



July – September 2024 Newsletter

American Legion
Richard Dingle Post 98
328 Broadway Avenue
Saint Paul Park, MN 55071
651-459-8016

Upcoming Weekly Events

Bingo has been suspended until
September 10.

Meat Raffles every Friday @ 5:30

Upcoming Events:

Post 98 Annual Picnic – July 28,
11:00am until 3:00pm

**Friday Night Concert with Johan and
The Whales** – August 16, doors open at
6:00pm and starts at 7:30pm

**Ceremony for the Disposal of
Unserviceable Flags** - August 18, 9am

Heritage Days Post 98 Wrestling –
August 18, 1pm

Post 98 Annual Booya – September 7,
11:00am until gone

**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.richarddinglepost98.com

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

Outgoing Commander's Call

It has been my pleasure, to be your commander of our post the American Legion Post 98 for the past 2 years. It has been a very busy but productive past 2 years. I have learned a lot about our Post but also with our members. Made very good friends these past 2 years. As our post we had made many great strides and accomplishments. We brought our first member on an honor flight last year what an honor, we also had our one high school candidates win Boys State and go on to nationals for the first time. We have had great success the past 2 years that is why I am excited for the new Commander and Executive Board to see the continuation of the growth of our post. I would like to say thank you to everyone that helped me, the post, and its members. It's not goodbye, but until we meet again.

Your new past commander,

Gerald Wright
Commander

Incoming Commander's Call

Dear Legion Post 98 Members,

I am deeply honored to step into the role of Commander at Legion Post 98, a post I have proudly been a part of for the past 30 years. As I transition into this new role, I bring with me not just my

experience, but also a profound commitment to our Legion Family.

Over the past ten years, I have seen our post grow and evolve, always striving to serve our members and community better. Now, as your commander, I am eager to lead us into the next chapter of our journey. I am confident that together, we can continue to make a significant impact in our community and honor the legacy of service that defines us.

This year, I plan to focus on ****strengthening our ties with the whole Legion Post 98 family, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, the Junior Auxiliary, ****. I believe that by working together, we can ensure that Legion Post 98 remains a pillar of support and service in our community and to all our membership families.

I look forward to hearing your ideas and suggestions. Together, we can ensure that Legion Post 98 continues to be a beacon of service and camaraderie.

Best regards,

Craig A. Kittelson
Commander

The 6 basic principles of communication are courteousness, clarity, coherence, conciseness, correctness, and completeness. Use these and we will all get along.

Adjutant's Notes

We are currently sitting at 96.3% with a paid membership of 385. Just a reminder that next year's dues will be \$50.00, the new membership year starts July 1st.

As the Commander stated, we would like to see more members attending our General Membership meetings, I will be sending out email reminders to upcoming meetings.

I would like to take a moment to recognize Matt Grimes (SAL member) for his continued attention to Zappa's Garden. This is the second year that he has taken care and feeding of garden outside the back door of the Legion after Bob Zappa's passing. I know a lot of people enjoy the garden! Thank you!

Hope everyone had a wonderful spring, hope to see you all at the Post Picnic in July!

Mike Solei
Post 98 Adjutant

If you have a change in contact information, please reach out to the Post Adjutant, Auxiliary Treasurer or S.A.L. Adjutant and he/she will get your information updated. This is important as we are trying to keep our postal costs to a minimum. Last newsletter mailing we had \$20 in returned newsletters.

Taps – Covering since previous newsletter.

Cletus Tembreull, Donald Davis

Post 98 Officers 2024-2025

Commander: Craig Kittelson
1st Vice Commander: Gabe Timp
2nd Vice Commander: Open
3rd Vice Commander: Daniel Berberich
Finance Officer: Open
Chaplain: Scott Hanneman
Sergeant-at-Arms: Rick Kullman
Sergeant-at-Arms: Randall Schill
Historian: Diana Berberich

Legion Meeting Dates

Monday, July 15, 2024 @ 7pm
Monday, August 19, 2024 @ 7pm
Monday, September 16, 2024 @ 7pm
Monday, October 21, 2024 @ 7pm

Membership Year 2025

Legion dues are increasing to \$50.

