



The American Legion
Third District
Nathan Olson
District Adjutant

Helping Veterans Connect

We Are on the web!
www.mnthunderingthird.org

October 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--|--|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 2025 American Legion Fall Conference St. Cloud MN | 25 2025 American Legion Fall Conference St. Cloud MN |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

Volume 11 Issue 3

The Commanders Corner

Hello, my fellow **Legionnaires!**

This past month has been busy and rewarding. I had the privilege of attending the **NSFR** weekend and open house at Camp Ripley. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet with my fellow **District Commanders** and talk to many individuals and families about the American Legion. Events like this are a great way to learn what is happening across all our districts.

Announcing Our Fall Dental Clinics!

I'm excited to share the upcoming dates for our **dental clinics**. This critical service continues thanks to the endeavor started by past president **Tamara Thayer** as her district project.

In addition to dental care, medical professionals and other organizations will be available at these clinics to answer questions.

- **Rochester:** October 21st, 28th, and November 4th
- **Mankato:** November 13th

If any posts or individuals would like to **donate** to this vital project, please reach out to me directly at **(612) 306-4438**.

Why We Serve

I question sometimes if the time I spend for the American Legion truly makes a difference. Then I'm at an event or receive a call from someone who is so thankful for the organization and what it has done for them or their family.

I am quickly reminded that I am continuing the promise I started making in first grade: **"to serve God and My country."** I hope to be able to continue that promise until my last breath.

Being part of an organization that allows people with different opinions and backgrounds to come together to help veterans and their families is truly amazing.

Proud to be serving as your **Third District Commander**,

Amy Larsen

The Chaplains Corner

Third District Chaplains Article - October 2025

I apologize for not having an article ready for the September issue of this newsletter. I simply ran out of time to sit and ponder and reflect on what to offer. So here we are – moving in the autumn season. This season has always been my favorite. My home is decorated in the muted colors of rust, gold and jade. Accents are the brights of maple trees and birch. There's something about the season that has always spoken to me. As the days grow shorter the desire to spend more time at home, wrapped in the warmth and coziness I can feel myself slowing down.

Sitting on my patio a couple of days ago sipping a delicious cup of coffee I watch and reflected on the leaves as they turned color and watched them as they fell. Perhaps all this coziness and reflection is the reason the Creator gifted us with this season. Pause...breathe deep the scents of wood fire and fallen leaves, sip the warmth of your favorite coffee or tea, and then let fall from your life the things that need to go. Yes, we all have "things" that can go – I've hauled my share no longer needed stuff to our locally owned thrift store, but its more than that.

What are you willing to let go of in your life and let it fall? Habits, things unused, anger, mistrust, harmful rhetoric and so on and so on. One of the greatest blessings we carry is the ability to change, to grow and to love. Keep on...

Holy One, you have blessed us with the changing of seasons, each with their own beauty and bounty, we ask that you would bless us with the ability to change as needed so that we might always be a blessing to you and to others. Amen

Membership Update

Welcome to October, Fellow Veterans

Last month, I talked a lot about fellow veterans who are members and live in our District. They belong to The American Legion but not necessarily to a Post.

My goal this year is for every American Legion member in Minnesota and District Three to go out and recruit one new member. This includes members who have been part of The American Legion for 50, 40, 30, 20, or even just one year. Please explain to a young veteran what brought you to this organization and also what keeps you a member. Bring a young veteran to a Post meeting and show them the camaraderie you share with your fellow members. Hopefully, you can brag up the Sons of The American Legion, Legion Riders, and Legion Auxiliary, assuming your Post has one of these attached. We are family!

The Third District has dropped down to fifth place, but we are only out of second 0.57% At only 3.31% away, second place is very reachable, so let's get out and get those new members. I know the five Vice Commanders are working very hard and are out visiting a lot of Posts this last month. We have a new Vice Commander taking over for Ross Lacourt, who resigned to become a Junior ROTC instructor. Kelly Ackerman will be visiting those Posts in Area 4.

The Fall Conference is one of the most important gatherings of the year. It is our annual school of instruction, held October 23-25 in St. Cloud. We want to see at least one member from each Post this year. We would also like to see a record number of new attendees. The Department Adjutant usually has a gift for those new attendees.

