YOUR HONORARY 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 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

UPDATE ON SHARON HAMMON

She has now reached her 5th of 8 chemotherapy treatments—a meaningful milestone on her journey. Although there have been a few bumps along the way, she continues to face each day with strength and determination. Your continued thoughts and prayers mean more than words can express. Sharon truly feels the love, support, and encouragement surrounding her, and it lifts her spirits as she moves forward.

Community Service

The ALA Community Service month is April but why wait! Community service is a year-round obligation.

Our objective is to promote service as a core value by engaging our members in meaningful projects. Honor and support our veterans and military service personnel and their families. We can build a stronger community by working with other organizations, schools, and civic groups. Inspire youth by demonstrating great leadership.

Partner with schools and churches to assist those in need. School supply drives, winter coats, and food donations where they are needed. Volunteer your time reading at school, visiting those who live in local nursing homes. Help with elections!

The first thing that comes to mind (for me) is donating blood. Most of us can do this simple task!

Let's promote National Days of Service:

January-Martin Luther King Jr

September- 9/11 and POW/MIA Recognition Day

April-American Legion Family Day

Although these needs may not fall under community service, there is still a need to be filled.

The Armed Forces Center at the MSP needs funds and volunteers.

Veteran's home gift shops need funds to purchase gifts.

Legionville needs funds to replace sewer lines.

Girls State programs need sponsors.

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund needs money.

Donate to the Department President's project (Honor Flight network)

Donate to our District President's project at the Preston Veteran Home

Let's start 2026 by doing what we can in our local communities and beyond.

Oh, and keep track of your activities as we need to report them on our annual reports!!

Nancy Lewison

First District Community Service Chairman

On Dec 6th, the Albert Lea American Legion Post 56 Legion, Auxiliary, Riders, SAL, & our newly formed Junior Auxiliary visited our local nursing homes. The veterans received the Riders Commemorative Coins with Albert Lea's Lupe Gasca, a WWII veteran, image on the coin and the auxiliary ladies received a Christmas ornament. The spouses received patriotic pins. The visit was warmly welcomed and a great deal of Christmas cheer was present. We had 19 members visiting the local nursing homes.

Submitted by Lynn Koza







JANUARY 2026



LITTLE MISS POPPY POPPY AMABASSADOR

Just a freindly reminder that now is the time to start working on your Little Miss Poppy and Poppy Ambassador's. (age 6-12) You can find the contest rules at alafl.org under programs/member outreach/poppy/poppy links

Proudly Presenting Unit 138
Little Miss Poppy,
Paige Sherman.



POPPY POSTER CONTEST

Students (grades 2 to 12) showcase their artistic talents on an 11"x14" poster board using the poppy. One student in each category per division will be selected as a winner.

The link on our Department page is broken but you can find the contest rules at legion-aux.org under committees/mission outreach committes/poppy

NATIONAL POPPY DAY MAY 22, 2026

The red poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms. Tons of information can be found at legion-aux.org under committees/mission outreach committes/poppy legion-aux.org under committees/mission outreach committes/poppy

HERE ARE A FEW IDEAS

Contact your local legislative office and request a Poppy Proclamation.

Purchase ALA Poppy coloring books from Emblem Sales.

Contact local businesses for permission to distribute poppies on their premises.



Class I
Sienna Salter
Dept of Louisiana
Southern Division

SHARE YOUR POPPY
ACTIVITIES WITH THE
NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS.

EMAIL YOUR .jpg FORMAT
PHOTOS TO ME

poppy@alafl.org
KIM OAKS
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Made with PosterMyWall.com

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



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PO Box 376 - Winona, MN 55987
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EAST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

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btoma0210@gmail.com

WEST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

Open

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140 Jederman Drive, Winona, MN 55987
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29 North Elm St—La Crescent, MN 55947
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Sgt at ARMS

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507-312-2222
gslemmer@hbci.com

FROM YOUR COMMANDER

Greetings Legion Family,

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a nice Christmas and New Year holiday. May the new year bring us all peace, happiness and a renewed commitment to promoting the great principles of the American Legion with purpose and pride.

