

# THE MIGHTY FIRST DISTRICT

The American Legion Department of  
Minnesota

June 2026

The logo for the American Legion, featuring a stylized American flag with the words "AMERICAN LEGION" in blue capital letters.

**Commander**

**Brian Medinnus**

507-219-7188

[minnkid58@gmail.com](mailto:minnkid58@gmail.com)

**President**

**Wanda Prescher**

507-254-0304

[w.prescher1951@gmail.com](mailto:w.prescher1951@gmail.com)

**SAL Commander**

**Josh Erickson**

507-313-5861

[joshric@hbc.com](mailto:joshric@hbc.com)

**ALR Director**

**Wes Halverson**

507-383-7983

[weshalverson@gmail.com](mailto:weshalverson@gmail.com)

**Veterans Crisis Line**

988 Press 1 for live chat or text

838255

Minnesota Legion Depart Office

651-291-1800

Minnesota ALA Office

651-224-7634



## 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  
mfhanson52@charter.net

## VICE—COMMANDER

### INFORMATION

#### Area One

Mark Maloney  
845 54th Ave Apt E  
Winona, MN 55987—1584  
507-703-0026  
markmaloney1962@gmail.com

#### Area Two

#### Area Three

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

#### Area Four

Mary Hanson  
1701 4th AVE SW  
Austin, MN 55912  
507- 440 - 3606

The opinions and viewpoints expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the individual authors. They do not necessarily reflect the official positions of the 1st District American Legion Family, the Department of Minnesota

## **Members of the 1st District American Legion Family....**

**After a great deal of consideration...I have. decided that after the occurrence of certain things, it is time to publish the following Statement:**

**As per discussion with Department personnel, I have found out the District Commander has the final word about what articles are printed in the District Newsletter.**

**If an article does not meet the Standards of the District- it will not be published.... period!**

### Newsletter Submission Reminder

All articles must be submitted by the **26th of each month**. Any submissions received after that date—without prior communication to Michelle regarding the delay—will **not** be included in that month's newsletter. Newsletter items should be emailed to **bigredonenewsletter@gmail.com**.

Please note: **There will not be a July newsletter**. Per the District Legion Bylaws, the District publishes **11 newsletters per year, August through June**.

Thank you for helping us keep our District communications timely and organized.

– **The 1st District Leadership**

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# IMPORTANT DATES

June 14: Flag Day ceremonies across local posts.

**June 14:** Army Birthday

**June 14-19** American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State, Bethel University

**June 14-20** American Legion Minnesota Boys State, St. John's University

**June 21:** Military Appreciation Night at Legion Field in Marshall. Hosted alongside a Marshall A's baseball game, featuring a performance by the 34th Infantry Division Red Bull Band.

**June 21:** Father's Day

**June 25:** American Legion Day at Target Field in Minneapolis for the Minnesota Twins vs. Seattle Mariners game.

**June 27:** SAL Detachment Convention, Crystal VFW Post 494

**June 27:** The Department of Minnesota Join Testimonial Dinner hosted at the New Prague Park Ballroom and the New Prague American Legion. (registration form in newsletter)

**July 2:** National American Legion President Pam Ray. Make plans to meet her at our 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of American Celebration at the Osseo-Maple Grove American Legion. (registration form in newsletter)

The following is a list of Past Commanders/Presidents that I don't have a current address for.

I would appreciate any help you can give me. I can be reached at [gweaver@acegroup.cc](mailto:gweaver@acegroup.cc)

Lilly Bacon	112 1 <sup>st</sup> St SW	Grand Meadow
Jasmine Edge	305 SE2nd Ct	Grand Meadow
Nikki Goesch	P.O. Box 71	Dodge Center
Delmont Martin	P.O. Box 1065	Hayfield
Gloris Njos	P.O. Box 195	Waltham
Cheryl Nymann	130 1 <sup>st</sup> St SW	Plainview
Jean Pollack	1203 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave E	Holman, WI
Ali Rud	653 N 22 <sup>nd</sup> St	La Crosse, WI
Marilyn Schad	514 S Lakeshore Dr	Lake City
Jordyn Threat	1002 ½ 5 <sup>th</sup> St NE	Rochester

Gary L. Weaver  
29 N. Elm St.  
La Crescent, MN 55947  
H (507)895-2818  
C (507)696-1431





## FROM YOUR COMMANDER DESK

Greetings members of the 1st District!

First of all, a Big Thank You to all the District members who have supported over the Last Year. We have had our ups and downs, happiness, and heartbreaks but we have persevered through all. Without your support, things could have ended differently.

Thank you to my Officers and Committee Chairmen plus County Commanders who have helped immensely this year.

Thank you to Wanda, Josh, and Wes for their support. Without them, I would have been lost.

Membership....keep working on your unpaid list....do what you can to get these members back on the active roster.

Changeover has moved dates. It is at 7pm on June 2nd, 2026, in Stewartville. We will not be doing Membership packet pick up that night.

Commander Myron is looking for members to fill District Officer and Committee Chairmen positions. please consider these requests when asked.

I am going back to working with the SAL as their SAL Advisor and am taking a spot on the Post Development Committee.

Commander Brian

## **Chaplain's Corner**

**June 2026**

June arrives with a sense of renewal — school years ending, summer beginning, and communities gathering for celebrations, parades, and moments of remembrance. It's a month that invites us to pause and appreciate the blessings of service, family, and the freedoms we enjoy.

As members of the American Legion Family, we carry a unique calling: to serve with compassion, to honor those who sacrificed, and to strengthen the communities we call home. This season offers countless opportunities to live out that mission — whether through a simple act of kindness, a volunteer hour, or a word of encouragement to someone who needs it.

June also reminds us of the importance of teaching the next generation what service truly means. When we share our stories, our values, and our love of country with young people, we plant seeds that will grow long after our own work is done. Every child who learns about respect, gratitude, and helping others becomes part of a legacy far greater than any one of us.

As we move into the heart of summer, may we continue to be guided by faith, strengthened by fellowship, and inspired by the purpose that unites us. Let us look for the quiet moments where God's presence is felt — in a handshake, a shared memory, a flag waving in the warm breeze, or a simple “thank you” offered from the heart.

May this month bring peace to those who are struggling, comfort to those who are grieving, and renewed hope to all who serve.

**Blessings to you and your families, and may God continue to guide the Mighty 1st District.**

— *Chaplain, 1st District*

## ADJUTANTS' CORNER

Seriously, where to begin? I'm still overwhelmed at all I've gleaned and still am learning, be it through reading materials, talking with fellow members and non-members, re-reading materials, translating what the forevers have been around folks are saying and expecting newer folks to just know, and there I will pause. At our District Convention, which could have been better attended, I was refreshed by two things. One was another new District or Department person, don't want them to be identifiable, respect privacy, who shared a similar sentiment, "why, just be I want to do the job, do they assume I know everything?" and later, "sometimes, it feels like it's just another good ole boys club". So, growing pains are amongst us all.

Later, a well-seasoned individual commented, "glad we finally got some whip-persnappers in here [choked on my coffee], maybe now we'll stop doing the same damn things." And we went on to a more meaningful chat.

