



**The American Legion**  
**Third District**  
**Nathan Olson**  
**District Adjutant**

## Helping Veterans Connect

**We Are on the web!**  
[www.mnthunderingthird.org](http://www.mnthunderingthird.org)

## December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Pearl Harbor Rally – Buffalo, MN
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			

# Volume 11 Issue 4

## **The Commanders Corner**

Thundering Third,

This year, I am so proud to be a member of the American Legion. I know many posts are struggling but I am continually amazed at how veterans will come together through adversity to continue service the community and country.

My project this year has shown me how important it is to ensure Veterans have dental care. When veterans are in such need that they are willing to drive 3 hours to see a dentist. The veterans attending the clinics range from just starting out in their military careers to Korean War era veteran. The smiles on their faces when they leave the dentist made my heart grow.

As a legionnaire, I get the great honor to “serve God and my country,” a promise I made in first grade.

## **The Chaplains Corner**

December 2025

Greeting Thundering Third! As we enter into the month of December we see before and around us the usual glad tidings of the holiday season. We’ve spent that last Thursday in November remembering and giving thanks for all of the blessings in our lives. With gratitude we look back, we look around and we look within.

Now we continue into what I often hear spoken of as “the busy holiday season.” Perhaps now is a good time to take a look what makes this season so busy. And does it need to be.

Yes, there are many places we could be, concerts to attend, parties and more. But when we reflect on the season and look at the various religious and secular traditions

of this time of year one thing shines through (no pun intended!). All are about centering on the coming of light. Below is a list of just three of them.

#### Jewish: Hanukkah – December 15

Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem and the miracle of the oil that lasted eight days. Jewish families celebrate with menorah lighting, prayers, traditional foods, and games.

#### Longest Night – December 21

Longest Night celebrations mark the winter solstice, celebrating the return of the sun and the lengthening of days. It is observed with feasts, candle lighting, and rituals that honor nature's cycles and the rebirth of light.

#### Christian: Christmas – December 25

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, observed by Christians worldwide as a day of joy, worship, and the coming of the Light of the world. Traditions include church services, gift-giving, and feasts, reflecting on themes of love and hope.

Perhaps now is a good time to reflect on what it is that “lights up your life” as slowly we will move to the lengthening of the days and the ways in which each of us has the power within us to lighten another's load and offer the light via a smile, hug, or some other small kindness. Today is a good day to be a shining light!

Holy One, centering yourself as you do in the season as the bringer and bearer of light, may we pause amidst all that keeps us busy to reflect that light wherever we go. Amen

P.S. I really hope to meet as many of you on December 6 for the Pearl Harbor Rally in Buffalo – be sure to say hi!

Blessings,  
Chaplain Cindy Yanchury

## **SAL UPDATE**

Greetings Third District Sons of the American Legion,

First, I would like to apologize for not writing to you sooner because we have been going through a lot of communication issues which have been resolved since.

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Gregg Wilwert and I proud to represent the Third District Sons of the American Legion as your Commander. I have been a member for a number of years and have served as the Squadron Commander for Squad 98 in Saint Paul Park for the last 4 years and as a Vice Commander with the district for the past 2 years.

The Sons of the American Legion is growing and growing fast with over 400,000 members nationwide. As for the Thundering Third we have seen our numbers growing as well. AS of right now we are holding second place for the most members reported in the District. As you may have noticed the Vice Commanders have been going around to your squadrons introducing themselves and getting to know you. Communication is big. So please if you have any events or meeting information please feel free to contact your Vice Commanders so we can keep a great open line of communication.

My Commander's Project this year is The Activity Fund for the Hastings Veterans Home. This is designed to give funds for the Veterans themselves to do all kinds of activities in which the Vets Home cannot fund, such as movie theater night, plays, fishing trips, ext. I have been working closely with the coordinator at the Vets home with lots of activities in which they need help with that does not get covered by government funding. And YES, your post gambling funds can support this great cause. So please spread the word.

I look forward to meeting you all along this journey and wish you all well with all your squadrons.

Until next time,

Third District Commander

Gregg Wilwert

## **Membership Update**

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving, and Merry Christmas to all this holiday season!

Over the next couple of weeks, if you haven't already, please take some time to brainstorm ways we can help the district reach first place in the district membership race and the premier race, as well as maintain our department's outstanding national standing. Thank you all for your continued hard work. I look forward to seeing everyone in Buffalo on Saturday.

A reminder that Resolution 13 calls for Legion Family members to wear a Be the One item on the first day of every month to show their commitment to reducing the stigma surrounding mental health issues among veterans and servicemembers. It's also a way to start conversations about what Be the One is and how each of us can help save the life of a veteran. And remember—during December and throughout the holiday season, you are encouraged to do this every day.

