The American Legion
Third District
Nathan Olson
District Adjutant

Follow Up, Lift Up

We Are on the web!
www.mnthunderingthird.org

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 American Legion National Convention	2 American Legion National Convention	2 American Legion National Convention	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Camporee and MN Military & Veterans Museum	11 Camporee and MN Military & Veterans Museum	12 Camporee and MN Military & Veterans Museum
13 Camporee and MN Military & Veterans Museum	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Hero's Hub	28	29	30	31		

Volume 12 Issue 2

The Commander's Corner

September is here, and I have just returned from the National Convention in Louisville, KY. It was a fantastic experience full of learning and camaraderie. During the convention, we voted for our new National Commander, John W. "Jay" Bowen. His motto for the year is "BPOTS: Be Part of the Solution," which ties directly into the Legion's Be the One initiative.

The 3rd District is off to a great start! We are officially off the goose egg. Our initial goal was to reach 50% membership by September 10th, and we blew past it—currently sitting strong at 60.2%. That puts us just behind the 6th District and slightly ahead of the 1st District.

A big thank you goes out to our dedicated membership team:

Joe Bares, Membership Director

Vice Commanders: Tim Swan, Neil Hoadley, Marissa Lacourt, Wayne Beierman, and Dale Jensen

Working together, we can make this an incredible year!

P.S. From a School Bus Driver: With school back in session, please remember to STOP for the big yellow bus when the red lights are flashing. The bus drivers and the kids we haul thank you for keeping everyone safe!

James Entinger 3rd District Commander

Membership Update

Hello Thundering Third!

I have the latest membership numbers ready for Nate to use in the September newsletter and for our District officers to use throughout the week.

I know many of us were busy this past week at National, but now it's time to get back to work and keep the momentum going!

 Important Membership Dates

September 10, 2026 – 50% Cutoff

Our next membership cutoff is September 10th, and we are working toward the 50% mark.

October 3–9, 2026 – Next Renewal Mailing

 Please Share!

If you know of a District or Post officer who is not receiving these updates, please forward this email to them.

I don't want anyone missing important membership information because an email ended up in their SPAM or junk folder.

I am not trying to withhold information from anyone. Quite the opposite!

If there is membership information, Legion information, a question, or something you are looking for, please ask.

The District, Department, and National websites, as well as our past and present Legion officers, are tremendous resources. Someone may have the answer—or at least know where to find it.



Remember:

“No question asked means knowledge you are missing!”

Let's keep communicating, keep sharing information, and most importantly, keep working together to grow the Thundering Third!

Thank you for everything you do for our Posts, our District, and The American Legion.

For God and Country,

Joe Bares
The American Legion
Department of Minnesota
Sergeant-at-Arms
District Three Membership Director

Sons of The American Legion (SAL)

Welcome to September, the beginning of the Fall season. Tis the season of changing leaves, nicer weather and fall gatherings.

By now, we should all be back from the National Convention. For those of you that went to the Convention, I hope you had a great time, met new people, and learned something new. Considering that Kentucky is the Bourbon Capitol of the world, hopefully all of you attendees enjoyed some good spirits while you were down there and didn't spend that much money on bottles to bring back.

September 11th marks the 25th anniversary of the New York terrorist attacks. On the morning of the 11th, I am asking that each of you take a minute to remember those that we lost on that tragic day. I also ask that you take another minute to remember those that we have lost in the war that followed.

Sept 10th is the National target date for membership to be at 25%. Right now, as of the Aug 23rd Detachment Membership report, the 3rd District is sitting at 6.68% as a whole; that is with 16 out of 37 squadrons having membership turned in. As of that reporting date, we have 5 squadrons that will hit the 25% target. Gentlemen, let's work on getting our membership renewed. Let's see if we can put the 3rd District into 1st place above all the rest of the Districts

in the state. Keep in mind, members should all be renewed by Dec 31st. This way it keeps those members in good standing.

Let's move to events going on in the Detachment this month. For those that are going to the National convention, we will have a free weekend when we get back, and then Camporee will be happening at Legionville in Brainerd. That goes from Thurs Sept 10th to Sunday Sept 13th. This is a fun weekend of camping out and enjoying fun times and games with other members of the American Legion Family from around the state. Bring the family up for the weekend.

Towards the end of the month, The Detachment of Minnesota Sons of the American Legion annually puts on the John Zgoda Memorial SAL Disabled Veterans Deer Hunt and the Disabled Veteran Turkey hunt. All the hunters and alternates for this year have been chosen. That being said, they are still looking for volunteers that would like to help out with the hunts. If you have time during the week of Sept 28th and would like to help out, get ahold of the 3rd District SAL commander and Deer hunt Committee member Glen Neville up in Forest Lake and he can point you in the right direction to volunteer.

Have a great September and enjoy the beginnings of Fall.

Talk to you next month,

Glen

Children & Youth Coordinator

District Newsletter Article

September 2026

Children and Youth News

Hello Thundering Third,

As the Children & Youth coordinator for the district, thank you to everyone who turned in their annual report in a timely way. I appreciate it!

Here I am with some ideas for your post on ways to connect with young families in your town. With Halloween approaching why not reach out to a local faith community that is hosting a “Trunk or Treat” event. If you have heard of this event, it’s usually held in the parking lot and you pick a theme for your trunk/SUV hatch. Well, we’ve got our theme already picked out for us! The American Legion Family. Decorate the space with Red, White and Blue, flags and bunting, poppies and more – dream big!

Then there's the candy – but what if you also handed out info about your post? What it means and how to join the Legion family? What if you handed out books, like "F is Flag?" Now you've added Americanism the mix. This is a fun and easy way to serve the community and perhaps even meet veterans who haven't yet joined The American Legion.

Stay tuned for November and Veterans Day suggestions…

Cindy Yanchury
C & Y Coordinator

Calendar of Events

Sept 10-13 **Camporee** **Legionville, MN**

Sept 10 -13 **MN Military & Veterans Museum** **Little Falls, MN**

Sept 27 **Hero's Hub** **New Prague, MN**

Hero's Hub will be 100% free to our veterans, providing much-needed items at no cost to those who have served our country. We are currently seeking donations of cash or gift cards so we can purchase brand-new items for the store and make this project a success.

Oct 6 **Spaghetti Dinner** **New Prague, MN**

Flyer attached

Nov 11 **Veterans Day**

Jan 16 **Mid - Winter Conference** **Eagan, MN**

NEW PRAGUE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

HERO'S HUB

FREE EVERYDAY NECESSITIES
FOR LOCAL VETERANS

OPEN HOUSE ON SEPTEMBER 27

NEW PRAGUE AMERICAN LEGION
PARK BALLROOM FROM 1-4:00 PM



RESPECT SUPPORT GRATITUDE

300 LEXINGTON AVE S
NEW PRAGUE MN



Sponsored by Post 45 & Auxiliary Unit 45

TAKE OUT

ALL YOU CAN EAT
SPAGHETTI DINNER

Proceeds Fund and Support our Veterans Programs

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

4:30 - 7:00 PM

The New Prague Park Ballroom

ADULTS $15.00 | KIDS 5-9 $7.00
UNDER 4 FREE

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Contact The Park Ballroom with questions at 952-758-4603

The New Prague Park Ballroom
300 Lexington Ave S. New Prague MN

Daniel R. Olsen Post 594

2026 – 2027 Mid-Winter Conference

January 16, 2027

9am to 3pm

Eagan Community Center

1501 Central Parkway

Eagan, MN 55121

Cost $25

For Information:

Mark Doble

952-393-7609 or

commanderpost594@gmail.com

District and/or Department Positions

Have you ever thought about getting more involved at the District or even the Department Level of the American Legion? If so, please talk to Mark Dvorak, Pat Logan, Don Skow, Duane Anderson or Don Pankake

What is happening in the District:

Please send any upcoming events, or past events you are willing to share with the District. We always enjoy hearing good news.

Always Remember to check out additional events and happenings on

our website:

Home | American Legion MN Thundering Third District

Also Included is a link to the American Legion Department website:

The American Legion Department of Minnesota – Veterans strengthening America

AMERICAN LEGION | ARMY NAVY

OFFICIAL VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA'S GAME

HONOR THE RIVALRY BY CHEERING ON YOUR TEAM!

The historic Army-Navy Game is one of the greatest rivalries in sports—and this year, we're giving our members a chance to experience it in person!

To honor the rivalry and strengthen our organization, we're launching a **Membership Incentive Challenge** that rewards those who help grow and sustain our membership. Here's how you can get in the game:

★★★★★★★★★

WE HAVE 16 TICKETS TO AWARD FOR THE ARMY-NAVY GAME.

8 WINNERS WILL EACH RECEIVE 2 TICKETS!

★★★★★★★★★

Top 3 recruiters OR an accumulation from a post from July 1 - November 11, 2026 will each receive 2 tickets.

Minimum qualification: recruit at least 10 new members.

The top department in each of our 5 regions (based on November's target date) will each earn 2 tickets to use within their department.