What this showed me was the excuse, no one wants change is officially shot.

The oldie but goodie one of them, "we've always done it that way", does not make it right. To change, requires change.

Ownership in the American Legion is personal but is not each of ours personally. We all sacrificed. Brought home scars. Left behind brothers and sisters; watched them be deployed, knowing we would not see them all come back. There are some that walked beside us through our tours, stayed with us for a while after, moved on and stopped understanding or wanting to understand us. That's why we need this organization. We are family. We recognize each other without a comment. We see family and we know them.

Stand up with us members of the Minnesota First District. Take positions in your post or at district and serve your brothers and sisters. Learn, help, be there for the next one that falters.

Alone we do little, together we do great things!

Deb

[adjutantmnmightyfirst@gmail.com](mailto:adjutantmnmightyfirst@gmail.com)

# Area 1 Vice Commander

Today I had the honor of speaking at the Waldorf Memorial Day service.

We gathered not just to mark the unofficial start of summer, but to pause, remember, and pay a profound debt of gratitude.

Memorial Day belongs to the fallen. It belongs to the brave men and women who stood in the gap for our nation, who walked into danger, and who gave the ultimate sacrifice—their lives—so that we could stand here today in safety and freedom. They are not just names etched into cold granite or numbers in a history book. They were spouses, daughters & sons, brothers & sisters, friends, and loved ones.

It is easy to honor them today. We have the flags, the ceremonies, and the moments of silence. But the real challenge—and our real duty—is how we honor them tomorrow, and the day after that. How do we honor them in our day-to-day lives?

We do it by being citizens worth dying for.

We honor them when we choose kindness over cruelty in our neighborhoods. We honor them when we actively protect the freedoms they died for—by voting, by standing up for the vulnerable, and by participating in our communities. Every time we build bridges instead of walls, every time we show up for a friend in need, we prove that their sacrifice was not in vain.

We also honor them by fully living the lives they were denied. Enjoy your family, pursue your passions, and do not take a single day of peace for granted. A life well-lived, rooted in gratitude and purpose, is the highest tribute we can offer.

So today, let us remember. But tomorrow, let us live in a way that keeps their legacy alive.

Thank you, and may we always Mark Maloney

Area One Vice Commander

# Consolidated Post Reports

Hello Crew,

Sorry for the lateness in this report but this is a much more difficult year dealing with this on the National level. Mostly trying to break down what the posts submitted electronically. Last year I was able to see the entire report just as you see it as a hard copy. That tab is gone on the national website. I think because the CPR is a double-sided form now.

Anyway, that is my problem trying to get the data for the Americanism awards. The CPR report that is attached is similar to last year. Anything green is what National shows as submitted. Anything purple are the hard copies that I get and submit which National has not submitted on their end yet. The "X" is for my purpose of which ones I have gone thru and retrieved the Americanism data.

I know the Commander has been talking about the CPR on her travels. It is the responsibility of those who put on the District and Department caps to follow in her footsteps to get the posts to do their job and fill out the report. We did this last year so there is no excuse for this year.

And as always, if nothing else lines 125 and 126 are gimmies. About 75 percent of the hard copies I get do not have those two items populated so I do it before I send them in. I would assume the word is not getting out to the Posts. Need to make this happen. Especially if they think they do nothing and send in an empty form. No such thing as an empty form!

So, I am pleading with you to help the Department hit 100% again this year.

If anyone has questions at any time contact me. We can do this!!!

Sy

District	Post	Location	Submitted
1	9	WINONA	
1	40	LANESBORO	
1	50	WABASHA	
1	52	MOOMING PRAIRIE	X
1	56	ALBERT LEA	
1	68	SPRING VALLEY	X
1	75	NEW RICHLAND	
1	77	OWATONNA	
1	81	HARMONY	
1	90	LEWISTON	
1	91	AUSTIN	
1	92	ROCHESTER	
1	94	RUSHFORD	
1	105	LYLE	X
1	110	LAKE CITY	
1	119	BYRON	X
1	140	GRAND MEADOW	
1	146	ADAMS	X
1	161	LE ROY	X
1	164	STEWARTVILLE	
1	166	PRESTON	
1	179	PLAINVIEW	
1	190	ST. CHARLES	X
1	191	CALEDONIA	
1	197	CHATFIELD	
1	228	WASECA	
1	249	SPRING GROVE	
1	264	GLENVILLE	
1	266	HARTLAND	
1	281	JANESVILLE	
1	295	WEST CONCORD	
1	296	ELLEDALE	X
1	299	MABEL	X
1	317	EMMONS	
1	330	HAYFIELD	
1	333	KASSON	X
1	369	WYKOFF	X
1	384	DODGE CENTER	
1	400	CANTON	
1	404	ALDEN	
1	422	CLAREMONT	
1	423	HOUSTON	
1	446	ROCHESTER 446	
1	492	FOUNTAIN	
1	498	HOKAH	X
1	526	PETERSON	X
1	544	OSTRANDER	
1	546	KELLOGG	
1	551	EYOTA	
1	552	FREEBORN	X

District	Post	Location	Submitted
1	570	AUSTIN SPAM	
1	573	ELGIN	X
1	579	MILLVILLE	X
1	587	WALDORF	
1	588	MAZEPPA	
1	595	LA CRESCENT	
1	637	WHALAN	X
1	1111	DAKOTA	

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>
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<b>PERCENT</b>	<b>45.6</b>
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"X" or Purple boxes represent Posts that have submitted CPR data to Department and sent to National but are not shown submitted as of yet. "X" or Yellow boxes are those listed as Drafts at National and have not been finalized



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## FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Hello Legionnaires,

We are clawing our way back up in the district standings. Still in fourth, but at least we did not go down. Very few memberships processed this past week.

The 1st District is 1.44% out of 1st, 0.66% out of 2nd and 0.38% out of 3rd. We can do this, let us try to get back to second by department convention.

There are still nine posts at 100% or more. Winona and Owatonna are working hard to get there. Plenty of other posts are just a few members away.

Department wise, we are at 32 in the standings. It looks like we will be sitting in the back again, at the National Convention. At least Wisconsin will be sitting close to us. No bragging rights there.

The Consolidated Post Report and Officer Reports need to be done by all posts. Even if your officers did not change. Please, get them filled out and send them in as soon as possible. No dates for packet pickup yet. They will not be available at changeover on June 2nd in Stewartville, **And as always, no reports, no packets.**

Please remember that our members are our lifeline to keep the American Legion going. We need to fight to keep the members we have and always be on the look-out for new members.

You can contact me at any time with questions. I am more than happy to help.

See my contact information below.

