



FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

OCTOBER 2025

Legion Contacts

Commander

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

Adjutant

Membership

Mary Hanson
1701 4th AVE SW
Austin, MN 55912
507—440—3606
mfhanson52@charter.net

Chaplain

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

VICE—COMMANDER INFORMATION

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

Area Two -

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

Area Four - Mary Hanson
1701 4th AVE SW
Austin, MN 55912
507-440-3606
mfhanson52@charter.net

IMPORTANT DATES

October 13: The U.S. Navy Birthday. The Continental Congress established what is now the U.S. Navy on this day in 1775.

October 24 – 25: MN Department Fall conference in St. Cloud, MN

October 26: The National Day of the Deployed. This day is set aside to honor and support service members who are deployed overseas.

October 27: Navy Day. Originally established to celebrate the Navy's importance.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

Kasson Post 333 has extra medical equipment, including hospital beds with mattresses, wheelchairs (regular and electric), motorized scooters, and more. For details, contact Richard Denny at 507-259-2081.



New number, same support.

| Dial 988 then Press 1.



FROM YOUR COMMANDER DESK

This has been a rough month.

As of September 22nd, 2025, Past Legion District Commander and Current Legion District Adjutant Wayne has stepped down and has relinquished all his District Legion duties. He will no longer be involved in any ongoing Legion business at the District Level at his request.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns or need assistance. DO NOT CONTACT WAYNE!

With that being said, the District is looking for a Adjutant. We also have a opening for a Public Relations Chair person. Also a Past Commander to be on the Post Development Committee .Please contact Jim Kellogg, Chuck Kruger or Gary Weaver ..(the Steering Committee)if you are interested.

Fall Conference is Oct 23-25 in St Cloud. We would love to see a maximum number of 1st District Members attend.

The Legion District Executive Board is planning on having their Fall Executive Board on Thurs Night Oct 23rd at 8 30 pm at University Room A at the Convention Center in St Cloud. Notices will be sent out in the next few days.

Past Commander Mark is healing up from his accident. He hopes to be back out and about in November....

If you have articles for the Newsletter send them to this Address: bigredonenewsletter@gmail.com. (Do not send articles to Wayne any more.) Michelle Weaver has graciously stepped up to publish the newsletter. Articles are still due by the 26th of the month.

Commander Brian

BE AWARE OF THIS SCAM

Good morning NE Region,

I saw something on my local news this morning, where Veterans are at risk of being scammed. My apologies if you are already aware of this, but I wanted to be sure we can spread the word for those that may not be aware

The victims are receiving e-mails, phone calls and letters that appear to be from Department of Veterans Affairs. They claim that the recipient owes money because the department overpaid some benefits by mistake and they want the victims to pay it back. If our members do or do not think they owe money to the VA they should visit the VA's website at [Manage Your VA Debt For Benefit Overpayments And Copay Bills | Veterans Affairs](#) so that they can check the status of their accounts.

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Good morning!

I just want to bring you up to date on some things happening in the Department. Don't keep this news to yourself, share it with the posts!

I know some of you have already received this from the Department Membership Director, but as of September 22 we are still sitting in 4th place Nationally for Membership. As of September 24th we are at 63.3% membership and our retention rate is 61.81%. This means we have already made the October 15th cutoff and are close to the November 13th cutoff of 65%. We always seem to hit a wall come January and our membership seems to slide downward from there. We need to keep our momentum going all through the year. Open Houses, Revitalizing posts that are struggling are some ways to help stop this slide.

National has some great training opportunities! See attached for more information and spread the word!

Minnesota Legion College will be April 23-26 at Camp Ripley, register now to ensure you have a seat, we are already getting students registered and the maximum number of students is 24, don't miss your opportunity to gain valuable information.

Have you registered for the Fall Conference yet? I would like to see as many posts as possible at the Conference. This is a learning Conference, we have several classes lined up which are designed to help both Posts and Districts, this is also where we honor our Outstanding Military members. Also we will be having a joint service project with the Auxiliary and SAL. Please see attached flyer and help make this project a success.

Pearl Harbor Rally will be December 6th in Buffalo. You can register by going to <https://mnlegion.org/pearl-harbor-rally/>. We will be having presentations on the Americanism and National Security Pillars!

Do you get the Legionnaire via Mail or Email? Do you get more than one copy mailed to your home? Mailing costs keep going up and it is getting more and more expensive to send out the Legionnaire. We have gone from a monthly Legionnaire to once every six weeks. Tim is working on some ideas to help, but if you would like to help defray the cost of mailing the Legionnaire, please send a donation to the Department Office, make checks out to The Legionnaire.

As always, please remember my project for this year, Fund 85 and also Tables and Benches at the new Military and Veterans Museum at Camp Ripley (checks need to be made out to Minnesota American Legion Foundation-in the memo line Fund 82).

Enjoy the fall weather, winter will be here before we know it!

Better Together/Back to the Basics-The Four Pillars

Linda Dvorak

Dept Commander



Veterans * Defense * Youth * Americanism * Communities

FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Hi Legionnaires,

The 1st District is in 3rd place in the membership race for 2026. We are at 4133 processed with a goal of 6396. This is 64.62%. It would be great if we could win the race two years in a row. Please get your memberships in as soon as possible. Let's work together. We can do this!

You do not need to wait for my emails each week to check on membership. New reports come out on Thursday. If Misty is available, they will be posted that day. Log into mnlegion.org, select membership and then membership reports. The 2025 reports come out once a month now. Anyone can access the reports. Just a reminder on new members this time of year. If you are saving them money and not signing them up for 2025, but going into 2026, they are not a member until 1-1-2026. They can't hold a position in your post until that date. They can attend meetings but should not be allowed to vote. If you need the new member to take a position right away, offer to pay half of the 2025 dues.

If you are not using mylegion to process membership and would like to get started let me know. It really streamlines everything, and you don't have to mail back any part of the white cards to Department.

Thank you for your service.