The Department Membership Director will soon be announcing a new membership incentive plan focused on recruiting new members. This incentive will include a baseball-themed reward.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Buffalo on December 6th. You can register online.

And remember—on December 13th... GO NAVY, BEAT ARMY!

Department of Minnesota Membership Director

### Area 1 Mark Doble

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
37	ST. PETER	229	186	81.22%
55	LE SUEUR	46	31	67.39%
74	HENDERSON	32	23	71.88%
79	MONTGOMERY	119	90	75.63%
108	LE CENTER	244	203	83.20%
144	BELLE PLAINE	74	57	77.03%
149	MORRISTOWN	109	72	66.06%
207	CLEVELAND	66	43	65.15%
311	ELYSIAN	178	113	63.48%
380	KILKENNY	12	8	66.67%
433	GAYLORD	74	62	83.78%
510	NICOLLET	104	86	82.69%
518	NORTH MANKATO	219	174	79.45%
Total		1506	1148	76.23%

### Area 3 Kelley Ackerman

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
48	STILLWATER	147	113	76.87%
65	ROSEMOUNT	196	147	75.00%
98	ST. PAUL PARK	382	306	80.10%
225	FOREST LAKE	675	525	77.78%
424	INVER GROVE HTS.	60	43	71.67%
447	PRIOR LAKE	72	55	76.39%
491	BAYPORT	257	199	77.43%
501	WOODBURY	126	94	74.60%
507	MAHTOMEDI	44	27	61.36%
521	MENDOTA HEIGHTS	48	37	77.08%
620	HUGO	159	114	71.70%
643	SAVAGE	252	163	64.68%
Total		2418	1823	75.39%

### Area 2 Jim Entinger

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
95	GLENCOE	74	60	81.08%
96	HUTCHINSON	418	334	79.90%
125	STEWART	38	29	76.32%
141	SILVER LAKE	158	140	88.61%
143	BROWNTON	56	44	78.57%
226	GIBBON	16	11	68.75%
250	ARLINGTON	33	30	90.91%
300	LAFAYETTE	45	27	60.00%
314	WINTHROP	50	45	90.00%
407	WINSTED	79	61	77.22%
408	GREEN ISLE	32	22	68.75%
463	LESTER PRAIRIE	37	27	72.97%
641	PLATO	19	15	78.95%
Total		1055	845	80.09%

### Area 5 Marissa Lacourt

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
43	FARIBAUT	324	258	79.63%
44	LAKEVILLE	94	67	71.28%
47	HASTINGS	286	223	77.97%
54	RED WING	377	283	75.07%
78	KENYON	53	28	52.83%
142	CANNON FALLS	119	101	84.87%
183	ZUMBROTA	41	38	92.68%
184	PINE ISLAND	92	75	81.52%
189	FARMINGTON	115	68	73.91%
586	LONSDALE	123	98	79.67%
594	EAGAN	213	170	79.81%
598	BELLECHESTER	60	58	96.67%
Total		1897	1467	77.33%

### Area 3 Wayne Beierman

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
2	SHAKOPEE	143	115	80.42%
3	JORDAN	57	58	101.75%
45	NEW PRAGUE	195	153	78.46%
57	CHASKA	240	181	75.42%
84	NORTHFIELD	161	123	76.40%
121	WATERTOWN	47	42	89.36%
150	WACONIA	222	182	81.98%
343	NORWOOD	41	33	80.49%
580	CHANHASSEN	364	231	63.46%
601	NEW GERMANY	36	33	91.67%
1700	BURNSVILLE	58	33	56.90%
1776	APPLE VALLEY	786	572	72.77%
1995	VICTORIA	11	10	90.91%
Total		2361	1766	74.80%

