



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

Can Do!

We're on the Web!!

www.mnthunderingthird.org

November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 65% Target	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Thanks- giving	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Volume 9 Issue 4

The Commanders Corner

In reflecting on this last month, I feel honored to be included in so many events as your Commander. In keeping up with the past timelines of events including the National Committee at Camp Ripley in which the 10 districts met for the purpose of showing support for first responders by acknowledging, showing recognition, and honor. Legionville included visiting with most participants who gathered over Camp-O-Ree and the Harvest Rally. In addition, I was involved with the Finance Committee to the Legionville Commanders Project along with getting replacements for a few District Officers. I feel my team of officers are finally doing their jobs and I am proud of them. Then the Auxillary sponsored our Family Gathering which provided camaraderie and lunch along with guest speaker, Bill Arndt, who shared facts and riveting stories about the cemeteries in Europe honoring our

Veterans. I look forward to the Fall Conference and the excitement of getting together with our strong leadership.

I wanted to share that I have visited:

Post 518 N Mankato which honored a Veteran of the Month in a patriotic Ceremony. Post 184 Pine Island I spoke to the Chamber of Commerce as to what the Legion does and what it stands for.

Post 311 Elysian I presented the Commander Project in Legionville with the goal of \$40,000 and they made a large donation which I appreciate.

Post 1776 Apple Valley I visited and checked with the Commander and Building Manager for upcoming events.

Post 228 Waseca I took a walking tour of the building and met with the Membership Director and then later that

week I joined them for a Liver Dinner with the fixins.

Post 108 LeCenter I visited several times and supported their Steak Fry.

I am looking forward to some great events such as Veterans activities on Nov 11 around the District. I encourage you all to attend and be visible to the Posts and Units. On Nov 17 Unit 45 New Prague's Auxillary is sponsoring a "Taste of New Prague". I attended last year and found the event inspiring. As I close this letter, I want to recognize all the efforts of the Auxillary, Sons of the American Legion, the Legion Riders and all the time invested in supporting all our Legionaires and Posts. We appreciate everyone's excitement about our membership goals. Remember "BE THE ONE" you really do make a difference.

Keep up the "Can Do" Spirit.
Rod Reifsteck
3rd District Commander

Dues Increase

Hopefully you have heard about the \$5.00 National dues increase coming next membership year. The Department finance committee is also recommending a \$3.00 dues increase next membership year. This will be voted on in July 2024. Where do your dues go when you pay your membership? Right now, National receives \$18.50, Department receives \$13.50 and the Hospital Association receives \$.25. Currently Third District Dues are \$3.00. Next membership year National will receive \$23.50, Department \$16.50, the Hospital Association will remain the same.

IMPORTANT

If your post needs to adjust their dues to reflect these increases, you will need to notify the Department Officer by April. A form is sent to all posts (Post Data Form) in March and it is due back to Department by mid April. If you fail to send the form in, your dues will stay the same as this year, BUT you will still be required to send in \$43.25 per member.

The Chaplains Corner

Grief is a whole-body experience - mind, body and spirit by affecting our sleep; ability to concentrate; thoughts; emotions; and questions our belief about this world and the next. We grieve individually and collectively. I would like you to know that Swiss-American Psychiatrist Elizabeth Kubler-Ross (1926-2004), created the grief model - *Five Stages of Grief*. Many people gauge how they are doing after the death of their loved one using this model. Many have proven that it is more fluid than linear.

Grief is not neatly packed into first denial, second anger, third bargaining, fourth depression and lastly acceptance. Sometimes they come all within five minutes, sometimes not all are experienced and sometimes one or two lingers. Some grieve emotionally; some psychologically, all spiritually. Questions of what is the purpose of life(?) and where do we go, if anywhere, after death (?) are near when we are experiencing a death.

How deep and affecting our grief results from type and age of the one who died. We have less friction accepting someone who has lived a 'normal' life span than someone whose life ends in their early stages of life. For me and maybe for you too, a suicidal death is more difficult to come to terms with. My grief is intensified for a longer time. We humans have to make sense of the type of death. For so many that died by suicide it seems to be such a quick decision that ends a possibly long life. Suicides are not easy to make sense of. Sometimes they are the result of many complex strains that defy logic. All Life is precious and valuable, if it was not, suicides would not affect us, and we would not grieve.

