



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

Can Do!



# July 2024

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



# Volume 9 Issue 12

## The Commanders Corner

As I sit down to write this letter, I find myself filled with a mix of emotions. The time has come for me to bid farewell to this remarkable team and embark on a new chapter in my life. While I am excited about the future, I am also deeply grateful for the experiences and memories we have shared together. Over the years, I have had the honor and privilege of working alongside each of you. Your dedication, camaraderie, and unwavering commitment to our mission have been truly inspiring. The American Legion stands as a beacon of service, honor, and support for our veterans, and being a part of this organization has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you:

To our leadership, thank you for your guidance and vision. Your leadership has been instrumental in driving our initiatives and

achieving our goals. To my colleagues, thank you for your hard work and teamwork. Together, we have faced challenges, celebrated successes, and grown stronger as a unit.

To our volunteers and supporters, thank you for your tireless efforts and dedication. Your selfless contributions have made a significant impact on the lives of our veterans and their families.

As I move on, I carry with me the lessons learned and the friendships forged during my time with the American Legion. I am confident that the team will continue to thrive and make a difference in the lives

of those we serve. Please know that I will always be a proud supporter of the American Legion and its mission.

Though I may no longer be with you in person, my spirit and support remain steadfast. I am excited to see all the great things you will accomplish in the future. Remember, our work is never done, and our commitment to our veterans is eternal.

Thank you once again for the incredible journey and for being such an integral part of my life. I will cherish the memories we have created and the bonds we have formed.

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

My feet went towards the sound of the guitar. After the long day of moving out to the site, setting up camp for a week of military training, I thought the music would be relaxing. I located a circle of young soldiers, about 10, sitting on equipment, engaged in remembering what they had just lived and survived through. They had returned from Iraq less than a year ago after fighting a war for 18 months. The guitar player would strum a bit and stop when someone said, "what song is this....?" Or "remember when...". They laughed, sat in silence and shook their heads in disbelief.

The atmosphere was holy they created. None of the songs were worship songs but nonetheless a transformative portal where the chaff was being separated from the wheat in their souls. Music has that power. It connects the left analytical to the right's imaginative feeling side in the same linear time space. It also can bring people together for a shared experience. We all dream the same dreams of peace, of love, of purpose here on earth.

Willie Nelson is an icon storyteller of music. He wrote his first song "*The Storm has just begun*", about a breakup with a girlfriend when he was just 12 (yes, 12 years old). He has been a part of making country music for 69 years. Those young soldiers probably sang a song or two of Willie Nelson's. There isn't anything on this earth that is beyond God's ability to use. Willie's song with Lukas Nelson, *Just Breathe* speaks into our soul about sorrow, forgiveness and confession.

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*"Yes, I understand that every life must end, uh-huh, as we sit alone, I know someday we must go, uh-huh, Oh, I'm a lucky man to count on both hands, the ones I love, some folks just have one, yeah, others, they've got none, uh-huh, stay with me, oh-ohh let's just breath. Practiced are my sins, never gonna let you win, uh-huh, under everything, just another human being, uh-huh, I don't want to hurt, there's so much in this world to make me believe, stay with me, oh all I see. Did I say that I need you? Did I say that I want you? Oh' if I didn't I'm a fool you see, no one knows this more than me but I come clean..."*

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What songs help you to live through the difficult times? What songs have helped you to move on? What songs expand your heart into gratitude? What songs do you sing, loud in joy? It is my prayer we will submit ourselves to the gift of music to be best for each other and ourselves. I am thankful to God for the gift of sound, of music and musicians. – Chp. K. 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**

July 10-13	Dept Convention	Willmar
Aug 23-29	National Convention	New Orleans

**\*Denotes Change**

SAL Update

Happy Birthday,

July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776, on this date the 13 Colonies issued a “Deceleration of Independence”, thereby severing political ties to Britian. 248 years of American history and if not for a group of people deciding that they only wanted membership in 1 country instead of 2, history might be different.

So, lets talk about Membership.

As of the final Membership report issued before Detachment Convention, 3<sup>rd</sup> District is in 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Detachment, with 102.67% and 2151 members. The Goal set by Detachment for the year was 2095 members. I would say that y’all smashed that goal. Out of 36 Squads in our District, 24 Squads reached 100% or better in Membership. Great Job to all.

So, what kind of member are you? Are you the member who signed up so that you can drink in Posts down south, or are you the member who basically has a second job because of all the volunteering that you are doing? Are you the next Detachment Commander, or do you want to just stay at the squad level? I would challenge everyone of you to volunteer 3 hours a month to your squad activities. And that includes going to your squad meeting. That is not a huge commitment each month, but within that time, your squad could do a lot of good in your community.

Anyway, stay safe and have a great month, until next time.