Thank you to the Hartland, Janesville, Millville, Plainview and Preston squadrons for reaching your membership goals. Our district is currently sitting at 67% of goal putting us in fourth place in the

Detachment. We started the membership year off strong but have since lost our momentum with many squadrons still under 50% and some under 10% of their goal. If your 2026 renewal has not been

processed at National you are delinquent. On February 1st your membership will become suspended.

Please get your renewals in as soon as possible so that does not happen!

Squadron Adjutants, don't forget to keep your squadron data updated. Each squadron is required to update your squadron data and officers list at least annually or within 30 days of any changes. If you

submit these directly to Detachment, be sure a copy gets sent to us as well. This is crucial for us to maintain communication with you and the squadron.

As always, thank you for everything you do. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Josh Erickson
SAL District Commander

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	10	0	136	0	146	92.99%	
40	Lanesboro	68	68	0	0	17	0	17	25.00%	
50	Wabasha	23	24	1	0	14	0	15	62.50%	
52	Blooming Prairie	34	34	0	0	2	0	2	5.88%	
56	Albert Lea	94	96	4	0	69	0	73	76.04%	
77	Owatonna	105	108	4	0	48	0	52	48.15%	
90	Lewiston	48	49	1	0	47	0	48	97.96%	
91	Austin	61	63	0	0	24	0	24	38.10%	
92	Rochester	85	87	6	0	51	0	57	65.52%	
94	Rushford	38	41	12	0	14	0	26	63.41%	
105	Lyle	31	33	2	0	29	0	31	93.94%	
119	Byron	25	26	0	0	23	0	23	88.46%	
146	Adams	100	100	0	0	50	0	50	50.00%	
161	Leroy	35	36	0	0	31	0	31	86.11%	
164	Stewartville	116	117	2	0	53	0	55	47.01%	
166	Preston	55	57	11	0	48	0	59	103.51%	12/7/2025
179	Plainview	7	7	2	0	5	0	7	100.00%	11/30/2025
190	St Charles	3	3	0	0	2	0	2	66.67%	
191	Caledonia	8	8	2	0	2	0	4	50.00%	
228	Waseca	140	142	4	0	87	0	91	64.08%	
264	Glenville	72	73	11	0	59	0	70	95.89%	
266	Hartland	10	10	0	0	10	0	10	100.00%	9/14/2025
281	Janesville	6	6	0	0	7	0	7	116.67%	12/7/2025
299	Mabel	19	20	0	0	14	0	14	70.00%	
317	Emmons	51	54	1	0	40	0	41	75.93%	
330	Hayfield	54	56	6	0	44	0	50	89.29%	
333	Kasson	37	37	1	0	26	0	27	72.97%	
384	Dodge Center	9	11	0	0	2	0	2	18.18%	
404	Alden	54	54	0	0	31	0	31	57.41%	
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	4	0	27	0	31	86.11%	
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	51	0	51	78.46%	
1st District Totals		1745	1785	84	0	1116	0	1200	67.23%	

of Sqdns - 36

Added 2



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

Wes Halverson – Director
507-383-7983

Roe Naylor – Vice Director
507-507-438-5804

Sunshine Miller Maloney – Secretary
507-459-5962

Chuck Stone – Parliamentarian
507-213-7517

Bruce Camerer – Sgt at Arms
507-850-2025

Mark Maloney – Treasurer
507-703-0026

Jill Reed – Chaplain
507-507-450-5525

Tricia Peterson – Historian
Tlynn1318@gmail.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

Terry Lund - Director - 563-379-8421

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



January 2026 ALR

Hello Everyone-

Happy New Year! Welcome 2026!

Thank you to those who attended the First District Christmas Party. The Glenville Post did a fabulous job hosting a great party. Good time was had by all.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Craig Lestrud. Craig was a Legionnaire at the Glenville Post and a very active member of the Glenville Riders. His memorial service is at the Eagles in Albert Lea on Saturday, January 17.

Saturday, January 24 is the First District Mid-Winter Rally at the Stewartville Legion.

Executive Board meetings for Legion & Auxiliary will be held from 8:30-9:30. General session will begin at 10am. Registration is \$10.