Thank you for your service,

Mary Hanson

1st District Membership Director

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

## The American Legion, Dept of MN, First District 2026 Membership Report for May 27, 2026

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	10	32	0	398	440	15	455	456	99.78%	0	0
1	90	Lewiston	3	9	0	62	74	0	74	81	91.36%	0	0
1	190	St Charles	0	13	0	71	84	0	84	85	98.82%	0	0
1		<b>Winona County</b>	13	54	0	531	598	15	613	622	98.55%	0	0
1	50	Wabasha	4	40	0	128	172	1	173	182	95.05%	0	0
1	110	Lake City	9	16	0	125	150	1	151	169	89.35%	0	0
1	179	Plainview	6	23	0	100	129	1	130	135	96.30%	0	0
1	546	Kellogg	0	6	0	39	45	0	45	50	90.00%	0	0
1	573	Elgin	0	3	0	24	27	0	27	28	96.43%	0	0
1	579	Millville	1	17	0	87	105	0	105	104	100.96%	0	0
1	588	Mazeppa	0	8	0	47	55	0	55	63	87.30%	0	0
1		<b>Wabsha County</b>	20	113	0	550	683	3	686	731	93.84%	0	0
1	92	Rochester	6	82	0	514	602	11	613	681	90.01%	0	0
1	119	Byron	3	13	0	97	113	1	114	127	89.76%	0	0
1	164	Stewartville	17	20	0	225	262	2	264	259	101.93%	0	0
1	446	Rochester	0	2	0	9	11	0	11	6	183.33%	0	0
1	551	Eyota	2	23	0	141	166	1	167	173	96.53%	0	0
1		<b>Olmsted County</b>	28	140	0	986	1154	15	1169	1246	93.82%	0	0
1		<b>Area One</b>	61	307	0	2067	2435	33	2468	2599	94.96%	0	0
1	295	West Concord	0	6	0	28	34	0	34	36	94.44%	0	0
1	330	Hayfield	7	12	0	151	170	0	170	179	94.97%	0	0
1	333	Kasson	3	29	0	165	197	0	197	228	86.40%	0	0

1	384	Dodge Center	1	8	0	42	51	2	53	63	84.13%	0	0
1	422	Claremont	0	3	0	23	26	0	26	28	92.86%	0	0
1		<b>Dodge County</b>	11	58	0	409	478	2	480	534	89.89%	0	0
1	52	Blooming Prairie	0	16	0	55	71	1	72	76	94.74%	0	0
1	77	Owatonna	8	51	0	273	332	8	340	342	99.42%	0	0
1	296	Ellendale	1	5	0	34	40	0	40	45	88.89%	0	0
1		<b>Steel County</b>	9	72	0	362	443	9	452	463	97.62%	0	0
1	75	New Richland	0	8	0	30	38	0	38	40	95.00%	0	0
1	228	Waseca	6	20	0	200	226	0	226	244	92.62%	0	0
1	281	Janesville	1	3	0	58	62	0	62	66	93.94%	0	0
1	587	Waldorf	0	0	0	18	18	0	18	18	100.00%	0	0
1		<b>Waseca County</b>	7	31	0	306	344	0	344	368	93.48%	0	0
		<b>Area Two</b>	27	161	0	1077	1265	11	1276	1365	93.48%	0	0
1	40	Lanesboro	4	12	0	82	98	0	98	97	101.03%	0	0
1	68	Spring Valley	0	6	0	44	50	0	50	58	86.21%	0	0
1	81	Harmony	0	0	0	18	18	0	18	20	90.00%	0	0
1	94	Rushford	4	9	0	77	90	0	90	99	90.91%	0	0
1	166	Preston	1	15	0	29	45	0	45	47	95.74%	0	0
1	197	Chatfield	0	1	0	34	35	0	35	35	100.00%	0	0
1	299	Mabel	5	26	0	104	135	0	135	131	103.05%	0	0
1	369	Wykoff	0	0	0	13	13	0	13	16	81.25%	0	0
1	400	Canton	1	0	0	19	20	0	20	21	95.24%	0	0
1	492	Fountain	0	0	0	8	8	0	8	9	88.89%	0	0
1	526	Peterson	0	4	0	25	29	0	29	32	90.63%	0	0
1	544	Ostrander	0	2	0	15	17	0	17	19	89.47%	0	0
1	637	Whalan	0	0	0	6	6	0	6	10	60.00%	0	0

1		<b>Fillmore County</b>	15	75	0	474	564	0	564	594	94.95%	0	0
1	191	Caledonia	8	10	0	90	108	0	108	110	98.18%	0	0
1	249	Spring Grove	0	10	0	106	116	0	116	128	90.63%	0	0
1	423	Houston	3	9	0	79	91	0	91	94	96.81%	0	0
1	498	Hokah	1	1	0	15	17	0	17	20	85.00%	0	0
1	595	LaCrescent	0	39	0	150	189	2	191	202	94.55%	0	0
1		<b>Houston County</b>	12	69	0	440	521	2	523	554	94.40%	0	0
1		<b>Area Three</b>	27	144	0	914	1085	2	1087	1148	94.69%	0	0
1	56	Albert Lea	9	34	0	340	383	7	390	418	93.30%	0	0
1	264	Glenville	3	9	0	66	78	0	78	66	118.18%	0	0
1	266	Hartland	0	1	0	12	13	0	13	14	92.86%	0	0
1	317	Emmons	1	2	0	35	38	0	38	40	95.00%	0	0
1	404	Alden	2	3	0	61	66	1	67	70	95.71%	0	0
1	552	Freeborn	0	5	0	22	27	0	27	28	96.43%	0	0
1		<b>Freeborn County</b>	15	54	0	536	605	8	613	636	96.38%	0	0
1	91	Austin	5	41	0	259	305	2	307	352	87.22%	0	0
1	105	Lyle	0	8	0	56	64	0	64	71	90.14%	0	0
1	140	Grand Meadow	0	4	0	24	28	0	28	31	90.32%	0	0
1	146	Adams	4	17	0	103	124	0	124	137	90.51%	0	0
1	161	LeRoy	1	4	0	35	40	0	40	45	88.89%	0	0
1	570	Austin Spam	1	0	0	11	12	0	12	12	100.00%	0	0
1		<b>Mower County</b>	11	74	0	488	573	2	575	648	88.73%	0	0
1		<b>Area Four</b>	26	128	0	1024	1178	10	1188	1284	92.52%	0	0
1	1111	Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0
1		<b>District Totals</b>	141	740	0	5082	5963	56	6019	6396	94.11%	0	0

		<b>Vice Commanders</b>											
		<b>Area One</b>	61	307	0	2067	2435	33	2468	2599	94.96%	0	0
		<b>Area Two</b>	27	161	0	1077	1265	11	1276	1365	93.48%	0	0
		<b>Area Three</b>	27	144	0	914	1085	2	1087	1148	94.69%	0	0
		<b>Area Four</b>	26	128	0	1024	1178	10	1188	1284	92.52%	0	0
<b>The American Legion Department of Minnesota 2026 5-27-2026 District Membership Report</b>													
Dist	Rank												
1	4th	Brian Medinnus	141	740	0	5082	5963	56	6019	6396	94.11%		
2	7th	Tom Behrends	103	517	0	4138	4758	15	4773	5104	93.51%		
3	2nd	Amy Larsen	238	1488	0	6912	8,638	129	8,767	9,251	94.77%		
4	9th	Jon Haworth	39	246	0	1132	1417	8	1425	1,568	90.88%		
5	10th	Lynn Nottage	31	229	0	901	1161	11	1172	1305	89.81%		
6	1st	Frank Grittner	220	1012	0	7299	8531	110	8,641	9,043	95.55%		
7	6th	Pete Flannery	80	573	0	3683	4336	10	4346	4,645	93.56%		
8	8th	Steven Birkemeyer	92	285	0	2268	2645	26	2671	2857	93.49%		
9	5th	Dennis Henkemeyer	91	489	0	3907	4487	48	4535	4829	93.91%		
10	3rd	Bill Gordon	207	877	0	5292	6376	93	6469	6846	94.49%		
99			12	195	0	1336	1543	0	1543	1751	88.12%		
<b>Totals</b>			1254	6651	0	41,950	49,855	506	50,361	53,595	93.96%		





## **MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AVAILIABLE**

**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.**

Hello,

I am Beau, I wanted to thank you guys for your support on my conflict with my school on me wearing my National Guard sash during graduation.

