



The American Legion  
Third District  
Nathan Olson  
District Adjutant

## Helping Veterans Connect

We Are on the web!  
[www.mnthunderingthird.org](http://www.mnthunderingthird.org)

## August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	19
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Fall Audit and Finance Fall Executive
17	18	19	20	21	22 National Convention	23 National Convention
24 National Convention	25 National Convention	26 National Convention	27 National Convention	28 National Convention	29	30



# Volume 11 Issue 1

## **The Commanders Corner**

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as your commander. This year, my theme is *Helping Veterans Connect*. What does that mean? It means listening—truly listening—to our fellow veterans to understand their needs, experiences, and hopes.

We all found a home serving this country. Many of us have found a new home serving our communities through the American Legion. But connection doesn't stop there. I've had veterans come to me and say, "I want to talk to someone who served in the same time and area as I did." And that's exactly what I try to help them do—find those connections that matter.

One place I've seen this connection in action is at the hunting and fishing event at Camp Ripley. Veterans come not just for the outdoors, but for the opportunity to talk, reflect, and heal. These moments remind me that sometimes the most powerful thing we can do is simply listen.

The American Legion is a home for all veterans. But to truly live up to that promise, we must be open to their ideas, respectful of their time, and willing to meet them where they are. Our organization was built on the backs of volunteer veterans who shared a common goal: to continue serving this nation. Let's honor their legacy by coming together, listening more, and projecting less.

As we march forward, let's remember those who came before us and strive to make them proud. And let's never forget—we are setting the example for the next generation. For the children who wave flags and place hands over hearts as we pass by in parade routes, we are the living embodiment of service and sacrifice.

Let's make sure they see a community united, compassionate, and strong.

**In service, Commander Amy Larsen 3rd District, American Legion**

## **The Chaplains Corner**

August 2025

Third District Chaplain

Hello Thundering Third! As we enter into this new American Legion Family (ALF) year, I greet you as district chaplain for a second year. Thank you, Commander Larsen for allowing me this privilege. I do not take it lightly. To serve among you as you do the “heavy lifting” of reaching veterans, know that I hold each of you in prayer. Every day I pray for our district officers by name. Every day I lift up two of our posts by name and number as I pray for your members and for those veterans who just haven’t found their way to your post yet.

For you that are new post commanders, adjutants and beyond, know that I’m here for you as well. I invite you to reach out and invite me to a meeting, I am open to as much travel as my calendar can absorb!

God ever with us, wrap us tenderly in your grace, mercy and love as we move into this new year together. We give thanks for those who have said yes and have stepped up into leadership. Guide us all with your wisdom and give us the courage to lead well and to lead from a heart of compassion and peace. We pray for those veterans who haven’t yet found a safe haven where they can share their stories and heal their pain. We pray for the courage to serve you; our families and the family we call the American Legion.

Amen

## **Membership Update**

No update this month.

## **SAL UPDATE**

No update this month

## **National Convention Delegates**

**The following individuals are delegates to the National Convention in Tampa Bay.**

Joe Tappainer

Amy Larsen

Nate Olson

Don Pankake

Joe Bares

Don Skow

Cindy Yanchury

Mark Dvorak

Pat Logan

## **National Convention Department Delgates**

Carla Tappainer

Kelley Ackerman

Linda Dvorak

## **Calendar of Events**

Aug 22-28	National Convention	Tampa Bay FL
Oct 25-26	Fal Conference	St Cloud, MN

## What's Happening in the District

Here are your new Third District Officers for 2025-2026.

Position	Name Email Address	Home Phone Cell Phone	Home Post
Commander	Amy Larsen <a href="mailto:AmyLarsenLegion@gmail.com">AmyLarsenLegion@gmail.com</a>	612-306-4438(M)	586
Adjutant	Nate Olson <a href="mailto:nocanby@gmail.com">nocanby@gmail.com</a>	612-804-6117 (M)	45
Membership Director	Joe Bares <a href="mailto:jebares@yahoo.com">jebares@yahoo.com</a>	952-686-3311(M)	3
Vice Commanders	Mark Doble <a href="mailto:m.doble4@live.com">m.doble4@live.com</a>	952-393-7609(M)	594
	James Entinger (Area 2) <a href="mailto:jentinger@yahoo.com">jentinger@yahoo.com</a>	920-328-7512 (M)	95
	Wayne Beierman (Area 3) <a href="mailto:beierman66@gmail.com">beierman66@gmail.com</a>	651-497-0971(M)	594
	Ross Lacourt (Area 4) <a href="mailto:rmlacourt@gmail.com">rmlacourt@gmail.com</a>	760-586-5558(M)	54
	Marissa Lacourt (Area 5) <a href="mailto:marissa.lacourt@gmail.com">marissa.lacourt@gmail.com</a>	760-586-5136 (M)	54
Finance Officer	Barrett Kirchenwitz <a href="mailto:bm6712@yahoo.com">bm6712@yahoo.com</a>	612-998-5033	594
Judge Advocate	Don Pankake <a href="mailto:pankake@hutchtel.net">pankake@hutchtel.net</a>	320-587-7000(H) 612-280-7320(M)	96
Chaplain	Cindy Yanchury <a href="mailto:cindy.yanchury@gmail.com">cindy.yanchury@gmail.com</a>	651-261-1594	594
Historian	Ashley Venburg <a href="mailto:wsskat@gmail.com">wsskat@gmail.com</a>	651-283-2354	225
Sgt-at Arms	Neil Hoadley <a href="mailto:airrachet@gmail.com">airrachet@gmail.com</a>	651-703-6304	47
Past National Cmdr	Dan Ludwig <a href="mailto:damludwig@gmail.com">damludwig@gmail.com</a>	651-253-9086 (M)	54
Past Third District Commander	Joe Tappainer <a href="mailto:jtappainer@frontier.com">jtappainer@frontier.com</a>	612-770-5124 (M)	1776

## **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, Don Pankake or Duane Anderson.

They can help you understand the various positions and how to move to the next level of leadership.