Mary Hanson

1st District Membership Director

507-440-3606

mfhanson52@charter.net

AN UP DATE ON SHARON HAMMON

As some of you already know, my wife Sharon has been having some major health issues in the last month or so. To give you an update, on September 15th she had a Non Hodgkin Lymphoma tumor removed from the right side of her brain above the right ear. The doctors got all of the tumor but she is going to get aggressive chemo infusions after she gets healed up from the surgery. They are expecting six or eight rounds of this chemo. She will be in the hospital for up to three days per infusion. With all this going on both Sharon and I are resigning from our legion and auxiliary jobs so we can deal with her health. Please keep your prayers and thoughts coming. If you want to send a card our address is PO Box 135, LeRoy, N 55951

Wayne Hammon

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



The American Legion, Dept of MN, First District 2026 Membership Report for September 24, 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	3	32	0	300	335	2	337	456	73.90%	0	0
1	90	Lewiston	0	9	0	39	48	0	48	81	59.26%	0	0
1	190	St Charles	0	13	0	51	64	0	64	85	75.29%	0	0
1		Winona County	3	54	0	390	447	2	449	622	72.19%	0	0
1	50	Wabasha	1	40	0	79	120	0	120	182	65.93%	0	0
1	110	Lake City	2	15	0	81	98	0	98	169	57.99%	0	0
1	179	Plainview	2	23	0	55	80	0	80	135	59.26%	0	0
1	546	Kellogg	0	6	0	23	29	0	29	50	58.00%	0	0
1	573	Elgin	0	3	0	1	4	0	4	28	14.29%	0	0
1	579	Millville	0	17	0	54	71	0	71	104	68.27%	0	0
1	588	Mazeppa	0	8	0	26	34	0	34	63	53.97%	0	0
1		Wabsha County	5	112	0	319	436	0	436	731	59.64%	0	0
1	92	Rochester	4	82	0	445	531	4	535	681	78.56%	0	0
1	119	Byron	0	13	0	67	80	0	80	127	62.99%	0	0
1	164	Stewartville	5	20	0	147	172	1	173	259	66.80%	0	0
1	446	Rochester	0	2	0	0	2	0	2	6	33.33%	0	0
1	551	Eyota	1	23	0	87	111	0	111	173	64.16%	0	0
1		Olmsted County	10	140	0	746	896	5	901	1246	72.31%	0	0

1		Area One	18	306	0	1455	1779	7	1786	2599	68.72%	0	0
1	295	West Concord	0	6	0	15	21	0	21	36	58.33%	0	0
1	330	Hayfield	2	12	0	123	137	0	137	179	76.54%	0	0
1	333	Kasson	2	29	0	115	146	0	146	228	64.04%	0	0
1	384	Dodge Center	1	8	0	28	37	0	37	63	58.73%	0	0
1	422	Claremont	0	3	0	21	24	0	24	28	85.71%	0	0
1		Dodge County	5	58	0	302	365	0	365	534	68.35%	0	0
1	52	Blooming Prairie	0	16	0	23	39	1	40	76	52.63%	0	0
1	77	Owatonna	0	51	0	154	205	2	207	342	60.53%	0	0
1	296	Ellendale	0	5	0	30	35	0	35	45	77.78%	0	0
1		Steel County	0	72	0	207	279	3	282	463	60.91%	0	0
1	75	New Richland	0	8	0	21	29	0	29	40	72.50%	0	0
1	228	Waseca	1	20	0	153	174	0	174	244	71.31%	0	0
1	281	Janesville	0	3	0	51	54	0	54	66	81.82%	0	0
1	587	Waldorf	0	0	0	9	9	0	9	18	50.00%	0	0
1		Waseca County	1	31	0	234	266	0	266	368	72.28%	0	0
		Area Two	6	161	0	743	910	3	913	1365	66.89%	0	0
1	40	Lanesboro	0	12	0	44	56	0	56	97	57.73%	0	0
1	68	Spring Valley	0	6	0	33	39	0	39	58	67.24%	0	0
1	81	Harmony	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	20	5.00%	0	0
1	94	Rushford	1	9	0	49	59	0	59	99	59.60%	0	0
1	166	Preston	1	15	0	21	37	0	37	47	78.72%	0	0

1	197	Chatfield	0	1	0	24	25	0	25	35	71.43%	0	0
1	299	Mabel	1	26	0	71	98	0	98	131	74.81%	0	0
1	369	Wykoff	0	0	0	13	13	0	13	16	81.25%	0	0
1	400	Canton	0	0	0	6	6	0	6	21	28.57%	0	0
1	492	Fountain	0	0	0	6	6	0	6	9	66.67%	0	0
1	526	Peterson	0	4	0	24	28	0	28	32	87.50%	0	0
1	544	Ostrander	0	2	0	10	12	0	12	19	63.16%	0	0
1	637	Whalan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0.00%	0	0
1		Fillmore County	3	75	0	302	380	0	380	594	63.97%	0	0
1	191	Caledonia	0	10	0	72	82	0	82	110	74.55%	0	0
1	249	Spring Grove	0	10	0	62	72	0	72	128	56.25%	0	0
1	423	Houston	1	9	0	50	60	0	60	94	63.83%	0	0
1	498	Hokah	1	1	0	15	17	0	17	20	85.00%	0	0
1	595	LaCrescent	0	39	0	57	96	0	96	202	47.52%	0	0
1		Houston County	2	69	0	256	327	0	327	554	59.03%	0	0
1		Area Three	5	144	0	558	707	0	707	1148	61.59%	0	0
1	56	Albert Lea	4	34	0	240	278	1	279	418	66.75%	0	0
1	264	Glenville	3	8	0	34	45	0	45	66	68.18%	0	0
1	266	Hartland	0	1	0	12	13	0	13	14	92.86%	0	0
1	317	Emmons	0	2	0	25	27	0	27	40	67.50%	0	0
1	404	Alden	0	3	0	27	30	0	30	70	42.86%	0	0
1	552	Freeborn	0	5	0	2	7	0	7	28	25.00%	0	0

1		Freeborn County	7	53	0	340	400	1	401	636	63.05%	0	0
1	91	Austin	1	41	0	142	184	0	184	352	52.27%	0	0
1	105	Lyle	0	8	0	4	12	0	12	71	16.90%	0	0
1	140	Grand Meadow	0	4	0	10	14	0	14	31	45.16%	0	0
1	146	Adams	0	17	0	65	82	0	82	137	59.85%	0	0
1	161	LeRoy	0	4	0	22	26	0	26	45	57.78%	0	0
1	570	Austin Spam	0	0	0	8	8	0	8	12	66.67%	0	0
1		Mower County	1	74	0	251	326	0	326	648	50.31%	0	0
1		Area Four	8	127	0	591	726	1	727	1284	56.62%	0	0
1	1111	Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0
1		District Totals	37	738	0	3347	4122	11	4133	6396	64.62%	0	0
		Vice Commanders											
		Area One	18	306	0	1455	1799	7	1786	2599	68.72%	0	0
		Area Two	6	161	0	743	910	3	913	1365	66.89%	0	0
		Area Three	5	144	0	558	707	0	707	1148	61.59%	0	0
		Area Four	8	127	0	591	726	1	727	1284	56.62%	0	0

FROM AREA FOUR VICE COMMANDER

Hi Legionnaires,

I had a productive time at the post visits I attended in September. You were all attentive and listened to my message.