I was able to wear it during the ceremony after flat out telling the superintendent I was not listening to the school telling me no and then I was able to walk anyways like I predicated as I think they did not want to mess up the graduation order.

I really thought I would initially get more support from the school on wearing my sash due to the programs we have at the school on both Veteran's Day and Memorial Day. Especially because those programs include Legion members and actively support and showcase service members past and present.

Thank you guys for your letter and outreach, I really appreciate it.

Sincerely,



# FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY NEWS



## 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  
les-  
leyheimer@hotmail.com

### Treasurer

Tonia Betterman  
1625 Crestview Lane  
Owatonna, MN 55060  
507-456-2315  
betttm88@outlook.com

I want to thank those that came to our District Convention in Lake City on May. Thank you to our Lake City Auxiliary members for taking this on! It was great day.

There were 11 Units represented with 25 members in attendance.

It was good convention and we have our Executive Board for the upcoming 2026-2027 year!

President: Wanda Prescher

1<sup>st</sup> Vice: Sandy Fredrickson

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice: Leah Miburn

Honorary Jr President: Ashlyn Anderson

Secretary: Lesley Heimer

Treasurer: Tonia Betterman

Chaplain: Audrey Farnsworth

Sgt at Arms: Tonia Betterman

Past President: Michelle Weaver

Executive Board: Nancy Lewison

Executive Board: Chandra Gillis

Thank you to these ladies that stepped up to help govern our District for 2026-2027! We will be looking for chairman do help this coming year, if there is something you might be interested in doing, please let me know! Anyone can be a chairman, and it doesn't take as much time as you might think!

Annual Reports were disappointing in only 14-17 units sending in their reports to our chairman, also very disappointing to only receive 15 Impact Reports. We should have been able to get this if nothing else. The numbers from this report when compiled with Department and National to help the American Legion Family when they go to Congress when asking for support for our Veterans.

1<sup>st</sup> District Awards for 2025-2026:

Americanism: Betty Gartner – Peterson Unit 526

Miner/Isenberg – Hayfield Unit 330

Children & Youth: District Welfare Gavel:

Myrna Gunderson:

Cindy Nelson:

Community Service: Evelyn Lyke: Peterson Unit 526

Bernice Smith: Adams Unit 146

Education: Mildred Holtz: Glenville Unit 264

History: Irene Martin: Albert Lea Unit 56

Junior Activities: Bev Jardina: Albert Lea Unit 56

Leadership: Cheryl Nyman: Glenville Unit 264

Legislation: Bette Berg & Louella Gusa: La Crescent Unit 595

Membership: Marie Goede: Adams Unit 146

Lynette Hillman: Harmony Unit 81

Carol Kruger: Lanesboro Unit 40

Memorial: Audrey Irwin: Glenville Unit 264

Music: Lois Deyo: Hayfield Unit 330

National Security: Peterson Unit 526

Poppy: Lillian Koch: Hayfield unit 330

Marge Schreiber: Wabasha Unit 50

Public Relations: Anna Schmitz: Albert Lea unit 56

Michelle Weaver: Glenville Unit 264

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation: District Rehabilitation: Wabasha Unit 50

Gladys Johnson: Stewartville Unit 164

Service to Veteran: Loretta Lechner: Adams Unit 146

Congratulations to the above units and their members for all they have done this past year! I know all our units and members are doing great things! Keep on doing what you do best for your veterans, children and your communities! You do make a difference in your community and especially for our veterans! Thank You!

I am hoping for more invites to our units this coming year! I would encourage everyone to really consider coming to our District Fall Rally in late September, it will be informational for everyone!

Since we do publish a July Newsletter, I wish everyone a Very Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July as we celebrate our Nations 250th Birthday! Many of you have been working on plans with your American Legion Family to celebrate the day in your communities. All the best on whatever your plans are to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup>!

Please take the time to remember our military and their families during the holiday, many may not be together during this time as we will be with our families and friends.

Wanda Prescher



## Membership Report – June 2026

As we move into summer, our District continues to shine in membership growth and engagement. According to the Department's **Membership Bulletin #42 (as of May 26, 2026)**, **First District proudly holds 3rd place statewide with 90.3% of goal achieved** — a testament to the dedication and teamwork of our Units across southeastern Minnesota.

Each member, new or renewed, strengthens our mission of service. From Winona to La Crescent, our Units have worked diligently to reach milestones throughout the year. Many have already surpassed the 85% benchmark set for March and are now closing in on the June goal of 95%.

Highlights from the latest District report show several Units leading the way:

- **Winona Unit 9, Lanesboro Unit 40, and Wabasha Unit 50** have all reached or exceeded 100% of their membership objectives.
- **Albert Lea Unit 56, Stewartville Unit 164, and La Crescent Unit 595** continue to make strong progress toward their summer goals.

Junior membership remains steady, with active participation in Units such as **Harmony, Le Roy, and Freeborn**, helping nurture the next generation of Auxiliary leaders.

Across the Department, the theme *“Celebrating Members in Everyday Places”* reminds us that every renewal and every new member represents a celebration of service. Let's keep that spirit alive as we approach the final reporting deadlines. Encourage renewals, welcome new faces, and continue sharing the joy of belonging to the American Legion Auxiliary.

Together, we are building momentum — and with your continued outreach and enthusiasm, **First District is well on its way to finishing the year strong.**

