



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

Can Do!



May 2024

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



Volume 9 Issue 10

The Commanders Corner

To the Thundering Third District, this spring has given me time to think back to the basics of why we follow bylaws. The bylaws of the American Legion are crucial for maintaining the integrity and the effectiveness of any organization. The purpose of bylaws are to govern its operations, activities, and procedures. Bylaws can cover officer duties, meeting procedures, and membership eligibility. Each Post should have their own set of bylaws. Once approved by the general membership the bylaws should be dated and signed by the Post Commander and Adjunct, a copy then should be sent to Mike Maxa, our Department Adjutant at mmaxa@mnlegion.org. We should familiarize ourselves with the bylaws annually. It is important as issues arise in different Posts that all members of the Posts take

the time to read and understand them. This could be done as prescribed by the Executive Board. The main criteria outlined by the bylaws will help maintain following procedures. As questions arise concerning election of officers, the bylaws clearly describe their roles and responsibilities, along with a multitude of other answers.

Meetings should be conducted following the rules and procedures, including using Robert's Rules of Order, like how meetings are called and business is conducted, as well as how decisions are made.

As financial discussions take place a protocol should be written and adhered to in the guidelines of the bylaws, which may include budgeting, reporting, clarifications, and auditing procedures.

If bylaws need to be amended or changed it is essential to follow channels already in place that are set up in the bylaws. It is up to the Executive Board and the Post Body which approves any changes in the amendments.

When questions or challenges arise, and uncertainties occur, it is essential to seek guidance about the interpretation of the bylaws. Members can always ask for clarification from the Post Commander, District Vice Commander, and District Commander.

In summary, by following the bylaws of the American Legion, each Post can insure that their local organization operates easily, transparently, and following the mission of each Post.

Keep up the Can Do Attitude,

Rod Reifsteck
3rd 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.

The Chaplains Corner

May, the month of honor and remembrance for the U.S. Armed Forces family. May 1 starts us off with Silver Star Banner Day. Per a Congressional resolution this day not only recognizes those who have been awarded the Silver Star Medal and their families but also the sacrifices of the ill, wounded, and dying service personnel who serve(d) in our military.

The first Thursday of the month is National Prayer Day. Many exercise this Constitutional right publicly by gathering together in prayer. Prayer is an active activity recognizing a force beyond our control to intervene on our behalf. Prayer remains a sacred practice transcending our limits.

The 8th is V-E Day. In 1945 the world exhaled relief of no more catastrophic, traumatic, atrocious and horrific systematic governmental policies, practices and laws upon human beings deemed unfit by other human beings deemed better. I still shutter that we have yet to practice grace, mercy, forgiveness to one another. Governmental laws are to protect citizens so we can all live together peacefully.

May 10 is Military Spouse Appreciation Day for it isn't only the contracted individual who serves our country to defend us from enemies, foreign or domestic, but also the spouses, children and parents.

On May 13, we observe Children of Fallen Patriots Day. The possible future of so many who now must live in the reality of a parent death in service to our country should cause all of us to stop what we normally do on that day and vow to be a support for our future.

The month continues in recognizing sacrificial service for us all during Armed Forces Week: May 11-18th with Armed Forces Day on the 18th.

The month of solemn and grateful recognition ends on the 27th with Memorial Day. Those who died in service to our country will be observed by all our Posts with our Honor Guards marching in parades and at the cemetery's. Thankful for those who serve in this way. They are busy year-round bringing awareness of our military. Our Honor Guard observes this as a Holy Day as they show up and others observe a Holiday.

God, we bow our heads this month in private, in community, together, remembering all who have served us for the greater good. May we be men and women who appreciate the gifts of freedom, economy and privilege afforded us. May we hear your voice in our hearts each day to not trivialize, forget or negate that duty in service for the better of us all hones us by scratching off selfishness, ego, jealousy, hatred to reveal compassion, graceful and merciful people which is Your power. Amen. – Chp Adelsman

Open Committee Positions

We have the following committee positions open for the upcoming year. If you are interested please contact Joe Tappainer at 612-770-5124

Scouts

Boys State

Children & Youth

Employment

Legion Riders

Oratorical

Rehabilitation

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
- Post 594 endorses Wayne Beierman for District Vice Commander 2024-25
- Post 45 endorses Randy Fierst for Finance Committee for 2024-25
- Post 184 endorses Kelley Adelsman for Department Chaplain for 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 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
- Post 47 endorses Chris Anderson as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

CALENDAR OF EVENT

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 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**

