



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

Can Do!



# October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Legion College	13 Legion College	14 Legion College
15 Legion College	16	17	18 55% Target	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Fall Conf	27 Fall Conf	28 Fall Conf
29	30	31 Hal- loween				



# Volume 9 Issue 2

## The Commanders Corner

From the Thundering Third, I would like to reiterate what a whirlwind of knowledge and a gathering of minds it was at the 104th annual American Legion Convention in Charlotte NC. Some brief highlights in which I should feel need to be noticed was seeing the Honor Guard competition and seeing our ROTC cadets who were driven with precision and cadence. The Service Awards, Patriot Awards and First Responders awards were exemplary of their actions. These were just a few highlights along with the National Commander's inspired speech and the most penetrating address was Sgt. Major. Micheal Barrett, USMC (Ret). He is the 17th sergeant major of the USMC and encouraged the audience to get revved up by responding "Hell, yes." after each statement like a true drill instructor. Also, one topic that he emphasized was "Be the One" and "Keep Focused" and making sure to keep its presence known. With his final message the audience gave him a standing ovation given the severity of this issue. Last but not least, I

was intrigued by Cdr Frank Weisser, USN (Ret). His 2 tours as a Blue Angel Pilot and as a stunt pilot for Top Gun was an inspired military advertisement to join up.

As to the 3rd District I have to congratulate all the Vice Cmdrs, Adjunct, and Membership Chair by hitting the 50% mark as we strive towards the 100% goal, while still going forward looking for new ways to get more membership.

As I mentioned in my recent Commander's Corner, one class of many that I attended was that all conflicts after the Vietnam War, and returning Vets with the symptoms of PTSD are into the digital gaming for release, which is different from the returning Vets of Vietnam. With that said, keep in mind some Posts are changing from the bar scene to a gaming forum trying to get the new Vet families and their kids into the Legion making it a more family-oriented atmosphere. It was great to see everyone at the Harvest Rally and Camp-O-Ree.

Thanks for all your support.

We were able to determine monies needed for my Commander Project and Legionville improvements. For all of you who attended the Department Harvest Rally & Family Gathering in Brownton it was great to see you.

In addition, we thank Joe Tappainer for his service as Membership Director these past months. We are fortunate to have Terry Larson as our new 2023-24 Membership Director. As always I appreciate the talent availability and willingness that all keeps us working together.

Keep up the "Can Do" Spirit.

Rod Reifsteck  
3rd District Commander

## Position Endorsements

Post 1776 endorses Joe Tappainer for the Position of District 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

## 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

High Holy Days  
Chp Kelley Adelsman

All people are equal. There is no 'less than' human person. Every day we are alive we are afforded the opportunity to behave within this truth. Our human history though is ripe with the failures of disbelieving this fact and treating others as less than due to their belief, culture, lifestyle, neighborhood and so on. Those of us who have served in the military know firsthand the devastation when greed, vanity and selfish want of land and resources become the only agenda.

The First Amendment of our Constitution acknowledges that expressing our religion/faith is a freedom for which the government cannot interfere. We are a country free to respect one another; as well as to appreciate the human right to believe in God (or not) as we determine. Our country now recognizes over 240 different types of religions. Philosophies, cults and ideologies are not recognized as a religion. Religion is defined as a formal set of creeds/doctrines organized for the belief and worship of a God or gods/superhuman power or powers.

In the military, many different types of faiths serve alongside one another. The Chaplains, the second oldest Corp, ensure the practice of religions high holy days. During the latter part of September to the end of October the Jewish and the Christian faiths ecclesiastical calendars observe a few high holy days.

On the Jewish ecclesiastical calendar, in the Northern Hemisphere, on September 15-16, 2023 was the first of the Jewish high holy days – Rosh Hashanah. This two-day holy event celebrates the creation of Adam and Eve and is also a time of penitence. This observance is followed up September 24 with the highest holy day of Yom Kippur/Day of Atonement. This day of fasting began on sunset of the 24th until after sunset of the 25<sup>th</sup> and is the time observed to one being the closest to G-d and to the substance of their souls. Yom Kippur is the day devoted only to being in synagogue praying for forgiveness.

At the end of October, Christian religions observe the three-day AllHallowtide. It has been overshadowed by Halloween and some Protestant groups belief that a person immediately goes to heaven or hell. For other Christians and Catholic faith All Hallow's Eve (Oct 31) prepares for All Hallow's Day (All Saint's Day) and All Souls' Day (Nov 2). These days are a time to honor all the saints and pray for those who have recently died and have not yet reached heaven.