*Submitted by Michelle Weaver, Membership Chairman*

*Weaver.michelle595@gmail.com*

*5078502407*

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	2	98	100	90.09%	10/25/25	10/25/25	5/26/26			
0040	Lanesboro	98	1	99	100	102.04%	11/18/25	11/18/25	4/8/26	4/8/26	4/8/26	
0050	Wabasha	110	2	108	110	100.00%	9/15/25	10/7/25	12/2/25	2/25/26	5/19/26	
0052	Blooming Prairie	86	1	79	80	93.02%	10/15/25	10/15/25	3/4/26			
0056	Albert Lea	200	16	162	178	89.00%	10/7/25	10/30/25	2/17/26			
0068	Spring Valley	47	1	33	34	72.34%	10/25/25	11/25/25				
0075	New Richland	30	0	28	28	93.33%	11/4/25	11/4/25	12/31/25			
0077	Owatonna	95	1	85	86	90.53%	10/7/25	11/25/25	2/4/26			
0081	Harmony	42	10	28	38	90.48%	11/11/25	11/11/25	5/6/26			
0090	Lewiston	28	4	23	27	96.43%	10/30/25	11/25/25	11/25/25	3/15/26		
0091	Austin	91	0	67	67	73.63%	11/25/25	2/4/26				
0092	Rochester	112	8	96	104	92.86%	9/30/25	10/30/25	3/25/26			
0094	Rushford	49	0	43	43	87.76%	10/7/25	10/15/25	2/4/26			
0105	Lyle	44	8	31	39	88.64%	11/4/25	12/23/25	12/23/25			
0110	Lake City	35	1	33	34	97.14%	11/4/25	11/4/25	3/4/26	3/25/26		
0119	Byron	13	0	12	12	92.31%	9/9/25	9/30/25	10/15/25			
0140	Grand Meadow	61	4	49	53	86.89%	9/15/25	10/15/25	1/20/26			
0146	Adams	116	8	95	103	88.79%	11/11/25	2/4/26	4/29/26			
0161	Le Roy	40	13	28	41	102.50%	10/15/25	10/15/25	12/23/25	12/23/25	2/11/26	4/22/26
0164	Stewartville	158	9	145	154	97.47%	9/15/25	10/25/25	1/14/26	3/31/26		
0179	Plainview	111	5	80	85	76.58%	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	196	207	93.67%	10/30/25	11/4/25	1/20/26			
0249	Spring Grove	72	2	57	59	81.94%	10/7/25	12/31/25				
0264	Glenville	83	11	86	97	116.87%	9/30/25	10/7/25	11/18/25	11/18/25	11/25/25	11/25/25
0295	West Concord	25	0	20	20	80.00%	12/9/25	12/9/25				
0299	Mabel	102	5	90	95	93.14%	10/15/25	12/9/25	2/25/26			
0330	Hayfield	171	11	130	141	82.46%	10/15/25	11/11/25				
0333	Kasson	123	4	100	104	84.55%	10/15/25	11/4/25				
0369	Wykoff	17	0	23	23	133.95%	11/4/25	11/4/25	11/4/25	11/4/25	11/4/25	11/4/25
0384	Dodge Center	54	6	38	44	81.48%	10/25/25	11/18/25				
0404	Alden	34	2	32	34	100.00%	10/25/25	11/18/25	3/4/26	3/15/26	4/22/26	
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	88	90	85.71%	10/25/25	10/25/25	3/18/26			
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	75	77	90.59%	10/25/25	11/18/25	3/4/26			
0552	Freeborn	53	11	41	52	98.11%	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	39	39	100.00%	10/15/25	10/25/25	11/18/25	2/24/26	2/24/26	
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	27	27	84.38%	10/30/25	11/25/25				
0595	La Crescent	142	12	116	128	90.14%	10/15/25	11/25/25	1/7/26			
0637	Whalan	13	0	9	9	69.23%	11/11/25	11/11/25				
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,240</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>2760</b>	<b>2940</b>	<b>90.74%</b>						

## **Discover the American Legion Family: Two Booklets Now Available**

The American Legion Family continues to grow in both mission and impact — and now, two new educational booklets are available to help posts, units, squadrons, and families share who we are and what we do.

These resources were created to support membership outreach, youth engagement, and community education. They are free to distribute and can be shared digitally or printed for events.

### ***1. The American Legion Family: A Guide to Membership & Service***

This booklet provides a clear, easy-to-read overview of all four branches of the American Legion Family — The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, and the American Legion Riders.

It includes:

- A history of the Legion and its founding principles
- Eligibility information for each branch
- Explanations of the Four Pillars of Service
- Highlights of national programs, scholarships, and community impact

Membership benefits and how to get involved

#### **Possible Uses:**

- Membership tables at community events
- New-member welcome packets
- Orientation for officers, volunteers, and Junior members
- Sharing with schools, libraries, and civic organizations

Informational handouts for veterans and families exploring membership

#### **4. Capture Your Unit's History**

Every event, every project, every smiling volunteer becomes part of your Unit's legacy.

Remind members to:

- Take photos at meetings, service projects, and community events.
- Save copies of flyers, press releases, and social media posts.
- Keep a simple digital or printed scrapbook for the year.

Label photos with dates, names, and events for future reference.

Today's snapshots become tomorrow's history — and they help future members understand the impact you made.

#### **5. Celebrate Community Connections**

Partnerships strengthen our mission and expand our reach.

Encourage Units to:

- Publicly thank schools, churches, Scouts, and local businesses that support ALA projects.
- Invite partners to join you at Memorial Day or Poppy events.

Share collaborative stories in newsletters and local media.

Visibility leads to curiosity — and curiosity leads to new members.

#### **Closing Thought**

Public Relations is more than posting updates. It's telling the story of who we are, what we do, and why it matters. By showing up, sharing our mission, and inviting others to join us, we strengthen our Units, honor our veterans, and build the next generation of Auxiliary leaders.

Michelle Weaver

Public Relations Chairman

Weaver.michelle595@gmail.com

507-850-2407

## ***2. Discover the American Legion Family! — Activity Book for Kids (Ages 5–10)***

This kid-friendly activity book introduces young children to the American Legion Family through coloring pages, simple explanations, and fun activities. It teaches patriotism, kindness, and community service in a way children can understand.

It features:

- Easy explanations of each Legion Family group
- Coloring pages, matching games, and activity prompts
- Messages about helping others, honoring veterans, and teamwork

A gentle introduction to service and citizenship

### **Possible Uses:**

- Children's tables at Legion events
- Family-friendly community outreach
- Junior Auxiliary and SAL youth activities
- School visits, Veterans Day programs, and library displays

A take-home resource for families attending post events

### **Request Your Copies**

If you would like a digital copy of **either** booklet — or both — I am happy to send them to you.

Please email [weaver.michelle595@gmail.com](mailto:weaver.michelle595@gmail.com) and indicate which booklet(s) you would like to receive.

Together, we continue to strengthen our Legion Family by educating, inspiring, and welcoming the next generation of members and supporters.



**COMMANDER**

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

**ADJUTANT**

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

**EAST SIDE VICE COM-  
MANDER**

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

**WEST SIDE VICE COM-  
MANDER**

Open

**MEMBERSHIP**

Greg Lemmer  
140 Jederman Drive, Winona,  
MN 55987  
507-312-2222

**FINANCE OFFICER**

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

**PARLIMENTERIAN**

Gary Weaver  
29 North Elm St—La Crescent, MN 55947  
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@hbc.com



Greetings Legion Family,

I hope everyone had a nice Memorial Day weekend and took a pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great nation.

**Armed Forces Day** is for those who still wear the uniform, and **Veteran's Day** is for those who retired the uniform, but **Memorial Day** is for those who never got to take the uniform off.



Thank you to Lake City Post 110 for hosting the SAL District Convention on May 2nd. Since nobody wanted to throw their name in the hat for District Commander, I accepted the nomination to serve a third term. Thank you to Dave Bilderback, Greg Lemmer, and Gary Weaver for also staying on another term; and thank you to our new Chaplain, Chris Taulbee. Finally, thank you to Brian Tomashek for the terms you served as the East Vice-Commander.