Grand Total 9251 7066 76.38%

COATES (Post at Large) 37 17 45.95%



## Membership with Retention:

### MN Dist 0003 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	Pufl	Rnwls	Tran	Total	Goal	% of Goal	Ret %
<a href="#">MN-0002</a>	Shakopee	Shakopee	2	18	93	2	115	143	80.42	76.55
<a href="#">MN-0003</a>	Robert Patterson	Jordan	6	8	40	4	58	57	101.75	81.36
<a href="#">MN-0037</a>	William R Witty	St Peter	2	41	142	1	186	229	81.22	80.62
<a href="#">MN-0043</a>	Faribault	Faribault	3	24	231	0	258	324	79.63	78.46
<a href="#">MN-0044</a>	John Vessey	Lakeville	1	12	54	0	67	94	71.28	68.75
<a href="#">MN-0045</a>	Charles Borak	New Prague	1	26	126	0	153	195	78.46	77.55
<a href="#">MN-0047</a>	Nelson-Lucking	Hastings	1	52	168	2	223	286	77.97	77.19
<a href="#">MN-0048</a>	Stillwater	Stillwater	2	26	85	0	113	147	76.87	75.51
<a href="#">MN-0054</a>	Leo C Peterson	Red Wing	5	51	225	2	283	377	75.07	71.69
<a href="#">MN-0055</a>	Le Sueur	Le Sueur	0	7	24	0	31	46	67.39	68.89
<a href="#">MN-0057</a>	Chaska Inc	Chaska	0	102	78	1	181	240	75.42	73.47
<a href="#">MN-0065</a>	Rosemount	Rosemount	5	23	118	1	147	196	75.00	69.80
<a href="#">MN-0074</a>	Sibley	Henderson	1	2	20	0	23	32	71.88	70.97
<a href="#">MN-0078</a>	Joseph A Gates	Kenyon	0	6	22	0	28	53	52.83	53.85
<a href="#">MN-0079</a>	Montgomery	Montgomery	1	25	63	1	90	119	75.63	73.95
<a href="#">MN-0084</a>	Northfield	Northfield	0	34	88	1	123	161	76.40	75.31
<a href="#">MN-0095</a>	Glencoe	Glencoe	1	11	47	1	60	74	81.08	76.32
<a href="#">MN-0096</a>	Hutchinson Inc	Hutchinson	1	114	218	1	334	418	79.90	78.67
<a href="#">MN-0098</a>	Richard Dingle	S T Paul Park	6	51	243	6	306	382	80.10	74.62
<a href="#">MN-0108</a>	Le Center	Le Center	1	55	146	1	203	244	83.20	82.72
<a href="#">MN-0121</a>	Eugene Earley	Watertown	2	2	37	1	42	47	89.36	84.78
<a href="#">MN-0125</a>	De Gree-Fleisch	Stewart	0	1	28	0	29	38	76.32	78.38
<a href="#">MN-0141</a>	Silver Lake	Silver Lake	0	33	107	0	140	158	88.61	88.05
<a href="#">MN-0142</a>	Kraft-Ostrom	Cannon Falls	1	19	80	1	101	119	84.87	81.15
<a href="#">MN-0143</a>	Edward Ewald	Brownton	0	9	35	0	44	56	78.57	80.00
<a href="#">MN-0144</a>	Leo B Neubeiser	Belle Plaine	0	9	48	0	57	74	77.03	78.08
<a href="#">MN-0149</a>	Roy Leider	Morristown	1	14	57	0	72	109	66.06	64.55
<a href="#">MN-0150</a>	Waconia	Waconia	10	44	128	0	182	222	81.98	76.44
<a href="#">MN-0183</a>	Zumbrota Inc	Zumbrota	0	9	29	0	38	41	92.68	95.00
<a href="#">MN-0184</a>	Charles Cowden	Pine Island	0	14	61	0	75	92	81.52	82.42
<a href="#">MN-0189</a>	Clifford Larson	Farmington	1	14	53	0	68	92	73.91	73.63
<a href="#">MN-0207</a>	Ray Keenan Inc	Cleveland	0	6	37	0	43	66	65.15	66.15
<a href="#">MN-0225</a>	Forest Lake	Forest Lake	31	60	425	9	525	675	77.78	69.68
<a href="#">MN-0226</a>	Loftness-Bandow Inc	Gibbon	0	0	11	0	11	16	68.75	73.33
<a href="#">MN-0250</a>	Scharmer-Berger	Arlington	0	9	21	0	30	33	90.91	96.77
<a href="#">MN-0300</a>	Lafayette	Lafayette	0	4	23	0	27	45	60.00	61.36
<a href="#">MN-0311</a>	C Adams-R Stierlen	Elysian	1	18	93	1	113	178	63.48	62.01
<a href="#">MN-0314</a>	Gedig	Winthrop	0	8	37	0	45	50	90.00	90.00
<a href="#">MN-0343</a>	Edward Born	Norwood	1	6	26	0	33	41	80.49	80.00
<a href="#">MN-0380</a>	John Balfe	Kilkenny	0	1	7	0	8	12	66.67	72.73

<a href="#">MN-0407</a>	Martin Krueger	Winsted	0	23	37	1	61	79	77.22	75.95
<a href="#">MN-0408</a>	Green Isle	Green Isle	0	7	15	0	22	32	68.75	70.97
<a href="#">MN-0424</a>	Inver Grove Heights	Inver Grove He	0	9	33	1	43	60	71.67	70.00
<a href="#">MN-0433</a>	Manthey-Asmus	Gaylord	0	5	57	0	62	74	83.78	84.93
<a href="#">MN-0447</a>	Prior Lake	Prior Lake	0	7	48	0	55	72	76.39	77.46