Service Officer

Blink and here we are, half-way through the year. Thank you to all who were there in support of all the Memorial Day activities. It was a great day and without your help, we wouldn't be able to honor our fallen comrades.

In the coming months, look for dates to be announced for learning sessions

regarding End-of-Life planning presented by KOK funeral home as well as Veterans Benefits presented by our County Veteran Service Officer.

Looking for a volunteer opportunity, have some time on your hands? DAV is looking for volunteer drivers to help veterans get to and from their VA medical appointments... please contact the main office at 651-291-1212 or sign up online at <https://davmn.org/drive-for-the-dav/>

I hope you are able to spend time with your family and enjoy your summer. Look forward to seeing you all at a monthly membership meeting or the having dinner or drinks at the Post or maybe at the Legion Picnic on July 28th!

Thank you,

Danielle Horan
Post Service Officer

Chaplain

Most of us have heard that owning and caring for a pet can be beneficial. As we grow older and lose some mobility or perhaps a partner...we understandably feel lonely. Maybe you have wondered if owning a cat or dog could help fill a gap in your life. This is what the experts have to say.

1. **Stress Relief.** Petting a dog or cat reduces stress hormones, lowering blood pressure and promotes relaxation. Their presence provides emotional comfort and joy.
2. **Routine and Responsibility.** Pets establish routines, encouraging

physical activity and mental well-being. Caring for them teaches responsibility and selflessness.

3. **Social Connections.** Walking your dog or simply having a pet at home sparks conversations with others. They combat loneliness and enhance social interactions.
4. **Unconditional Love.** Pets offer unwavering affections, filling our lives with warmth and companionship. I think we all could use some of that.

I hope you found this information helpful.... I, myself, am thinking of adopting an older female cat.

Jim Kaempfer
Past Post 98 Chaplain

Auxiliary News

The Auxiliary sincerely thanks Sharon Langness and Lynn Cozad for their years of service as 1st Vice President and Historian, respectively.

During May Terri Wright and Becca Latter along with other Volunteers did an excellent job promoting Poppy Donations all month. The final numbers will be announced at the July meeting on the first.

Sadly, the Auxiliary has recently lost two long time members Arline Witzel and Jaque Zenner. While not a current member Sondra Anderson a past Auxiliary President also recently passed

away. Our sincerest condolences to the families.

We will be looking for Volunteers for Heritage Days fund raising activities in August at the Post and possibly Heritage Park. Details on that event will be discussed in the July and August meeting so please attend if you can.

Just a reminder that the end of July is the Legion Picnic so please attend if you can. It's a fun family event and a great opportunity to catch up with old friends you may not have seen in a while. Keep an eye on the sign-up board for more information regarding the date and time.

Have a wonderful summer!

Georgia Cluckey
Auxiliary President

ALA Unit #98 Officer's 2024-2025

President: Georgia Cluckey
1st Vice: Stephanie Kittelson
2nd Vice: Theresa Kullman
Secretary: Sally Strasser
Treasurer: Terri Wright
Sgt At Arms: Penny Duff
Historian: Tonya Forge
Chaplain: Marilyn Witzel

Auxiliary Executive Board: Past President Lynn Duffy, Sue Schill and Lynn Dingle.

Auxiliary Meeting Dates

Monday, July 1, 2024 @ 6:30pm
Monday, August 5, 2024 @ 6:30pm
Monday, September 9, 2024 @
6:30pm
Monday, October 7, 2024 @ 6:30pm

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

Jr. Auxiliary News

Congratulations to all the Juniors. Great job on winning essay contests, earning patches, and giving back to our veterans and community. Once again, we also had a Good Deed Award recipient. Come visit the Post and see some photos of the event on the Bulletin Board.

Once again, I am pleased to announce Evelyn Koran has been asked to be the Honorary District Junior President. She is also the Honorary Unit Junior President. Watch for more information on that front.

Our juniors have decided on this year's project: support two local schools by gathering school supplies. They hope to raise enough funds and/or collect enough school supplies to fill backpacks with required school supplies.

