



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

Can Do!



June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 <i>Joint Testimonial</i>
9	10	11	12	13	14 <i>F;lag Day</i>	15
16 <i>Fathers Day</i>	17	18	19	20	21	22 <i>Dept Cmdr Testimonial</i>
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29



Volume 9 Issue 11

The Commanders Corner

This last month (April 15-17) I had the privilege of meeting our National Commander, Daniel J. Seehafer, and hearing what he had to say. I listened to his speech which was about purpose and relevance. My interpretation as to purpose is about our Veterans and PTSD and the toll that is taking place and how we see it. Purpose in a job is crucial for both personal satisfaction and professional success. Your purpose is essentially the reason why you do what you do. It's the driving force behind our actions and decisions of our life. It got me thinking about membership because that is the purpose of the American Legion to keep inviting new members and keeping the ones we have.

Relevance is one's purpose to fulfill, motivate and engage in work. It also enhances your productivity because you are passionate about what you are doing. If your purpose is to make a positive impact on people's lives and you are working in mental health, dealing with PTSD, your purpose is highly relevant to your job because healthcare professionals directly impact the well-being of their patients. Understanding your purpose and ensuring its relevance to your job allows you to not only excel in your career but also find meaning and fulfillment in your work.

Commander Seehafer is a passionate speaker who has brought his vision and expertise to thousands of Legionnaires and their families. He is down to earth and realistically clarifies the four pillars and practices them in his actions and deeds and leads by example.

When I got involved in the American Legion, my purpose was to have direct input into our business platform and focus on the younger generation. As an entity we need to provide relevant activities and opportunities for these younger members and their families in order for them to actively participate and benefit from the American Legion family.

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

Ownership or Stewardship?

Charlie the Colorado Blue Spruce went with the house we sold to the young lady who won the bidding war for our home. A year later we drove past the house as we were in the neighborhood. A wise person once told me to never drive by the house you sold if it would bother you to see what the new owners did to 'your' house. Charlie the tree was no more, where he was when we left him, was now just grass.

I cried as I remembered all we had poured into bringing Charlie home. Sight picked out; hole dug; nutrients put in; loosening his roots before placing him; watering; praying and more watering. He even grew while the house was ours. We sold the house knowing he would do well and in thirty years provide a much-needed wind-break and home for many birds.

That wise person was right. I was bothered. Charlie did not survive. He was no longer there when we drove by a few years later.

There is a time and season for everything on earth. My season of owning the home had passed. The new owner was planting seeds of their own. I had stewarded the house into a home the way I knew best. I also didn't know if Charlie had become ill and died – trees do that.

All of us are planting, tending to the growing or harvesting. Ownership is a man-made claim.

We are here for just a blip of earth time. This world, The American Legion, the trees I plant, perennials, home I live in and children will continue way beyond my last breath. God invites us to steward – tend to, look after, care for the gifts in our lives. God never (in any sacred scripture) entitled a human to ownership of anything beyond our own soul – that you can do with as you please and reap as you sow. May we all develop a stewarding soul and nurture benevolence to all living and even non-living while we can.

Thank you for allowing me into your lives as the 3rd District Chaplain this year, it is an honor to pray and speak/listen to God on our collective behalf. Praying for our leadership is constant. I welcome Rev. Cindy Yanchury into the 3rd District Chaplain role with open-arms. I pray God's blessing upon her. – Rev. Kelley 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
Children & Youth
Employment

Legion Riders
Rehabilitation

National Convention Delegates & Alternates

The following individuals are Delegates to the National Convention in New Orleans

Joe Tappainer

Rod Reifsteck

Linda Dvorak

Don Pankake

Joe Bares

Mark Dvorak

Mary Jo York

Don Skow

Pat Logan

The following are alternates to the National Convention in New Orleans—You will get a packet from Department and can attend the National Convention, without a stipend. If you wish to stay in the same hotel as the MN delegation you need to complete the paper Department send you. If we attain a membership of 9,501 the first alternate will become a delegate.

Carla Tappainer

Amy Larsen

Kelley Adelsman

Marissa Lacourt

Ashley Venburg

Chris Anderson

Tom McBroom

Mike Kauss

Dean Londo

CALENDAR OF EVENT

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

At this time, we have no bids to hold the 2025 or 2026 Conventions. 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

Greetings Thundering Third, **CAN DO!!!**

As of May 24th, the Third District is at 98.63% and we are in 1st place in Department Membership and 3rd in the 2024 Premier Race. We are .19 % point ahead of the 6th district. Keep the memberships flowing into Department and Mylegion, **Can Do**. So far, we have had 159 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 267 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 June 15th so please send in your transmittals early and often. We have 30 posts in the district at goal and 14 posts over 95% unfortunately we have 6 posts under 90%. We are coming up to the Department convention, the 100% goal was May 15th. 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 Summer!!!! If you have any questions, please contact your Vice Commander or me.

Terry Larson

Still Serving

SAL Update

Hello all,

Well District Convention has come and gone again for another year. This year it was held down in New Prague Post 45, and we all had a wonderful time. We got a fair amount of business done while at Convention. We approved the formation of a Finance Committee, finally. We are looking for a couple of Sons members that would like to serve on the committee. This would be a good way to get you "feet wet" in a District Position, especially if you are someone who has been thinking about getting active at the District level.