WINNERS WILL BE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2026

VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

Membership Reports

Area 1 Dale Jensen

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
37	ST. PETER	212	135	63.68%
55	LE SUEUR	39	21	53.85%
74	HENDERSON	35	2	5.71%
79	MONTGOMERY	103	73	70.87%
108	LE CENTER	234	152	64.96%
144	BELLE PLAINE	70	45	64.29%
149	MORRISTOWN	101	58	57.43%
207	CLEVELAND	59	34	57.63%
311	ELYSIAN	137	75	54.74%
380	KILKENNY	13	8	61.54%
433	GAYLORD	69	48	69.57%
510	NICOLLET	100	69	69.00%
518	NORTH MANKATO	219	146	66.67%
Total		1391	866	62.26%

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Area 2 Tim Swan

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
95	GLENCOE	74	46	62.16%
96	HUTCHINSON	393	276	70.23%
125	STEWART	36	20	55.56%
141	SILVER LAKE	157	119	75.80%
143	BROWNTON	54	40	74.07%
226	GIBBON	16	9	56.25%
250	ARLINGTON	31	26	83.87%
300	LAFAYETTE	44	27	61.36%
314	WINTHROP	50	30	60.00%
407	WINSTED	81	52	64.20%
408	GREEN ISLE	30	18	60.00%
463	LESTER PRAIRIE	32	12	37.50%
641	PLATO	18	8	44.44%
Total		1016	683	67.22%

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Area 3 Wayne Beierman

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
2	SHAKOPEE	141	89	63.12%
3	JORDAN	64	38	59.38%
45	NEW PRAGUE	188	121	64.36%
57	CHASKA	224	161	71.88%
84	NORTHFIELD	157	85	54.14%
121	WATERTOWN	45	37	82.22%
150	WACONIA	223	151	67.71%
343	NORWOOD	40	21	52.50%
580	CHANHASSEN	361	193	53.46%
601	NEW GERMANY	36	18	50.00%
1700	BURNSVILLE	46	44	95.65%
1776	APPLE VALLEY	756	450	59.52%
1995	VICTORIA	12	5	41.67%
13				
Total		2293	1413	61.62%

Area 4 Neil Hoadley

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
48	STILLWATER	132	77	58.33%
65	ROSEMOUNT	199	114	57.29%
98	ST. PAUL PARK	370	235	63.51%
225	FOREST LAKE	668	403	60.33%
424	INVER GROVE HTS.	56	37	66.07%
447	PRIOR LAKE	68	41	60.29%
491	BAYPORT	237	137	57.81%
501	WOODBURY	121	74	61.16%
507	MAHTOMEDI	36	22	61.11%
521	MENDOTA HEIGHTS	45	34	75.56%
620	HUGO	159	84	52.83%
643	SAVAGE	230	127	55.22%
Total		2321	1385	59.67%

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Area 5 Marissa Lacourt

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
43	FARIBAULT	314	190	60.51%
44	LAKEVILLE	92	57	61.96%
47	HASTINGS	259	174	67.18%
54	RED WING	370	246	66.49%
78	KENYON	46	21	45.65%
142	CANNON FALLS	120	70	58.33%
183	ZUMBROTA	39	28	71.79%
184	PINE ISLAND	94	61	64.89%
189	FARMINGTON	115	58	69.05%
586	LONSDALE	129	88	68.22%
594	EAGAN	203	133	65.52%
598	BELLECHESTER	61	46	75.41%
Total		1842	1172	63.63%

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Grand Total	8878	5530	62.29%
COATES (Post at Large)	46	11	23.91%

	>60%
	50%-60%
	<50%
	100%

Department of Minnesota 2027 Membership as of 9/10/26

District Summary Including Encumbered HQ Transfers

	District	New	Pufl	Renewals	Hq Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal	Retention %
4	MN Dist 0004 LGN	19	232	666	0	917	1445	63.460208	62.18836565
3	MN Dist 0003 LGN	59	1421	4037	13	5530	8878	62.288804	60.99552573
6	MN Dist 0006 LGN	60	969	4319	39	5387	8741	61.629104	60.10704931
1	MN Dist 0001 LGN	32	711	2978	3	3724	6130	60.750408	60.07827789
8	MN Dist 0008 LGN	39	266	1293	3	1601	2708	59.121123	57.49077491
2	MN Dist 0002 LGN	23	488	2313	1	2825	4862	58.103661	58.1120332
5	MN Dist 0005 LGN	5	216	455	3	679	1188	57.154882	56.52906487
9	MN Dist 0009 LGN	23	451	2136	8	2618	4603	56.87595	56.65790626
7	MN Dist 0007 LGN	26	550	1926	1	2503	4436	56.424707	56.31399317
10	MN Dist 0010 LGN	57	825	2673	7	3562	6551	54.373378	53.05378304
11	MN Dist 0099 LGN	0	187	693	0	882	1858	47.470398	55.20702635
11		0	1	2	0	3	0	#DIV/0	18.75
	Sum:	**343**	**6317**	**23491**	**78**	**30231**	**51400**	**58.815175**	**57.28203257**