Hope you all continue to support our juniors.

Lynn Duffy
Junior Chairman

Jr. Auxiliary Meeting Dates

Sunday, August 4, 2024 @ 6pm
Sunday, September 8, 2024 @ 6pm
Sunday, October 6, 2024 @ 6pm

S.A.L. News

It is that time again,

It has been a busy few months for the SAL's. We finished the winter band series with a bang, helped the Post with kicking off the anniversary of 328 grill and starting out the spring with honoring our veterans with our Memorial Day services. The month of May was the end of my first year as your SAL Commander and I would like to thank each and every one of you for all you have done for this squad the past year. We have had some ups and downs but somehow by coming together we keep our squad going in the right direction. I truly could not do any of this without all of you. I could not be prouder of this squad and what it has become. Looking back at the past year we have been able to help our veterans at the Hastings Vet's home, gather items for Toys for Tots, gather toiletry items for Friends and Need food shelf, and raise funds for Adam who was the fallen fire fighter in Burnsville with the best Legion bus tour I have ever been on. None of this could have happened without all your support and belief in the squad.

I am glad to say that I have been re-elected as your SAL Commander again this year and I look forward to growing even bigger. We have elected some new officers this year. We also gained some new members and with that brought new ideas. I am super excited to see where we go this year.

The SAL's so far this year are working on plans for Heritage Days in Aug. and planning other new upcoming events.

Please join us at our monthly meetings. We currently have around 20 members on average showing up, but I know we could do more with everyone getting on board.

Thanks again and see you all soon!

Gregg Wilwert
S.A.L Commander

Squadron 98 Officers 2023-2024

Commander: Gregg Wilwert
1st Vice Commander: William Hoyt
2nd Vice Commander: Jon Ravity
Finance: John R Wright Jr.
Chaplain: Tom Koch
Sergeant-at-Arms: Joe Kramer
Jr Sergeant-at-Arms: John M Wright Jr
Adjutant: James Swing
Historian: Jesse Knoll
Membership: Jon Ravity

S.A.L. Meeting Dates

Monday, July 22, 2024 @ 6pm
Monday, August 26, 2024 @ 6pm
Monday, September 23, 2024 @ 6pm
Monday, October 28, 2024 @ 6pm

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

Legion Riders

Post 98 is reviving its Legion Riders chapter; this chapter was founded in 2005. Membership is open to all active Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons; more information to follow.

Riders Meeting Dates

Sunday, August 11, 2024 @ 5pm
Sunday, September 8, 2024 @ 5pm
Sunday, October 13, 2024 @ 5pm

Gambling Manager

We're having another good year for charitable gambling, once again thank you to all my employees, it could not have

Here are some of the details of where the dollars go:

Total Lawful Purpose Expenses including below - \$133,661.57

Donations to 501(c)(3) - \$15,100.00

Poverty, Homeless - \$2,935.60

Military Recognition - \$10,280.38

Youth - \$13,401.66

Taxes - \$24,332.43

State Taxes and Fees - \$176,301.00

Thank you all,

Mike Solei
Gambling Manager

Bar Manager

Hello, it looks like we made it through Spring, with the lack of snow we have gotten much needed rain, but now it is time for Summer!!! The Patio is open, please check in with the bartender or a waitress so we know that you are out there!!!

I would like to talk about Heritage Days for a second. As we think about Heritage Days this year there are some changes. Some of you are going to grumble and say well that isn't the way it used to be, why the changes. I am sharing with you the information that I have when writing this. Heritage Days is going to be held the weekend of August 16 - 18th! Here is the biggest change: the events that are usually held on Saturday on Broadway are now going to be up at Heritage Park. The parade will start by Supermom's and go towards Heritage Park, same route as usual just reversed. There will be mud volleyball as usual, tractor pull as usual. For years people have been saying they

would like a more family friendly atmosphere, this year they are going to give it a try. Let's not be negative. Negativity doesn't get anyone anywhere! I know that we are not Cottage Grove, but if you think back Strawberry Fest started in a parking lot behind Demori's and look at it now it is a huge community event, so please give it a try this year, the committee NOT THE CITY is working hard on making this a fun event for you and your families.