I bring all of this up because November is a busy, holy, harvest month. Many of us will be gathering with family and friends. It is these together times when our listening heart can be opened to give (or receive) an extra hug, give or receive a telephone call from a fellow Legionnaire, or invite or go to a holiday occasion to be with others on these many days where we observe sacred and cultural days. For those who have a bountiful harvest, share with others who are drained in their grief. I love the song, *Lean on Me* for I find it fits so many occasions.

So remember, we are an organization that recognizes God's goodness as innate in all of us and our Constitution's First Amendment that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." Here are the following religious holy days in November: Christians observe All Saint's Day and All Soul's Day; Hindu's celebrate Diwali; Baha'i's observe the birth of Ba'b and Ba'ha'u'llah. Also, November is Native American Heritage Month which has evolved from then President Reagan's, November 23-30 "American Indian Week. Remember, the answers are less important than the presence. May God hold us all dear. -

Chaplain Adelsman

The SAL Update

Hello all,

The SAL just had the Annual John Zgoda Disabled Vet hunt up at Legionville. Veronica Fernlund and Anthony Koop were the lucky hunters to bag a deer. Great job. Thank you to all the Volunteers who gave up their time and energy to come up and help. It was a long week, but I think everyone had a great time.

Recently I had the pleasure of attending the Mn Legion College held at Camp Ripley. It was an informative 3 days. We had a great class with excellent instructors. This fall class was split into 4 different teams for assignments. One of our assignments was to write a Resolution to possibly be passed on to Department. I am proud to say that all 4 Resolutions were passed on to either Department or Detachment this year. This was the first time that there were Resolutions for The Legion, Auxiliary, and the SAL. If you are currently a squad officer or are thinking about becoming one, I recommend attending the College. You can learn a lot.

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, let's take a minute to think about the Be The One initiative. With the holidays right around the corner, take a minute to reach out to someone who is alone during the holidays. Just remember that while you're there with your friends and family, someone else might not be. Either because they passed away or they live far away. So, take a minute or even an hour and call them, or stop by. See how they are doing or invite them to spend the holidays with you and yours. That could be the difference between them having a terrible holiday or the best one they've had in years.

Gobble, Gobble.
Dave

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.

Position Endorsements

Post 1776 endorses Joe Tappainer for the Position of District Commander 2024-25

Post 3 endorses Joe Bares for District Vice Commander 2024-25

Post 1776 endorses Marissa Lacourt District Vice 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

Post 3 endorses Joe Bares as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Post 45 endorses Linda Dvorak as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Post 45 endorses Mark Dvorak as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Post 1776 endorses Marissa Lacourt as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Post 96 endorses David Heidebrink as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Post 96 endorses Donald Pankake as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Post 96 endorses Donald Walser as a delegate to the National Convention 2024

Oratorical Contest

The Third District Oratorical Contest will be held February 10, 2024 at American Legion Post 98 in St Paul Park. The contest will begin at 9:30 am. Please get your posts contestant information to Diane Jankowski NLT February 5, 2024. Diane can be reached at steppingstonesin-time@hotmail.com or 612-227-3506

CALENDAR OF EVENT

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Dec 9	Dept Pearl Harbor Rally	Paynesville Post 271
*Jan 27	3rd District Mid-Winter	Apple Valley Post 1776
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
*Jun 22	Dept Commanders Testimonial	Montgomery Post 79
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

How many active WWII Legionnaires are in the 3rd District? **96**

What is the percentage of female active Veterans are in the 3rd District? **4%**

This months Trivia

What is the % of CPR's submitted Nationally?

How many American Legion Posts are in the organization?

Junior Shooting Sports Chairman

This message is for all Legion Posts in the 3rd. 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

Greetings Thundering Third!

Thanks for all your efforts in getting us past the November 15th Target of 65%, as of October 18th, Third District is at 67.35%. The next goal is 75% by December 13th and we are well on our way to achieving this before then. As of the October 11th Membership report we are in 5th place in membership percentage wise, .02% behind the 7th district and .13% behind the 2nd district .86% behind the 4th district and 1.9% behind the 6th district. That being said we have 17 posts under 65% at this time. We are currently 2nd in new members and 3rd in HQ transfers. Keep turning in your membership and keep recruiting new members, continue to work on those HQ transfers, there are currently 1200 members in Post 1982.

