The American Legion
Third District
Nathan Olson
District Adjutant

Follow Up, Lift Up

We Are on the web!
www.mnthunderingthird.org

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Audit and Finance Committee
23	24	25	26	27	28 American Legion National Convention	29 American Legion National Convention
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Volume 12 Issue 1

The Commander's Corner

This is my first newsletter as your 3rd District Commander. I'm pleased to share that Joe Bares and I have appointed a Vice Commander for Area One: Dale Jensen of Gaylord Post 433. Thank you, Joe and Dale.

On Sunday, July 26th, I had my first official event as 3rd District Commander, throwing out the first pitch for the Division II Baseball Championship in Gaylord. The ball hit the dirt just in front of home plate and into the catcher's mitt, not bad for a one-arm, 80-year-old Army veteran. Le Sueur-Henderson defeated Watertown 3–2.

I'm a retired Army Signal Corps NCO. In the Signal Corps, we talk and listen, take action when needed, and most importantly, we follow up. We make sure the soldier received what they needed and that the help truly made a difference. The same is true for Veterans. When we support a Veteran or their family, we must be there for them from start to finish. We ensure they get the help they need, and we stand beside them.

I am committed to Veterans, their families, the Thundering Third, and the Four Pillars of the American Legion. God Bless America. I hope to see many of you at the National Convention.

James Entinger 3rd District Commander

Membership Update

HELLO THUNDERING THIRD!

The 2027 membership year is here, and I have been asked, "What is District 3 doing about membership?"

My answer is simple—we are telling the story of The American Legion!

Membership isn't about selling a dues card. It's about sharing who we are, what we do, and why veterans should be proud to be part of the greatest veterans' organization in America.

When talking to a veteran who hasn't renewed or someone interested in joining, don't just ask them to sign up—tell them our story!

Talk about our Four Pillars and the incredible work we do every day. Share the impact of our youth programs, including American Legion Baseball, Oratorical, Boys State, Girls State, Junior Shooting Sports, and Scouting. Tell them about the difference your Post makes in your community through Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Flag Day ceremonies, scholarships, community service projects, and fundraising activities. If your Post has a Canteen or charitable gambling, explain how those dollars are invested back into veterans, our youth, and our communities.

Open your doors! Hold open houses and invite your community to see firsthand the great things The American Legion is doing. People don't join organizations—they join missions they believe in.

Remember, membership is everyone's responsibility. Every Legionnaire is a Membership Director!

The American Legion has been serving veterans, their families, and our communities for 107 years. Think about what we could accomplish if every member of the Thundering Third brought in just ONE new member this year.

ONE member.

That's all I'm asking.

If every Legionnaire recruited just one new member, we would DOUBLE our membership. Imagine the voice we would have in our communities, as we continue to fight for veterans and their families.

The district is here to support every Post. If you need membership brochures, ideas for recruiting, or want to talk membership, please reach out. Contact District Commander Jim Entinger, any of our District Vice Commanders, or me. If we don't have the answer, we'll find it.

between our past District leaders and the Department of Minnesota Headquarters, we have an incredible team ready to help.

The Thundering Third has always stepped up when called upon, and I know we are going to do GREAT things during the 2027 membership year!

Let's make this our best year yet. Tell our story. Share our mission. Recruit ONE.

Here's a polished and energetic paragraph that fits nicely with your newsletter update.

One more membership update! We do not officially have our membership goals for either the District or our Posts yet. Those numbers will not be finalized until after the National Membership Conference in Indianapolis. Once that conference is completed, the Department of Minnesota will receive the official membership goals and distribute them accordingly.

In the meantime, I have attached each Post's membership numbers as of July 27, 2026. This gives everyone a great opportunity to see where we are starting the 2027 membership year and begin planning your membership efforts. Remember, membership is a year-round program—not something we wait to start once goals are announced.

Let's get off to a fast start and make the Thundering Third the District everyone is talking about this year!

This keeps the tone upbeat and encourages Posts to begin recruiting immediately rather than waiting for their official goals.

