



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

Can Do!



December 2023

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



Volume 9 Issue 5

The Commanders Corner

Hey Thundering Third, time passes quickly and one has to slow down to make sure one is not missing their goals. As I have visited some Posts and attended meetings such as the Camporee & Harvest Rally this fall, Legionville has remained utmost on my mind as part of my 2023-24 Commanders Project. I am keeping up the pace collecting donations and appreciate all you who give. Legionville remains one of a kind camp in MN that offers Vets and kids opportunities to learn and create memories while getting exposure to the camping experience. My efforts continue to focus on my travels and fundraising.

Responsibilities have taken me to Posts that have issues and it takes time to turn things around for a better working Post. All Posts seem to have minor issues but we need to remember we are a family and it helps when we

review our Constitution and By-Laws every 2 years, dated and signed. If changes are to be made make sure the Post Family is aware of the changes. Posts need to rely on their 3rd District Vice Commanders to visit their Posts and bring to the table information and direction.

One last thing I would like to share from the recent Department Fall Convention is the importance of the Post Service Officer (PSO). This job requires a confident, dedicated, and organized person; preferably one who is ready and available to provide assistance. There are education classes for the PSO who can receive training by the Department which includes in person or electronic. I learned that through the years the responsibility is greater than ever in today's world. This is a great

opportunity for our local PSO's to bring attention to "Vets in Need" in their local community. It is free and aligns with "BE THE ONE."

I am looking forward to the Pearl Harbor Rally sponsored by the American Legion Riders in Paynesville MN Post 271 on December 9. With the holidays approaching fast, we want to remember our Veterans serving and our Veterans that are in need of assistance. I wish you all a Happy Holiday.

I visited the St Augusta Post 621 after the St. Cloud Dept Conference.

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

December – Visions of sugarplums dance in my head by Chaplain K. Adelsman

Recently I was given a beautiful journal. The cover was embossed with these words: “Dare to live the life you have dreamed for yourself”. What dreams haven’t I had the courage to live yet? I thought of a few, but they were limited to myself. My next train of thought was for gratitude. Today my dreams can be considered. Just one generation behind me had far fewer options to dream for. Some who dreamed and dared to live were often not provided opportunities (ex: Down’s Syndrome individuals).

Countless individuals have lived before me, dreaming of a life of value with purpose beyond scraping by each day, each year. The advancement of clean water on demand remains a dream for all, many of us though now don’t even think about how indoor plumbing changed our lifestyles. Many lived lives they never wished upon their children. Struggle and suffering were common for many. Mortality rates for newborns to five years of age were up to 60% in the 19th century. Many young children live beyond 5 today in part to many societal improvements and individual practices. Many dreamed dreams of a better life for newborns. The medical care, clean water, toiletry practices were a part of my life as established practices by the time my children were born. What actions, choices and goals am I setting that will ensure those after me can dream of a dream or are all my dreams just about me?

Not all of us practice a religion. There does not exist a formalized religion in our past or current lifetime that has as its end goal dreaming dreams for ourselves. All religions exist to explain the relationship one has with a Higher Power that transcends individual dreams. Dreaming a dream just for yourself is a starting point, but the greater good is if your dream includes others. Practicing one’s faith is an exercise in learning to live selflessly through service with compassion. May what you choose transcend yourself.

We are in the season of reflection and gratitude in December. So, the embossed words stay as they are - a 21st century result of so many who lived before me. For all those whose dreams were not possible, may I not squander mine simply on myself. May my purpose and sense of what I can do with who I am consider how it will affect those around me and others. A dream I dare each of us to live is: to be an instrument of peace where nightmares are a thing of the past.

Chaplain Kelley Adelsman, M.Div, CT
<https://www.Connectbelief.com>
pichpsvcs@gmail.com
507-273-0165

The SAL Update

Happy Holidays. I hope that everyone had a pleasant Thanksgiving and of course, NO ONE overate at all right? Well now it is time to wake up from the food coma and go hit the holiday hustle and bustle, shopping for the family and traveling back and forth. While you’re doing that, let’s take a minute to say a prayer for the ones that we lost this year and the families celebrating a holiday with them missing..... Amen.

With the holiday season in full swing, let’s take some time to think about those that need help. Is your Squad or Post running a Toys for Tots program? With the way the economy is right now, there are plenty of families in our communities that probably could use some help with toys for the children this year. Your squad could be running this program if the post or community does not already have one in place. Just a little something to think about.

Moving on to membership, I have the report from Detachment dated 11/22/23. CONGRATULATIONS 3RD District. We are sitting in 1st place with 53.08%, with 1112 members currently. The goal for the year is 2095 members. Keep up the good work. Now for the bad news, we currently have 3 Squads still at 0.0%, Cannon Falls, Arlington, and Hugo. We also have 5 other Squads that are below 10% but not goose egged. On the good side, there are 23 Squads that are at 50% or above. Keep up the good work all.

Have a Great Holiday and Merry Christmas

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

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

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

CALENDAR OF EVENT

Dec 9	Dept Pearl Harbor Rally	Paynesville Post 271
*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

***Denotes Change**

Trivia

Last months Trivia answers

What is the % of CPR's submitted Nationally? 68%

How many American Legion Posts are in the organization? 12,127

This months Joke

What do elf's learn in school?

What is the difference between the regular alphabet and the Christmas alphabet?

