



The American Legion
 Third District
 Nathan Olson
 District Adjutant

Helping Veterans Connect

We Are on the web!
www.mnthunderingthird.org

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			¹ Please send in Annual Blood Reports	²	³	⁴
⁵	⁶	⁷	⁸	⁹	¹⁰ Third District Testimonial Savage, MN	¹¹
¹²	¹³	¹⁴	¹⁵ Post Data Reports Due	¹⁶ Endorsements Due for National Convention	¹⁷	¹⁸
¹⁹	²⁰	²¹	²² National Commander Dinner, Post 620 Hugo, MN	²³ National Commander Dinner, Post 45 New Prague MN	²⁴	²⁵
²⁶	²⁷	²⁸	²⁹	³⁰	³¹	

Volume 11 Issue 8

The Commander's Corner

Fellow Legionnaires and Legion Family,

As we approach election season, our posts are once again looking for leaders to step forward and serve our communities, our fellow veterans, and our nation through the American Legion.

Too often, I hear members say:

“I’m not smart enough.”

“I don’t speak well”

“I’m not educated enough.”

“I’d rather just follow—it’s too much work.”

Let me assure you—none of that disqualifies you.

Some of the most capable and successful people, I know don’t hold advanced degrees. What they do have is dedication, work ethic, and a passion for serving others. That’s what truly matters in leadership.

You don’t need a college degree to serve in the American Legion. You need a desire to help, a willingness to learn, and a commitment to your community.

And you won’t be doing it alone.

There are many resources available to support you:

- District and Department of Minnesota events
- A strong training committee
- Experienced past commanders
- Fellow Legionnaires ready to lend a hand

If you ever feel overwhelmed, reach out. Support exists at every level—from your local post to the district and beyond.

Personally, I never imagined I would serve as a Post Commander, let alone at the District commander. Yet here I am, nearing the end of my year, grateful for the opportunity. Along the

way, I've met incredible people, visited outstanding posts, and gained invaluable knowledge. I've also learned that support is always there when you ask for it.

We may not always agree, and we don't have to. But we share a common mission: supporting veterans, their families, our communities, and our nation. That shared purpose allows us to move past differences and work together effectively.

As elections draw near, I encourage you to consider stepping up. Put your name forward. Take that chance.

You might surprise yourself.

Answer the call. Lead with purpose. Serve with pride.

Also, April 10th is the joint testimonial. (A party celebrating this year's Commander, Auxiliary President and the Sons of American Legion Commander). We want everyone to come have a good night out. The cost is \$20. It will be held at Savage American Legion, social hour starts at 6 pm. Just call me at 612-306-4438. Let me know you're coming. Once again all are welcome.

Thundering Third Commander,
Amy Larsen

The Chaplains Corner

April 2026

Good day to you Thundering Third ALF! Today as I write this it is sunny and warm and I was so looking forward to getting my patio furniture uncovered and arranged until I saw snow is predicted for later this week. <sigh> So it goes in Minnesota, disappointment arises.

What I've not been disappointed in is your response to sending me the Children and Youth Reports. When Commander Amy asked me to serve as your chairperson for this committee, I really wasn't aware of what that would mean. As your chaplain it feels as though this is a perfect connection, but maybe that's because 40 years ago I got my start as a church volunteer when I said "yes" to teaching Sunday School and then when I began volunteering as the art awareness person at my children's elementary school.

What I found with both of those experiences was a deep hunger in so many, many children for connection, for adults who would listen and care about them. Research has shown that kids really do need at least three adults in their life who care about them and we don't "have" to.

The American Legion Family is in a unique position to be those adults. We have books, resources, funding and time to spend with our kids in school, so my encouragement for you today and moving forward is to find the time, the space and the desire to meet the needs that we know are out there.

Need a way to get started? One thing we've done at my local post is to purchase copies of the book "America's White Table" for any local elementary school that wants one or more.

Answering the call, filling a need, connecting to community – it's who we are and what we do!

Holy One, in this season of change, as winter gives way to spring and New Life may we be filled with renewed energy to make changes where needed and a new way of moving forward in life.
Amen

Chaplain Cindy Yanchury

SAL UPDATE

No report this month

Membership Update

Hello Thundering Third,

Spring is here in Minnesota, and with it comes a season of renewal—not just in our communities, but within our Posts as well. As we step into April, we find ourselves at an important moment of transition and opportunity.

With post-elections either underway or just around the corner, this is a time to reflect on where we've been and where we're going. Strong leadership and engaged members are what keep our Posts thriving, and the choices we make now will shape our success in the coming year.

At the same time, we must stay focused on the essentials. The **annual Post Data Forms** need to be completed and submitted as soon as possible. These forms are critical to ensuring National has accurate information for dues processing and leadership updates. Remember, **2027 membership mailings begin in early July**, and what we do today directly impacts that effort.