For God and Country,

Joe Bares
District 3 Membership Director
2026–2027

Sons of The American Legion (SAL)

Welcome to the beginning of Fall gentlemen,

August brings about the beginning of a new Membership year. Membership cards are being delivered, and should be to your squadrons already, if not, then soon. National has gotten more aggressive on their membership percentage for their target dates. So don't hold on to the membership; a good idea is to process membership weekly or as it comes in. Holding on to membership is doing a disservice to your members.

The national convention is coming up at the end of the month. This year it is down in Louisville, Kentucky, so if anyone is interested in seeing how a national convention works, and since it is so close, come down and join us for the convention. At the beginning of September, up in Brainerd, at Legionville, Camp-O-ree weekend will be happening. It is a weekend of camping, bingo and camaraderie. It starts on a Thursday and ends on a Sunday. Everyone in the Legion Family is welcome.

Legion Family Members,

In case you have not heard, the Traveling Wall is coming to White Bear Township in the beginning of August. It will be at Polar Park in White Bear Township August 6th-9th

Talk to you next month.

Glen Neville

3rd District SAL Commander

Calendar of Events

Aug 28 – Sept 3 National Convention Louisville, KY

Sept 27 Hero's Hub New Prague, MN

Hero's Hub will be 100% free to our veterans, providing much-needed items at no cost to those who have served our country. We are currently seeking donations of cash or gift cards so we can purchase brand-new items for the store and make this project a success.

NEW PRAGUE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

HERO'S HUB

FREE EVERYDAY NECESSITIES
FOR LOCAL VETERANS

OPEN HOUSE ON SEPTEMBER 27

NEW PRAGUE AMERICAN LEGION
PARK BALLROOM FROM 1-4:00 PM



RESPECT SUPPORT GRATITUDE

300 LEXINGTON AVE S
NEW PRAGUE MN

National Convention Delegates

1. Amy Larsen
2. Jim Entinger
3. Nathan Olson
4. Don Pankake
5. Mark Dvorak
6. Cindy Yanchury
7. Don Skow
8. Pat Logan
9. Terry Larsen

National Convention Alternante

1. Rod Reifsteck
2. Carla Tappainer
3. Joe Tappainner

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, Duane Anderson or Don Pankake

What is happening in the District:

Norwood Post 343 Raiders – Service Project Summary

Overview The Norwood Post 343 Raiders baseball team dedicated an evening to a community service project in partnership with The Edward Born American Legion Post 343. Instead of their regular practice, players assembled baseball-themed care packages and wrote thank-you letters for deployed service members.

Community Engagement During the project, players learned about the American Legion's role in supporting communities and youth programs nationwide. The activity helped reinforce the team's commitment to service, gratitude, and civic responsibility.

Acknowledgment The Norwood Post 343 Raiders extend their appreciation to all service members and their families for the sacrifices they make for our country. The team also expresses sincere thanks to The Edward Born American Legion Post 343 for its continued support of the baseball program and the broader community.

Post 501 Commander Bob Dolan and Vice Commander JoAnne Kramer were invited to speak with the 5th-grade students at Woodbury's Middleton Elementary School, offering an overview of Memorial Day and the traditions of our military services.

The students were attentive, engaged, and asked thoughtful questions throughout the presentation.

The program concluded today with a field trip to the Veterans Memorial, where students had the opportunity to tour the site and speak directly with several of our Woodbury American Legion veterans. It was a meaningful experience for the students and a valuable opportunity to connect them with the legacy of service honored in our community.


