



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

Can Do!



April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Nat'l Cmdr Tour</i>	15 <i>Nat'l Cmdr Tour</i>	16 <i>Nat'l Cmdr Tour</i>	17 <i>Nat'l Cmdr Tour</i>	18	19	20 <i>3rd Dist Family Gathering</i>
21	22	23	24	25 <i>MN Legion College</i>	26 <i>MN Legion College</i>	27 <i>MN Legion College</i>
28 <i>MN Legion College</i>	29	30				



Volume 9 Issue 9

The Commanders Corner

To the Thundering Third District, the mission is "Holding the Line" for membership and to advance our goals in the face of adversity. It signifies the resolve of our Legion to maintain our membership, stay focused on our goals, remain steadfast in our beliefs, and to move into our new 3-year membership options.

Our membership, as it refers to "holding the line" encourages openness and the focus on our goal to remain resilient in the American Legion beliefs and to preserve our traditions. The term "holding the line" involves staying true to one's principles, values, and convictions even when confronted with compromise. With the strength of our membership program, we will overcome our adversity for the long-term objective of

membership. When I use the term "holding the line", to me it reflects committing to our standards and our integrity. It is all about inspiring others to do the same.

Overall, involvement in the American Legion will offer Veterans a sense of belonging, opportunities for service, and avenues for advocacy and support. When "holding the line" this also means preserving our heritage. We have dialogue with the Legislature concerning the Ominous Bill and the ongoing Charitable Gambling Tax Relief. Also in mind are details on Sports Betting and E-tab changes.

We have an advantage given to us in that we have the National Commander representing the Legion and what we stand for to

the Senate of MN on Wednesday, 17 April 2024. We all need to be there to support our National Commander at Vets on the Hill at the Capitol. This parallels the "Get It Done" slogan.

I would be remiss if I didn't remind all our Posts that my project for Legionville continues to be my top priority. As always, thank you for your donations and support.

Finally, recognizing military families goes beyond mere phrases; it requires a "Can Do" spirit and an authentic support for their sacrifices. Our brave families need to be appreciated for their ultimate challenges. Our gratitude goes a long way and starts with "Holding the Line" and demonstrating resolve and adaptability to uncertainty while emerging stronger.

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

Commitment

Warning, this is going to be a bit of a 'sermon' out of my Christian faith. In the book of Malachi (2:16) we read of God's dislike for divorce. It directly refers to a man and woman's marriage covenant. The dislike extends to breaking one's vows in all covenanted relationships and tells us more about God's steadfastness of not breaking vows with us.

The priests and people of God began to observe worship by giving not the best of sacrifices rather the leftover, discarded and unwanted. I would like to think they didn't know, but they knew what they were giving, not the best, but even less than least – the refuse and were hoping God didn't know. What kind of worship is it when your thanksgiving is done with resentment, boredom, impatience?

They complained God was not doing anything for them. Their confirmation bias of divorcing God for other gods is building. The women they began to marry were introducing them to new, shiny gods with exciting, unknown promises they found attractive. They were living duplicitous lives and not thinking that God can see their cheating hearts.

"I hate divorce...." is a God's character. This *chesed* (Psalm 63:3/steadfast) of the all-knowing God speaks to my heart. Making a vow is a faithful heart and mind verbalized and witnessed by others.

As a human lot we make agreements, commitments, alliances until they no longer serve our need or we are not able to see beyond the struggles and we fold. It is so easy for me to condemn those people and priests for their cheating hearts without self-examination of my own.

For Christians around the world we just finished celebrating the holiest of High Holy Days – Easter. God's *chesed* to redeem us from our short attention spans, unsettled hearts looking for greener pastures and alliance changes to level up was responded to with a sacrificial lamb who bore the cost for our straying hearts – God himself took on the burden of all of our broken vows.

Each day I awake is a new day to be grateful that I am loved beyond myself. I pray we seek out God's *chesed* and make it ours. Thank you for this freedom to speak from my personal faith - Chp. Kelley Adelman.

SAL Update

Greetings and Happy Easter,

Well, looks like March decided to go out with a snow bang, lets hope April showers wash it all away. I would like to take a second to send a Thank you to the Post and Squad at Forest Lake 225 for hosting the Detachment Conference this past month. Even with the construction going on in their post, they did a fantastic job in hosting. We are looking forward to seeing the Post in June for Detachment Convention.

During the Conference, Squad 98, St Paul Park, Commander gave a training session on SAL Gambling Permits and how to get one. If anyone has a question on this, please contact Greg at Squad 98. 3rd District gave a Letter of Appreciation to James S from Squad 98 for his help in getting the computers that we bought set up quickly.

There are a few things going on this month around the District. Bellchester is having their BBQ on April 6th. April 13th Forest Lake is doing Concessions for Roxies Bingo. April 27th Pine Island is hosting The American Legion Family Day. Have a great month everyone.

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

Post 594 endorses Wayne Beierman for District Vice Commander 2024-25

Post 45 endorses Randy Fierst for Finance Committee 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 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

Post 47 endorses Chris Anderson as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

CALENDAR OF EVENT

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

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.

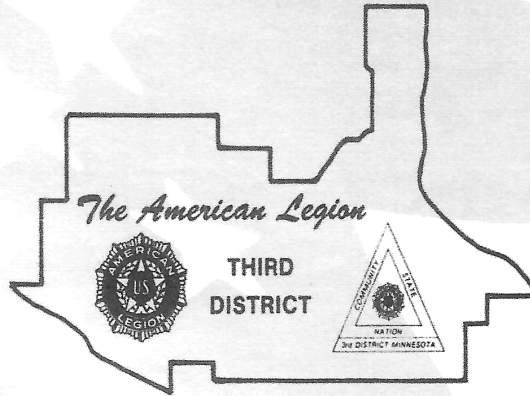
Does your Post participate in a blood program? YES _____ NO _____

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"

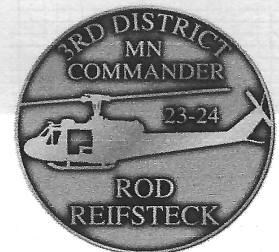
My Commanders Project for the 2023-24 year is for Legionville Safety Camp which focuses on School Safety, First Aid, Swimming/Water Safety and Summer Camp Activities. Legionville is a Department of Minnesota program. We are supporting and utilizing it with Post, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion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