

AMERICAN LEGION

RICHARD DINGLE LEGION POST 98 January – March 2025 Newsletter



Upcoming Weekly Events

Bingo every Tuesday @ 6:30pm

Meat Raffles every Friday @ 5:00pm

Upcoming Events:

Post 98 Friday Fish Fry – April 4 – April 18, 3:45pm – 7:00pm

328 Grill Anniversary – April 12, 11am – 8pm

Palm Sunday – April 13, 1pm

Special Needs Spring Hop – April 26, 12:00

Memorial Day Honor Guard – May 26, 7:00am

AL Riders Poker Run – June 7, 10:00am

As always, keep your eye on the website, Facebook for updates for more information on upcoming events!

If you need any additional information regarding the upcoming events, meetings, or Legion activities. please visit our website at

www.richardddinglepost98.com



Message From The Commander

Greetings Comrades,

As we move into warmer months, I want to take a moment to reflect on the challenges we've faced in the first half of the year and celebrate the successes we've achieved together. It's been a busy few months, and I appreciate everyone's patience and hard work.

We certainly had a tough start to the year. One of our biggest hurdles was the major cleanout required for our main drain. This was a significant undertaking, and I want to extend a huge thank you to the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) for their incredibly generous donation of \$2,000. This contribution was instrumental in helping us cover the costs of this essential repair. Your support is invaluable to the Post.

I also want to express our sincere gratitude to the Auxiliary for their remarkable donation of \$2,262. This generous gift enabled us to purchase new ceiling tiles for the bar, hallway, and bathrooms. This upgrade will make a noticeable difference in the appearance and atmosphere of our Post, and we are so thankful for their continued support.

I want to wish a very happy birthday to our 328 Grill! This April marks its 4th

anniversary! Let's all raise a glass (or two) to the 328 Grill for providing us with great food and good times over the years. Here's to many more!

Looking ahead, I'm excited to share some news about a fantastic upcoming event! Mark your calendars for our 1st Annual Legion Riders Aces and Eights June Poker Run Fundraiser! This promises to be a fun-filled day with great camaraderie, and all proceeds will benefit the Post. We'll be sharing more details about the route, registration, and other activities soon, so keep an eye out for flyers and announcements. We encourage everyone to participate and help make this first annual event a huge success!

Thank you again for your continued support and dedication to the Post. Together, we can overcome any challenges and continue to make our Post a valuable asset to our community.

Sincerely,

Craig Kittelson
Commander

Post Adjutant

Membership

We have 355 paid members, making up 89.4% of our membership. General Membership meetings begin at 6:00 pm.

Come to the Membership Meeting for a chance to have your Membership Dues paid by the Post for 1 year only. PUFL and Honorary Members, and BOGO are not eligible for this drawing. Yearly Paid members have a chance to have their membership paid for. You must be present at the General Membership Meeting to receive. The General Membership Meeting is on the 3rd Monday of each month. If your name is drawn and you are PRESENT, we will pay for your Membership for 1 year. If your name is drawn and you are NOT at the meeting, your name will then be placed back into the drawing for the next month's meeting.

All members registered only for 2024 should be renewed ASAP. Starting January 1, 2025, members not renewed for 2025 will be considered "Delinquent" and lose privileges with the National American Legion or Post 98. Renewing your membership will restore your privileges and support essential Legion programs for US veterans, their families, and communities.

Your \$50 membership dues will extend your membership through December 31, 2025. You can make the payment online at legion.org or mylegion.org, directly at Post 98, or by mailing a check (avoid sending cash for security reasons) made payable to the American Legion Post 98. Send it to: **American Legion Post 98, 328 Broadway Ave, St Paul Park, MN 55071 Attention: Adjutant**

Post Officers Elections

Every year, starting in March, we begin our nominations for next year's Post 98 Officers. Nominations are accepted in March and April of each year during Post 98's monthly membership meetings held on the third Monday of each month. The election is held during the May membership meeting. The newly elected officers are installed during the June membership meeting.

Volunteer Opportunities

Post 98's success depends on active membership, participation and volunteerism. If you would like a summary of ways to participate and volunteer, which will make an impact in the lives of veterans, their families and our community. American Legion Post 98 can share the many ways Legionnaires are making a difference in our community.