Thank You's go out to all Post membership directors and the District Vice Commanders.

Still Serving

Jerry Larson

toolooseto@aol.com

651-470-7431

Area 1 Amy Larsen

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
37	ST. PETER	253	172	67.98%
55	LE SUEUR	47	31	65.96%
74	HENDERSON	31	27	87.10%
79	MONTGOMERY	135	93	68.89%
108	LE CENTER	275	221	80.36%
144	BELLE PLAINE	78	63	80.77%
149	MORRISTOWN	130	72	55.38%
207	CLEVELAND	71	42	59.15%
311	ELYSIAN	154	108	70.13%
380	KILKENNY	12	1	8.33%
433	GAYLORD	78	57	73.08%
510	NICOLLET	116	91	78.45%
518	NORTH MANKATO	228	156	68.42%
Total		1608	1134	70.52%

Area 4 Marissa LaCourt

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
48	STILLWATER	157	119	75.80%
65	ROSEMOUNT	595	458	74.40%
98	ST. PAUL PARK	400	250	62.50%
225	FOREST LAKE	595	458	76.97%
424	INVER GROVE HTS.	63	46	73.02%
481	SOUTH ST. PAUL	22	18	81.82%
491	BAYPORT	242	186	76.86%
501	WOODBURY	133	96	72.18%
507	MAHTOMEDI	47	33	70.21%
521	MENDOTA HEIGHTS	48	36	75.00%
594	EAGAN	250	154	61.60%
620	HUGO	163	99	60.74%
1700	BURNSVILLE	65	19	29.23%
Total		2780	1972	70.94%

Area 2 Jim Entinger

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
95	GLENCOE	80	60	75.00%
96	HUTCHINSON	482	371	76.97%
125	STEWART	41	40	97.56%
141	SILVER LAKE	156	139	89.10%
143	BROWNTON	53	43	81.13%
226	GIBBON	16	8	50.00%
250	ARLINGTON	32	27	84.38%
300	LAFAYETTE	44	5	11.36%
314	WINTHROP	56	43	76.79%
407	WINSTED	87	60	68.97%
408	GREEN ISLE	36	22	61.11%
463	LESTER PRAIRIE	25	14	56.00%
641	PLATO	23	17	73.91%
Total		1131	849	75.07%

Area 5 Chris Anderson

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
43	FARIBAULT	339	248	73.16%
44	LAKEVILLE	110	68	61.82%
47	HASTINGS	298	221	74.16%
54	RED WING	372	293	78.76%
78	KENYON	34	30	88.24%
142	CANNON FALLS	124	87	70.16%
183	ZUMBROTA	44	34	77.27%
184	PINE ISLAND	115	70	60.87%
189	FARMINGTON	115	67	67.68%
586	LONSDALE	139	99	71.22%
598	BELLECHESTER	56	45	80.36%
1776	APPLE VALLEY	826	613	74.21%
Total		2572	1875	72.90%

Area 3 Joe Bares

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
2	SHAKOPEE	150	109	72.67%
3	JORDAN	50	44	88.00%
45	NEW PRAGUE	208	157	75.48%
57	CHASKA	245	195	79.59%
84	NORTHFIELD	192	133	69.27%
121	WATERTOWN	46	42	91.30%
150	WACONIA	212	172	81.13%
343	NORWOOD	46	34	73.91%
447	PRIOR LAKE	75	54	72.00%
580	CHANHASSEN	349	256	73.35%
601	NEW GERMANY	33	25	75.76%
643	SAVAGE	247	184	74.49%
1995	VICTORIA	11	6	54.55%
Total		1864	1411	75.70%

Grand Total 9609 6912 71.93%

COATES (Post at Large) 97 4 4.12%



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

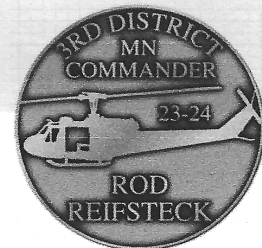
5 Commercial Grade Water Heaters at \$6000 = \$30,000

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.

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