

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 Nat'l Cmdr Tour	15 Nat'l Cmdr Tour	16 Nat'l Cmdr Tour	17 Nat'l Cmdr Tour	18	19	20 3rd Dist Family Gathering
21	22	23	24	25 MN Legion College	26 MN Legion College	27 MN Legion College
28 MN Legion College	29	30				

Volume 9 Issue 9

The Commanders Corner

he American Legion THIRD DISTRICT

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 Adelsman.

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 get-ting 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.

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

Membership Update

Greetings Thundering Third

As of March 28th, the Third District is at 96.38% 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 139 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 239 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 April 13th so please send in your transmittals early and often. We have 24 posts in the district at goal and 15 posts over 95%. 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 toolooseto@aol.com

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	107	79.26%
108	LE CENTER	275	265	96.36%
144	BELLE PLAINE	78	76	97.44%
149	MORRISTOWN	130	101	77.69%
207	CLEVELAND	71	65	91.55%
311	ELYSIAN	154	148	96.10%
380	KILKENNY	12	10	83.33%
433	GAYLORD	78	81	103.85%
510	NICOLLET	116	108	93.10%
518	NORTH MANKATO	228	202	88.60%
Total		1608	1471	91.48%

Area 2 Jim Entinger

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
95	GLENCOE	80	78	97.50%
96	HUTCHINSON	482	447	92.74%
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	42	95.45%
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	1091	96.46%

Area 3 Joe Bares

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
2	SHAKOPEE	150	152	101.33%
3	JORDAN	50	51	102.00%
45	NEW PRAGUE	208	200	96.15%
57	CHASKA	245	247	100.82%
84	NORTHFIELD	192	178	92.71%
121	WATERTOWN	46	45	97.83%
150	WACONIA	212	200	94.34%
343	NORWOOD	46	43	93.48%
447	PRIOR LAKE	75	76	101.33%
580	CHANHASSEN	349	360	103.15%
601	NEW GERMANY	33	35	106.06%
643	SAVAGE	247	253	102.43%
1995	VICTORIA	11	11	100.00%
Total		1864	1851	99.30%

Area 4 Marissa LaCourt

Post	City	Goal		Current	Percent of Goal
48	STILLWATER		157	155	98.73%
65	ROSEMOUNT		595	647	101.19%
98	ST. PAUL PARK		400	364	91.00%
225	FOREST LAKE	*	595	647	108.74%
424	INVER GROVE HTS.		63	65	103.17%
481	SOUTH ST. PAUL		22	23	104.55%
491	BAYPORT		242	260	107.44%
501	WOODBURY		133	122	91.73%
507	MAHTOMEDI		47	40	85.11%
521	MENDOTA HEIGHTS		48	49	102.08%
594	EAGAN		250	239	95.60%
620	HUGO		163	149	91.41%
1700	BURNSVILLE		65	55	84.62%
Total		2	780	2815	101.26%

Area 5 Chris Anderson

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
43	FARIBAULT	339	333	98.23%
44	LAKEVILLE	110	101	91.82%
47	HASTINGS	298	301	101.01%
54	RED WING	372	367	98.66%
	KENYON	34	48	141.18%
142	CANNON FALLS	124	115	92.74%
	ZUMBROTA	44	42	95.45%
	PINE ISLAND	115	100	86.96%
	FARMINGTON	115	94	94.95%
	LONSDALE	139	134	96.40%
	BELLECHESTER	56	57	101.79%
1776	APPLE VALLEY	826	811	98.18%
Total		2572	2503	97.32%
Grand	l Total	9609	9261	96.38%
COATES	(Post at Large)	97	7	7.22%
		>95%		

>95% 90%-95% <90% 100%

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
- Total number units of blood donated by Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL members during this time period
- 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 <u>Blood Donor Program</u> 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 your 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 <u>Raptor1rod@gmail.com</u> 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 <u>District Commander Project</u> and in the Memo Line add <u>Legionville Corporation</u>. 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)

ROD

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

Page 10 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 <u>\$10.00</u> per person before May 1st, and <u>\$12.00</u> per person after May 1st, 2024.

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

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

	Registration Information	
Date	Time	Location
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

<u>PLEASE</u>: 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