Mike Solei
Post 98 Adjutant



Taps – Covering since previous newsletter.

Kenneth Rea, Robert Hass, Allen Barnack, Dean Houdek, Forrest Taylor, Timothy Ackerman

Post 98 Honor Guard

We are actively seeking new members to join the Post 98 Honor Guard. If you are interested or require further information, please contact the Post and leave a message for John Wright, our Honor Guard Coordinator.

Legion Meeting Dates

Monday, April 21 @ 6pm

Monday, May 19 @ 6pm

Sunday, June 22 @ 1pm – Post Installation

Monday, July 21 @ 6pm

Membership Year 2025 / 2026

Legion dues are \$50.

Post Service Officer

Greetings all! As our winter season ends, we can all look forward to Spring and all that brings. Thank you to all who attended our community education event about pre-planning and veterans burial benefits. It is so nice to have that information and to meet those individuals who represent us all at the different governmental levels. As we look forward to the coming year, please contact me if you would like to volunteer for our Post's Buddy Check program. This small but mighty team will be trying to check in with all members to let them know we are here, and we care!

Drop an email to me (AL98SO@outlook.com) if you want to be part of this rewarding activity.

As always, your benefits were earned, please let me know if you need help accessing them. You DESERVE to use them.

Dani Horan
Post Service Officer

2024 Oratoracle



Post Chaplain

Greetings All,

There are many things happening in the next few months. There is not enough room to list dates. The month of April has 2 Birthdays the Airforce Reserve and the Army Reserve Happy Birthday. May has National Military Appreciation, Mother's Day, V-E Day and Memorial Weekend. June is PTSD Awareness Month, D-Day, Father's Day and the Army Birthday. Happy Birthday Army! We understand

that everybody is busy with plenty to do but please take the time to remember and honor the fallen and give gratitude for the sacrifices that were made. Call or say hello to you Mom and Dad if you can. If you see somebody struggling just say Hi, ask them about their day. If they are a Veteran and need help, give them the Veterans Help line number 988 then press 1.

This is something I found online unknown author: *We remember the many brave men and women who have given their lives through the history of our country to protect us from danger and harm.*

We remember all those who sustained injury in mind and/or body in the course of their service.

We salute all those who served in the military.

This is a nice closing; I want to thank all of you for your time and patience for the last year.

Scott Hanneman
Post 98 Chaplain



Welcome Spring!

Election of Officers for the 2025 - 2026 Fiscal Year will be held at the May

meeting. If you are interested in running for a position or would like to nominate someone, please attend the April 7th monthly meeting at 6:30 pm.

Due to a recent increase in dues at the District Level it was also necessary to increase our Units annual dues from \$35 per year to \$39 for 2026.

As our Fiscal Year, Membership Year and Dept/District Reporting Year are different I would like to explain this as we have several new members. The Fiscal Year is for tax purposes/auditing of our Unit and is from July 1st – June 31st. The Membership Year is on a calendar year from January 1st - December 31st. Early renewal starts in July, usually at the Legion Picnic. The easiest way to know if you are current with your dues is if the year on your membership card is the same calendar year we are in or is it the following year. If it's either one your membership is current. The Dept/District Reporting year is April 1st - March 30th. This is the timeframe used for logging volunteer hours and filing the annual reports for awards at the District and Department levels.

The Auxiliary donated over \$2,200 to pay for the new ceiling tiles in the bar area. This included the hallways leading to the back door and both the men's and women's bathrooms. Stop in and check it out! It made a big difference in the overall appearance of the area.

If you are on Facebook please follow our business page: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 98 St Paul Park, MN. This is where information regarding upcoming

events for the Auxiliary as well as the Legion families is shared along with posts from Department and the Third District.

Regards,

Georgia Cluckey
President

Auxiliary Meeting Dates

Monday, April 7 @ 6:30pm
Monday, May 5 @ 6:30pm
Sunday, June 22 @ 1pm – Post
Installation
Monday, July 7 @ 6:30pm

Membership Year 2025
Auxiliary dues are \$35
Membership Year 2026
Auxiliary dues are \$39
Jr. Auxiliary dues are \$10

Jr. Auxiliary

Upcoming events for Juniors.