Also at the Fall Conference is a Blood Drive with a goal of 29 units of blood. It will be held from Noon to 5 p.m. on October 23, 2025, in the State Room of the Kelly Inn. Visit redcross.org and enter "Legion Conference" or zip code 56301. If you prefer, call 866-236-3276. If you have trouble, call Terry Larson at 651-470-7431, and he can manually add you. This is a great opportunity to learn and give blood.

Department of Minnesota Membership Director

Third District Membership Director
Joe Bares

***Membership numbers located at the bottom of the newsletter

The Department Commander's Update

I just want to bring you up to date on some things happening in the Department. Don't keep this news to yourself, share it with the posts!

I know some of you have already received this from the Department Membership Director, but as of September 22 we are still sitting in 4th place Nationally for Membership. As of September 24th, we are at 63.3% membership and our retention rate is 61.81%. This means we have already made the October 15th cutoff and are close to the November 13th cutoff of 65%. We always seem to hit a wall come January and our membership seems to slide downward from there. We need to keep our momentum going all through the year. Open Houses, Revitalizing posts that are struggling are some ways to help stop this slide.

National has some great training opportunities! See attached for more information and spread the word!

Minnesota Legion College will be April 23-26 at Camp Ripley, register now to ensure you have a seat, we are already getting students registered and the maximum number of students is 24, don't miss your opportunity to gain valuable information.

Have you registered for the Fall Conference yet? I would like to see as many posts as possible at the Conference. This is a learning Conference, we have several classes lined up which are designed to help both Posts and Districts, this is also where we honor our Outstanding Military members. Also, we will be having a joint service project with the Auxiliary and SAL. Please see attached flyer and help make this project a success.

Pearl Harbor Rally will be December 6th in Buffalo. You can register by going to <https://mnlegion.org/pearl-harbor-rally/>. We will be having presentations on the Americanism and National Security Pillars!

Do you get the Legionnaire via Mail or Email? Do you get more than one copy mailed to your home? Mailing costs keep going up and it is getting more and more expensive to send out the Legionnaire. We have gone from a monthly Legionnaire to once every six weeks. Tim is working on some ideas to help,

but if you would like to help defray the cost of mailing the Legionnaire, please send a donation to the Department Office, make checks out to The Legionnaire.

As always, please remember my project for this year, Fund 85 and also Tables and Benches at the new Military and Veterans Museum at Camp Ripley (checks need to be made out to Minnesota American Legion Foundation-in the memo line Fund 82).

Enjoy the fall weather, winter will be here before we know it!

Better Together/Back to the Basics-The Four Pillars

Linda Dvorak

Dept Commander

***Details included in two additional attachments

SAL UPDATE

No update this month

Calendar of Events

| | | |
|------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Oct. 18 | Poppy Palooza | Forest Lake MN |
| Oct. 25-26 | Fall Conference | St Cloud, MN |

Position Endorsements

Post 494 endorses Cindy Yanchury for the position of Department of Minnesota Chaplain for 2026-2027.

Post 494 endorses Wayne Beierman for the position of Vice Commander Third District for 2026-2027.

Post 494 endorses Mark Doble for the position of Vice Commander Third District for 2026-2027.

Post 494 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.

What's Happening in the District

I have attached an updated copy of the 3rd District Officers List for 2025 -2026. There has been a change in the Vice Commander (Area 4) position. Kelley Ackerman has replaced Ross LaCourt.

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

| Position | Name Email Address | Home Phone Cell Phone | Home Post |
|---------------------|--|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Commander | Amy Larsen AmyLarsenLegion@gmail.com | 612-306-4438(M) | 586 |
| Adjutant | Nate Olson nocanby@gmail.com | 612-804-6117 (M) | 45 |
| Membership Director | Joe Bares jebares@yahoo.com | 952-686-3311(M) | 3 |
| Vice Commanders | Mark Doble m.doble4@live.com | 952-393-7609(M) | 594 |
| | James Entinger (Area 2) jentinger@yahoo.com | 920-328-7512 (M) | 95 |
| | Wayne Beierman (Area 3) beierman66@gmail.com | 651-497-0971(M) | 594 |
| | Kelley Ackerman (Area 4) kladelsman@gmail.com | 507-273-0165(M) | 184 |
| | Marissa Lacourt (Area 5) marissa.lacourt@gmail.com | 760-586-5136 (M) | 54 |
| Finance Officer | Barrett Kirchenwitz bm6712@yahoo.com | 612-998-5033 | 594 |
| Judge Advocate | Don Pankake pankake@hutchtel.net | 320-587-7000(H) 612-280-7320(M) | 96 |
| Chaplain | Cindy Yanchury cindy.yanchury@gmail.com | 651-261-1594 | 594 |
| Historian | Ashley Venburg wsskat@gmail.com | 651-283-2354 | 225 |
| Sgt-at Arms | Neil Hoadley airrachet@gmail.com | 651-703-6304 | 47 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------|------|
| Past National Cmdr | Dan Ludwig damkludwig@gmail.com | 651-253-9086 (M) | 54 |
| Past Third District Commander | Joe Tappainer jtappainer@frontier.com | 612-770-5124 (M) | 1776 |
| | | | |