My project for this year is the remodel of the old store building at Legionville. As you all hopefully know, The Sons put on the Disabled Vet Deer Hunt every year at Legionville. Well permission was given to turn the Old Store into a Barracks building, and I decided to turn that project into my Commanders Project. If your squad would like to donate to the Commanders project, you can contact James Swing, Lloyd Schaffer or myself for details. Thank you

With Convention comes a new round of Officer Elections. The elected and appointed Officers are as follows:

Commander - Dave Arend

Vice Commanders- William Hoyt, Jack Thomas, Gregg Wilwert, Glen Neville and Roger Quiram

Finance Officer- James Swing

Adjutant- Lloyd Schaffer

Sgt-at-Arms- Dave Vulcan

Chaplain- Casey Lenort

Membership- Dennis Bjorklund

District Advisors- Mary Jo York

Talk to you next month.

Dave Arend

Woodbury Post 501
awarding a scholar-
ship to one the high
school students.





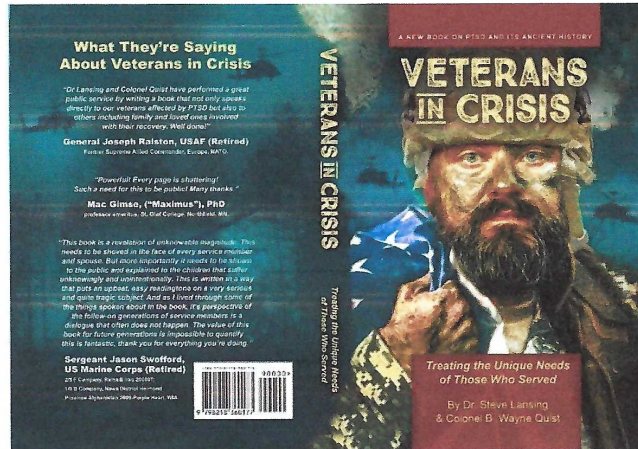
American Legion Post #54 and Hiawatha Valley Family Beyond the Yellow Ribbon



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"

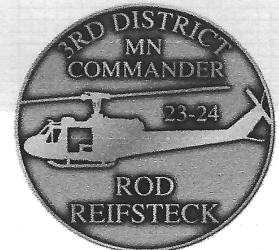
My Commanders Project for the 2023-24 year is for Legionville Safety Camp which focuses on School Safety, First Aid, Swimming/Water Safety and Summer Camp Activities. Legionville is a Department of Minnesota program. We are supporting and utilizing it with Post, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion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

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Third District Officers for the 2024-2025 Year				
2					
3					
4	Position	Name	Address	Home Phone	Home
5		Email Address		Cell Phone	Post
6					
7	Commander	Joe Tappainer	837 Greening Dr	612-770-5124 (M)	1776
8		jtappainer@frontier.com	Apple Valley MN 55124		
9					
10	Adjutant	Linda Dvorak	1056 Praha St SE		45
11		ldvorak56@gmail.com	New Prague MN 56071	952-457-2129 (M)	
12					
13	Membership Director	Amy Larsen	7275 50th St W	612-306-4438(M)	586
14		AmyLarsenLeion@gmail.com	Webster MN 55088		
15					
16	Vice Commanders	Joe Bares (Area 1)	843 Lodge Dr	952-686-3311(M)	3
17		jebares@yahoo.com	Jordan MN 55352		
18					
19		James Entinger (Area 2)	PO Box 204		95
20		jentinger@yahoo.com	Glencoe MN 55336	920-328-7512 (M)	
21					
22		Ross Lacourt (Area 3)	20595 Camden Path	760-586-5558(M)	1776
23		rlacourt@gmail.com	Farmington MN 55024		
24					
25		Wayne Beierman (Area 4)	1564 Clemson Dr #B	651-497-0971(M)	594
26		beierman68@gmail.com	Eagan MN 55122		
27					
28		Marissa Lacourt (Area 5)	20595 Camden Path	760-586-5136 (M)	1776
29		marissa.lacourt@gmail.com	Farmington MN 55024		
30					
31	Finance Officer	Mary Jo York	16435 MacKenzie St NE		225
32		jo York14@yahoo.com	Forest Lake MN 55025	651-399-7712 (M)	
33					
34	Judge Advocate	Don Pankake	805 Laura Ave SW	320-587-7000(H)	96
35		pankake@hutchtel.net	Hutchinson MN 55350	612-280-7320(M)	
36					
37	Chaplain	Cindy Yanchury	990 Kensington Trl Apt 105	651-261-1594	594
38		cindy.yanchury@gmail.com	Eagan MN 55123		
39					
40	Historian				
41					
42					
43	Sgt-at Arms	Gary Richardson	200 Hallam Ave S.	651-429-3885 (H)	507
44		bnrider3@gmail.com	Mahtomedi, MN 55115	612-749-5711 (M)	
45					
46	Past National Cmdr	Dan Ludwig	4453 Hickory St		54
47		damkludwig@gmail.com	Red Wing MN 55066	651-253-9086 (M)	
48					
49	Past Third District	Rod Reifsteck	22301 Lake Francis Rd	319-290-0750(M)	311
50	Commander	rantor1rod@gmail.com	Elysian MN 56028		
51					



Woodbury Post 501's Memorial Day photos