Dave

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

As of June 30, the Third District is at 99.46% and we are in 1st place in Department Membership and 3rd in the 2024 Premier Race. We are .52% Point ahead of the 6<sup>th</sup> district. Keep the memberships flowing into Department and Mylegion, **Can Do**. So far, we have had 164 HQ transfers, putting 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 285 brand-new members, and we are in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. We have 32 posts in the district at goal and 15 posts over 95% unfortunately we have 5 posts under 90%. We are coming up to the Department convention, and hope to see you there. The multi-year membership is now available for all members already renewed for 2024 (as of Dec 4). I highly encourage any member who has paid their 2024 dues as of Dec 4, 2023, to take advantage of this program. You can pay 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. To participate, you need to renew your membership online at [legion.org/renew](http://legion.org/renew). You will need your membership ID# and credit or debit card.

Wishing you all a wonderful Summer!!!! If you have any questions, please contact your Vice Commander or me. This year has been challenging, but also gratifying. I wish Amy many successes in the upcoming year. **GO THUNDERING THIRD!!!!!!**

Terry Larson

Still Serving

Woodbury Post 501, Vice Commander JoAnne Kramer awarded a certificate of appreciation to Boys State participant Cade Wright. Cade's application of the knowledge and training he received was evident in his election as the MN Lieutenant Governor—an impressive achievement.



	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Third District Officers for the 2024-2025 Year</b>				
2					
3					
4	<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Home Phone</b>	<b>Home</b>
5		<b>Email Address</b>		<b>Cell Phone</b>	<b>Post</b>
6					
7	Commander	Joe Tappainer	837 Greening Dr	612-770-5124 (M)	1778
8		<a href="mailto:jtappainer@frontier.com">jtappainer@frontier.com</a>	Apple Valley MN 55124		
9					
10	Adjutant	Linda Dvorak	1506 Praha St SE		45
11		<a href="mailto:ldvorak58@gmail.com">ldvorak58@gmail.com</a>	New Prague MN 56071	952-457-2129 (M)	
12					
13	Membership Director	Amy Larsen	7275 50th St W	612-308-4438(M)	588
14		<a href="mailto:AmyLarsenLeion@gmail.com">AmyLarsenLeion@gmail.com</a>	Webster MN 55088		
15					
16	Vice Commanders	Joe Bares (Area 1)	843 Lodge Dr	952-886-3311(M)	3
17		<a href="mailto:iebares@yahoo.com">iebares@yahoo.com</a>	Jordan MN 55352		
18					
19		James Entinger (Area 2)	PO Box 204		95
20		<a href="mailto:jentinger@yahoo.com">jentinger@yahoo.com</a>	Glencoe MN 55336	920-328-7512 (M)	
21					
22		Ross Lacourt (Area 3)	20595 Camden Path	760-588-5558(M)	1778
23		<a href="mailto:mlacourt@gmail.com">mlacourt@gmail.com</a>	Farmington MN 55024		
24					
25		Wayne Beierman (Area 4)	1564 Clemson Dr #B	651-497-0971(M)	594
26		<a href="mailto:beierman88@gmail.com">beierman88@gmail.com</a>	Eagan MN 55122		
27					
28		Marissa Lacourt (Area 5)	20595 Camden Path	760-588-5136 (M)	1778
29		<a href="mailto:marissa.lacourt@gmail.com">marissa.lacourt@gmail.com</a>	Farmington MN 55024		
30					
31	Finance Officer	Mary Jo York	16435 MacKenzie St NE		225
32		<a href="mailto:ioyork14@yahoo.com">ioyork14@yahoo.com</a>	Forest Lake MN 55025	651-399-7712 (M)	
33					
34	Judge Advocate	Don Pankake	805 Laura Ave SW	320-587-7000(H)	98
35		<a href="mailto:pankake@hutchtel.net">pankake@hutchtel.net</a>	Hutchinson MN 55350	612-280-7320(M)	
36					
37	Chaplain	Cindy Yanchury	990 Kensington Trl Apt 105	651-261-1594	594
38		<a href="mailto:cindy.yanchury@gmail.com">cindy.yanchury@gmail.com</a>	Eagan MN 55123		
39					
40	Historian				
41					
42					
43	Sgt-at Arms	Gary Richardson	200 Hallam Ave S.	651-429-3885 (H)	507
44		<a href="mailto:bnrider3@gmail.com">bnrider3@gmail.com</a>	Mahtomedi, MN 55115	612-749-5711 (M)	
45					
46	Past National Cmdr	Dan Ludwig	4453 Hickory St		54
47		<a href="mailto:damludwig@gmail.com">damludwig@gmail.com</a>	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	<a href="mailto:ractor1rod@gmail.com">ractor1rod@gmail.com</a>	Elysian MN 56028		
51					