Post 45 - New Prague

Invites everyone to an all you can eat spaghetti dinner.

Details below.



Sponsored by Post 45 & Auxiliary Unit 45






ALL YOU CAN EAT
SPAGHETTI DINNER

Proceeds Fund and Support our Veterans Programs

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28
4:30 - 7:00 PM
The New Prague Park Ballroom

ADULTS \$11.00 | KIDS 5-9 \$5.00
UNDER 4 FREE

Contact Joni Tikalsky at 952-200-0206
or Chad Lukkes at 612-564-0089 with
questions

The New Prague Park Ballroom
300 Lexington Ave - New Prague MN



Special Thanks to
Chef Jeff from The
Depot in Faribault
for donating &
preparing this meal!

If your Post has a special upcoming or past event that you would like to share with the District, please share any details with a District Officer or send them via email to: third.district.adjutant@gmail.com.

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](#)

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.

Area 1 Mark Doble

| Post | City | Goal | Current | Percent of Goal |
|-------|---------------|------|---------|-----------------|
| 37 | ST. PETER | 229 | 147 | 64.19% |
| 55 | LE SUEUR | 46 | 28 | 60.87% |
| 74 | HENDERSON | 32 | 23 | 71.88% |
| 79 | MONTGOMERY | 119 | 78 | 65.55% |
| 108 | LE CENTER | 244 | 174 | 71.31% |
| 144 | BELLE PLAINE | 74 | 52 | 70.27% |
| 149 | MORRISTOWN | 109 | 68 | 62.39% |
| 207 | CLEVELAND | 66 | 36 | 54.55% |
| 311 | ELYSIAN | 178 | 95 | 53.37% |
| 380 | KILKENNY | 12 | 1 | 8.33% |
| 433 | GAYLORD | 74 | 49 | 66.22% |
| 510 | NICOLLET | 104 | 83 | 79.81% |
| 518 | NORTH MANKATO | 219 | 141 | 64.38% |
| Total | | 1506 | 975 | 64.74% |

Area 3 Kelley Ackerman

| Post | City | Goal | Current | Percent of Goal |
|-------|------------------|------|---------|-----------------|
| 48 | STILLWATER | 147 | 96 | 65.31% |
| 65 | ROSEMOUNT | 196 | 116 | 59.18% |
| 98 | ST. PAUL PARK | 382 | 253 | 66.23% |
| 225 | FOREST LAKE | 675 | 426 | 63.11% |
| 424 | INVER GROVE HTS. | 60 | 39 | 65.00% |
| 447 | PRIOR LAKE | 72 | 49 | 68.06% |
| 491 | BAYPORT | 257 | 150 | 58.37% |
| 501 | WOODBURY | 126 | 89 | 70.63% |
| 507 | MAHTOMEDI | 44 | 23 | 52.27% |
| 521 | MENDOTA HEIGHTS | 48 | 37 | 77.08% |
| 620 | HUGO | 159 | 99 | 62.26% |
| 643 | SAVAGE | 252 | 153 | 60.71% |
| Total | | 2418 | 1530 | 63.28% |