We also encourage every Post to be represented at both the **District and Department Conventions**. These gatherings are more than meetings—they are opportunities to connect, learn, and lead. Staying informed helps every Post stay strong.

Let's not forget our CPR reports. As a District and Department, we are striving for 100% completion this year—and we are within reach. Every Post contributes to that success, and every report matters.

But beyond the reports and forms, this is really about something bigger.

This is the time of year to ask ourselves:

How do we grow? How do we retain? How do we lead?

We are fortunate to live in one of the fastest-growing areas in Minnesota. That means opportunity is all around us. New veterans, new families, new community members—they are looking for connection, purpose, and service. That's exactly what we offer.

We must continue to tell our story—who we are, what we do, and why it matters.

The American Legion stands on our **Four Pillars: Veterans, Communities, Youth, and National Security**. These aren't just words—they are our mission. And when we share that mission, we don't just recruit members—we build stronger communities.

You are not alone in this effort. National has developed outstanding training tools, presentations, and videos. The Department Training Committee is ready to assist your Post, whether in person or through Zoom. Take advantage of these resources. Invest in your knowledge, and pass it on.

Together, we have everything we need to succeed.

Let's bring energy into our meetings. Let's get out into our communities. Let's support one another and continue building something we can all be proud of.

The Thundering Third has always been strong—and with your continued dedication, we will rise even higher.

If you have questions or need support, please reach out to a District Officer or contact me directly at **952-686-3311** or jebares@yahoo.com.

Thank you for your commitment, your leadership, and your service.

Let's keep moving forward—together.

Calendar of Events

April 10	3 rd District Convention Testimonial (flyer below)	Savage, MN
April 15	Post Data Reports Due	
April 16	Endorsements Due for National Convention	

National Commander's Tour of Minnesota 2025-2026 National Commander Dan Wiley

Third District Events

April 22	Post 620, Hugo Dinner & program	www.hugolegion.com
April 23	Post 45, New Prague Dinner & program	www.mnpost45parkballroom.org

Learn more about Commander Wiley on Legion.org.

April 23	Veteran's Day on the Hill (flyer below)	St. Paul, MN
May 15 – 16	3 rd District Convention	New Prague, MN
		www.mnthunderingthird.org/event-details/third-district-convention
June 27	Commander's Testimonial	New Prague, MN
		www.mnlegion.org/commanders-testimonial
July 9 – 11	Department Convention	Willmar, MN
		www.mnlegion.org/department-convention

The Minnesota Third District American Legion Family invites you to the joint

TESTIMONIAL DINNER

Honoring



ANN BOVEY
AUXILIARY PRESIDENT



AMY LARSON
COMMANDER



GREGG WILWERT
SAL COMMANDER

Let's Come together to celebrate a year filled with outstanding achievements.

FRIDAY
APRIL 10TH
2026

TO BE HELD AT:
DAN PATCH AMERICAN
LEGION POST 643
12375 PRINCETON AVE,
SAVAGE, MN 55378

6PM
SOCIAL HOUR
7PM
DINNER

DINNER IS \$20 PER PERSON

DINNER INCLUDES: PASTA BAR, SALAD AND BREAD STRICKS

Please detach and mail registration to:

Lonsdale Post 586 P.O Box 66, Lonsdale, MN 55096

**PLEASE REGISTER BY APRIL 7, SO WE KNOW HOW MUCH FOOD TO ORDER.
PAYMENT CAN BE MADE AT THE DOOR**

NAME: _____ POST/UNIT/SQUAD
NAME: _____ POST/UNIT/SQUAD
NAME: _____ POST/UNIT/SQUAD
NAME: _____ POST/UNIT/SQUAD
NAME: _____ POST/UNIT/SQUAD

Dinner is \$20 x _____ = \$ _____

Department of Minnesota Joint Testimonial Dinner

American Legion Commander Linda Dvorak

American Legion Auxiliary President Robin Dorf

Sons of the American Legion Commander Jeremy Copher



Saturday, June 27, 2026

New Prague American Legion Post

5pm Social ~ 6pm Dinner ~ 7pm Program ~ Band until 10pm

Menu will be turkey and brisket, sides, and dessert

\$25.00 per person

Purchase your tickets on the Department American Legion website OR send check to New Prague American Legion, PO Box 113, New Prague MN 56071

Reservations due by June 19, 2026

Block of rooms available at Quality Inn & Suites in New Prague.

