



The American Legion
 Third District
 Linda Dvorak
 1506 Praha St SE
 New Prague MN 56071

Can Do!



January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 <i>3rd Dist Mid-Winter</i>
28	29	30	31			



Volume 9 Issue 6

The Commanders Corner

According to the dictionary, Americanism means a patriotic ideology centered on the American government, culture and traditions. One would have had to see and feel the patriotism over the Veterans Day/Weekend events that makes Veterans today feel good. It was the actions and visibility of what Veterans feel, that the country does care by showing Americanism. As for myself it is hard not to over indulge due to the appreciation of free meals offered that are abundant to Veterans especially in the larger cities. In many of the restaurants I visited, a Drill Sergeant could have said "FALL IN" and I would have bet the entire restaurant would have emptied out in formation. This indeed just proves the honor we all have in today's world. It was great to feel the passion of past and current Vets. A huge "thank you" to all the businesses who support our country and its veterans.

On a more personal note, I would like to share a bit of the inspirational life of my brother-in-law Douglas who lost his battle with cancer in September. He was a Vietnam Veteran who in 1970 stepped on a land mine and was quickly flown to a hospital where doctors were unable to save his eyesight and removed much of his right leg. After time in rehabilitation to learn Braille and how to function in the "normal" world, he went to law school and graduated with honors in 1975. He was then hired by the Federal Communications Commission in Washington DC and served 45 years helping to set policies and regulations for the telecommunication industry. He was such an inspiration to everyone he met but never felt he was any different than anyone else. He was not bitter about his experience - he

would always say "I was lucky enough to be born in a free country. The price that I paid was so that my family could live in a free country." When people would say that he gave so much more than they did, he would say "everyone who stood up to do whatever was asked of them, whether drafted or enlisted, whether in the guard, reserves, or full-time service, were all equal in their service to our country". Amen to that. As your Commander, I would be happy to visit with anyone who wants to share personal experiences during their military career. I encourage all my 3rd District Vice Commanders to visit their Posts. We need to count our blessings as we enjoy our holidays with family members and friends, and give special thanks to those who can't attend or be with us this season.

Keep up the "Can Do" Spirit.
Rod Reifsteck
3rd District Commander

Dues Increase

Hopefully you have heard about the \$5.00 National dues increase coming next membership year. The Department finance committee is also recommending a \$3.00 dues increase next membership year. This will be voted on in July 2024. Where do your dues go when you pay your membership? Right now, National receives \$18.50, Department receives \$13.50 and the Hospital Association receives \$.25. Currently Third District Dues are \$3.00. Next membership year National will receive \$23.50, Department \$16.50, the Hospital Association will remain the same.

IMPORTANT

If your post needs to adjust their dues to reflect these increases, you will need to notify the Department Office by April. A form is sent to all posts (Post Data Form) in March and it is due back to Department by mid April. If you fail to send the form in, your dues will stay the same as the current year, BUT you will still be required to send in \$43.25 per member.

The Chaplains Corner

New Year!

In my early years, I expected to live a long life. The military changed all that. Men and women die in their teens in war. Now I no longer expect to live a long life. Learning about the generations before us exposes that we live longer in years than ever before (If you are Jewish or Christian you know before the flood people could have lived 100's of years). Now saving up for retirement and the good years is not expected. Wanting to live longer remains an ideal though even if it comes with aches and pains.

Scanning the major world religions: Christianity, Muslim, Buddhism/Hinduism and Judaism results a focus on type of life lived, not necessarily how long lived. Old age is not a reward for a sinless or pure life. The reward is the type of afterlife.

Religions define a good life by how one lives day in and day out. How you live matters in the worlds of religions. How you think about your neighbor, what you do with your money, what you do as a vocation determines the quality of your life even if it does not guarantee longevity.

The beginning of a new year is an exercise in hindsight for me. Reflecting on what I have done tells me a lot about who I am as a person and how I want to live in the days I live. Reflecting affords me an opportunity to consider how I could have been different and if I want to be different. My prayer life is rich with these reflective internal conversations, and I rely upon that small voice to speak into my life to offer a nibble when needed.