Please note that we currently have NO Vice-Commanders for 2026-27. This is going to make for a challenging year to get membership packets handed out. If ANYONE is interested in serving as the East or West Vice-Commander, please let Adjutant Bilderback or myself know! The only qualifications are being a member in good standing and a willingness to help out.

Finally, the Detachment Convention is being hosted by Aviation Squadron 511 in Crystal MN on June 27. It would be great to see some first-timers from our district. Your membership in your squadron is your membership in the National organization. Just as every piece of a puzzle is needed to complete the bigger picture, every member is needed to make our organization whole.

A black rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to be "Josh Erickson".

Josh Erickson  
First District SAL Commander

# SAL 1<sup>st</sup> District

## Membership Summary as of 05/17/2026

As I compile this newsletter District 1 sits in 6th place out of 10. From a percentage stand point we are at 95.18 percent.

We have 17 out of 36 squadrons at 100% or better. Note that 9 of the 17 not only hit 100 percent, they exceeded the 100 percent mark.

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.

### District Report Numbers:

Districts	2025 Results	2026 Goal	Grand Total	Percentage	Placing
1st District	1745	1785	1699	95.18%	6
2nd District	1225	1269	1373	108.20%	1
3rd District	2247	2287	2136	93.40%	8
4th District	410	450	413	91.78%	9
5th District	318	358	318	88.83%	10
6th District	1643	1683	1662	98.75%	3
7th District	995	1065	1115	104.69%	2
8th District	479	529	516	97.54%	5
9th District	951	985	961	97.56%	4
10th District	1641	1680	1571	93.51%	7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11654</b>	<b>12091</b>	<b>11764</b>	<b>97.30%</b>	

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO UNDERSTAND REGARDING RENEWAL STATUS AND DATE

#### Membership Renewal Dates

The SAL membership year follows the calendar year (Jan 1 through Dec 31) and renewals are due in advance, meaning 2026 renewals were due by Dec 31, 2025. Ideally, they should be submitted early December so National has time to process them before Jan 1. Here are the important renewal dates from the National SAL Bylaws:

Any member whose renewal has not been processed at National by **Jan 1** goes into **delinquent** status. If the member renews before Feb 1, they are automatically returned to "active in good standing".

Any member who is still delinquent on **Feb 1** goes into **suspended** status. A member in suspended status loses all privileges and benefits of membership until reinstated. That includes the ability to hold any office, the ability to vote, the ability to represent their squadron as a delegate at District and/or Detachment convention, and in Minnesota, the benefit of the Minnesota American Legion Family Hospital Association. On **June 1**, suspended memberships are **forfeited** and no further renewal notices are sent.

A suspended/forfeited member can be reinstated to "active in good standing" by a motion brought before the squadron membership body to approve the reinstatement and upon payment of dues for the current year (though I suspect most squadrons forego the formality of actually voting the member back in). This is not spelled out, but my understanding is, as long as the member is reinstated in the same year their membership was forfeited, they do not lose their continuous years. For example, if you have any members who have not paid their 2026 dues, they would need to be reinstated before the end of the year to keep their continuous years.

**Please take immediate action and review how many of your members from 2026 have not yet renewed their membership and take action now!**

Membership packets will soon be coming out for 2027. This year's plan is for a rep from each squad attend one of two meetings we will be setting up. One will be held for the east section and one for the west. Squadrons are **expected** to send at least one person to the respective meeting for their area to pick up their packet.

Seeing that our district does not have a east or west vice the attendance at one of these meetings is more important than ever. This is a good time for a shout out to Brian Tomashek for all his past efforts in helping drive memberships for our district. His follow up and drive will be missed.

So let's think about renewals and try to put it into perspective. Just a few things we need to pay in advance of them expiring:

1. Auto insurance
2. Health insurance
3. Home owners insurance.
4. Tabs for your automobile
5. **SAL MEMEBRSHIP DUES**

**For your 2027 SAL membership target a date no later than Dec 1, 2026.**



www.legion.org/SAL\_renew

QUICKLY AND EASILY RENEW ONLINE  
**MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**



In closing, I wish you all the best. God Bless our Troops past and present and God Bless America.

Respectfully Yours,  
Greg Lemmer  
SAL 1<sup>st</sup> District Membership Director



★ LAND ★  
OF THE ★  
*Free* ★  
BECAUSE ★  
OF THE ★  
*Brave* ★

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	17	0	149	0	166	105.73%	2/15/2026
40	Lanesboro	68	68	1	0	62	0	63	92.65%	
50	Wabasha	23	24	1	0	19	0	20	83.33%	
52	Blooming Prairie	34	34	0	0	33	0	33	97.06%	
56	Albert Lea	94	96	7	0	80	0	87	90.63%	
77	Owatonna	105	108	10	0	97	0	107	99.07%	
90	Lewiston	48	49	2	0	47	0	49	100.00%	1/4/2026
91	Austin	61	63	1	0	47	0	48	76.19%	
92	Rochester	85	87	6	0	60	0	66	75.86%	
94	Rushford	38	41	12	0	20	0	32	78.05%	
105	Lyle	31	33	4	0	29	0	33	100.00%	5/10/2026
119	Byron	25	26	2	0	24	0	26	100.00%	2/8/2026
146	Adams	100	100	0	0	100	0	100	100.00%	5/10/2026
161	Leroy	35	36	0	0	35	0	35	97.22%	
164	Stewartville	116	117	15	0	102	0	117	100.00%	3/29/2026
166	Preston	55	57	11	0	48	0	59	103.51%	12/7/2025
179	Plainview	7	7	3	0	5	0	8	114.29%	11/30/2025
190	St Charles	3	3	0	0	2	0	2	66.67%	
191	Caledonia	8	8	3	0	4	0	7	87.50%	
228	Waseca	140	142	19	0	124	0	143	100.70%	4/19/2026
264	Glenville	72	73	12	0	66	0	78	106.85%	1/12/2026
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	17	0	17	85.00%	
317	Emmons	51	54	2	0	44	0	46	85.19%	
330	Hayfield	54	56	8	0	51	0	59	105.36%	2/8/2026
333	Kasson	37	37	1	0	33	0	34	91.89%	
384	Dodge Center	9	11	0	0	5	0	5	45.45%	
404	Alden	54	54	1	0	52	0	53	98.15%	
423	Houston	13	13	0	0	12	0	12	92.31%	
446	Rochester	31	33	0	0	29	0	29	87.88%	
546	Kellogg	12	12	0	0	12	0	12	100.00%	2/1/2026
551	Eyota	36	36	4	0	37	0	41	113.89%	3/29/2026
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	2	0	65	0	67	103.08%	3/8/2026
<b>1st District Totals</b>		<b>1745</b>	<b>1785</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1555</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1699</b>	<b>95.18%</b>	

# of Sqdns - 36

Off Goose Egg 2/1/2026



## 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**



**The Sons of The American Legion National Americanism Commission** adopted ongoing support of Flying Flags for Heroes as an official program via S.A.L. Resolution X in the Spring of 2022. It is the goal of the Sons of The American Legion for the Flying Flags for Heroes program to help inspire true patriotism within our communities and help promote national pride in our country, its ensign, its military, and veterans throughout the entire Legion family.

