The American Legion
Third District
Nathan Olson
District Adjutant

Follow Up, Lift Up

We Are on the web!
www.mnthunderingthird.org

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Spaghetti Dinner – Post 45 New Prague, MN	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Department Fall Conference St. Cloud, MN	22 Department Fall Conference St. Cloud, MN	24 Department Fall Conference St. Cloud, MN
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween

Volume 12 Issue 3

The Commander's Corner

How time flies. Fall is officially here!

That means it is time for the Department Fall Conference, taking place from October 22nd through 24th. I hope to see as many of you there as possible. This conference is a great opportunity to learn about everything The American Legion has accomplished and what we have planned for veterans in the coming year.

On the membership front, the 3rd District currently sits in third place, just behind the 4th and 6th Districts. So far this year, we have signed up 75 new Legionnaires. Great job everyone!

Following my attendance at the National Security Conference last month, I have been receiving regular updates on local Guard deployments. To date, approximately 250 Minnesota National Guard members are deployed to the Middle East. As we conduct our Buddy Checks, let us keep the families of these deployed service members at the forefront of our minds.

Working together, we can make this an incredible year for the 3rd District and The American Legion.

James Entinger
3rd District Commander

Membership Update

Tell Your Story - Grow Our Legion!

Thundering Third, it is time to get out there and tell our story!

Every veteran we meet is an opportunity to share what The American Legion means to us. We are bonded through service and committed to the future. Veterans have served from the fields of Europe to the jungles of Asia, the deserts of the Middle East, and everywhere in between. That bond continues today.

When you talk to a veteran, do not just ask them to join. Tell them why you joined.

Tell them about our Four Pillars:

- Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
- National Security
- Americanism
- Children & Youth

Brag about your Post. Tell veterans what you do in your community and give them a reason to become part of the Legion family. You never know which conversation will bring our next Legionnaire through the door.

Tell your story. Invite a veteran. Grow our Legion. Continue the legacy.

Veterans Serving Veterans!

Current Membership Statistics

District 3 membership currently stands at 5,826 members out of a goal of 8,878 members (65.62%).

The District has added 78 new members this membership year and currently ranks third in the Department of Minnesota.

Top-performing Posts include:

Post 1700 Burnsville: 95.65%

Post 601 New Germany: 91.67%

Post 250 Arlington: 83.87%

Post 143 Brownton: 83.33%

Sons of The American Legion (SAL)

Hello everyone,

Fall has finally arrived, and this month I want to take a moment to talk about two important topics: membership and reporting forms.

Squadron Officer Reporting Forms

Each year, after your elections, your squadron must submit the Squadron Officer Reporting Form. You can find it here: https://mnsal.org/Home2/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/SALOfficerRptFILL.pdf Or visit MNSAL.org, go to the Resources tab, then Squadron Resources, and you'll find it there.

For those who are new: once this form is completed and submitted, the Detachment Membership Director uses it to verify which officers have permission to access membership online. When the information is shared down to the District level, it also tells us who we should contact when we need to reach your squadron.

When filling out the form, please include accurate email addresses and phone numbers for all officers. This is critical. The email you list on this form must match the email you use when signing up at MYLEGION.com. If the emails don't match, you may not be able to access your squadron's membership information even after Department grants permission.

Right now, only 6 out of 37 squadrons in the 3rd District have submitted this form. Please make this a priority.

Membership

Attached is the Detachment Membership Report for the 3rd District as of 9/20/2026. We are currently in 3rd place in the Detachment, which is great news. However, we have missed the National Membership Targets so far.

- National's goal for 10 September was 25%.
- The next target is 35% by 14 October.

To reach 35%, we need 787 members—renewals or new members. That means we need 183 more members as a District. I believe we can absolutely hit that number. If every squadron sends in 5 members, we will reach the target. If every squadron sends in 10, we will be close to meeting the November target of 45%.

At this time, only one squadron has reached a goal—congratulations to Faribault for hitting 100% membership. A few squadrons have not turned in any membership yet. Please don't sit on your membership. Remember:

- If you do not renew by 31 December, you are not in good standing.
- You lose all benefits of being a Legion Family member.
- You cannot hold an officer position at any level until you renew.

For those who have already submitted membership—great job. Keep reaching out to your members. Let's aim for:

- 50% by end of October
- 75% by November
- 100% by December

District Officers are here to support you. If you need help with renewals or transfers, please reach out.

Have a great month, and an even better Halloween.