Respecting another's freedom to practice their faith without harm is guaranteed in America. It is also recognized within The American Legion. Please pray with me: *God, you are over all the heavens and the earth. We acknowledge that our understanding of your magnitude and love for us all is limited by this world and our state in it. We ask for your mercy to be upon us as we endeavor to love all as equal for your love has no limits. Amen.*

### The SAL Update

Happy Halloween! Oh wait, that's still a few weeks off. As we run full tilt into the season of changing leaves and falling temps, take a minute to enjoy the time. Take time out to enjoy the days with family and friends. Stop by your post and renew your membership.

Membership numbers are in, and we have a lot of squads on goose eggs right now. Must give a large round of applause to Chaska squad 57 for having renewed 100 members so far, and Bellechester squad 598 for already hitting 97.5%. All 598 needs is 1 more member signed and they are at 100%. Great job. New Prague, Northfield, St. Paul Park, Waconia, Pine Island, Forest Lake, Winthrop, and Apple Valley have all exceeded September Goal percentages. Good job everyone.

Have some big things happening this month. On the first weekend we have the John Zgoda Disabled Vet Deer Hunt. Thank you to all the volunteers going up to make this happen. And good luck to all the hunters. Have a great weekend and bag some deer.

Second weekend is Legion College. Congratulations to all those that are going, I'm sure it will be fun and informative. Then it's a weekend off unless you're on the convention planning committee. And after that on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, it's time for Fall conference. Which I hope that many of you show up for. If you cannot make it yourself then at talk to your squad officers and see if they can make it.

Have a great month, eat some candy, decorate to your liking and if you have kids or grandkids, enjoy the holiday with them.

Dave Arend  
3rd District SAL Commander

## CALENDAR OF EVENT

Oct 12-15	MN Legion College	Camp Ripley MN
Oct 26-28	Dept Fall Conference	St Cloud, MN
Dec 9	Dept Pearl Harbor Rally	Paynesville Post 271
<b>*Jan 27</b>	<b>3rd District Mid-Winter</b>	<b>Lonsdale Post 586</b>
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
<b>*Jun 22</b>	<b>Dept Commanders Testimonial</b>	<b>Montgomery Post 79</b>
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 average age of a Legionnaire? **67**

What is the highest number continuous years for a living MN American Legion member? **81 Yrs**

### **This months Trivia**

How many active WWII Legionnaires are in the 3rd District?

What is the percentage of female active Veterans are in the 3rd District?

### Junior Shooting Sports Chairman

This message is for all Legion Posts in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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

Membership Update

Terry Larson from Forest Lake Post 225 will be the new District Membership director replacing Joe Tappainer. Keep Joe in your thoughts as he is dealing with health issues.

We are currently at 63.56% in membership. Our next cutoff is Oct 18th. That is also the next renewal cut off, if anyone has not had their renewal processed by this date, they will get another renewal notice. Get your membership processed as soon as possible. Don't hold onto membership.

Next year we will see a \$5.00 National Dues increase. The state and District will need to decide if they plan to raise their dues or not.

Below is the most current membership report as of Sept 24.