It is always fun to go to membership dinners. Even if you try and get me to eat vegetables. You know who you are!

I will be contacting more posts to setup October meetings. I will try and get to three posts each month. If your post has a special meeting you would like me to attend, let me know. I will accommodate your post if at all possible.

There are many avenues to learn. You can let the district know what training you want, and we will get it for you. Remember Minnesota American Legion College at Camp Ripley. This is a wonderful program that covers a lot of different topics. Anyone is welcome to attend. Under legion.org there is Training Tuesdays and the Training toolbox.

It is time for change. Let's work together to get our retention rates up.

Thank you for your service.

Mary Hanson

1st District Area 4 Vice Commander

507-44-3606

mfhanson52@charter.net





October Reflections: A Season of Gratitude and Remembrance

As the leaves turn and the air grows crisp, October invites us into a season of reflection. It's a time to honor the rhythms of change—both in nature and in our lives—and to recommit ourselves to the values that unite us as members of the American Legion Family: service, sacrifice, and spiritual strength.

This month, we celebrate the legacy of our veterans and the enduring mission of the American Legion. We also recognize the importance of spiritual care in our communities. Whether through prayer, presence, or quiet acts of kindness, chaplains play a vital role in nurturing hope and healing. Let us continue to be a source of comfort to those who grieve, encouragement to those who serve, and light to those who feel forgotten.

October also brings us closer to Veterans Day preparations. As we plan ceremonies and outreach, may we remember that honoring our veterans is not just a public gesture—it is a sacred duty. Let our prayers be filled with gratitude for their courage and our actions reflect the values they fought to protect.

In this season of harvest, let us gather not only food and fellowship, but also stories, memories, and moments of grace. Reach out to a fellow member, check in on a neighbor, and offer a prayer for those facing hardship. Our spiritual strength lies in our unity and compassion.

As we close this month's reflection, please keep Past District President Sharon Hammon and Past District Commander Mark Maloney in your prayers. May they feel the comfort of our collective support and the peace that comes from knowing they are held in love.

Richard Skillestad

A NOTE FROM THE MN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

One more reminder to share the SGU Task Force with your contacts. We are particularly looking for more applications to the following roles-

- Direct Experience in United States Intelligence or Special Operations in Southeast Asia
 - Experience In Military Assistance Command Vietnam Special Forces Operations
- United States Armed Forces Vietnam Veteran

The initial window for applications has closed, but we will continue accepting them until all the roles have been filled.

The application can be found here: <https://commissionsandappointments.sos.mn.gov/Agency/Details/388>

If you have any questions, reach out to Jon Kelly.

Best,
-Cole

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Cole Trace
Government Affairs Liaison
(he/him/his)
Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs



FROM YOUR AREA ONE VICE COMMANDER

Please Keep Mark Maloney in Your Prayers

Past District Commander Mark Maloney was involved in a very serious car accident two weeks ago today. He sustained bruised ribs, several lacerations, and a fractured lower right leg. Mark is currently receiving care at the VA Hospital in Minneapolis, where he is being treated with antibiotics and is scheduled for surgery on Monday to repair the fracture.

Following surgery, Mark will be non-weightbearing for approximately 12 weeks. He is expected to begin his recovery in the VA's inpatient Physical Therapy unit and will be transferred to a short-term rehabilitation center to continue healing. This will be a long and challenging journey, but Mark's strength and spirit remain steadfast.

Please keep Mark in your thoughts and prayers as he faces the road to recovery. Cards and well wishes may be sent to:

Mark Maloney
845 54th Ave, Apt E
Winona, MN 55987-1399

Let us surround Mark with the support and encouragement of our Legion Family. Sunshine Miller Maloney and their loved ones deeply appreciate your kindness during this time.

Dear Legion Family,

The National Regional Information Conference (NRIC) is your chance to connect in person with Legion Family leaders, sharpen your knowledge of Constitution & Bylaws, Post Operations, Be The One, and more. These one-day conferences are designed to strengthen leadership, improve member engagement, and equip you to serve veterans and communities more effectively.

Indianapolis, IN – Saturday, January 31, 2026

Marriott East, [7202 East 21st Street](#)

[Register for Indianapolis](#)

Atlanta, GA – Saturday, February 7, 2026

The Westin Atlanta Airport, [4736 Best Road](#)

[Register for Atlanta](#)



Training Tuesday: Resolution Workshop – Building the “Whereas” Clauses

Sharpen your resolution-writing skills with a hands-on Training Tuesday session. This webinar focuses on building the factual and policy-based backbone of a resolution: the “Whereas” clauses.

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

7:00 PM ET

Register by Sunday, September 28, 2025

[Click to Register](#)

This will not be a sit-and-listen webinar. Instead, you’ll:

- Work in breakout groups to draft, critique, and refine “Whereas” clauses
- Learn strategies to connect ideas with the Legion’s mission and priorities
- Gain live peer feedback across Posts, Districts, and Departments



Bring your draft resolutions, notes, or research. Microphone and camera use are strongly encouraged.



Missed the earlier sessions? Watch March’s *Resolution Ideas* and July’s *Socializing a Resolution* at: legion.org/information-center/training/training-tuesdays.

Both NRIC and Training Tuesday are built to prepare you for effective leadership, stronger Post operations, and mission-driven resolutions that make a difference.