(952)758-7300 - ask for the American Legion Block

Name _____ # of Guests _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

**MN COMMANDERS
TASK FORCE PRESENTS:**

VETERANS DAY ON THE HILL 2026

**WHEN: APRIL 23RD
DOORS OPEN 9AM**

**WHERE: CEDAR ST. ARMORY, ST.
PAUL MN & MN CAPITOL ROTUNDA**

**FEATURING: 2 NATIONAL COMMANDERS
AS SPEAKERS!**



**NO MEMBERSHIP IN
ANY ORGANIZATION
REQUIRED.**

**ALL SUPPORTERS ARE
WELCOME!**

Details @ mnctf.org



**Armory Featured
Speakers:**

**American Legion
National Commander
Dan K. Wiley**

&

**DAV National
Commander
Coleman Nee**

**The DAV MN will cover
50% of the cost of a
bus.**

**Reach out to
Trent@davmn.org for
details**

**Special Thanks to V4V
for supporting funds**



Position Endorsements

Post 594 endorses Cindy Yanchury for the position of Department of Minnesota Chaplain for 2026-2027.

Post 594 endorses Wayne Beierman for the position of Vice Commander Third District for 2026-2027.

Post 594 endorses Mark Doble for the position of Vice Commander Third District for 2026-2027.

Post 594 endorses Barrett Kirchenwitz for the position of Finance Officer Third District for 2026-2027.

Post 95 endorses Jim Entinger for the position of Third District Commander for 2026-2027.

Post 96 endorses Tim Swan for the position of 3rd District Vice Commander for 2026-2027.

Post 1776 endorses Carla Tappanainer for the position of Department Vice Commander for 2026-2027.

Post 3 endorses Joe Bares for the position of Department Sargeant of Arms for 2026-2027.

National Convention Endorsements

Post 45 endorses Mark Dvorak to attend the National Convention for 2026 in Louisville KY.

Post 1776 endorses Joe Tappanainer to attend the National Convention for 2026 in Louisville KY.

Post 1776 endorses Carla Tappanainer to attend the National Convention for 2026 in Louisville KY.

Post 491 endorses Pat Logan to attend the National Convention for 2026 in Louisville KY.

Post 311 endorses Rod Reistek to attend the National Convention for 2026 in Louisville KY.

Post 225 endorses Don Skow to attend the National Convention for 2026 in Louisville KY.

Post 225 endorses Terry Larsen to attend the National Convention for 2026 in Louisville KY.

Post 96 endorses Don Pankake to attend the National Convention for 2026 in Louisville KY.

Please remember to send your Blood Reports, we have seen a very limited number of reports to date.

Thank you!

FROM:
Chairman DATE:
SUBJECT:
REPORT

Terry Larson, District Blood
February 2026
POST ANNUAL BLOOD

I am asking you to mail or put the enclosed form in your Post newsletter for the blood reports. The reports need to be returned by May 1.

The top three winners will receive a certificate at the Department Convention.

I have added an optional second page for the Posts to fill out. I made it optional so as not to discourage the Post reporter. If any positive replies come in for the second page, please try to encourage their expansion of the blood program. I would like to have a copy of their second page.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 651-470-7431 or email toolooseto@aol.com. Thank you.

Terry Larson

Always Remember to check out additional events and happenings on our website:

[Home | American Legion MN Thundering Third District](#)

Also Included is a link to the American Legion Department website:

[The American Legion Department of Minnesota – Veterans strengthening America](#)

What is happening in the District



Legionville Friends,

We are excited to announce that registration for the 2026 Legionville summer session is now OPEN! All information is available on our website at www.legionville.org. More than anything, we need to get more kids to Legionville to ensure the continued success of this valuable program.

The registration fee is \$550 for all campers, and they (new and alumni campers) are invited to attend any of the six sessions offered. On our website, you will find the registration link, session dates, what to bring to camp, a sample daily schedule, and more information. Please check it out!

Candidates Sought for Minnesota American Legion Boys State

Way to go, Third District! In 2025, our Posts boosted attendance at Boys State by 44% over 2024 numbers. Let's make 2026 our best year yet by connecting with school principals or guidance counselors in your area. You can also reach out to Social Studies or Civics teachers who work with juniors. Be sure they know the program is FREE! Once you recruit a student, have them return the following year as seniors to speak to the junior class.

At Boys State you dive into learning how government works through both classroom lessons and hands-on activities. Highlights include political speakers, mock trials, campaigning, elections, and the announcement of the Boys State Governor and State Constitutional Officers.



The 2026 American Legion Boys State will take place June 14–20 at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN. Applicants must be high school juniors in the upper academic tier of their class.