The schools were very grateful for all the supplies that were delivered. Good work girls.

April: Reminder Department Junior Conference on Anoka on April 11 and 12th. Permission slips are due to me

ASAP. Meet at my house 5:00 pm., because we are so close we will drive back and forth both days this year.

May is elections. Be sure to attend this meeting.

June is the awards ceremony and installation of officers.

Going forward. I want to express how proud I am of all of you. Please keep up your good works and support your new co-chairman Theresa K and Ashton W. They have both been a great asset to both the group and me. I will be the incoming District Junior Chairman.

Lynn Duffy
Junior Chairman

Jr. Auxiliary Meeting Dates

Sunday, April 6 @ 6pm
Sunday, May 4 @ 6pm
Sunday, June 1 @ 6pm
Sunday, July 6 @ 6pm

SONS OF THE
 **AMERICAN**
LEGION

S.A.L. Commander

First, I would like to take this time to thank all our members for your ongoing support of SAL Squad 98. In the last few

months, the SAL's have stepped up to help the Post with maintenance, member support and our local veterans home. Without your support none of this could happen.

The bus tour was a success and everyone is looking for the next one.

This month we hosted for the first time the 3rd District Family Rally right here at our post. Other Posts that came said that it was the best one they have ever been to. I would also like to shout out to Mik German with 328 Grill for doing the lunch, Thank you Mik.

In the next few months, we have lots going on so please make it to the meetings for we need to have a great push this year.

Gregg Wilwert
S.A.L Commander

S.A.L. Meeting Dates

Monday, April 28 @ 6pm
Monday, May 19 @ 6pm
Sunday, June 22 @ 1pm – Post
Installation
Monday, July 28 @ 6pm

Membership Year 2025
S.A.L. dues are \$25

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Legion Riders

Legion Riders

The Riders are holding steady with 20 members and continuing to grow! We welcome 2 new Officers: Jean Flaherty as Treasurer and David Riegle as our new Road Captain.

We are currently in the planning phase for the 1st Annual Aces and Eights Poker Run and things are coming together nicely.

Our Future Rider “Squeek” made history this past February by participating in Cheerleading Nationals in Orlando Florida as part of the First Elementary School Team to represent Minnesota.

As always, we meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 5:00pm (1700hrs) and invite anyone interested in becoming a Rider to attend.

Ironman
Riders Director

Riders Meeting Dates

Sunday, April 13 @ 5pm
Sunday, May 11 @ 5pm
Sunday, June 8 @ 5pm
Sunday, July 13 @ 5pm

*Membership Year 2025
Riders dues are \$10*

Gambling Manager

As a reminder Bingo is on Tuesday at 6:30 and meat raffle on Fridays at 5:00. Pull tabs and e-tabs are available during normal business hours.

As always thank you for your patronage and big thanks to the Gambling employees!! Without you we can't make this happen!

We are still looking for a Post Member that would like to take over the position of Gambling Manager. If you are interested or have questions, please reach out to me or the Commander.

Accepting practice jersey from the Park HS Boys Hockey team for Post 98 continued sponsorship.



Thank you all,
Mike Solei
Gambling Manager

General Manager

Spring is in the air! Once again, we had a mild winter, let's hope that Spring follows suit.

As I sit here trying to think of what to write my thoughts go towards Spring and what we can do to better ourselves and the Legion during this time. How can YOU make the Legion a better place? How can YOU be a better person?

It is so easy to start a project, it is the follow-through that is the hard part. How many projects do you have at home that you have started and haven't finished. How many projects have been started at the Legion but due to the lack of volunteers or the same volunteers they do not get finished. I know that I had many plans that I wanted to accomplish not just at the Legion but at home, and sadly most of them didn't get finished.... why because of jobs, spouses, kids, grandkids and life. It is ok, I suppose, that some didn't get complete, it just means that we need to pick and choose what projects are most important to you, what projects are attainable. You don't want to set yourself up for failure by biting off more than you can chew, but you also don't want to become lazy and say well it is too hard someone else can do it.