Together, we are Veterans Strengthening America.

UPCOMING DATES:

19 - 22 SEPTEMBER 2025	OUT OF OFFICE
31 OCTOBER 2025	OUT OF OFFICE
26 NOVEMBER 2025	OUT OF OFFICE
22 - 26 DECEMBER 2025	OUT OF OFFICE

You can now schedule time directly with me using my booking page:

[Schedule a meeting](#)

Just pick a time that works for you — it will automatically sync with my calendar.

Yours in Service,

**VETERANS STRENGTHENING
AMERICA**

**Erin E. Bossen | Member Engagement & Training
Coordinator**

Internal Affairs & Membership Division

a: [700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46204](#)

e: ebossen@legion.org | **w:** www.legion.org

o: 317-630-1287



Mission #2 is complete. Over 80 veterans were able to travel to Washington DC on September 30th, 2025. It was a day to honor and thank our local veterans for their service to our country.

Our flight left early in the morning with a slight delay in landing, the buses were loaded and off they traveled. Food and refreshments were enjoyed throughout the day. Once back at the Rochester Airport, family members were there to welcome them home.

Many had family members as their guardian and now have some awesome memories to share. Other veterans were assigned a community guardian. Many new friendships were created and I am certain; they will likely stay in touch. Most of the veterans on this flight are Vietnam era. Most had not been to "the wall." Many looked for the names of fellow soldiers whose names were on the panels. Many rubbings were done including this one done for a local veteran, Richard Matheis. It was taken home and given to his sister Carol. Our hope for them is one more step of healing and closure.

I stayed back to handle the airport operations for the day. The staff at the Rochester International Airport was so very easy to work with. Our volunteers were so very willing to help. I was also very excited to see so many of the veterans we know personally come through the doors for the "welcome home".

A special thank you to our early morning honor guard from the Adams American Legion. Several honor guards came to welcome fellow veterans' home in the evening. Our evening event honor guard came from the Eyota American Legion. They not only were there to honor their fellow veterans, they treated this SAL member so kindly. He was proud to stand with them as he waited for his grandpa and dad. My heart was full!

If you are a veteran and are interested in going on a mission, please visit www.northstarhonorflight.org and print out an application to get on our waiting list. If you have someone that would like to be your guardian, please have them complete the guardian application.

Our service counties in Minnesota include Blue Earth, Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Mower, Steele, Olmsted, and Waseca. Iowa counties include Cerro Gordo, Howard, Mitchell, Winnebago and Worth.

Nancy Lewison
North Star Honor Flight

North Star Honor Flight Mission #2









Hello Mighty 1st District

Auxiliary Contacts

President

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

Secretary

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

Membership

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

Treasurer

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

Fall is officially here! Our units are starting back up with their meetings for the 2025-2026 year! Remember we are celebrating America's 250th birthday! Units should start thinking of how you can work this into your unit programs. The October Unit mailing has just gone out, I am going to ask that the Presidents forward the entire mailing to all members they have email addresses for. It is a great way to get the information to your members and chairman. Start and email list now if haven't one, this is going to be our future for getting our information to our members. It is full of great ideas for you help you in your units, along with everyone knowing what is going at department level.

As of this mailing, 1st District ranks 7th – down 51 members from last year. Remember we all need to work at membership, not just our membership chairs. Recruiting new members is crucial, work with your post veterans, many have wives who are not Auxiliary members, you never know you might get one!

ALL units need to have their 990 and get bonded if you are not. If you lost your 990 status we can help you get it back. This is coming from National and the Department from Convention. I will be visiting along with President Robin in La Cresent shortly. Thank you Michelle! I am hoping to visit as many units I can, so I look forward to your invitations.

Sandy Fredrickson and I are trying something new to meet with unit members to talk about anything that they want to know about the auxiliary or anything they would like to share good and bad!

Coffee Talk November 8th at 8-10am at the Freeborn Legion. We hope to do this by areas across the district. If your unit is close to Freeborn please drop in anytime for coffee and talk! I am hoping to see new faces at Fall Conference. October 23-25 in St. Cloud. On Thursday at 7pm there will be an great informational meeting on the following.

Apply for an American Legion Auxiliary Grant
Have you ever wanted to change a standing rule?

Annual Reporting
Sneak Peek at the New Department of MN ALA Website
Honor Flight.

Also the Auxiliary Silent Auction will be going on to support the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Those attending try to support in some way. Also the Auxiliary is doing the St. Cloud Stand Down who assists veterans in Minnesota with resources and needed items. President Robin has made this our Service Project. There is more info on this in your unit mailing. I am aware of several units already collecting items, if your unit wants to collect but can't get it there, let me know and we can work it out.

If you are not on social media please talk to Michelle Weaver our District and Department chairman. She will gladly get you started! It can really help promote your unit and events. Thank you to units who have contributed to the Preston Putting Green project! Please send checks to Tonia Betterman.

I want to thank our Units and Post who have donated or raised funds for the 3 Northstar Honor Flights that have gone out of Rochester! Thank you to Nancy Lewiston for representing our organization!

For some who know Past 1st District President Sharon Hammon, Sharon was diagnosed with lymphoma. After an emergency room visit they found a brain tumor. Please keep her in your in prayers as she and her family navigate through treatment. If you would like to send her a card, her address is 115 E. Cabot St, PO Box 135, Le Roy, MN 55957

Flowers have been sent on behalf of the 1st District.

Thank you for your Service not Self for the Auxiliary for our Veterans, Communities and Youth!

Wanda Prescher
1st District President



***LET'S MEET OUR DISTRICT
PRESIDENT WANDA***



COFFEE TALKS-- TIME TO CHIT CHAT

WHAT WORKS---WHAT DOESN'T WORK—
WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR AUXILIARY'S BETTER!!!
HOW DO WE GET MEMBERS ENERGIZED??
HOW DO WE ENTICE OTHERS TO JOIN OUR AUXILIARY??
HOW CAN WE COLLABORATE WITH OTHER UNITS??

WE ALL HAVE THE SAME MISSION!! WE ALL WANT OTHERS TO KNOW AND
REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF WHAT WE DO AND WHY WE DO IT!!