Glen

Sqdrn.	Location	2026 Results	2027 Goal	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Grand Total	% of Goal
2	Shakopee	32	33	0	0	7	0	7	**21.21%**
37	St Peter	24	25	0	0	1	0	23	**92.00%**
43	Faribault	81	82	0	0	1	0	82	100.00%
45	New Prague	36	37	0	0	2	0	25	**67.57%**
47	Hastings	66	67	0	0	4	0	4	**5.97%**
48	Stillwater	10	11	0	0	0	0	0	**0.00%**
54	Red Wing	85	86	0	0	1	0	1	**1.16%**
57	Chaska	145	146	1	0	85	0	86	**58.90%**
65	Rosemount	71	73	3	0	36	0	39	**53.42%**
79	Montgomery	35	36	0	0	3	0	3	**8.33%**
84	Northfield	46	47	0	0	3	0	3	**6.38%**
96	Hutchinson	21	22	0	0	3	0	3	**13.64%**
98	S T Paul Park	104	106	**8**	0	36	0	44	**41.51%**
108	Le Center	149	151	0	0	51	0	51	**33.77%**
141	Silver Lake	16	17	0	0	2	0	2	**11.76%**
142	Cannon Falls	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	**50.00%**
144	Belle Plaine	45	46	0	0	18	0	18	**39.13%**
149	Morristown	228	230	**8**	0	38	0	46	**20.00%**
150	Waconia	30	32	**6**	0	8	0	14	

Calendar of Events

Oct 6 Spaghetti Dinner New Prague, MN

Flyer attached

Oct 22- 24 Department Fall Conference St, Cloud, MN

The 2026 Minnesota American Legion Fall Conference is scheduled for Oct. 22-24. We will be in St. Cloud at the River's Edge Convention Center.

Register Online

When: Oct. 22-24 (Blood drive is undetermined)

General training sessions begin Friday, Oct. 23, and finish Saturday, Oct. 24, 2026.

Where: River's Edge Convention Center, 10 Fourth Ave S. St Cloud, MN 56301

Best Western Plus Kelly Inn: 320-253-0606

Payment & Registration Options:

- $20 prior if registered Oct. 11 and before. It becomes $30 at noon Oct. 12.
- Online through Zeffy (no fees...) - Click Here
- Register at the door is $30
- By mail: Download the form here and follow the mail-in instructions

Meals:

- Meals are available for $15 each (breakfast Friday & Saturday, and Lunch on Friday) Add to your online registration through Zeffy or indicate through your mail in registration.

Nov 7 Fall Family Gathering Pine Island, MN

- Flyer attached

Jan 16 Mid-Winter Conference Eagan, MN

- Flyer attached



Sponsored by Post 45 & Auxiliary Unit 45

TAKE OUT

ALL YOU CAN EAT
SPAGHETTI DINNER

Proceeds Fund and Support our Veterans Programs

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

4:30 - 7:00 PM

The New Prague Park Ballroom

ADULTS $15.00 | KIDS 5-9 $7.00
UNDER 4 FREE

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Contact The Park Ballroom with questions at 952-758-4603

The New Prague Park Ballroom
300 Lexington Ave S. New Prague MN


AMERICAN LEGION
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS
Third District
American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary,
SAL, & Riders
Fall Family
GATHERING
NOVEMBER 7, 2026
11 AM - 2 PM
Guest Speaker
PAM KRILL
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
LUNCH COST
$15.00
PINE ISLAND POST 184
108 1ST AVE SE
PINE ISLAND MN 56963
RSVP to President Cavalene Regan
612/867/4248 or ALA100YRS@GMAIL.COM
Please pay at the door.

Daniel R. Olsen Post 594

2026 – 2027 Mid-Winter Conference

January 16, 2027

9am to 3pm

Eagan Community Center

1501 Central Parkway

Eagan, MN 55121

Cost $25

For Information:

Mark Doble

952-393-7609 or

commanderpost594@gmail.com

What is happening in the District:

Attached are some pictures from this weekend's poppy distribution in Woodbury.

"We had great weather, a little breezy at times, this past weekend and some wonderful conversations with veterans and members of the Woodbury community in distributing poppies.

Regards,

Bob Dolan

Commander

American Legion Woodbury Post 501




PATRIOT DAY
9/11
25
YEARS


Thank You
For Donating
Support Our Veterans

Please send any upcoming events, or past events you are willing to share with the District. We always enjoy hearing good news.

District and Department Positions

Have you ever thought about getting more involved at the District or Department level of The American Legion? If so, please talk to District leadership. This section remains unchanged from the September newsletter.

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

Position Endorsements

Post 594 endorses Wayne Beierman for the position of Third District Commander for 2027-2028.
Post 594 endorses Barrett Kirchenwitz for the position of Third District Finance Officer for 2027-2028.

National Convention Endorsements

Post 45 endorses Mark Dvorak to attend the National Convention for 2027 in Kansas City, MO.
Post 45 endorses Linda Dvorak to attend the National Convention for 2027 in Kansas City, MO.

AMERICAN LEGION | ARMY NAVY

OFFICIAL VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA'S GAME

HONOR THE RIVALRY BY CHEERING ON YOUR TEAM!

The historic Army-Navy Game is one of the greatest rivalries in sports—and this year, we're giving our members a chance to experience it in person!

To honor the rivalry and strengthen our organization, we're launching a **Membership Incentive Challenge** that rewards those who help grow and sustain our membership. Here's how you can get in the game:

★★★★★★★★★

WE HAVE 16 TICKETS TO AWARD FOR THE ARMY-NAVY GAME.

8 WINNERS WILL EACH RECEIVE 2 TICKETS!

★★★★★★★★★

Top 3 recruiters OR an accumulation from a post from July 1 - November 11, 2026 will each receive 2 tickets.