<a href="#">MN-0463</a>	Ray Kirkpatrick	Lester Prairie	0	12	15	0	27	37	72.97	75.00
<a href="#">MN-0491</a>	Hesley Jensen	Bayport	0	35	163	1	199	257	77.43	75.00
<a href="#">MN-0501</a>	Woodbury	Woodbury	1	18	74	1	94	126	74.60	72.44
<a href="#">MN-0507</a>	Kramer-Berg	Mahtomedi	1	3	23	0	27	44	61.36	60.47
<a href="#">MN-0510</a>	Nicollet	Nicollet	0	34	55	1	90	104	86.54	88.12
<a href="#">MN-0518</a>	North Mankato	North Mankato	9	33	131	1	174	219	79.45	72.57
<a href="#">MN-0521</a>	Challenger	Mendota Heigh	0	8	29	0	37	48	77.08	78.72
<a href="#">MN-0580</a>	Chanhassen	Chanhassen	1	35	195	0	231	364	63.46	62.84
<a href="#">MN-0586</a>	Lonsdale	Lonsdale	0	38	60	0	98	123	79.67	80.99
<a href="#">MN-0594</a>	Daniel R Olsen	Eagan	0	34	133	3	170	213	79.81	77.31
<a href="#">MN-0598</a>	Bellechester Inc	Bellechester	3	1	54	0	58	60	96.67	91.67
<a href="#">MN-0601</a>	Lowell Stender	New Germany	3	4	26	0	33	36	91.67	85.71
<a href="#">MN-0620</a>	Hugo Inc	Hugo	5	17	88	4	114	159	71.70	65.22
<a href="#">MN-0641</a>	Plato	Plato	0	7	8	0	15	19	78.95	83.33
<a href="#">MN-0643</a>	Dan Patch	Savage	3	37	123	0	163	252	64.68	63.75
<a href="#">MN-1700</a>	Patrick Kopp	Burnsville	0	9	24	0	33	58	56.90	57.89
<a href="#">MN-1776</a>	Apple Valley	Apple Valley	11	129	427	5	572	786	72.77	68.81
<a href="#">MN-1995</a>	Victoria	Victoria	0	5	5	0	10	11	90.91	90.91
<a href="#">MN-3333</a>	Quad Three	Coates	0	6	5	6	17	37	45.95	27.50
		<b>Sum:</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>1484</b>	<b>5402</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>7070</b>	<b>9251</b>	<b>76.42417</b>	<b>73.741701</b>



## **Calendar of Events**

Dec. 6	Pearl Harbor Rally	Buffalo, MN <a href="https://mnlegion.org/pearl-harbor-rally/">https://mnlegion.org/pearl-harbor-rally/</a>
Dec. 25	Christmas Day	
Jan. 24	3 <sup>rd</sup> District Mid-Winter conference	Lonsdale, MN

## **Position Endorsements**

Post 594 endorses Cindy Yanchury for the position of Department of Minnesota Chaplain for 2026-2027.

endorses Mark Dvorak to attend the National Convention for 2026 in Louisville KY.

Post 594 endorses Wayne Beierman for the position of Vice Commander Third District for 2026-2027.

Post 594 endorses Mark Doble for the position of Vice Commander Third District for 2026-2027.

Post 594 endorses Barrett Kirchenwitz for the position of Finance Officer Third District for 2026-2027.

Post 95 endorses Jim Entinger for the position of Third District Commander for 2026-2027.

Post 45 Post 96 endorses Tim Swan for the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> District Vice Commander for 2026-2027.

## **What's Happening in the District**

**Diane Jankowski scheduled the District Oratorical Contest for 7 February 2026 at the St. Paul Park American Legion.**

We would love to have a lot of **volunteers**, as well as **students** participating in the contest.

Attached are the forms and the information needed for students to participate in the contest.

# Pearl Harbor Rally

## Overview

- **When:** December 6, 2025
- **Where:** Buffalo American Legion Post 270
- **Details & Times:**
  - 11:00 AM - Social Hour & Membership Turn-in
  - TBD: Lunch Served by the post

## Registration & Cost

- \$20.00 per person
- Register Online for your meal on Zeffy (No processing fees)
- Register by Snail Mail *before December 1* to:
  - **Checks Payable to:** American Legion Post 270 (Memo - Pearl Harbor Rally)
  - **Mail To:** American Legion Post 270, 304 10th Ave, Buffalo MN 55313

If your Post has a special upcoming or past event that you would like to share with the District, please share any details with a District Officer or send them via email to: [third.district.adjutant@gmail.com](mailto:third.district.adjutant@gmail.com).

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](#)

### **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, Don Pankake or Duane Anderson.

They can help you understand the various positions and how to move to the next level of leadership.