



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

Every Veterans is a Treasure

We Are on the web!
www.mnthunderingthird.org

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						¹
²	³	⁴	⁵	⁶	⁷	⁸ Sweetheart Rally
⁹	¹⁰	¹¹	¹² 85% Target Renewal Cutoff	¹³	¹⁴ Valentines Day 	¹⁵
¹⁶	¹⁷	¹⁸	¹⁹	²⁰	²¹	²²
²³	²⁴	²⁵	²⁶	²⁷	²⁸	



Volume 10 Issue 7

The Commanders Corner

Well, it is January 28th and there is hardly any snow on the ground. Temps are in the mid-30s, and I am back in the hospital having more of my right foot amputated. So, depressing as this is, I am very glad that I have wonderful people as my vice commanders to step up and take the load. They keep me informed of what's going on in the district. Not only is this the time when membership slows down, but it is the time when depression for everyone can hit hard. Check on your friends and neighbors! Membership directors, now is the time when you can make a pot of coffee, pick up a dozen donuts, get the list of the 1982's, and the 1982AD's, and print out the list of Legion members that live within 10 or 15 miles of the post. Invite post members to help you cold call these people and invite them to a post event. Don't talk to them about transferring until they have come to the event and see how the post is run.

Well, those are all the words of wisdom I have for this month. Please watch out for each other!

Happy Valentine's Day!!

Commander Joe

District and/or Department Positions

Have you ever thought about getting more involved at the District or even the 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 the next level of leadership

The Chaplains Corner

Surprised by Joy

Greetings Thundering Third Legion Family! The month of January is wrapping up and we soon will move into the shortest month of the year that can only mean that Spring isn't far behind. As I was pondering what message I would share with you what kept coming back to me were 1) a question for y'all and 2) What time is it?

How is it going for you – in body, mind and spirit? What have you so far resolved to take on/do/fix/connect with? Last month I invited you to look around and to look deeply – who do you see? Who don't you see? But this month it's about looking within. Who am I? Do I like what I see? Is there another version of myself that I'd like to be?

In mid-January I became the recipient of a new knee. The old one was worn out, and it was time admit it. Has it been hard? Oh yeah! But here's the thing – out of that experience came responses from people across all parts of my – how can I help? What do you need? On Facebook over 300 people offered likes and love and many offered desperately needed words of encouragement. I was surprised by the way this brought so much joy in the midst of a painful time (and yes – as advised by everyone who has had a knee replacement, I AM doing the physical therapy). Why is it that I was so surprised by this response of care and concern and advice?

Well, it's easy for me as a pastor to invite people to life lived in the Spirit, but I rarely take time to think about who I am as I make that invitation.

Which leads to question number 2 – What time is it? There are two kinds of time that we live in. Kairos time – that's the way of life, the way of time – who we are, how we live, who we love. And then there's Chronos time. Right now – take a look at your phone, your watch, a nearby clock. What time is it? Chronos is the time that runs our life – be here at 0600, be there at 1800.

We read in Ecclesiastes that there is a time for every purpose under heaven. How will you use the time you have? Where do you allow yourself to be open to the unexpected joys of life? We cannot escape Chronos time – measured time is real; but we also have the option to live into Kairos time – who we are and how we live our lives. Allow yourself to be surprised by the joy of unexpected connections!

Grace and Peace,
Cindy Yanchury, Chaplain

The SAL Update

Greetings,

Another Mid-Winter has come and gone. Thank you, Lonsdale, for hosting Mid-Winter this year. And a big thank you to all of you that made it. While we didn't have as many members show up as we would like, it is always nice to see those that do. A big thank you to Chanhassen Squadron 580 for their generous contribution to my project. Squad 580 raised \$1765.41 for the deer hunting stands at Legionville. For those of you that do not know it, the SAL runs the John Zgoda Disabled Veteran Hunt up at Legionville every year. This year we are adding a Turkey hunt along with the deer hunt. I am raising money to repair or replace the deer stands that are used in the hunt.

On to membership. Congratulations 3rd District, as on JAN26, we are sitting in 2nd place in the state for membership turned in. Only the Squadron-at-Large 3333 Coates is sitting on a goose egg. All other squads have at least 1 member turned in. (Hugo) We have only 3 Squadrons below 50% membership turned in, Hugo 3.57%, Waconia 37.84%, and Hutchinson 39.13%. We currently have 4 Squadrons at or above 100%, Silver Lake 104.17%, Elysian 106.45%, New Prague 125% and Rosemount with a staggering 160.71%. Congratulations to those squads for breaking the 100% mark.