If you know local high school students who are interested but your Post lacks the \$350 per applicant to send them, let me know. Some Posts in the Third District have funds but no 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 Bob Dolan, Third District Boys State Coordinator, directly about the American Legion program you can call him at 703-851-5416 or email at [woodburypost 501@gmail.com](mailto:woodburypost501@gmail.com)

Membership Reports

Area 1 Mark Doble

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
37	ST. PETER	229	206	89.96%
55	LE SUEUR	46	35	76.09%
74	HENDERSON	32	32	100.00%
79	MONTGOMERY	119	98	82.35%
108	LE CENTER	244	228	93.44%
144	BELLE PLAINE	74	67	90.54%
149	MORRISTOWN	109	88	80.73%
207	CLEVELAND	66	58	87.88%
311	ELYSIAN	178	131	73.60%
380	KILKENNY	12	11	91.67%
433	GAYLORD	74	67	90.54%
510	NICOLLET	104	100	96.15%
518	NORTH MANKATO	219	210	95.89%
Total		1506	1331	88.38%

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Area 3 Kelley Ackerman

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
48	STILLWATER	147	126	85.71%
65	ROSEMOUNT	196	187	95.41%
98	ST. PAUL PARK	382	368	96.34%
225	FOREST LAKE	675	624	92.44%
424	INVER GROVE HTS.	60	53	88.33%
447	PRIOR LAKE	72	64	88.89%
491	BAYPORT	257	231	89.88%
501	WOODBURY	126	116	92.06%
507	MAHTOMEDI	44	34	77.27%
521	MENDOTA HEIGHTS	48	43	89.58%
620	HUGO	159	154	96.86%
643	SAVAGE	252	219	86.90%
Total		2418	2219	91.77%

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Area 2 Jim Entinger

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
95	GLENCOE	74	72	97.30%
96	HUTCHINSON	418	389	93.06%
125	STEWART	38	35	92.11%
141	SILVER LAKE	158	146	92.41%
143	BROWNTON	56	53	94.64%
226	GIBBON	16	15	93.75%
250	ARLINGTON	33	30	90.91%
300	LAFAYETTE	45	42	93.33%
314	WINTHROP	50	49	98.00%
407	WINSTED	79	71	89.87%
408	GREEN ISLE	32	26	81.25%
463	LESTER PRAIRIE	37	31	83.78%
641	PLATO	19	17	89.47%
Total		1055	976	92.51%

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Area 5 Marissa Lacourt

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
43	FARIBAULT	324	304	93.83%
44	LAKEVILLE	94	89	94.68%
47	HASTINGS	286	253	88.46%
54	RED WING	377	355	94.16%
78	KENYON	53	43	81.13%
142	CANNON FALLS	119	115	96.64%
183	ZUMBROTA	41	38	92.68%
184	PINE ISLAND	92	92	100.00%
189	FARMINGTON	115	82	89.13%
586	LONSDALE	123	127	103.25%
594	EAGAN	213	198	92.96%
598	BELLECHESTER	60	59	98.33%
Total		1897	1755	92.51%

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Area 3 Wayne Beierman

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
2	SHAKOPEE	143	137	95.80%
3	JORDAN	57	64	112.28%
45	NEW PRAGUE	195	183	93.85%
57	CHASKA	240	217	90.42%
84	NORTHFIELD	161	153	95.03%
121	WATERTOWN	47	44	93.62%
150	WACONIA	222	208	93.69%
343	NORWOOD	41	38	92.68%
580	CHANHASSEN	364	321	88.19%
601	NEW GERMANY	36	35	97.22%
1700	BURNSVILLE	58	45	77.59%
1776	APPLE VALLEY	786	730	92.88%
1995	VICTORIA	11	10	90.91%
Total		2361	2185	92.55%

Grand Total	9251	8512	92.01%
COATES (Post at Large)	37	46	124.32%



Department of Minnesota 2026 Membership
as of 3/30/26

District Summary Including all HQ Transfers

	District	New	Pufl	Renewals	Hq Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal	Retention %
6	MN Dist 0006 LGN	201	1011	7140	82	8434	9043	93.265509	92.86284346
10	MN Dist 0010 LGN	177	876	5193	82	6328	6846	92.433538	90.07871677
2	MN Dist 0002 LGN	93	517	4093	14	4717	5104	92.417712	91.9792498
3	MN Dist 0003 LGN	192	1488	6723	110	8513	9251	92.022484	90.10868372
1	MN Dist 0001 LGN	124	740	4967	44	5875	6396	91.854284	92.0755326
9	MN Dist 0009 LGN	88	489	3817	39	4433	4829	91.799544	91.20762712
7	MN Dist 0007 LGN	65	573	3614	8	4260	4645	91.711518	91.27970351
8	MN Dist 0008 LGN	80	285	2212	22	2599	2857	90.969548	88.6678508
4	MN Dist 0004 LGN	33	246	1100	8	1387	1568	88.456633	88.26229508
5	MN Dist 0005 LGN	30	229	883	8	1150	1305	88.122605	86.46967341
11	MN Dist 0099 LGN	11	195	1299	0	1505	1751	85.950885	85.32267276
	Sum:	1094	6649	41041	417	49201	53595	91.79291	89.67502321