Help the Commission reach our dual goals of 1,000,000 flag placements and 100% Detachment participation in 2026 prior to the 54th National Convention by reporting the flag placements of your Post, Squadron, Unit, or Chapter before **August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.

Visit **FlyingFlagsForHeros.com** for more information or use the QR code below to take you directly to the reporting area of the website.





## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> District. Also listed are the District ALR officers and their contact info.

ADAMS – CHAPTER #146  
Dennis & Nancy Lewison – [lewisonnancy@gmail.com](mailto: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 - 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. **1<sup>st</sup> District ALR of MN**

Sunshine Miller Maloney, 1st District Secretary

## **2026 Patriot Tour Kicks Off in Albert Lea with Ceremony, Appreciation, and Donations**

Patriotism filled the air — along with the rumble of motorcycle engines — on Saturday morning as the Nation of Patriots officially launched the 2026 Patriot Tour at Bergdale Harley-Davidson in Albert Lea. The opening ceremony honored veterans, recognized Purple Heart recipients, featured a poetry reading, and included the presentation of more than **\$14,000 in donations** to support veterans and their families.

Assistant Rider Director **Larry Larson** served as emcee. After the Pledge of Allegiance and the national anthem, a procession of Purple Heart veterans carried the flag forward — representing nearly 80 years of service. Among them was **104-year-old World War II veteran Lupe Gasca**, whose presence drew heartfelt applause.

Chaplain and Vietnam veteran **Dale Grautson** spoke about the personal meaning the Patriot Tour has taken on for him. He reflected on the contrast between the welcome home World War II veterans received and the difficult reception many Vietnam veterans faced.

Grautson shared how the Nation of Patriots helped heal some of that hurt:

“I’m so amazed at what happened, and it took a bunch of the hurt out of my heart,” he said. “To see our community come together and do the right thing for those that gave their lives — so, so appreciative.”

Following his prayer for the safety of all riders, Navy veteran **Rhonda Allison** read a poem honoring the sacrifices of those who served.

Albert Lea Mayor **Rich Murray** then proclaimed the day **Nation of Patriots Day** in Albert Lea.

“As a fellow veteran, I love to be out honoring our veterans every day of the year,” Murray said. “They have given us our freedoms that we can be thankful for.”

Patriot Tour founder **Bill Scherer** addressed the crowd, noting that this was one of the largest send-off gatherings in the tour’s seventeen-year history. He thanked Bergdale Harley-Davidson, the Glenville American Legion, local first responders, and the many volunteers who make the event possible.

Scherer reflected on the origins of the Patriot Tour:

“Eighteen years ago, I had an idea — simply to help people. I saw veterans coming home beat up and hurt, and they were not getting the support they were promised. I decided to act. This thing has grown far beyond me. It is about all of us.”

He also explained that along with the flag traveling to all fifty states, a banner and a pledge book accompany each flag bearer as they begin and end their leg of the tour.

Before presenting the first flag bearer with the flag, banner, and book, Scherer emphasized the unity the Patriot Tour inspires:

“It helps us find something painfully rare today — common ground. We stand here shoulder to shoulder not as political parties or anything that divides us, but as Americans.”

To launch the first leg of the 2026 tour, the **Glenville Legion Riders** presented Scherer with a **\$13,600 donation**, followed by a **\$500 donation** from the **Glenville American Legion Auxiliary**.

Larson closed the ceremony with safety instructions, and shortly afterward, motorcycles and support vehicles rolled out. The first stop on the 2026 Patriot Tour is **Mason City**, with the tour concluding on **September 19** back in Albert Lea.



# MN ALR – FUND 85 RIDE - 2026

## Day 1 - Thursday, July 23

Depart	Location	Destination	Miles	Time	Arrive	Stop Time
8:00	New Ulm	Redwood Falls	41	50	8:50	60
9:50	Redwood Falls	Lamberton	30	35	10:25	45
11:10	Lamberton	Fulda	43	50	12:00	30
12:30	Fulda	Pipestone	42	50	1:20	60
2:20	Pipestone	Marshall	44	45	3:05	30
3:35	Marshall	Granite Falls	31	35	4:10	30
4:40	Granite Falls	Montevideo	15	20	5:00	KSD

## Day 2 - Friday, July 24

Depart	Location	Destination	Miles	Time	Arrive	Stop Time
8:00	Montevideo	Olivia	45	50	8:50	60
9:50	Olivia	Springfield	40	50	10:40	45
11:25	Springfield	St James	35	40	12:05	60
1:05	St James	Fairmont	30	40	1:45	45
2:30	Fairmont	Lake Crystal	38	40	3:10	45
3:55	Lake Crystal	St Peter	25	30	4:30	KSD

## Day 3 - Saturday, July 25

Depart	Location	Destination	Miles	Time	Arrive	Stop Time
8:00	St Peter	Faribault	40	45	8:45	60
9:45	Faribault	Kasson	45	45	10:30	45
11:15	Kasson	Adams	42	45	12:00	60
1:00	Adams	Austin	18	25	1:25	45
2:10	Austin	Glenville	21	30	2:40	45
3:25	Glenville	Albert Lea	8	15	3:40	45
4:25	Albert Lea	Waseca	33	35	5:00	KSD

**Department of Minnesota Joint Testimonial Dinner**

American Legion Commander Linda Dvorak  
American Legion Auxiliary President Robin Dorf  
Sons of the American Legion Commander Jeremy Copher



**Saturday, June 27, 2026**

**New Prague American Legion Post**

5pm Social ~ 6pm Dinner ~ 7pm Program ~ Band until 10pm

Menu will be turkey and brisket, sides, and dessert

\$25.00 per person

Purchase your tickets on the Department American Legion website OR send check to New Prague American Legion, PO Box 113, New Prague MN 56071

Reservations due by June 19, 2026

Block of rooms available at Quality Inn & Suites in New Prague.