January is a perfect time for this reflective exercise as I thumb through the past months and events for the days are short, the quiet of winter is upon us. It is as if it is inviting us into the discipline of silence where we can sit with ourselves and hear God more.

God, we recognize that there is no guarantee of a long life, only the life we have right now. May we be the humble servants of forgiveness, mercy and grace to one another and ourselves. May we recognize each day is truly an opportunity to choose the quality of our life by how we interact with where we are and who we are with. Amen.

SAL Update

Greetings.

Well December has come and gone, and it's time to turn the page on the calendar. Hopefully, everyone had a great Christmas and New Years, ate some food, got some gifts and had a merry time with friends and family.

I went to the Pearl Harbor rally this past December and had a good time. Was happy to see those from the 3rd that were able to make it out there, even with the bad weather. Membership was talked about, a lot. And on that note, the 3rd is doing well in that area. We are sitting in 2nd place in the District on membership turned in. We currently have 24 squads that are over the 50% mark, with 13 of those above 75% and 5 that are at 90% or higher. As of this writing, we still have 2 squads on the goose egg, but with fingers crossed that will change.

January is kind of slow on the events side, but we do have Mid-Winter coming up on Jan 27th at Apple Valley Post 1776. I am looking forward to all of you SAL members that will be able to make it down there. And then in the beginning in February, we have the Sweetheart rally in Forest Lake on the 3rd. Bring your family and have a fun time.

Before I close this out, The Executive board is looking for 3 SAL members who would like to serve on a finance committee, you would have to be there for 2 different meetings to go over the district finances. If there is anyone who would like to get a little more involved, please let me know.

Have a safe and warm January.

Dave

District and/or Department Positions

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

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

Position Endorsements

Post 1776 endorses Joe Tappainer for the Position of District Commander 2024-25

Post 3 endorses Joe Bares for District Vice Commander 2024-25

Post 1776 endorses Marissa Lacourt District Vice Commander 2024-25

Post 225 endorses Mary Jo York for District Finance Officer 2024-25

Post 225 endorses Don Skow for Department Vice Commander 2024-25

National Convention Endorsements

Post 1776 endorses Carla Tappainer as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Post 1776 endorses Joe Tappainer as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Post 3 endorses Joe Bares as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Post 45 endorses Linda Dvorak as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Post 45 endorses Mark Dvorak as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Post 1776 endorses Marissa Lacourt as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Post 96 endorses David Heidebrink as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Post 96 endorses Donald Pankake as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Post 96 endorses Donald Walser as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Post 225 endorses Don Skow as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Post 225 endorses Mary Jo York as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Post 225 endorses Dean Lando as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Post 225 endorses Ashley Venburg as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Post 311 endorses Tom McBroom as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Post 311 endorses Mike Kauss as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

CALENDAR OF EVENT

Jan 27	3rd District Mid-Winter	Apple Valley Post 1776
Feb 3	Dept Sweetheart Rally	Forest Lake Post 225
Mar 2	Dept Appreciation Rally	Montgomery Post 79
TBD	National Commanders Tour	TBD
Apr 27	3rd District Family Gathering	Pine Island Post 184
May 17-18	3rd District Convention	New Prague Post 45
Jun 8	3rd District Cmdrs /Pres Testimonial	Le Center Post 108
Jun 22	Dept Commanders Testimonial	Montgomery Post 79
TBD	Dept Presidents Testimonial	TBD
July 10-13	Dept Convention	Willmar
Aug 23-29	National Convention	New Orleans

Last months Jokes

What do elf's learn in school? The Elfabet

What is the difference between the regular alphabet and the Christmas alphabet?
The Christmas alphabet has noel in it.

Oratorical Contest

The Third District Oratorical Contest will be held February 10, 2024 at American Legion Post 98 in St Paul Park. The contest will begin at 9:30 am. Please get your posts contestant information to Diane Jankowski NLT February 5, 2024. Diane can be reached at steppingstonesin-time@hotmail.com or 612-227-3506

Junior Shooting Sports Chairman

This message is for all Legion Posts in the 3rd. District.
If your Post is presently participating in a Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program, please keep me informed of your Post activity and schedule. If your Post would like information on starting a program or assistance in doing so, please contact me.

Duane Anderson
507-381-8577 or duanea4@gmail.com

Greetings Thundering Third

As of December 16th, the Third District is at 84.67% and we are in 3rd place in Department Membership and 4th in the 2024 Premier Race. So far, we have had 53 HQ transfers which puts us in 3rd place. You should do follow up buddy checks on all members during this holiday season. Keep the memberships flowing into Department and MyLegion. Continue to bring in new members. So far, the district has added 153 brand new members, and we are in 2nd place. Anyone who did not renew in 2023 but does so for 2024 is also considered a 'New Member'. The next target date is January 20th so please send in your transmittals early and often. We have 9 posts in the district at goal and 4 posts over 95%. Mid-Winter will be January 27th at Apple Valley Post 1776. Wishing you all a wonderful 2024!!!! If you have any questions, please contact your Vice Commander or me. Report below is as of Dec 30, 2023.

Area 1 Amy Larsen

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
37	ST. PETER	253	218	86.17%
55	LE SUEUR	47	47	100.00%
74	HENDERSON	31	27	87.10%
79	MONTGOMERY	135	100	74.07%
108	LE CENTER	275	248	90.18%
144	BELLE PLAINE	78	73	93.59%
149	MORRISTOWN	130	88	67.69%
207	CLEVELAND	71	57	80.28%
311	ELYSIAN	154	109	70.78%
380	KILKENNY	12	10	83.33%
433	GAYLORD	78	69	88.46%
510	NICOLLET	116	97	83.62%
518	NORTH MANKATO	228	180	78.95%
Total		1608	1323	82.28%

Area 4 Marissa LaCourt

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
48	STILLWATER	157	144	91.72%
65	ROSEMOUNT	595	592	92.26%
98	ST. PAUL PARK	400	320	80.00%
225	FOREST LAKE	595	592	99.50%
424	INVER GROVE HTS.	63	61	96.83%
481	SOUTH ST. PAUL	22	22	100.00%
491	BAYPORT	242	238	98.35%
501	WOODBURY	133	112	84.21%
507	MAHTOMEDI	47	38	80.85%
521	MENDOTA HEIGHTS	48	45	93.75%
594	EAGAN	250	216	86.40%
620	HUGO	163	134	82.21%
1700	BURNSVILLE	65	53	81.54%
Total		2780	2567	92.34%

Area 2 Jim Entinger

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
95	GLENCOE	80	75	93.75%
96	HUTCHINSON	482	422	87.55%
125	STEWART	41	42	102.44%
141	SILVER LAKE	156	156	100.00%
143	BROWNTON	53	55	103.77%
226	GIBBON	16	9	56.25%
250	ARLINGTON	32	29	90.63%
300	LAFAYETTE	44	31	70.45%
314	WINTHROP	56	49	87.50%
407	WINSTED	87	67	77.01%
408	GREEN ISLE	36	29	80.56%
463	LESTER PRAIRIE	25	33	132.00%
641	PLATO	23	17	73.91%
Total		1131	1014	89.66%

Area 5 Chris Anderson

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
43	FARIBAULT	339	302	89.09%
44	LAKEVILLE	110	83	75.45%
47	HASTINGS	298	274	91.95%
54	RED WING	372	342	91.94%
78	KENYON	34	41	120.59%
142	CANNON FALLS	124	106	85.48%
183	ZUMBROTA	44	39	88.64%
184	PINE ISLAND	115	88	76.52%
189	FARMINGTON	115	87	87.88%
586	LONSDALE	139	123	88.49%
598	BELLECHESTER	56	56	100.00%
1776	APPLE VALLEY	826	740	89.59%
Total		2572	2281	88.69%

Area 3 Joe Bares

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
2	SHAKOPEE	150	133	88.67%
3	JORDAN	50	50	100.00%
45	NEW PRAGUE	208	183	87.98%
57	CHASKA	245	222	90.61%
84	NORTHFIELD	192	161	83.85%
121	WATERTOWN	46	44	95.65%
150	WACONIA	212	187	88.21%
343	NORWOOD	46	43	93.48%
447	PRIOR LAKE	75	71	94.67%
580	CHANHASSEN	349	318	91.12%
601	NEW GERMANY	33	35	106.06%
643	SAVAGE	247	233	94.33%
1995	VICTORIA	11	11	100.00%
Total		1864	1691	90.72%