Friday night the 16th of August we will be having Jonah and the Whales in the parking lot and Sunday the 18th we will have wrestling in the parking lot.

As Spring meant new beginnings, Summer to me means to continue growing from the new beginnings of Spring, sometimes this is harder than you think, because the older we get the more set we are in our ways and the old way according to some is the better way. Not always!!!!

As the Legion starts its new calendar year (July to July), I will be working with a new executive board. I have total faith that the new Commander and his board members have the Legion's best interest at heart and look forward to moving forward.

With a new commander coming in, this means we say goodbye to the past Commander, not goodbye, but THANK YOU for all you did! Commander Gerald Wright it was my honor and privilege to work beside you as your bar manager. There were many laughs, many discussions that were not always pleasant,

arguments, and even some tears were shed, but you my friend did an amazing job. My wish for you as Past Commander is to look back at your time here and think about all the GOOD you did for Post 98, it was and is a thankless job, take some time and spend it with your family you deserve it. THANK YOU, my upside-down staircase friend!!!!

To the up-and-coming Commander Craig Kittelson, I will work beside you to continue the road the Legion has been on to become ONE FAMILY!!!

As I sit and think man, I talk a lot or ramble as some say, I smile because if you get to this part and read the whole thing either you are bored or are interested in what I have to say! I hope that everyone has an amazing summer. If traveling, please travel safely. I enjoy seeing your smiling faces at the Legion and remember in a world where you can be anything, ALWAYS BE KIND!!!

Your slightly stressed at times Bar Manager

Colleen

Operational Items

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

Hall Rental Rates

Members \$200.00
Auxiliary, S.A.L. Members \$250.00
Celebration of Life - Donation

July 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|----------------------------------|---------|-----------|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | 1 Auxiliary Meeting 6:30pm | 2 | 3 | 4 328 Grill Closing 4:00pm Bar Closing 6:00pm | 5 Meat Raffle 5:30pm | 6 |
| 7 | 8 Executive Meeting 5:45pm | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 Meat Raffle 5:30pm | 13 Combat Vets Meeting 10:00am |
| 14 | 15 Legion Meeting 7:00pm | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 Meat Raffle 5:30pm | 20 |
| 21 | 22 S.A.L. Meeting 6:00pm | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Meat Raffle 5:30pm | 27 |
| 28 Post 98 Annual Picnic 328 Grill Closed | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

August 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| | | | | 1 40/8 Meeting 5:00pm | 2 Meat Raffle 5:30pm | 3 |
| 4 Jr. Auxiliary Meeting 6:00pm | 5 Auxiliary Meeting 6:30pm | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 Meat Raffle 5:30pm | 10 Combat Vets Meeting 10:00am |
| 11 Legion Riders 5:00pm | 12 Executive Meeting 6:00pm | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 Meat Raffle 5:30pm Heritage Days Friday Night Concert with Johan and The Whales 7:30pm | 17 Heritage Days |
| 18 Heritage Days Ceremony for the Disposal of Unserviceable Flags 9:00am Wrestling At Post 98 1:00pm | 19 Legion Meeting 7:00pm | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Meat Raffle 5:30pm | 24 |
| 25 | 26 S.A.L. Meeting 6:00pm | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Meat Raffle 5:30pm | 31 |

September 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 40/8 Meeting 5:00pm | 6 Meat Raffle 5:30pm | 7 Post 98 Booya 11:00am |
| 8 Legion Riders 5:00pm Jr. Auxiliary Meeting 6:00pm | 9 Executive Meeting 6:00pm Auxiliary Meeting 6:30pm | 10 Bingo 6:30pm | 11 | 12 | 13 Meat Raffle 5:30pm | 14 Combat Vets Meeting 10:00am |
| 15 | 16 Legion Meeting 7:00pm | 17 Bingo 6:30pm | 18 | 19 | 20 Meat Raffle 5:30pm | 21 |
| 22 | 23 S.A.L. Meeting 6:00pm | 24 Bingo 6:30pm | 25 | 26 | 27 Meat Raffle 5:30pm | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |