



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

Can Do!



March 2024

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



Volume 9 Issue 8

The Commanders Corner

Hello Thundering Third, my last 6 months have been a reality check as to the challenges of individual Posts related to their Bylaws. It has been a real learning lesson. Being retired gives me time I thought, to visit posts weekly. Instead, I found myself attending scheduled events which I have enjoyed. There have been several posts which have needed my attention and I have been happy to assist along with other third district committee chairs. At the beginning of this month

I am pleased to report that all the Posts in Third District are working within their bylaws. One of my quests was to visit Posts outside my District for comparisons.

The success of the American Legion Post is also contingent on strengths of its internal operations. This involves leadership, efficient administration, and fostering a welcome environment for members. I continue to want to visit Posts in the last 6 months of being Commander.

To follow up on last month's article I wanted to thank you for my brother-in-law condolences. I was able to attend his Celebration of Life journeys in the Washington DC area. I will be honored to attend his final resting place ceremony at Arlington.

Please remember each one of us makes a difference. Be The One. Keep up the Can Do Attitude.

Your Third District Commander,
Rod Reifsteck

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

Life matters. How you live your life matters. What you choose to live for, matters. The American Legion like all organizations is undergoing change (does it ever stop?). The days gone-by of large numbers of volunteers is challenging us today who choose through our values of compassion, selflessness, and service to invest in The American Legion.

Change, like the unknown, presents for us perfect conditions for the ugly in us to make appearances. Hurtful words, angry eyes, closed-off alliances expose frustrations and fears. I have sat at the bedside of dying people enough times to hear the common awareness that words and actions do matter. I have heard enough times, the want for forgiveness and love to have been more in the everyday of life.

What we choose to live for can be an afterthought or it can be an active goal in our lives. Choice always requires a sacrifice; letting go of one for another. Any of you choose a scone instead of donut or a 30-minute walk instead of sitting or kick out the negative gibberish in your head in exchange for some positive talk? They are all options on the road of life – some result in a better quality of life than others.

The ask for all of us is to choose the life-giving thought and deed each day we are alive whether it be our cells in our body, the synaptic processes in our brain, the strength of our agility and the connection of our relationships. We will leave a legacy and it is in our choice to choose it. This is how we evidence what we believe about our God to ourselves and others.

March is Spirituality month. Nourish a spirit of love. Chaplain Adelsman

SAL Update

Membership, membership, membership. Currently as of Feb22 2024 3rd District is in 5th place membership wise. We have 5 squads that are still below the 50% mark. Membership directors do NOT hold on to your dues until the last days. If you are holding onto membership, then you are possibly doing your members a disservice, as they might not be current at National, which means that they are NOT CONSIDERED members at that point. If you are having any issues or have questions, You can call 3rd District Membership Director Dennis Bjorkland, Detachment Membership Director Gary Richardson or myself, Dave Arend-3rd District Commander.

Now, we currently have 28 squads above the 70% mark, 25 squads above 80%, 17 squads above 90% and an astonishing 12 squads at 100% or above. Great job to all. Let's see how many we can get to 100 or greater by District Convention.

Some good news out of St. Paul Park squad 98. This past weekend, the squad rented a party bus. Their purpose, to visit 4 other neighboring squads at their posts to enjoy some time at other posts and help as needed. They were headed out to visit Savage Post 643, Apple Valley Post 1776, Rosemount Post 65 and Hastings Post 47. During the festivities, they ended up starting a donation pot at Apple Valley post 1776. After the pot was collected the 1776 squad Adjutant decided to donate all the raised funds to the Burnsville Fire Dept. As the night progressed, the donation pot continued at both Rosemount and Hastings. With Squad 98 donating money at the end of the night, their impromptu donation pot ended up raising close to \$1800 for the Burnsville Fire Dept. Way to go to all involved.

Remember the upcoming events we have. Spring Conference is being held at Forest Lake Post 225 on Mar 15-16. We have been getting better turnout at District events this year, so let's keep it up and attend the Detachment Conference. Always a nice place to get some questions answered and learn some new things. We also have District Convention coming up soon in New Prague Post 45 on May 17-18. We had quite a few new faces at the Mid-winter and would like to see more new faces at Convention.

Well, that's all for now. Have a safe month, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming events.

Dave
SAL District Commander

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

Post 95 endorses Jim Entinger for District 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

Post 184 endorses Kelley Adlesman as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Post 491 endorses Pat Logan as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Post 586 endorses Amy Larsen as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

CALENDAR OF EVENT

Mar 2	Dept Appreciation Rally	Montgomery Post 79
Apr-15-17	National Commanders Tour	Various
*Apr 20	3rd District Family Gathering	Pine Island Post 184
Apr 27	Dept President Testimonial	Melrose Post 101
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
July 10-13	Dept Convention	Willmar
Aug 23-29	National Convention	New Orleans

***Denotes Change**

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

3rd District Convention Committee

The 2024 District Convention will be held at New Prague Post 45. At this time, no bids to hold the 2025 or 2026 Conventions have been submitted to the Convention Committee. If any post is interested in holding a District Convention, please contact Bob Roe H(952-447-5811) (grandpax8@nuveramail.net), Mark Dvorak (952-457-2130), or Dave Bode (507-995-4076) and we will get you the information needed to hold convention. If you please leave a message and we will get back to you.

Bob Roe, Dist. Conv. Chairman

Membership Update

Greetings Thundering Third

As of February 22nd, the Third District is at 94.42% and we are in 2nd place in Department Membership and 3rd in the 2024 Premier Race. We are less than a % point out of 1st place. Keep the memberships flowing into Department and MyLegion. So far, we have had 121 HQ transfers which puts us in 1st place. You should do follow up buddy checks on all members during this time. Continue to bring in new members. So far, the district has added 213 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 March 13th so please send in your transmittals early and often. We have 19 posts in the district at goal and 13 posts over 95%. The Appreciation Rally will be March 2nd at Montgomery Post 79. Wishing you all a wonderful Spring Season!!!! If you have any questions, please contact your Vice Commander or me. The below membership standings is as of Feb 28, 2024

Terry Larson
toolooseto@aol.com

Area 1 Amy Larsen

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
37	ST. PETER	253	226	89.33%
55	LE SUEUR	47	47	100.00%
74	HENDERSON	31	31	100.00%
79	MONTGOMERY	135	107	79.26%
108	LE CENTER	275	261	94.91%
144	BELLE PLAINE	78	75	96.15%
149	MORRISTOWN	130	96	73.85%
207	CLEVELAND	71	65	91.55%
311	ELYSIAN	154	146	94.81%
380	KILKENNY	12	10	83.33%
433	GAYLORD	78	79	101.28%
510	NICOLLET	116	103	88.79%
518	NORTH MANKATO	228	200	87.72%
Total		1608	1446	89.93%

Area 4 Marissa LaCourt

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
48	STILLWATER	157	154	98.09%
65	ROSEMOUNT	595	636	101.19%
98	ST. PAUL PARK	400	353	88.25%
225	FOREST LAKE	595	636	106.89%
424	INVER GROVE HTS.	63	64	101.59%
481	SOUTH ST. PAUL	22	23	104.55%
491	BAYPORT	242	254	104.96%
501	WOODBURY	133	121	90.98%
507	MAHTOMEDI	47	39	82.98%
521	MENDOTA HEIGHTS	48	46	95.83%
594	EAGAN	250	232	92.80%
620	HUGO	163	147	90.18%
1700	BURNSVILLE	65	55	84.62%
Total		2780	2760	99.28%

Area 2 Jim Entinger

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
95	GLENCOE	80	77	96.25%
96	HUTCHINSON	482	444	92.12%
125	STEWART	41	42	102.44%
141	SILVER LAKE	156	157	100.64%
143	BROWNTON	53	57	107.55%
226	GIBBON	16	13	81.25%
250	ARLINGTON	32	30	93.75%
300	LAFAYETTE	44	41	93.18%
314	WINTHROP	56	49	87.50%
407	WINSTED	87	84	96.55%
408	GREEN ISLE	36	34	94.44%
463	LESTER PRAIRIE	25	33	132.00%
641	PLATO	23	21	91.30%
Total		1131	1082	95.67%

Area 5 Chris Anderson

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
43	FARIBAULT	339	324	95.58%
44	LAKEVILLE	110	101	91.82%
47	HASTINGS	298	296	99.33%
54	RED WING	372	362	97.31%
78	KENYON	34	47	138.24%
142	CANNON FALLS	124	112	90.32%
183	ZUMBROTA	44	42	95.45%
184	PINE ISLAND	115	100	86.96%
189	FARMINGTON	115	92	92.93%
586	LONSDALE	139	132	94.96%
598	BELLECHESTER	56	57	101.79%
1776	APPLE VALLEY	826	798	96.61%
Total		2572	2463	95.76%

Area 3 Joe Bares

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
2	SHAKOPEE	150	147	98.00%
3	JORDAN	50	51	102.00%
45	NEW PRAGUE	208	197	94.71%
57	CHASKA	245	240	97.96%
84	NORTHFIELD	192	177	92.19%
121	WATERTOWN	46	45	97.83%
150	WACONIA	212	195	91.98%
343	NORWOOD	46	43	93.48%
447	PRIOR LAKE	75	75	100.00%
580	CHANHASSEN	349	353	101.15%
601	NEW GERMANY	33	35	106.06%
643	SAVAGE	247	245	99.19%
1995	VICTORIA	11	11	100.00%
Total		1864	1814	97.32%

Grand Total	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
	9609	9106	94.77%
COATES (Post at Large)	97	7	7.22%

2024 AMERICAN LEGION
POST BLOOD DONATION REQUEST

TO: Post Adjutants or Post Blood Chairman

This report is for dates January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Please answer the following questions and return by May 1, 2024 to your District Blood Chairman.

1. Number of Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL members donating blood during this time period _____.
2. Total number units of blood donated by Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL members during this time period _____.
3. Did your Post sponsor a Bloodmobile/Blood drive? YES _____ NO _____.
If yes, total of units donated through your efforts _____.
4. Are these totals estimated? YES _____ NO _____.
5. Total Units of Blood Donations _____.

Please take the time to fill this out and get credit for what your Post is doing. Also, please fill in the Blood Donor Program section on the yearly Consolidated Post Report. Last year it was item 14 & 15 under National Security.

POST NUMBER _____ DISTRICT _____

POST NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

YOUR NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____ TITLE _____

YOUR ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

**PLEASE RETURN TO DISTRICT BLOOD CHAIRMAN BY MAY 1, 2024.
CHAIRMAN ARE LISTED ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE.**

OPTIONAL PAGE

This is an optional second page of the blood program report. Please fill out this page if the number of units of blood has, or could in the future, increase. Keep in mind that, with all the injured service men and women coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan, we will need more blood.

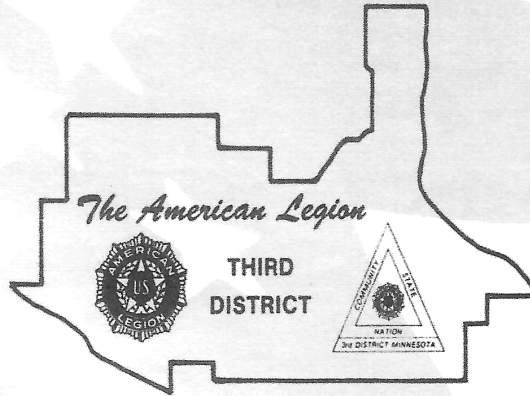
Does your Post participate in a blood program? YES _____ NO _____

If so, do you think an additional drive
per year (or more) would be possible? YES _____ NO _____

If not, would you be interested in
starting a new location? YES _____ NO _____

If not, would you be interested in helping
with a drive in your community? (Such
as providing space for the drive or helping
with the refreshments) YES _____ NO _____

A suggestion for any Post/Unit/SAL that is interested in some expansion of their activity would be to contact the County Health Nurse. Also let your District Blood Program Chairman know of your interest.



3rd DISTRICT COMMANDER'S PROJECT: COMMANDER ROD REIFSTECK

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

My Motto "CAN DO"

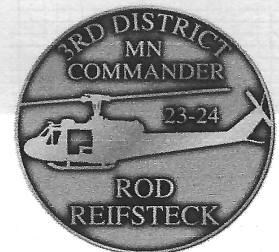
My Commanders Project for the 2023-24 year is for Legionville Safety Camp which focuses on School Safety, First Aid, Swimming/Water Safety and Summer Camp Activities. Legionville is a Department of Minnesota program. We are supporting and utilizing it with Post, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion (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.

THIRD DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION, AUXILIARY AND SONS OF THE AMERICAN
LEGION CONVENTION FOR 2024

MAY 17 & 18, 2024

American Legion Post # _____ Auxiliary Unit # _____ SAL Squadron _____

Registration Fee is **\$10.00** per person before May 1st, and **\$12.00** per person after May 1st, 2024.

Name (Please Print)	Circle One: L=Legion SAL=SAL A=Auxiliary,	Circle One: D=Delegate, A=Alternate, DAL=Delegate at Large
	L / A / SAL	D / A / DAL
	L / A / SAL	D / A / DAL
	L / A / SAL	D / A / DAL
	L / A / SAL	D / A / DAL
	L / A / SAL	D / A / DAL
	L / A / SAL	D / A / DAL
	L / A / SAL	D / A / DAL
	L / A / SAL	D / A / DAL
	L / A / SAL	D / A / DAL
	L / A / SAL	D / A / DAL
	L / A / SAL	D / A / DAL

Each registrant **MUST** complete a credentials document prior to check in at the appropriate registration table.

Registration Information

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Friday, May 17 th	4:00 - 7:00 PM	Post 45
Saturday, May 18 th	7:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Post 45

Banquet Meal: To Be Determined

PLEASE: Register in advance for the banquet to allow us to order the appropriate amount of food. There will be minimal additional dinner tickets to purchase at registration - first come, first served. Tickets are non-refundable. Cost of dinner - \$22.00 in advance, \$27.00 at registration.

Name: _____ Number of Dinner Tickets: _____

Mail Completed form **with check** to:

New Prague American Legion Post 45
Attn: Third District Convention
PO Box 113
New Prague MN 56071