Grand Total 9609 8444 87.88%

COATES (Post at Large) 97 5 5.15%



**American Legion Post
#1776
Apple Valley MN**

**Official Pre-Registration-Mid Winter Conference
2024**

Mail to:
Carla Tappainer
American Legion Post 1776

**Attn: 3rd District Mid-Winter Conference
837 Greening Drive
Apple Valley, MN 55124
Phone: 952-240-7849**

For each person attending, there is a pre-registration fee of **\$10.00**. Day of the Conference registration is **\$12.00**.

There will be lunch available for a cost of **\$11.00**, pay as you go.

Please make checks payable to "**American Legion Post 1776**" We would like to have this form in by Jan. 10th although walk-ins will certainly be welcomed.

The 2024 District Mid-Winter Conference will be held at **Post 1776, Apple Valley American Legion, 14521 Granada Drive, Apple Valley, MN 55124**, on Saturday, January 27th, 2024. The Conference will start at 0900. The Conference is for all members in the 3rd District, not just District/Post Officers. The Conference will add great value to your knowledge about the District and the Legion Programs.

Please complete and mail the Pre-Registration form to the address above:

Post # _____ Unit # _____ Squad # _____

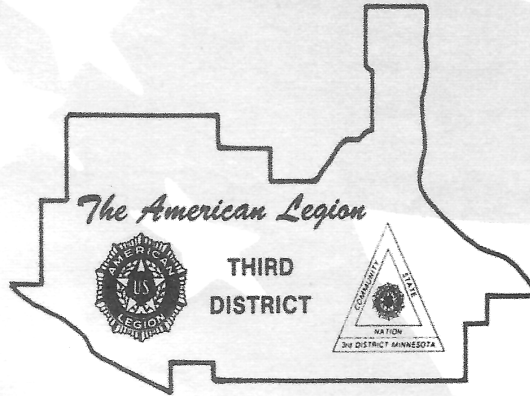
Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

****One Registration blank per person. ****



3rd DISTRICT COMMANDER'S PROJECT: COMMANDER ROD REIFSTECK

Contact Information Raptor1rod@gmail.com 319-290-0750

My Motto "CAN DO"

My Commanders Project for the 2023-24 year is for Legionville Safety Camp which focuses on School Safety, First Aid, Swimming/Water Safety and Summer Camp Activities. Legionville is a Department of Minnesota program. We are supporting and utilizing it with Post, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion (S.A.L.) and American Legion Riders that are sponsoring students attending this camp. With my thirty year's background of Boy Scouts I know this "Can" make a difference in their lives. I hope you will support me in raising funds for this project. My goal is to raise \$40,000 by July 2024.

Current Project Needs are:

7 dorms with 22 beds per dorm. We need 154 new mattresses at \$150 per mattress = \$23,100

5 Commercial Grade Water Heaters at \$6000 = \$30,000

21 new Faucets with Drains Quote pending

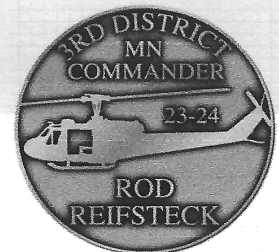
5 Cabin Remodels Quote pending

Donations to be sent to:

Mary Jo York, Finance Officer

16435 Mackenzie St NE

Forest Lake MN 55025



Please make check out to the 3rd District Commander Project and in the Memo Line add **Legionville Corporation**.

Gambling Funds can be used under the LPE CODE A-1

Post/Unit/Squadron/Individual/Other (Please Circle One)

Name of Individual/Organization _____

Post Number# _____ Address _____

Contact Phone and Email _____

Donation Amount \$ _____ Receipt Requested **Yes** or No (Please Circle One)

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE 3RD DISTRICT COMMANDER PROJECT! I APPRECIATE YOU.

What's Happening in the District

Woodbury Veterans Day