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

MeGreetings Thundering Third, **CAN DO!!!**

As of April 25th, the Third District is at 97.76% and we are in 1st place in Department Membership and 3rd in the 2024 Premier Race. We are .01 % point ahead of the 6th district. Keep the memberships flowing into Department and Mylegion, **Can Do**. So far, we have had 147 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 256 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 May 15th so please send in your transmittals early and often. We have 28 posts in the district at goal and 14 posts over 95%. We are coming up to District and Department conventions, the 100% goal is May 15th. **Can Do. The multi-year membership is now available for all members that have already renewed for 2024 (as of Dec 4).** I highly encourage any member that has paid their 2024 dues as of Dec 4, 2023, to take advantage of this program. You can pay now for 2025, 2026 and 2027 at the current dues rate and not be subject to the dues increase coming in July for those three years. **In order to participate, you need to renew your membership online at mylegion.org/renew.** You will need your email address and membership ID# to register.

Wishing you all a wonderful Spring Season!!!! If you have any questions, please contact your Vice Commander or me.

Terry Larson

Still Serving

Area 1 Amy Larsen

| Post | City | Goal | Current | Percent of Goal |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 37 | ST. PETER | 253 | 228 | 90.12% |
| 55 | LE SUEUR | 47 | 47 | 100.00% |
| 74 | HENDERSON | 31 | 33 | 106.45% |
| 79 | MONTGOMERY | 135 | 110 | 81.48% |
| 108 | LE CENTER | 275 | 266 | 96.73% |
| 144 | BELLE PLAINE | 78 | 79 | 101.28% |
| 149 | MORRISTOWN | 130 | 106 | 81.54% |
| 207 | CLEVELAND | 71 | 65 | 91.55% |
| 311 | ELYSIAN | 154 | 174 | 112.99% |
| 380 | KILKENNY | 12 | 10 | 83.33% |
| 433 | GAYLORD | 78 | 82 | 105.13% |
| 510 | NICOLLET | 116 | 108 | 93.10% |
| 518 | NORTH MANKATO | 228 | 202 | 88.60% |
| Total | | 1608 | 1510 | 93.91% |

Area 4 Marissa LaCourt

| Post | City | Goal | Current | Percent of Goal |
|--------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 48 | STILLWATER | 157 | 157 | 100.00% |
| 65 | ROSEMOUNT | 595 | 659 | 102.98% |
| 98 | ST. PAUL PARK | 400 | 380 | 95.00% |
| 225 | FOREST LAKE | 595 | 659 | 110.76% |
| 424 | INVER GROVE HTS. | 63 | 65 | 103.17% |
| 481 | SOUTH ST. PAUL | 22 | 23 | 104.55% |
| 491 | BAYPORT | 242 | 264 | 109.09% |
| 501 | WOODBURY | 133 | 123 | 92.48% |
| 507 | MAHTOMEDI | 47 | 40 | 85.11% |
| 521 | MENDOTA HEIGHTS | 48 | 51 | 106.25% |
| 594 | EAGAN | 250 | 241 | 96.40% |
| 620 | HUGO | 163 | 159 | 97.55% |
| 1700 | BURNSVILLE | 65 | 56 | 86.15% |
| Total | | 2780 | 2877 | 103.49% |

Area 2 Jim Entinger

| Post | City | Goal | Current | Percent of Goal |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 95 | GLENCOE | 80 | 78 | 97.50% |
| 96 | HUTCHINSON | 482 | 449 | 93.15% |
| 125 | STEWART | 41 | 43 | 104.88% |
| 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 | 43 | 97.73% |
| 314 | WINTHROP | 56 | 52 | 92.86% |
| 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 | 1094 | 96.73% |

Area 5 Chris Anderson

| Post | City | Goal | Current | Percent of Goal |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 43 | FARIBAULT | 339 | 335 | 98.82% |
| 44 | LAKEVILLE | 110 | 103 | 93.64% |
| 47 | HASTINGS | 298 | 303 | 101.68% |
| 54 | RED WING | 372 | 372 | 100.00% |
| 78 | KENYON | 34 | 49 | 144.12% |
| 142 | CANNON FALLS | 124 | 117 | 94.35% |
| 183 | ZUMBROTA | 44 | 42 | 95.45% |
| 184 | PINE ISLAND | 115 | 101 | 87.83% |
| 189 | FARMINGTON | 115 | 94 | 81.74% |
| 586 | LONSDALE | 139 | 135 | 97.12% |
| 598 | BELLECHESTER | 56 | 58 | 103.57% |
| 1776 | APPLE VALLEY | 826 | 822 | 99.52% |
| Total | | 2572 | 2531 | 98.41% |

