



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
APPLE VALLEY UNIT 1776
DEC 2025/JAN 2026 NEWSLETTER
14521 GRANADA DRIVE
APPLE VALLEY, MN 55124
952-431-1776
www.Post1776.com**



President

Mary Lyman
612-308-3311

mcelyman@comcast.net

1st Vice President

Gina Dierfeldt
612-598-3329

ginadierfeldt@gmail.com

2nd Vice President

Cheryl Hammer
952-210-2548

Cher2550@aol.com

Treasurer

Joan Guse
952-406-0737

jguse@frontiernet.net

Secretary

Megan Colbert
612-961-1223

mcolbert@comcast.net

Executive Committee

Megan Colbert
612-961-1223

mcolbert@comcast.net

and

Nancy Harlow
952-446-5722

Nharlow5410@yahoo.com

Membership

Jan Lauby
952-891-1399

laubyjl@gmail.com

Chaplain

Janet Thompson
612-360-1926

jthom55542@aol.com

Veteran Affairs

Education/Americanism

Janet Thompson
612-360-1926

jthom55542@aol.com

Sergeant at Arms

Bernice Spindler
952-423-1600

Public Relations

Megan Colbert
612-961-1223

mcolbert@comcast.net

Community Service

OPEN

Newsletter

Torrey Lenertz
651-276-0275

tlenertz@comcast.net

...from the Auxiliary President, Mary Lyman

Merry Christmas and a very blessed New Year!

These past couple of months have been very busy for the Auxiliary.

We have several new members, and we are very excited about having them join our wonderful group!

In October we hosted a Halloween Costume Drive for the Children's Hospital in Minneapolis, we are proud to say that we collected (43) costumes. We were told that was the most costumes ever collected from one establishment, way to go everyone!

On Veterans Day we presented and "wrapped" three of our own Veterans with a Quilt of Valor. Tom Goodwin, Mark Inserri and Dale Olson. It is such an honor and privilege to be able to give these Veterans a recognition so greatly deserved. The Post also honored all the Veterans who joined us for the day with a beautiful ceremony with an honored guest speaker, Les Schrenk, a 101-year-old, World War 2 Veteran. He spoke about his time in the military and finally being able to meet and have a relationship with the man who shot down his plane, who had a chance to take Les's life but did not. He searched for him to thank him.



Patriots Restaurant served a wonderful meal to over 200 Veterans and their guests totaling over 300 people! I must thank all of you who were kind enough to donate a pie, they love the pie!

We have made donations to wonderful causes this year, three of which are Folds of Honor and Apple Valley's Shop with a Cop and (2) Food Shelves.

Please be kind to each other, support each other and show gratitude for the men and women who serve or served our Country.

Next meeting is January 20th, 2026, at 7:00pm. Love to have you join us in the new year! *Mary*

2nd Vice President...Cheryl Hammer

I hope you all enjoyed your Turkey Day and now we are on to the Christmas celebrations! We have our next Craft and Bake sale on Saturday, December 6th 9:00am – 3:00pm. The craft sale is sold out so hoping we have big crowds. We need your help to make the bake sale a big success as it has always been our most successful sale! **Bakers, we need you to help us out.** We would appreciate it if you brought the bake goods sometime before noon on Friday, as there is an event later in the day, until 8:30 pm. Remember to put your bars or cookies on plates of sixes and label them, and we will price them. Obviously, anything else you make, like breads or pies or cakes, candies, etc., you don't need to do that. We appreciate your help to make this a success!

Also, the Post Christmas party is Dec 11th so need to get your reservations in soon. There are signup sheets in the pull tab booth. The only thing we have in January are the Horse and Meat raffles on January 24th. If you'd like to help us with that, let me know. It's a lot of fun and people really enjoy coming to that event. If I don't see you before the end of the year, Happy Holidays and wishing you a wonderful New Year! Cheryl Hammer, cher2550@aol.com or 952-210-2548

Quilts of Valor Foundation...Megan Colbert



Our Auxiliary Unit 1776 has recently become involved with the Quilts of Valor Foundation. It's such an honor to wrap these very special



veterans in their Quilts of Valor. Every presentation truly touches our hearts. We hope our veterans know just how loved and appreciated they are. Email Megan Colbert at kmkct@outlook.com for more information and an application.

Award

Our Auxiliary received a National Award at the Fall Conference in October. Maryalyce was in attendance to accept the award. The award is the American Legion Auxiliary Child Well Being Foundation Award. We won the Bronze Level, the Children First Gift Club - called Caretaker Award. The award is presented to posts, Units, squadrons, chapters and salons for their cumulative donations made during the contribution year. The award was established by the American Legion in 1954. We donated a total of 2,250.00 for the year to our community and children's programs.



Membership...Jan Lauby

What a great response to National's first renewal notice! Our goal this year is 263 – we currently have 157 paid members and that is 59.70%. For those who have not paid yet, your 2025 card expires on 12-31-25, so you will want to get your dues in before the end of the year. Many ways to do that – send your renewal notice in, drop off at the pull tab booth (marked for membership), call National at 317-569-4570 to pay over the phone or login to your account at ALAforVeterans.org to pay online. Hope all of you had a great Thanksgiving! *Jan Lauby*, laubyjl@gmail.com or 952-891-1399.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R)...Janet Thompson

MVAHC/HASTING' HOME: The VA Hospital has a Food Pantry, the third Tuesday every month. Any veteran can get a box of food. Donations of food may be given to the VA. One note: the food cannot be expired. This last month one group gave several hundreds of foods, BUT one hundred pounds was expired so was thrown.

We have two veterans adopted for Christmas gifts. Bob Vandenbos gave us \$50.00 limit. *Janet Thompson*, 612-360-1926 or jthom55542@aol.com

Chaplain...Janet Thompson

I have sent a few cards to people that fell, are ill, or lost a family member this passed month. If you know of anyone who needs to be remembered, please let me know. *Janet Thompson*, jthom55542@aol.com or 612-360-1926.

Newsletter...Torrey Lenertz Auxiliary newsletters are distributed every two months during the following periods: *Aug/Sept, Oct/Nov, Dec/Jan, Feb/March, April/May, and June/July.* You may also find them on the American Legion website. If you have questions, comments or want to include news/info in the newsletter please contact me via email tlenertz@comcast.net or cell phone at 651-276-0275

AUXILIARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

3rd Tuesday of each month, 7pm (no meeting in July or Dec)

At the Post in the back room

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND...SEE YOU THERE!

DEC		JAN	
6 th	Craft Fair & Bake Sale-need your baked goods	20 th	Auxiliary General Membership Mtg @ 7 pm
11 th	Post Christmas Party – need to RSVP	24 th	Horseracing

Check out Facebook and the Club's website at <https://post1776.com/> for events and information about what is happening at the Club.



Apple Valley American Legion
Auxiliary Unit 1776
14521 Granada Drive
Apple Valley, MN 55124