Minimum qualification: recruit at least 10 new members.

The top department in each of our 5 regions (based on November's target date) will each earn 2 tickets to use within their department.

WINNERS WILL BE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2026

VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

Membership Reports

District membership report:

Area 1 Dale Jensen

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
37	ST. PETER	212	138	65.09%
55	LE SUEUR	39	25	64.10%
74	HENDERSON	35	21	60.00%
79	MONTGOMERY	103	74	71.84%
108	LE CENTER	234	160	68.38%
144	BELLE PLAINE	70	51	72.86%
149	MORRISTOWN	101	58	57.43%
207	CLEVELAND	59	37	62.71%
311	ELYSIAN	137	82	59.85%
380	KILKENNY	13	8	61.54%
433	GAYLORD	69	49	71.01%
510	NICOLLET	100	71	71.00%
518	NORTH MANKATO	219	149	68.04%
Total		1391	923	66.36%

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Area 2 Tim Swan

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
95	GLENCOE	74	49	66.22%
96	HUTCHINSON	393	283	72.01%
125	STEWART	36	20	55.56%
141	SILVER LAKE	157	123	78.34%
143	BROWNTON	54	45	83.33%
226	GIBBON	16	9	56.25%
250	ARLINGTON	31	26	83.87%
300	LAFAYETTE	44	28	63.64%
314	WINTHROP	50	31	62.00%
407	WINSTED	81	52	64.20%
408	GREEN ISLE	30	21	70.00%
463	LESTER PRAIRIE	32	12	37.50%
641	PLATO	18	14	77.78%
Total		1016	713	70.18%

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Area 3 Wayne Beierman

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
2	SHAKOPEE	141	92	65.25%
3	JORDAN	64	39	60.94%
45	NEW PRAGUE	188	129	68.62%
57	CHASKA	224	163	72.77%
84	NORTHFIELD	157	109	69.43%
121	WATERTOWN	45	37	82.22%
150	WACONIA	223	156	69.96%
343	NORWOOD	40	25	62.50%
580	CHANHASSEN	361	202	55.96%
601	NEW GERMANY	36	33	91.67%
1700	BURNSVILLE	46	44	95.65%
1776	APPLE VALLEY	756	458	60.58%
1995	VICTORIA	12	5	41.67%
13				
Total		2293	1492	65.07%

Area 4 Neil Hoadley

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
48	STILLWATER	132	79	59.85%
65	ROSEMOUNT	199	120	60.30%
98	ST. PAUL PARK	370	240	64.86%
225	FOREST LAKE	668	428	64.07%
424	INVER GROVE HTS.	56	37	66.07%
447	PRIOR LAKE	68	43	63.24%
491	BAYPORT	237	145	61.18%
501	WOODBURY	121	78	64.46%
507	MAHTOMEDI	36	23	63.89%
521	MENDOTA HEIGHTS	45	34	75.56%
620	HUGO	159	90	56.60%
643	SAVAGE	230	147	63.91%
Total		2321	1464	63.08%

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Area 5 Marissa Lacourt

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
43	FARIBAULT	314	204	64.97%
44	LAKEVILLE	92	63	68.48%
47	HASTINGS	259	178	68.73%
54	RED WING	370	250	67.57%
78	KENYON	46	32	69.57%
142	CANNON FALLS	120	72	60.00%
183	ZUMBROTA	39	29	74.36%
184	PINE ISLAND	94	62	65.96%
189	FARMINGTON	115	59	70.24%
586	LONSDALE	129	90	69.77%
594	EAGAN	203	138	67.98%
598	BELLECHESTER	61	46	75.41%
Total		1842	1223	66.40%

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Grand Total	8878	5826	65.62%
COATES (Post at Large)	46	11	23.91%

>60%
50%-60%
<50%
100%

Department of Minnesota 2027 Membership as of 9/29/26

District Summary Including all HQ Transfers

	District	New	Pufl	Renewals	Hq Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
2	MN Dist 0002 LGN	35	488	2759	1	3283	4862	67.523653
4	MN Dist 0004 LGN	24	232	702	0	958	1445	66.297578
6	MN Dist 0006 LGN	71	969	4690	62	5792	8741	66.262441
3	MN Dist 0003 LGN	78	1421	4306	21	5826	8878	65.622888
1	MN Dist 0001 LGN	41	711	3261	8	4021	6130	65.595432
8	MN Dist 0008 LGN	47	266	1426	7	1746	2708	64.475628
5	MN Dist 0005 LGN	11	216	534	4	765	1188	64.393939
7	MN Dist 0007 LGN	32	551	2259	2	2844	4436	64.111812
9	MN Dist 0009 LGN	31	451	2346	8	2836	4603	61.611992
10	MN Dist 0010 LGN	74	825	3070	12	3981	6551	60.769348
11	MN Dist 0099 LGN	0	187	715	0	904	1858	48.654467
11		0	1	2	0	3	0	#DIV/0
	Sum:	**444**	**6318**	**26070**	**125**	**32959**	**51400**	**64.122568**

For God and Country
The American Legion Thundering Third District