Area 2 Jim Entinger

| Post | City | Goal | Current | Percent of Goal |
|-------|----------------|------|---------|-----------------|
| 95 | GLENCOE | 74 | 52 | 70.27% |
| 96 | HUTCHINSON | 418 | 302 | 72.25% |
| 125 | STEWART | 38 | 16 | 42.11% |
| 141 | SILVER LAKE | 158 | 129 | 81.65% |
| 143 | BROWNTON | 56 | 43 | 76.79% |
| 226 | GIBBON | 16 | 11 | 68.75% |
| 250 | ARLINGTON | 33 | 25 | 75.76% |
| 300 | LAFAYETTE | 45 | 22 | 48.89% |
| 314 | WINTHROP | 50 | 34 | 68.00% |
| 407 | WINSTED | 79 | 24 | 30.38% |
| 408 | GREEN ISLE | 32 | 21 | 65.63% |
| 463 | LESTER PRAIRIE | 37 | 15 | 40.54% |
| 641 | PLATO | 19 | 15 | 78.95% |
| Total | | 1055 | 709 | 67.20% |

Area 5 Marissa Lacourt

| Post | City | Goal | Current | Percent of Goal |
|-------|--------------|------|---------|-----------------|
| 43 | FARIBAULT | 324 | 224 | 69.14% |
| 44 | LAKEVILLE | 94 | 60 | 63.83% |
| 47 | HASTINGS | 286 | 183 | 63.99% |
| 54 | RED WING | 377 | 253 | 67.11% |
| 78 | KENYON | 53 | 26 | 49.06% |
| 142 | CANNON FALLS | 119 | 84 | 70.59% |
| 183 | ZUMBROTA | 41 | 27 | 65.85% |
| 184 | PINE ISLAND | 92 | 68 | 73.91% |
| 189 | FARMINGTON | 115 | 62 | 67.39% |
| 586 | LONSDALE | 123 | 96 | 78.05% |
| 594 | EAGAN | 213 | 145 | 68.08% |
| 598 | BELLECHESTER | 60 | 49 | 81.67% |
| Total | | 1897 | 1277 | 67.32% |

Area 3 Wayne Beierman

| Post | City | Goal | Current | Percent of Goal |
|-------|--------------|------|---------|-----------------|
| 2 | SHAKOPEE | 143 | 99 | 69.23% |
| 3 | JORDAN | 57 | 43 | 75.44% |
| 45 | NEW PRAGUE | 195 | 137 | 70.26% |
| 57 | CHASKA | 240 | 169 | 70.42% |
| 84 | NORTHFIELD | 161 | 103 | 63.98% |
| 121 | WATERTOWN | 47 | 40 | 85.11% |
| 150 | WACONIA | 222 | 160 | 72.07% |
| 343 | NORWOOD | 41 | 29 | 70.73% |
| 580 | CHANHASSEN | 364 | 194 | 53.30% |
| 601 | NEW GERMANY | 36 | 30 | 83.33% |
| 1700 | BURNSVILLE | 58 | 29 | 50.00% |
| 1776 | APPLE VALLEY | 786 | 483 | 61.45% |
| 1995 | VICTORIA | 11 | 10 | 90.91% |
| Total | | 2361 | 1526 | 64.63% |

Grand Total 9251 6027 65.15%

COATES (Post at Large) 37 10 27.03%



Department of Minnesota American Legion Family Service Project at the 2025 Fall Conference



The St. Cloud StandDown assists veterans in Minnesota with resources and needed items free of charge. They provide food, clothing, accessories, footwear, job connections, and housing information and resources for veterans in need, at risk, or homeless. They are staffed by veterans and volunteers who donate their time. The St. Cloud StandDown location consists of multiple operations including the StandDown Warehouse, Lady Veterans Boutique, Clifford Beck Veteran Resource Center, Gentlemen's Quarters Barbershop, and the Frontline Food Pantry.

We will be collecting the following NEW items (no used items):

Men's underwear (boxers or briefs)

Women's underwear

Men's socks – much needed they distributed over 3,000 last year.

Women's socks

Men's thermal wear

Men's winter jackets

Women's winter jackets

Men's winter hats, scarves, and gloves

Women's winter hats, scarves, and gloves

Full size toiletries including body wash, deodorants, razors, lotions, brushes/combs, women's tampons, and sanitary pads (light/medium)

Please bring your items from Thursday, October 23rd to 9am on Saturday October 25th to the Glen Carlson Exhibit Hall where the Auxiliary session will be held.

Let's Fill the Room for Our Veterans!!

American Legion Commander Linda Dvorak

American Legion Auxiliary President Robin Dorf

Sons of the American Legion Commander Jeremy Copher

American Legion Riders Director Duane Mabon

American Legion Auxiliary Honorary Junior President Anastasia Donnelly