Put it in your calendar,

Sweetheart Rally, Sat, Feb 08. Royalton Post 137. Starts at 11am. The Sweetheart rally is being organized by the MN American Legion Auxiliary. Signup sheet is on the Thundering Third web page.

3rd District Membership Rally is being held at St. Paul Park Post 98 on March 1st at 11am. Sign up sheets are available on the Thundering Third web page. There will be a band after the rally for those who would like to stay for music.

I hope to see many of you at these events.

Dave

Calendar of Events

Feb 8	Sweetheart Rally	Royalton Post 137
Mar 1	District Family Gathering	St Paul Park Post 98
Mar 8	Appreciation Rally	Chanhassen Post 580
Apr 5	Department Cmdr Testimonial	Zimmerman Post 560
Apr 27	Joint District Testimonial	Lonsdale Post 586
May 16-17	District Convention	Forest Lake Post 225

National Convention Endorsements

Post 45 endorses Mark Dvorak as a delegate to the 2025 National Convention

Post 45 endorses Linda Dvorak as a delegate to the 2025 National Convention

Post 3 endorses Joe Bares as a delegate to the 2025 National Convention

Post 1776 endorses Carla Tappainer as a delegate to the 2025 National Convention

Post 1776 endorses Lori Belscher as a delegate to the 2025 National Convention

Position Endorsements

3rd District and Post 45 endorse Linda Dvorak for the position of Dept Commander for 2025-26

Post 586 endorses Amy Larsen for the position of District Commander for 2025-26

If you are interested in a position as Commander, Vice Commander or Finance Officer for the district, please get your post to endorse you and get that endorsement, which should be included in your membership meeting minutes, to the Adjutant.

Membership Update

This report is as of January 30, 2025.

Area 1 Joe Bares

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
37	ST. PETER	232	214	92.24%
55	LE SUEUR	47	38	80.85%
74	HENDERSON	33	31	93.94%
79	MONTGOMERY	116	113	97.41%
108	LE CENTER	270	232	85.93%
144	BELLE PLAINE	81	70	86.42%
149	MORRISTOWN	108	92	85.19%
207	CLEVELAND	68	56	82.35%
311	ELYSIAN	177	156	88.14%
380	KILKENNY	11	11	100.00%
433	GAYLORD	83	66	79.52%
510	NICOLLET	108	96	88.89%
518	NORTH MANKATO	215	180	83.72%
Total		1549	1355	87.48%

Area 4 Wayne Beierman

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
48	STILLWATER	158	142	89.87%
65	ROSEMOUNT	180	185	102.78%
98	ST. PAUL PARK	397	344	86.65%
225	FOREST LAKE	670	585	87.31%
424	INVER GROVE HTS.	67	55	82.09%
491	BAYPORT	271	230	84.87%
501	WOODBURY	127	121	95.28%
507	MAHTOMEDI	43	39	90.70%
521	MENDOTA HEIGHTS	53	40	75.47%
594	EAGAN	248	187	75.40%
620	HUGO	162	141	87.04%
1700	BURNSVILLE	55	47	85.45%
Total		2431	2116	87.04%

Area 2 Jim Entinger

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
95	GLENCOE	78	70	89.74%
96	HUTCHINSON	462	389	84.20%
125	STEWART	45	34	75.56%
141	SILVER LAKE	161	148	91.93%
143	BROWNTON	58	48	82.76%
226	GIBBON	16	9	56.25%
250	ARLINGTON	30	32	106.67%
300	LAFAYETTE	45	29	64.44%
314	WINTHROP	53	49	92.45%
407	WINSTED	85	70	82.35%
408	GREEN ISLE	35	30	85.71%
463	LESTER PRAIRIE	36	32	88.89%
641	PLATO	21	17	80.95%
Total		1125	957	85.07%

Area 5 Marissa Lacourt

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
43	FARIBAULT	340	293	86.18%
44	LAKEVILLE	104	87	83.65%
47	HASTINGS	318	267	83.96%
54	RED WING	382	338	88.48%
78	KENYON	50	46	92.00%
142	CANNON FALLS	120	108	90.00%
183	ZUMBROTA	43	38	88.37%
184	PINE ISLAND	105	84	80.00%
189	FARMINGTON	115	82	83.67%
586	LONSDALE	139	113	81.29%
598	BELLECHESTER	58	57	98.28%
1776	APPLE VALLEY	837	686	81.96%
Total		2611	2199	84.22%

Area 3 Ross Lacourt

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
2	SHAKOPEE	152	133	87.50%
3	JORDAN	52	54	103.85%
45	NEW PRAGUE	205	183	89.27%
57	CHASKA	244	228	93.44%
84	NORTHFIELD	180	149	82.78%
121	WATERTOWN	46	44	95.65%
150	WACONIA	210	197	93.81%
343	NORWOOD	44	37	84.09%
447	PRIOR LAKE	79	65	82.28%
580	CHANHASSEN	374	302	80.75%
601	NEW GERMANY	36	35	97.22%
643	SAVAGE	269	213	79.18%
1995	VICTORIA	11	11	100.00%
Total		1902	1651	86.80%

Grand Total 9636 8312 86.26%

COATES (Post at Large) 35 34 97.14%

>85%
75%-85%
>75%
100%

What's Happening in the District

American Legion Woodbury Post 501 Commander Bob Dolan accepts the award for the Woodbury Nonprofit of the Year. Such a wonderful honor.