(952)758-7300 ~ ask for the American Legion Block

~~~~~

Name \_\_\_\_\_ # of Guests \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

# Mary's Angels

## RIDE FOR ALZHEIMERS Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026

*RAIN OR SHINE*

**Registration starts at 9:30 am**  
**Kick stands up at 11:00**

### **ROUTE:**

**UNCLE MONY'S** - Hayfield  
*Breakfast available at your expense*

**HUNTER'S BAR** - Myrtle

**GENEVA BAR & GRILL** - Geneva  
*Lunch will be provided*

**WEST CONCORD MUNI**

**BP TAVERN** - Blooming Prairie

**KASSON AMERICAN LEGION**

**\$10.00**

**Per Person**

**DOOR PRIZES**  
**at each stop**

**50/50 RAFFLE**  
**at each stop**



*Any vehicles are welcome!*  
**MUST BE STREET LEGAL**



ALL MONEY RAISED WILL BE DONATED TO THE  
**WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S**

**For more information:**

Barry Thompson 507-363-0308 - [bkthompson14@hotmail.com](mailto:bkthompson14@hotmail.com)

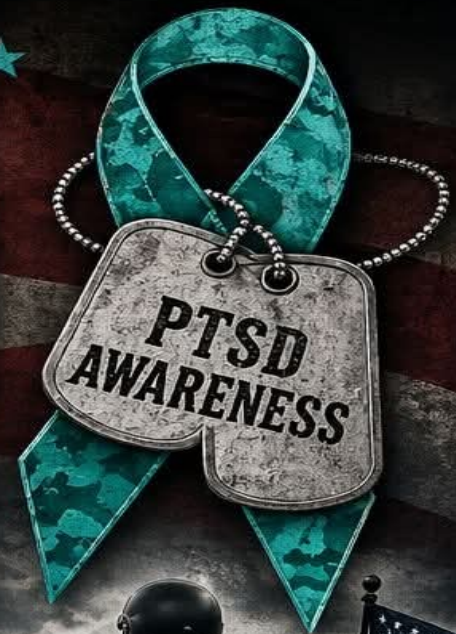
Roe Naylor 507-438-5804

— *Supported by the Austin American Legion Riders* —

★ EYOTA AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS ★

# PTSD

## AWARENESS RIDE



★  
**SATURDAY**  
**JUNE 27, 2026**



**REGISTRATION 9:15 - 9:45 AM**  
**AT EYOTA LEGION POST 551**



**FIRST STOP WILL BE AT THE**  
**VA HOME IN PRESTON**

★ *Grilling Out with the Vets* ★



**DONATION INCLUDES LUNCH - \$25 PER PERSON**

OTHER STOPS WILL INCLUDE THE  
**RUSHFORD & PLAINVIEW LEGIONS**  
**AND ALTURA VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK**



★ **OPEN TO ALL** ★  
**STREET LEGAL VEHICLES**

**PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE**  
**PRESTON VA HOME &**  
**NORTH STAR HONOR FLIGHT**





**POST 94 RUSHFORD AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS**

# **THUNDER IN THE VALLEY**

**Saturday - June 6 - 2026**

**STREET LEGAL VEHICLES WELCOME  
HELD RAIN OR SHINE**

**\$25 Rider \$15 Passenger**

**9am-10am REGISTRATION RUSHFORD  
KSU 10:30am**

## **STOPS INCLUDE:**

American Legion, Rushford  
American Legion, Mabel  
Buzzards New Albin  
Good Times, Caledonia  
American Legion, Rushford

**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT VETERANS,  
VETERAN PROGRAMS,  
AND FAMILIES**





# Prevent 22 Task Force **FUNDRAISER**

**DOORS  
OPEN  
9 A.M.**

Suicide Prevention & Awareness for Veterans, Service Members, Families & Community

# **SATURDAY JUNE 20**

## **AT PRESTON SERVICEMEN'S CLUB**

**BREAKFAST  
BURRITO  
& BLOODY MARY BAR  
9 AM - ???**

**SILENT  
AUCTION  
9 AM - 5 PM**

**PORK  
SANDWICHES  
WITH THE FIXIN'S  
11 AM - UNTIL GONE**

**MOTORCYCLE \ CAR RIDE  
REGISTRATION 9AM-10AM  
**\$22** PER REGISTERED  
VEHICLE  
KICKSTANDS UP AT 10 AM**

**RAFFLE  
DRAWING  
7 PM**

### **THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

**PROCEEDS will be DONATED to Fillmore County Veterans Initiatives  
Managed by the Prevent 22 Task Force  
For further information, please check out the  
Prevent 22 Task Force Facebook® Page or  
email: [prevent22taskforce@gmail.com](mailto:prevent22taskforce@gmail.com)**

**SORRY, BUT NO CREDIT CARDS!** Payment of Cash, Check or Venmo only!

## 2026 Event Dates

|              |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 9      | Broasted Chicken: 5:00 to 6:30 or until gone                                                                                                                                |
| April 18     | SAL Chicken Q. Serving 11:00 to 2:00 or until gone                                                                                                                          |
| May 9        | Chicken Q - Event Sponsor is Winona Chiefs Baseball. They will sell tickets and serve the meals. SAL will grill the chicken. Serving 11:00 to 2:00 or until gone            |
| May 10       | Mother's Day Breakfast Serving time TBD                                                                                                                                     |
| May 14       | Broasted Chicken: 5:00 to 6:30 or until gone                                                                                                                                |
| September 10 | Broasted Chicken: 5:00 to 6:30 or until gone                                                                                                                                |
| September 19 | SAL Chicken- Q. Serving 11:00 to 2:00 or until gone                                                                                                                         |
| October 8    | Broasted Chicken: 5:00 to 6:30 or until gone                                                                                                                                |
| October 10   | Chicken Q - Event Sponsor is Winona Cotter HS Speech Team (TBD) They will sell tickets and serve the meals. SAL will grill the chicken. Serving 11:00 to 2:00 or until gone |
| November 12  | Broasted Chicken: 5:00 to 6:30 or until gone                                                                                                                                |
| December 10  | Broasted Chicken: 5:00 to 6:30 or until gone                                                                                                                                |

**We hope you can join us and experience the great family environment at the Winona American Legion.**

# 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-Tab s & Bingo Now Available ~**

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

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



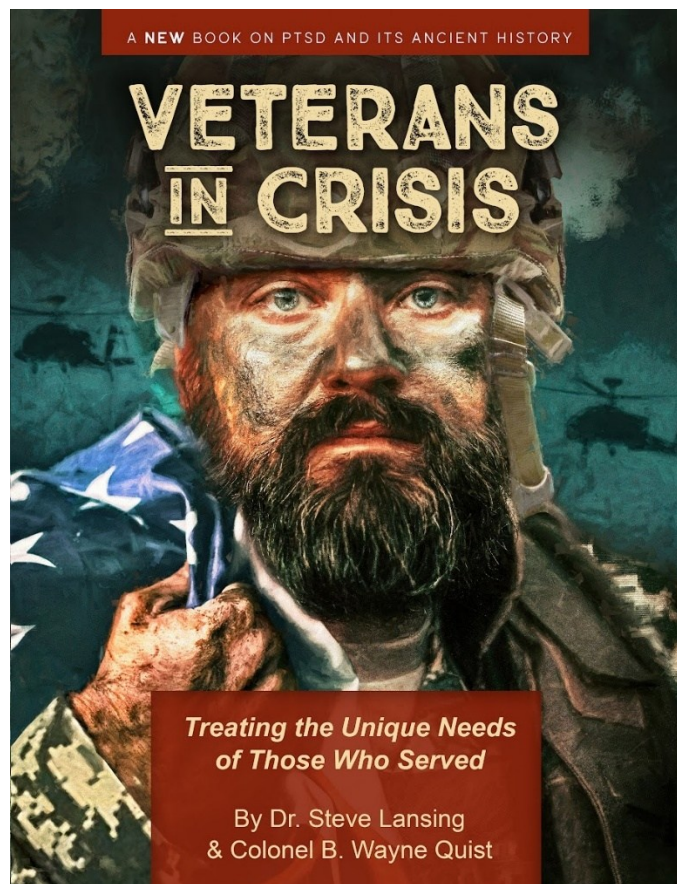
**VETERANS  
EMPOWERED<sup>INC.</sup>**

*Treating the Unique Needs  
of Those Who Served*

## **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**