FREEBORN UNIT HAS GRACIOUSLY OPENED THEIR POST HOME FOR US TO
COME MEET OUR NEIGHBORS (OTHER UNITS)!!

***THIS IS FOR ANYONE AND EVERYONE ---ALL MEMBERS, NOT JUST
OFFICERS!!***

***PRESIDENT WANDA WANTS TO MEET THE MEMBERS OF THE FIRST
DISTRICT---LET'S NOT DISAPPOINT HER!!***

***SATURDAY MORNING
8-10:00 AM NOVEMBER 8, 2025
FREEBORN AMERICAN LEGION
COFFEE AND ROLLS WILL BE FURNISHED
BY PRESIDENT WANDA***

LET'S SHOW HER OUR SUPPORT!! LET'S LET HER KNOW WE ARE ALIVE &
WELL AND WANT TO KEEP OUR AUXILIARY'S STRONG
SEE YOU THERE!!!

ALBERT LEA---ALDEN---NEW RICHLAND (PLEASE INVITE ELLENDAL
LADIES)---HARTLAND---FREEBORN---GLENVILLE---OWATONNA---
WASECA---WALDORF

Department of Minnesota American Legion Family

Service Project at the 2025 Fall Conference



The St. Cloud StandDown assists veterans in Minnesota with resources and needed items free of charge. They provide food, clothing, accessories, footwear, job connections, and housing information and resources for veterans in need, at risk, or homeless. They are staffed by veterans and volunteers who donate their time. The St. Cloud StandDown location consists of multiple operations including the StandDown Warehouse, Lady Veterans Boutique, Clifford Beck Veteran Resource Center, Gentlemen's Quarters Barbershop, and the Frontline Food Pantry.

We will be collecting the following NEW items (no used items):

Men's underwear (boxers or briefs)

Women's underwear

Men's socks – much needed they distributed over 3,000 last year.

Women's socks

Men's thermal wear

Men's winter jackets

Women's winter jackets

Men's winter hats, scarves, and gloves

Women's winter hats, scarves, and gloves

Full size toiletries including body wash, deodorants, razors, lotions, brushes/combs, women's tampons, and sanitary pads (light/medium)

Please bring your items from Thursday, October 23rd to 9am on Saturday October 25th to the Glen Carlson Exhibit Hall where the Auxiliary session will be held.

Let's Fill the Room for Our Veterans!!

American Legion Commander Linda Dvorak

American Legion Auxiliary President Robin Dorf

Sons of the American Legion Commander Jeremy Copher

American Legion Riders Director Duane Mabon

American Legion Auxiliary Honorary Junior President Anastasia Donnelly

Hello All,

Message from Department Membership Chairman Kollett Kaehlert

Mentoring is key to building the future leaders of our organization. If we fail to mentor, we are failing you, our veterans, active military, and their families.

Retention and growth are both needed for sustainability and success in our organization. Retention of membership tells us that members are actively engaged in the missions and programs of the Auxiliary. Growth allows us as an organization to further our reach with Congress.

I am looking forward to hearing from you! Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns that you have.

(507) 459-5962

928sunshine@gmail.com

BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD

Whoa.... 5582

What does 5582 mean?

5582 new mentoring opportunities

5582 new ideas

5582 new recruiters

5582 new volunteers

5582 new voices

5582 new resources

5582 new networking opportunities

5582 new members for growth

5582 new members to work on mentoring and engaging, for the future. Are you mentoring?

Are you reaching out to those members, inviting them, working with them, just saying hello?

What are you doing to keep these new members engaged?

This is the tip of the iceberg ever for kicking off 2026, imagine all the new members and over 95% retention.

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP REPORT 9/30/2025

Unit	Location	Goal	Previous	Turn In	Total	Precent	Left
9	Winona	111	0	13	13	11.71%	98
90	Lewiston	28	0	0	0	0.00%	28
190	St Charles	5	0	3	3	60.00%	2
50	Wabasha	110	0	51	51	46.36%	59
110	Lake City	35	0	1	1	2.86%	34
179	Plainview	111	0	4	4	3.60%	107
573	Elgin	7	0	1	1	14.29%	6
579	Millville	39	0	3	3	7.69%	36
588	Mazeppa	32	0	3	3	9.38%	29
92	Rochester	112	0	37	37	33.04%	75
119	Byron	13	0	8	8	61.54%	5
164	Stewartville	158	0	62	62	39.24%	96
551	Eyota	85	0	18	18	21.18%	67
Pod One Total		846	0	204	204	24.11%	642
295	West Concord	25	0	1	1	4.00%	24
330	Hayfield	171	0	10	10	5.85%	161
333	Kasson	123	0	16	16	13.01%	107
384	Dodge Center	54	0	2	2	3.70%	52
422	Claremont	19	0	2	2	10.53%	17
52	Blooming Prairie	86	0	14	14	16.28%	72
77	Owatonna	95	0	15	15	15.79%	80
75	New Richland	30	0	2	2	6.67%	28
228	Waseca	221	0	42	42	19.00%	179
587	Waldorf	14	0	5	5	35.71%	9
Pod Two Totals		838	0	109	109	13.01%	729
40	Lanesboro	98	0	5	5	5.10%	93
68	Spring Valley	47	0	4	4	8.51%	43
81	Harmony	42	0	1	1	2.38%	41
94	Rushford	49	0	4	4	8.16%	45
197	Chatfield	17	0	1	1	5.88%	16
299	Mabel	102	0	19	19	18.63%	83
369	Wykoff	17	0	1	1	5.88%	16
526	Peterson	43	0	37	37	86.05%	6
544	Ostrander	8	0	0	0	0.00%	8

637	Whalen	13	0	0	0	0.00%	13
191	Caledonia	62	0	28	28	45.16%	34
249	Spring Grove	72	0	0	0	0.00%	72
423	Houston	105	0	3	3	2.86%	102
498	Hokah	17	0	2	2	11.76%	15
595	La Crescent	142	0	20	20	14.08%	122
Pod Three Totals		834	0	110	125	14.99%	709
56	Albert Lea	200	0	44	44	22.00%	156
264	Glenville	83	0	21	21	25.30%	62
404	Alden	34	0	3	3	8.82%	31
552	Freeborn	53	0	48	48	90.57%	5
91	Austin	91	0	3	3	3.30%	88
105	Lyle	44	0	0	0	0.00%	44
140	Grand Meadow	61	0	28	28	45.90%	33
146	Adams	116	0	3	3	2.59%	113
161	Leroy	40	0	1	1	2.50%	39
Pod Four Totals		722	0	151	151	20.91%	571
Total		3240	0	589	4702	145.12%	2651