Director Wes is planning to have a modified meeting during the Mid-Winter Rally. 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. We will also have templates on how to do consolidated reports for your hosting Post.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla "Sunshine" Miller-Maloney, 1st District ALR Secretary



MN AMERICAN LEGION
FIRST DISTRICT FAMILY

MID-WINTER RALLY

Saturday, January 24, 2026

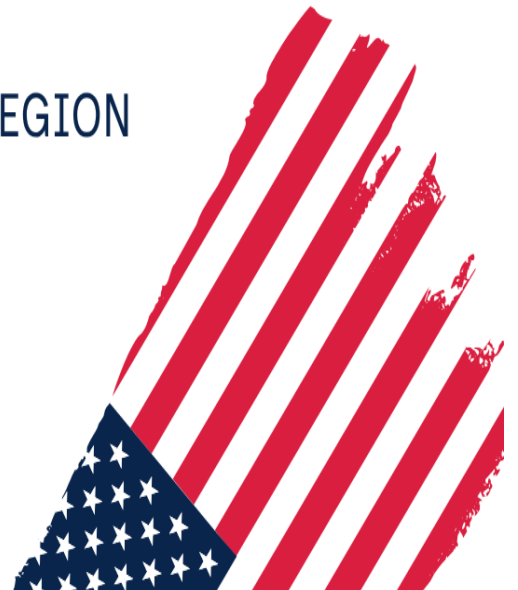
EXEC BOARD MEETING 8:30-9:30

GENERAL SESSION 10am



STEWARTVILLE AMERICAN LEGION

1100 2ND AVENUE NW



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, Legion	September 6
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, 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 *****

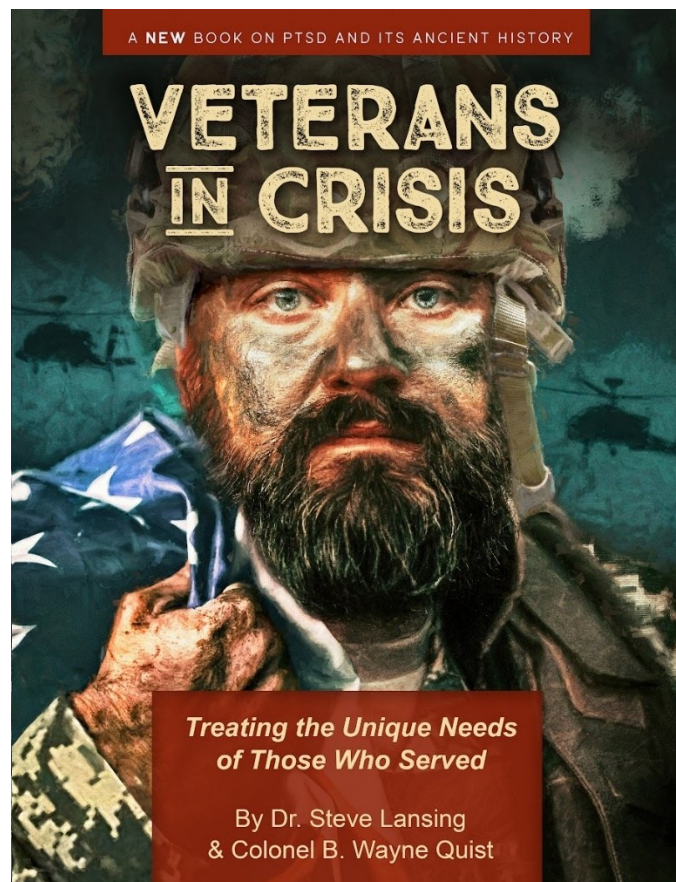
www.adamslegionpost146.com • Facebook - visit: Adams Post 146



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



Proceeds will go to North Star Honor Flight



**EYOTA AMERICAN LEGION
11 Madison Ave SW**

Cribbage or Buck Euchre Tournament

Starting at Noon on February 21, 2025

Rushford American Legion

Early Bird entry fee per person \$10



To reserve a seat, please send

your entrance fee, name, and contact number to:

Rushford American Legion- Attn: ALR Post #94 by **February 8th.**

Same-day registration: A \$15 entry fee will be collected at the door.

Contact Marie @ 507-421-0134 for more info.

1st & 2nd Place prizes will be awarded

****Silent Auction: Two custom-made
by Red Fern (Cal Mensink) Cribbage boards
will be offered for bidding.***

LUNCH: Creamy Shredded Turkey Sandwich, Chips \$ 7.00

Assorted desserts will be available. Priced as marked.

Legion Bar will be open for all beverages.