Area 1 Amy Larsen					Area 4 Marissa LaCourt				
Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal	Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
37	ST. PETER	253	153	60.47%	48	STILLWATER	157	114	72.61%
55	LE SUEUR	47	28	59.57%	65	ROSEMOUNT	595	402	61.31%
74	HENDERSON	31	21	67.74%	98	ST. PAUL PARK	400	238	59.50%
79	MONTGOMERY	135	88	65.19%	225	FOREST LAKE	595	402	67.56%
108	LE CENTER	275	194	70.55%	424	INVER GROVE HTS.	63	43	68.25%
144	BELLE PLAINE	78	44	56.41%	481	SOUTH ST. PAUL	22	15	68.18%
149	MORRISTOWN	130	65	50.00%	491	BAYPORT	242	162	66.94%
207	CLEVELAND	71	34	47.89%	501	WOODBURY	133	82	61.65%
311	ELYSIAN	154	83	53.90%	507	MAHTOMEDI	47	31	65.96%
380	KILKENNY	12	1	8.33%	521	MENDOTA HEIGHTS	48	35	72.92%
433	GAYLORD	78	50	64.10%	594	EAGAN	250	139	55.60%
510	NICOLLET	116	83	71.55%	620	HUGO	163	85	52.15%
518	NORTH MANKATO	228	135	59.21%	1700	BURNSVILLE	65	15	23.08%
Total		1608	979	60.88%	Total		2780	1763	63.42%
					<b>Area 5 Chris Anderson</b>				
Area 2 Jim Entinger					Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
95	GLENCOE	80	55	68.75%	43	FARIBAULT	339	216	63.72%
96	HUTCHINSON	482	336	69.71%	44	LAKEVILLE	110	60	54.55%
125	STEWART	41	37	90.24%	47	HASTINGS	298	197	66.11%
141	SILVER LAKE	156	131	83.97%	54	RED WING	372	262	70.43%
143	BROWNTON	53	33	62.26%	78	KENYON	34	10	29.41%
226	GIBBON	16	8	50.00%	142	CANNON FALLS	124	81	65.32%
250	ARLINGTON	32	20	62.50%	183	ZUMBROTA	44	32	72.73%
300	LAFAYETTE	44	5	11.36%	184	PINE ISLAND	115	62	53.91%
314	WINTHROP	56	40	71.43%	189	FARMINGTON	115	40	40.40%
407	WINSTED	87	60	68.97%	586	LONSDALE	139	94	67.63%
408	GREEN ISLE	36	20	55.56%	598	BELLECHESTER	56	39	69.64%
463	LESTER PRAIRIE	25	12	48.00%	1776	APPLE VALLEY	826	525	63.56%
641	PLATO	23	17	73.91%	Total		2572	1618	62.91%
Total		1131	774	68.44%					
					<b>Grand Total</b>				
							9609	6107	63.56%
Area 3 Joe Bares					Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
2	SHAKOPEE	150	100	66.67%					
3	JORDAN	50	39	78.00%					
45	NEW PRAGUE	208	139	66.83%					
57	CHASKA	245	191	77.96%	COATES (Post at Large)		97	3	3.09%
84	NORTHFIELD	192	125	65.10%					
121	WATERTOWN	46	39	84.78%					
150	WACONIA	212	147	69.34%					
343	NORWOOD	46	28	60.87%					
447	PRIOR LAKE	75	52	69.33%					
580	CHANHASSEN	349	215	61.60%					
601	NEW GERMANY	33	20	60.61%					
643	SAVAGE	247	168	68.02%					
1995	VICTORIA	11	6	54.55%					
Total		1864	1269	68.08%					



**3rd DISTRICT COMMANDER'S PROJECT: COMMANDER ROD REIFSTECK**

Contact Information [Raptor1rod@gmail.com](mailto:Raptor1rod@gmail.com) 319-290-0750

My Motto "CAN DO"

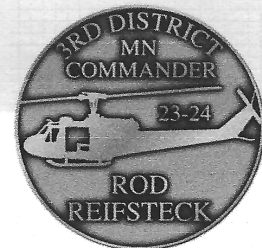
My Commanders Project for the 2023-24 year is for Legionville Safety Camp which focuses on School Safety, First Aid, Swimming/Water Safety and Summer Camp Activities. Legionville is a Department of Minnesota program. We are supporting and utilizing it with Post, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion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

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
FESTIVE FALL LUNCHEON

SATURDAY STARTING  
OCTOBER 14 AT NOON

TICKETS ~ \$25  
LUNCH

GUEST SPEAKERS  
DOOR PRIZES  
A VARIETY OF GIFTS TO BID ON

Tickets will go on sale  
September 11th AFTER  
the Auxiliary Meeting ~  
Thereafter  
at The American Legion

All proceeds will go to help  
support the Auxiliary's projects  
for the youth, community, and  
veterans of Faribault.

Faribault is hosting a Fall Luncheon Fundraiser on Sat., Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Legion, 112 5<sup>th</sup> St. NE, Faribault, MN 55021. A hot meal will be served; guest speakers include Brigadier General Stefanie Horvath with the MN Army National Guard detailed to the U.S. Cyber Command, and Virginia van Sluis with the Faribault Hometown Heroes Banner project. Men as well as women are encouraged to attend. In addition, tickets will be sold to draw "something for everyone" prizes and some lucky guests will be door prize winners.

Reservations for luncheon tickets can be made by mailing either Karen Rasmussen, 1217 Mitchell Dr., Faribault, MN 55021 or American Legion Auxiliary Unit #43, ATTN: Fall Luncheon, 112 5<sup>th</sup> St. NE, and including a \$25/person check payable to ALA Unit #43. Tables will be set up for groups of eight or ten though it's not necessary to purchase a whole table. Luncheon tickets are nonrefundable. You won't want to miss it!

# What's Happening in the District

## Pictures from the Harvest Rally at Legionville

Not sure who is blaming who!



What a bunch!





# What's Happening in the District

**BEER, WINE & BOURBON TASTING**  
**& TASTE OF NEW PRAGUE**  
Sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 45, New Prague, MN  
**Friday, November 17, 2023 • 6:30-8:30 P.M.**  
Park Ballroom, 300 Lexington Ave., S., New Prague, MN 56071  
**TICKETS: \$25.00**  
*Proceeds go towards veteran and community programs*

Silent Auction  
Music & Food Tasting Provided



Post 447 All handmade items  
--Pleasant Street Art Walk



3rd District Family Gathering