Greetings Legion Family Members

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

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

Regan McElroy—First District Honorary Jr President

FROM

YOUR HONORAY AUXILIARY JR PRESIDENT



Hi, I am Regan McElroy, I am the new Honorary Junior President of the First District American Legion Auxiliary. I would like to give 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

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



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
dbilderback@aol.com

EAST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

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

WEST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

Open

MEMBERSHIP

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

FINANCE OFFICER

Gary Weaver
29 North Elm St—La Crescent, MN 55947
507-895-2818 or 507-696-1431
gweaver@acegroup.cc

PARLIMENTERIAN

Gary Weaver
29 North Elm St—La Crescent, MN 55947
507-895-2818 or 507-696-1431
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

FROM YOUR COMMANDER

Greetings Legion Family,

I hope you all had a nice Labor Day weekend and are enjoying the last days of summer. The transition from Summer to Fall is one of my favorite times of the year.

We have made some great achievements as a district, but before I get into that, I need to express my disappointment in one area. The District Legion Family Picnic was held in Blooming Prairie on August 10th. It was advertised in the district newsletter, which I am aware does not reach every squadron, so I personally sent an email to every squadron commander and/or adjutant who I had an email address for. Suffice it to say, I was very disappointed that I did not receive a single response, and not one SAL member attended the event. We are all part of something bigger, and I encourage every member to make a point to attend district and detachment events whenever possible.

Okay, enough on that.

As a district, we are starting the new membership year off strong and we currently sit at 1st place in the Detachment. The Winona squadron is already at 50% of its goal, La Crescent is close behind at 40% and several others are in the 20's and 30's. Keep up the great work and please remember to send in memberships as you receive them and submit them online if possible. If you need help getting set up on MyLegion/MySAL please reach out.

Speaking of goals, for 2026 Detachment increased each district's goal by 40, but asked each district's leadership team to set the goals for their own squadrons. This was a welcome change from previous years when the increase was simply divided evenly between all squadrons. We considered a few factors, and the goal we have set for each squadron is included below.

The last of the membership packets have been delivered so if your squadron has not sent in at least one membership for 2026, please send one in as soon as possible. Our goal is to have the 1st District off the goose egg by the Detachment Fall Conference. That means each squadron needs to have at least one 2026 membership submitted by September 15th to allow time for processing. We can do this!

In closing, thank you to the district and squadron leadership for everything you do. I look forward to what we can achieve as a district. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out if there is anything we can help your squadron with.

Josh Erickson
SAL District Commander

1st District								
Sqdrn.	Location	2025 Results (7/29/2025)	2026 Goal	Total at Dept		Grand Total	% of Goal	Date Goal Reached
9	Winona	153	157	120		120	76.43%	
40	Lanesboro	68	68	12		12	17.65%	
50	Wabasha	23	24	1		1	4.17%	
52	Blooming Prairie	34	34	1		1	2.94%	
56	Albert Lea	94	96	40		40	41.67%	
77	Owatonna	105	108	12		12	11.11%	
90	Lewiston	48	49	47		47	95.92%	
91	Austin	61	63	4		4	6.35%	
92	Rochester	85	87	31		31	35.63%	
94	Rushford	38	41	10		10	24.39%	
105	Lyle	31	33	1		1	3.03%	
119	Byron	25	26	13		13	50.00%	
146	Adams	100	100	0		0	0.00%	
161	Leroy	35	36	14		14	38.89%	
164	Stewartville	116	117	35		35	29.91%	
166	Preston	55	57	4		4	7.02%	
179	Plainview	7	7	0		0	0.00%	
190	St Charles	3	3	2		2	66.67%	
191	Caledonia	8	8	1		1	12.50%	
228	Waseca	140	142	36		36	25.35%	
264	Glenville	72	73	17		17	23.29%	
266	Hartland	10	10	10		10	100.00%	9/14/2025
281	Janesville	6	6	0		0	0.00%	
299	Mabel	19	20	7		7	35.00%	
317	Emmons	51	54	17		17	31.48%	
330	Hayfield	54	56	2		2	3.57%	
333	Kasson	37	37	12		12	32.43%	
384	Dodge Center	9	11	0		0	0.00%	
404	Alden	54	54	0		0	0.00%	
423	Houston	13	13	0		0	0.00%	
446	Rochester	31	33	24		24	72.73%	
546	Kellogg	12	12	0		0	0.00%	
551	Eyota	36	36	0		0	0.00%	
552	Freeborn	26	26	3		3	11.54%	
579	Millville	23	23	0		0	0.00%	
595	La Crescent	63	65	30		30	46.15%	
1st District Totals		1745	1785	506	0	506	28.35%	
	# of Sqdns - 36			Added 2				

SAL 1 st District

Membership Summary as of 9/28/25

The Mighty 1 st District comes in at 2 nd place out of 10 Districts as of the 9/28/2025 membership report. We are just under 3% out of 1 st place. Please get those memberships in.

Membership goals:

Squadron Summary

- ☑ Increased percentage and placement compared to last year.
- ☑ In 2024 at this same time District 1 was at 15.66% and in 4 th place.
- ☑ We are almost double last year's performance at this same time.

All membership packets have been handed off to squadrons. We need to get those memberships turned in. We still have 9 squadrons at a zero. All squadrons have had packets long enough to have at least one membership turned in by now. Squadron commanders and membership directors please work with your members to get off the goose egg. If you need help please reach out to Commander Josh E, East Vice Brian T or myself.

Let's make it our shared goal to get off the goose egg as fast as possible — not just to meet quotas but to set a standard of excellence for the rest of the districts. If your squadron has renewals or new members ready to go, please prioritize sending those applications in immediately, again on line is best.

New this year, are \$100.00 awards and plaques for 1 st @ goal (Hartland will win that prize), and highest % of increase. There will also be a random drawing and a \$100.00 award given to one squadron of all squadrons who turn in a consolidated report. The winners will also be noted in our district newsletter and the state Legionnaire paper.