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 November 28th, the Third District is at 78.54% and we are in 5th place in both Department Membership and 4th place in the 2024 Premier Race. To keep the momentum going, we sent out a letter to all 729 1982 members in the 3rd District on November 7th so far we have had 37 HQ transfers which puts us in 3rd place. You should do follow up buddy checks on these members and welcome them into your Post. Keep the memberships flowing into Department and MyLegion. Continue to bring in new members. So far, the district has added 118 brand new members, and we are in 2nd place. Any one who did not renew in 2023 but does so for 2024 is also considered a 'New Member'. The next target date is December 13th so please send in your transmittals by Monday December 4th. 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	188	74.31%
55	LE SUEUR	47	42	89.36%
74	HENDERSON	31	27	87.10%
79	MONTGOMERY	135	95	70.37%
108	LE CENTER	275	239	86.91%
144	BELLE PLAINE	78	66	84.62%
149	MORRISTOWN	130	82	63.08%
207	CLEVELAND	71	47	66.20%
311	ELYSIAN	154	109	70.78%
380	KILKENNY	12	9	75.00%
433	GAYLORD	78	67	85.90%
510	NICOLLET	116	96	82.76%
518	NORTH MANKATO	228	156	68.42%
Total		1608	1223	76.06%

Area 4 Marissa LaCourt

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
48	STILLWATER	157	127	80.89%
65	ROSEMOUNT	595	524	77.38%
98	ST. PAUL PARK	400	286	71.50%
225	FOREST LAKE	595	524	88.07%
424	INVER GROVE HTS.	63	54	85.71%
481	SOUTH ST. PAUL	22	21	95.45%
491	BAYPORT	242	199	82.23%
501	WOODBURY	133	103	77.44%
507	MAHTOMEDI	47	33	70.21%
521	MENDOTA HEIGHTS	48	42	87.50%
594	EAGAN	250	178	71.20%
620	HUGO	163	109	66.87%
1700	BURNSVILLE	65	51	78.46%
Total		2780	2251	80.97%

Area 2 Jim Entinger

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
95	GLENCOE	80	66	82.50%
96	HUTCHINSON	482	394	81.74%
125	STEWART	41	42	102.44%
141	SILVER LAKE	156	149	95.51%
143	BROWNTON	53	51	96.23%
226	GIBBON	16	8	50.00%
250	ARLINGTON	32	28	87.50%
300	LAFAYETTE	44	5	11.36%
314	WINTHROP	56	47	83.93%
407	WINSTED	87	60	68.97%
408	GREEN ISLE	36	26	72.22%
463	LESTER PRAIRIE	25	15	60.00%
641	PLATO	23	17	73.91%
Total		1131	908	80.28%

Area 5 Chris Anderson

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
43	FARIBAULT	339	262	77.29%
44	LAKEVILLE	110	72	65.45%
47	HASTINGS	298	227	76.17%
54	RED WING	372	315	84.68%
78	KENYON	34	38	111.76%
142	CANNON FALLS	124	95	76.61%
183	ZUMBROTA	44	37	84.09%
184	PINE ISLAND	115	84	73.04%
189	FARMINGTON	115	73	73.74%
586	LONSDALE	139	112	80.58%
598	BELLECHESTER	56	55	98.21%
1776	APPLE VALLEY	826	668	80.87%
Total		2572	2038	79.24%

Area 3 Joe Bares

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
2	SHAKOPEE	150	117	78.00%
3	JORDAN	50	50	100.00%
45	NEW PRAGUE	208	166	79.81%
57	CHASKA	245	199	81.22%
84	NORTHFIELD	192	148	77.08%
121	WATERTOWN	46	43	93.48%
150	WACONIA	212	178	83.96%
343	NORWOOD	46	38	82.61%
447	PRIOR LAKE	75	61	81.33%
580	CHANHASSEN	349	276	79.08%
601	NEW GERMANY	33	29	87.88%
643	SAVAGE	247	200	80.97%
1995	VICTORIA	11	11	100.00%
Total		1864	1516	81.33%

Grand Total **9609** **7547** **78.54%**

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 # _____

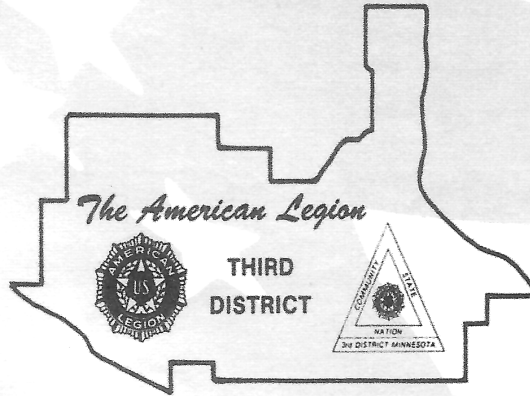
Name: _____

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"

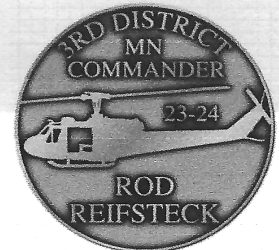
My Commanders Project for the 2023-24 year is for Legionville Safety Camp which focuses on School Safety, First Aid, Swimming/Water Safety and Summer Camp Activities. Legionville is a Department of Minnesota program. We are supporting and utilizing it with Post, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion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