The people in the picture from left to right are: Pat Dolan American Legion Auxiliary; Ken Cartier Post 501-member; Meggan Woodbury Chamber of Commerce Board Chair; Bob Dolan Post 501 Commander; JoAnne Kramer Post 501 Vice Commander; Anne Burt, Woodbury Mayor



American Legion Night at the Twins

Department Officers and Staff, District Commanders and Adjutants, Committee Chairs, Baseball and Softball Committees,

Please share this with your districts, committees, newsletter editors, other networks.

American Legion Night at Target Field will take place on Wednesday, June 25, at 6:40 p.m. The Minnesota Twins take on the Seattle Mariners. Commander Carl Moon will toss out the first pitch. Membership Director Carla Tappainer will raise the U.S. flag.

Here is the link for purchasing discount tickets. Save this link in case someone asks you about it:

<https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/American8>

If you do need to find it again, there is a page about American Legion Night at Target Field on our department website: <https://mnlegion.org/american-legion-night-at-target-field/> The FEVO link is a quarter of the way down.

The timing is in late June this year because we are hoping to have a large representation of players, parents and coaches from Minnesota American Legion Baseball and Softball, as well as Auxiliary, Riders, Sons and the Legion itself. (The Twins might even have the players receive a recognition on the field if we get enough to come.) We want to invite anyone in the Legion Family or anyone who is part of the Legion's many youth programs to this game. Nothing is more American than baseball/softball and The American Legion.

Candidates Sought for Minnesota American Legion Boys State

My name is Bob Dolan and I wanted to introduce myself as the Third District Boys State Chairman. As a past Boys State coordinator for Woodbury post 501 I am a firm supporter for this American Legion program. I am a graduate of the Boys State program in New York and thoroughly enjoyed my experience. You are immersed in learning how your government works in a classroom and hands on learning environment. Highlights of the week include political speakers, mock trials, campaigning, elections, and announcement of Boys State Governor and State Constitution Officers. Past Post 501 Boys State attendees all have come back from their experience raving about the program. In the past our Post had young men elected as the Minnesota Lt Government, Minnesota Secretary of State and the Mayor of St Paul. How fabulous.

This year's American Legion Boys State will be held June 8-14, 2025 on the campus of St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota. Applicants for Boys State must be juniors in High School, be in the upper class scholastically at their school.

Over the last few years attendance at Boys State has dropped dramatically. If you have local High Schools students that are interested and your Post does not have the funds, \$350 per applicant, to support their attendance let me know. There are Posts in the Third District that have the funds to support, but do not have local candidates.



If your Post is interested in getting involved in the program you can find out the detailed information on the Boys State web site at: <http://www.mnboysstate.org/>

If you want to talk to me directly about Boys State you can call me at 703-851-5416 or drop me an email at woodburypost501@gmail.com

FREE DENTAL CLINIC FOR VETERANS!

FEBRUARY 18, 25, AND MARCH 4TH, 2025

Bringing Smiles to Veterans



When:

Feb 18 or 25
or March 4th, 2025

Where:

Rochester Community
and Technical College
851 30th Ave. SE,
Rochester, MN 55904

For All Active, Reserve, Retired Military, and for all those who served in the military, we would like to say "thank you for your service" by providing you with free dental and wellness services. Free dental care kits made by the 3rd District Auxiliary Juniors are also provided. (appointments are limited so call now to schedule. Office is closed from Dec 19 - Jan 12 for school break.)

This Interprofessional Clinic will provide several services for veterans. 3rd District of the American Legion Auxiliary, will be teaming with the RCTC Dental Hygiene Students and Bridges Health, PC (a nonprofit organization) to provide free dental cleanings, x-rays, fluoride treatment, and exams. Also, included will be graduate nursing students and social work students from Bridges Health, PC working together to offer veterans resources for housing, food, preventative care, etc. if needed. Call the number on the tabs below and make your appointment for one of the 3 dates. If you need assistance with transportation please let Tammy Thayer know, 507-319-4349.

Dental Cleaning
(507) 280-3169

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