We all go through different struggles at different times, and it isn't a contest to see who's are the worse, because everyone struggles in different ways. We can ask for help and should ask for help; I am learning how to and is getting easier because of the staff I have!!!

This Spring make a list of what you can do for the Legion to make it a better place, and another list of what I can do for me to make me a better person! Instead of sitting in the same chair moving over one and letting a new person sit by you, you never know what struggle they could be going through and a friendly hi could make the world of difference to them. At home clean out a drawer, clean out your closet and donate the usable items. If we all treat each other with kindness, then kindness will be shown back to you! If we work together and not against each other the Legion and your own life will be a better place.

This past Winter we had some great times, made new friends, old friendships became stronger, and some friends are no longer here. Don't live in the Winter, live for today! Spring has sprung and let's enjoy life!!!

Have a wonderful Spring and please remember to laugh and smile, life is short!!! Hugs!!

Colleen
Your sometimes rambling General
Manager

Renovation Update

Thank you for the generous donations from our Auxiliary and SAL family members, we can replace all of the ceiling tiles located in the bar, restrooms and hallway.

As always, feel free to email either the Post or Adjutant at the following email addresses:

Post 98 Email Address

post98spp@gmail.com

Post 98 Adjutant Email Address

aladjutant98@outlook.com

Bar Hours

Sunday - Monday 11 am til 10 pm
Tuesday - Thursday 11 am til 11 pm
Friday - Saturday 11 am til 1 am

Gambling Booth Hours

Sunday - Monday 11 am til 9 pm
Tuesday - Thursday 11 am til 10 pm
Friday - Saturday 11 am til 12 am

328 Grill Hours

Monday - Saturday - 11am to 8pm
Sunday - 11am - 6pm

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Bingo 6:30pm	2	3 40/8 Meeting 5:00pm	4 Fish Fry 3:45 – 7:00pm Meat Raffle 5:00pm	5
6 Jr. Auxiliary Meeting 6:00pm	7 Auxiliary Meeting 6:30pm	8 Bingo 6:30pm	9	10	11 Fish Fry 3:45 – 7:00pm Meat Raffle 5:00pm	12 Combat Vets Meeting 10:00am 328 Grill Anniversary Party 11:00am
13 Palm Sunday Dinner 1:00pm Legion Riders 5:00pm	14 Executive Meeting 6:00pm	15 Bingo 6:30pm	16	17	18 Fish Fry 3:45 – 7:00pm Meat Raffle 5:00pm	19
20 Happy Easter Bar and 328 Grill Closed	21 Legion Meeting 6:00pm	22 Red Cross Blood Drive 10:00am Bingo 6:30pm	23	24	25 Meat Raffle 5:00pm	26 Special Needs Spring Hop
27	28 S.A.L. Meeting 6:00pm	29 Bingo 6:30pm	30			

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 40/8 Meeting 5:00pm	2 Meat Raffle 5:00pm	3
4 Jr. Auxiliary Meeting 6:00pm	5 Auxiliary Meeting 6:30pm	6 Bingo 6:30pm	7	8	9 Meat Raffle 5:00pm	10 Combat Vets Meeting 10:00am
11 Legion Riders 5:00pm	12 Executive Meeting 6:00pm	13 Bingo 6:30pm	14	15	16 Meat Raffle 5:00pm	17
18	19 Legion Meeting 6:00pm S.A.L. Meeting 6:00pm	20	21	22	23 Meat Raffle 5:00pm	24 Memorial Day Flag Posting in Cemeteries 9:00am
25	26 Memorial Day Memorial Day Honor Guard 7:00am	27	28	29	30 Meat Raffle 5:00pm	31

June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Jr. Auxiliary Meeting 6:00pm	2	3	4	5 40/8 Meeting 5:00pm	6 Meat Raffle 5:00pm	7 ALR Poker Run 10:00am
8 Legion Riders 5:00pm	9 Executive Meeting 6:00pm	10	11	12	13 Meat Raffle 5:00pm	14 Combat Vets Meeting 10:00am
15	16	17 Red Cross Blood Drive 10:00am	18	19	20 Meat Raffle 5:00pm	21
22 Installation 1:00pm	23	24	25	26	27 Meat Raffle 5:00pm	28
29	30					