Area 3 Joe Bares

| Post | City | Goal | Current | Percent of Goal |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 2 | SHAKOPEE | 150 | 153 | 102.00% |
| 3 | JORDAN | 50 | 51 | 102.00% |
| 45 | NEW PRAGUE | 208 | 201 | 96.63% |
| 57 | CHASKA | 245 | 247 | 100.82% |
| 84 | NORTHFIELD | 192 | 179 | 93.23% |
| 121 | WATERTOWN | 46 | 45 | 97.83% |
| 150 | WACONIA | 212 | 202 | 95.28% |
| 343 | NORWOOD | 46 | 43 | 93.48% |
| 447 | PRIOR LAKE | 75 | 77 | 102.67% |
| 580 | CHANHASSEN | 349 | 366 | 104.87% |
| 601 | NEW GERMANY | 33 | 35 | 106.06% |
| 643 | SAVAGE | 247 | 259 | 104.86% |
| 1995 | VICTORIA | 11 | 11 | 100.00% |
| Total | | 1864 | 1869 | 100.27% |

Grand Total **9609** **9402** **97.85%**

COATES (Post at Large) **97** **7** **7.22%**

95%-100%
<95%
100%



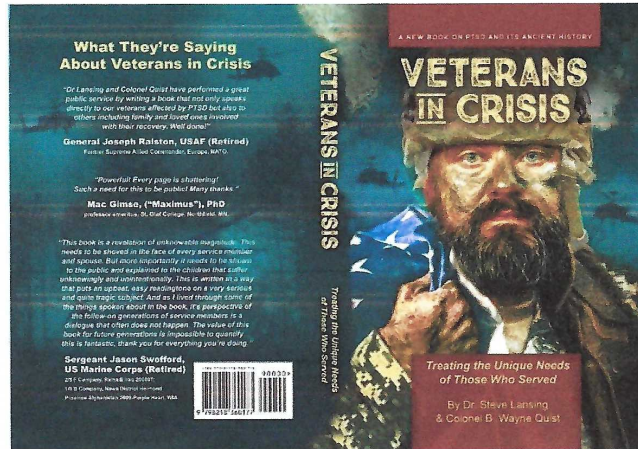
American Legion Post #54 and Hiawatha Valley Family Beyond the Yellow Ribbon



Present the authors of a new book on the history of PTSD
from ancient times to the present

VETERANS IN CRISIS

Treating the Unique Needs of Those Who Served
By Dr. Steve Lansing and Colonel B. Wayne Quist



Friday, June 21, 2024 – 4:00-6:00 pm

American Legion Post #54

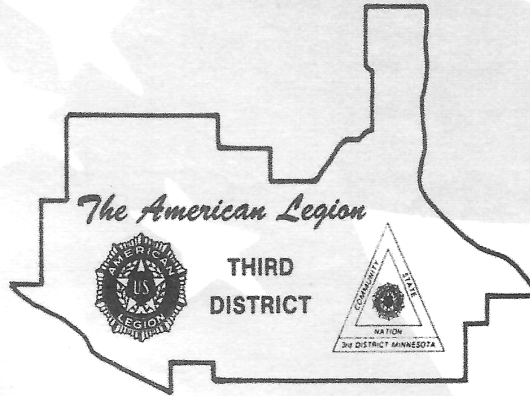
218 W 4th St. Red Wing, MN 55066 ★ (651) 388-6223

Support Resources Available
Appetizers Provided - Cash Bar
For veterans, families & caregivers



Please consider registering: <https://forms.office.com/g/hSUQNj1dtD>

4:00 pm Social Hour – Meet the Authors
5:00 pm – Book Presentation
6:00 pm – Discussion & Book Signing



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

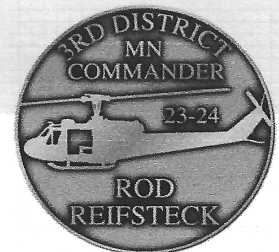
5 Cabin Remodels Quote pending

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 |
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| | 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

Testimonial Dinner for

Commander Rod Reifsteck,
President Deanna Meyer and
Commander Dave Arend

JUNE 8, 2024

Social: 5:00 PM

Dinner: 6:00 PM

Program to follow

Where:

American Legion Post 108
97 South Park Ave
Le Center MN 56057

Cost \$20.00

Dinner will be Stuffed Pork Chop, Au gratin Potatoes, Corn, Salad and
dessert.

Please mail your reservation including your money by May 29, 2024

to: American Legion Post 108

PO Box 102

LeCenter MN 56057

Name: _____ Post/Unit/Sq: _____

Name: _____ Post/Unit/Sq: _____

Name: _____ Post/Unit/Sq: _____

Name: _____ Post/Unit/Sq: _____