I also want to remind you about the Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) Membership Program—a convenient and cost-effective option that frees you from the yearly dues cycle.

Why consider PUFL?

- No More Annual Dues: Pay once and never worry about renewals again.
- One-Time Investment: Lock in your rate and avoid future increases in dues.
- Lifetime Recognition: PUFL members receive a distinctive lifetime membership card and are recognized for their lasting support.
- Continued Support: Your PUFL status ensures uninterrupted membership and supports essential programs year-round.
- Peace of Mind: Should anything happen, PUFL membership guarantees your legacy of support to the organization continues without interruption.

Whether you're a longtime member or recently joined, PUFL is a great way to solidify your



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

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

Glenville riders captured the MN ALR TRAVELING TROPHY last week. The trophy will continue to travel until November 1st when it goes into hibernation. Let's try to keep the trophy in the First District until Spring 2026.

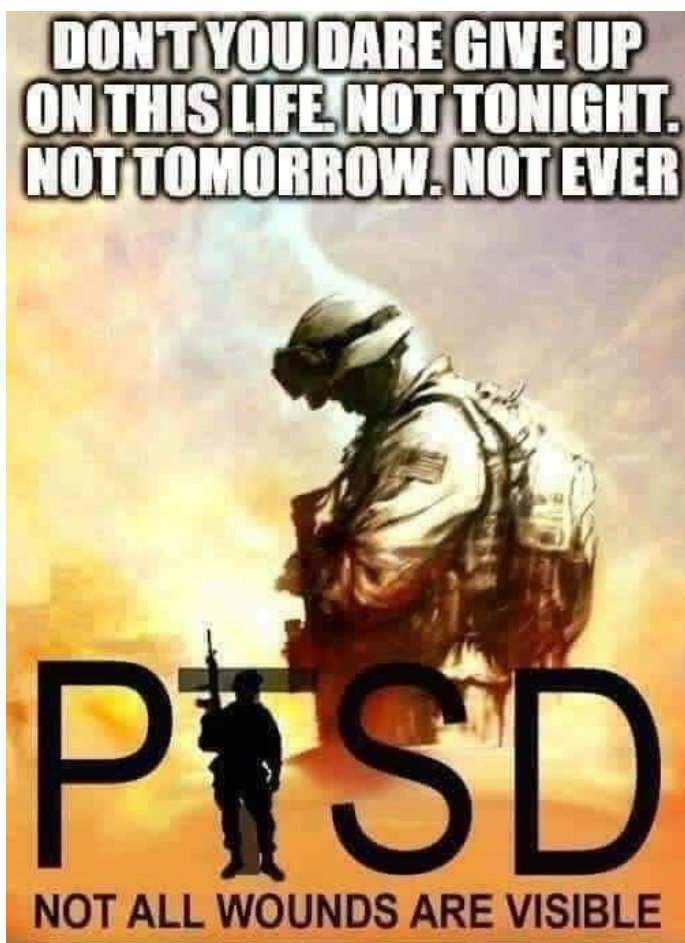
There will be a MN Dept ALR meeting during Fall Conference in St Cloud. October 24 & 25th. Look for more information on the First District ALR Facebook page. Information will also be emailed to the Chapter Director & Secretary.

Wes Halverson, 1st District ALR Director

Sunshine Miller Maloney, Secretary

1st District American Legion Riders





An app for on line mental health

<https://>

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

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

www.google.com/amp/s/

www.kttc.com/2023/01/17/veterans-crisis-now-eligible-free-care-nationwide/%3foutputType=amp

New resources are available for American Legion Family members to use in support of the **[“Be the One” initiative](#)** to reduce the rate of veteran suicide.

The web page (betheone.org) has been updated with a variety of resources. Among them:

A set of brochures available for download. One brochure is a PDF that can be used to educate agencies with mental health services, community partners, local government leaders and others about Be the One. The other brochure is a Word document that can be downloaded and customized for posts to use at suicide awareness events. The entire back page of the trifold is intentionally left blank (other than directions, which can be deleted) so that posts can fill it with local resources.

Branding materials: A variety of approved American Legion Be the One promotional materials that posts can use to promote the initiative.

Content, including the special two-part magazine series on Be the One. The series includes stories and snippets about how American Legion members and posts are actively participating in events geared toward reducing the stigma associated with mental health counseling.

Video links: Vimeo playlist includes videos that can be downloaded and played while offline. They can be shared on social media, posted to the web and played at post events.

Additionally, headquarters staff has created [a QR Code](#) for the Be the One page. This can be used to direct others to find information and resources related to the campaign.

How to scan a QR code:

1. Open the Camera app on your phone.
2. Make sure you are using the rear facing camera.
3. Hold your device so the QR code appears in the viewfinder in the Camera app.
4. Once steady, your device will recognize the QR code and show a notification.
5. Tap the notification to open the link.

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 *****

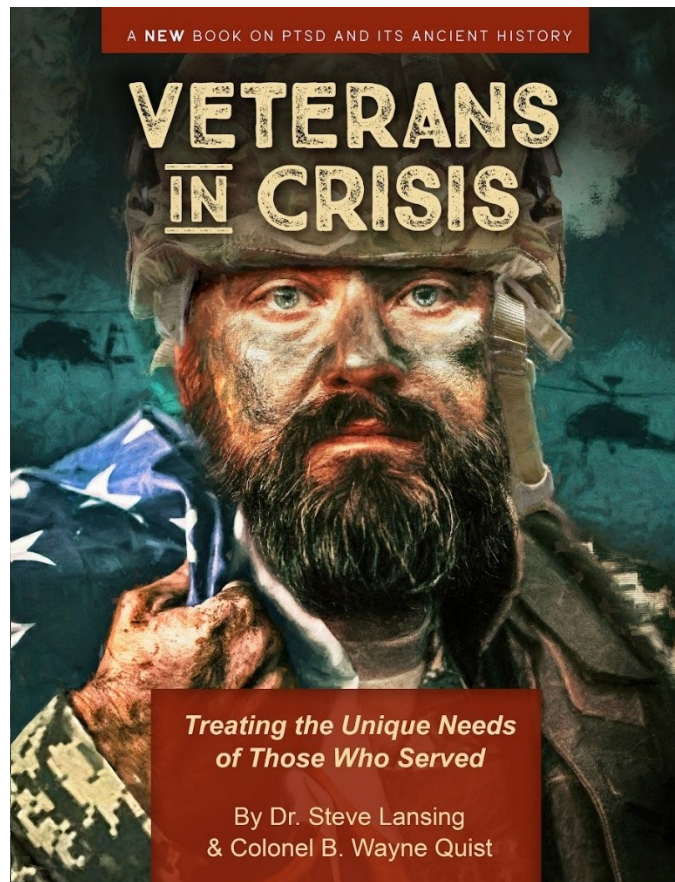
www.adamslegionpost146.com • Facebook - visit: Adams Post 146



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.

SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION

2ND ANNUAL CHICKEN "Q"

DRIVE - THRU

DINNER : ½ CHICKEN , WITH
ALL THE "FIXINS" !

WHERE ? CALEDONIA LEGION
PARKING LOT!

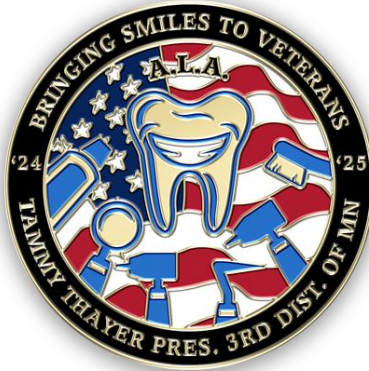
WHEN : SUNDAY , OCT. 19TH
SERVING STARTS AT **11:00**
TILL GONE !

COST \$15.00 PER MEAL

FREE DENTAL CLINIC FOR VETERANS!

October 21, 28, AND November 4TH, 2025

Bringing Smiles to Veterans



When:

Oct 21st or 28th
or November 4th, 2025

Where:

Rochester Community
and Technical College
Heintz Center
1926 College View Rd.
Rochester, MN 55904



ROCHESTER
COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

A member of Minnesota State

For All Active, Reserve, Retired Military, and for all those who served in the military, we would like to say “thank you for your service” by providing you with free dental and wellness services. Free dental care kits made by the 3rd District Auxiliary Juniors are also provided. (appointments are limited so call now to schedule.

This Interprofessional Clinic will provide several services for veterans. 3rd District of the American Legion, will be teaming with the RCTC Dental Hygiene Students and Bridges Health, PC (a nonprofit organization) to provide free dental cleanings, x-rays, fluoride treatment. Also, included will be graduate nursing students and social work students from Bridges Health, PC working together to offer veterans resources for housing, food, preventative care, etc. if needed. Call the number on the tabs below and make your appointment for one of the 3 dates. If you need assistance with transportation, please let 3rd Dist. Commander Amy Larsen know, 612-306-4438.

Dental Cleaning
(507) 280-3169

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OPERATION

DONATE

On NOV 22nd, we will celebrate the 55th Anniversary of the Armed Forces Service Center, the longest running private nonprofit for traveling military, located at the MSP Airport since 1970.

Your charitable contributions are needed to support our longstanding mission. *Any donation from \$55, \$5,500., or \$55,000. is appreciated.* Thank you in advance for your funding consideration. Please go to mnafsc.org



In 2024 the Gift Shop provided over 1690 gifts to veterans in the 12 VA facilities Minnesota Auxiliary Units support.

Some of the gifts included:

Whitman's Chocolates, Gift Cards, Canteen Credits, Sweatpants and Sweatshirts
Flannel Shirts, Watches, Travel Mugs, Purses, Gift Baskets

To ensure the Gift Shop program meets the needs of our hospitalized Veterans or the Veterans living in one of the 8 homes we **NEED YOU!** We **NEED \$42,250!** This is \$25 per gift.

Help us bring a little Holiday JOY to our Veterans.

- 1) **Make a cash donation – mail donations to the Department Office**
- 2) **Donate your time. Reach out to the VA Rep at the closes VA hospital or home to volunteer.**



St. Cloud VA Hospital 2025



Sioux Falls VA Hospital 2025

**Please Donate to the American Legion Auxiliary Gift Shop.
We really Need Each and Every one of your Assistance.**



American Red Cross Blood Drive

Hosted at the American Legion Family Fall Conference

When: October 23, 2025

Time: 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Where: State Room, Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, MN

Join your Legion community in making a difference this holiday season! Your donation can help save lives and strengthen our spirit of togetherness.

- Every donor helps meet urgent needs in our area.
 - Easy sign-up online or by phone.
- Welcome walk-ins, appointments encouraged!

How to Reserve Your Spot:

Visit redcross.org and enter “Legion Conference” or zip code “56301”.

Or call 866-236-3276 to talk Schedule your appointment or 651-470-7431 with Terry Larson to reserve by phone.

Start a new tradition, serve others and help save lives!

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



ATTENTION:

FALL CONFERENCE SILENT AUCTION

Support the Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Where: River's Edge Convention Center
10 Fourth Ave S St. Cloud, MN 56301

When: Friday, Oct. 23, 2025

Time: Receiving & setting up items from 3 pm to 7 pm. Thursday
Open for bidding, 8 am to 4 pm Friday

Bring new or slightly used items, theme baskets, quilts, patriotic items, jewelry, jams, jellies, baked goods, munchies, pies & etc. \$2
Grab Bags & more.

Also, Units, Districts and Individuals bring your monetary donations.

There will also be a District Challenge, results will be posted on
Saturday morning.

A special Thank You will be given to individuals donating \$50 or
more.

"MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS"

AEF Chairman, Joanie Krantz



**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Minnesota
Fall Conference**

**Thursday, October 23, 2025 ~7-8pm
Glen Carlson Exhibit Hall**

***Have you ever wanted
to change a standing rule?***

Carol Kottom, Constitution and Standing Rules

***Apply for an American Legion Auxiliary
Foundation Grant***

Judy Ackerman, Treasurer/Finance Chairman

Annual Reporting

Robin Dorf, Department President

***Sneak Peek at the New
Department of MN ALA Website***

Christie Avant, Department Secretary



Honor Flight

Nancy Lewison, North Star Honor Flight