RAIDERS


BASEBALLISM
RAIDERS
RAIDERS
BAUER



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

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

Post	Name	Location	New	Pufl	Rnwls	HQ Tran	Total	Goal	% of Goal	Ret %
MN-0002	Shakopee	Shakopee	1	18	40	2	61			40.85
MN-0003	Robert Patterson	Jordan	0	5	25	0	30			47.62
MN-0037	William R Witty	St Peter	0	40	68	1	109			50.94
MN-0043	Faribault	Faribault	0	19	36	0	55			17.57
MN-0044	John Vessey	Lakeville	0	13	10	0	23			24.47
MN-0045	Charles Borak	New Prague	0	25	70	0	95			50.80
MN-0047	Nelson-Lucking	Hastings	2	47	27	0	76			28.57
MN-0048	Stillwater	Stillwater	0	24	12	0	36			27.48
MN-0054	Leo C Peterson	Red Wing	3	48	128	1	180			47.44
MN-0055	Le Sueur	Le Sueur	0	7	12	0	19			48.72
MN-0057	Chaska Inc	Chaska	0	100	20	0	120			55.05
MN-0065	Rosemount	Rosemount	2	21	45	0	68			32.18
MN-0074	Sibley	Henderson	0	2	0	0	2			5.88
MN-0078	Joseph A Gates	Kenyon	0	6	3	0	9			20.00
MN-0079	Montgomery	Montgomery	0	25	18	0	43			42.16
MN-0084	Northfield	Northfield	0	34	43	0	77			49.04
MN-0095	Glencoe	Glencoe	0	8	22	0	30			40.54
MN-0096	Hutchinson Inc	Hutchinson	0	103	111	0	214			54.59
MN-0098	Richard Dingle	S T Paul Park	0	48	131	1	180			47.61
MN-0108	Le Center	Le Center	0	53	17	0	70			30.17
MN-0121	Eugene Earley	Watertown	0	2	29	0	31			70.45
MN-0125	De Gree-Fleisch	Stewart	0	1	12	0	13			37.14
MN-0141	Silver Lake	Silver Lake	0	34	26	0	60			37.97
MN-0142	Kraft-Ostrom	Cannon Falls	0	20	20	0	40			33.61
MN-0143	Edward Ewald	Brownton	0	9	22	0	31			58.49
MN-0144	Leo B Neubeiser	Belle Plaine	0	8	6	0	14			20.29
MN-0149	Roy Leider	Morristown	0	14	5	0	19			19.00
MN-0150	Waconia	Waconia	0	45	28	0	73			32.44
MN-0183	Zumbrota Inc	Zumbrota	0	9	12	0	21			55.26
MN-0184	Charles Cowden	Pine Island	0	14	11	0	25			26.60
MN-0189	Clifford Larson	Farmington	0	14	12	0	26			30.95
MN-0207	Ray Keenan Inc	Cleveland	0	5	23	0	28			48.28
MN-0225	Forest Lake	Forest Lake	11	57	218	2	288			40.32

MN-0226	Loftness-Bandow Inc	Gibbon	0	0	2	0	2			13.33
MN-0250	Scharmer-Berger	Arlington	0	8	12	0	20			66.67
MN-0300	Lafayette	Lafayette	0	4	1	0	5			11.63
MN-0311	C Adams-R Stierlen	Elysian	0	18	18	0	36			26.09
MN-0314	Gedig	Winthrop	0	8	1	0	9			18.37
MN-0343	Edward Born	Norwood	0	6	2	0	8			20.51
MN-0380	John Balfe	Kilkenny	0	1	0	0	1			8.33
MN-0407	Martin Krueger	Winsted	0	20	3	0	23			28.40
MN-0408	Green Isle	Green Isle	0	7	1	0	8			27.59
MN-0424	Inver Grove Heights	Inver Grove Heig	0	9	21	0	30			54.55
MN-0433	Manthey-Asmus	Gaylord	0	4	28	0	32			46.38
MN-0447	Prior Lake	Prior Lake	0	7	26	0	33			49.25
MN-0463	Ray Kirkpatrick	Lester Prairie	0	11	0	0	11			35.48
MN-0491	Hesley Jensen	Bayport	1	34	68	1	104			42.68
MN-0501	Woodbury	Woodbury	0	17	41	1	59			47.11
MN-0507	Kramer-Berg	Mahtomedi	0	3	4	0	7			20.00
MN-0510	Nicollet	Nicollet	0	32	3	0	35			35.00
MN-0518	North Mankato	North Mankato	3	33	66	0	102			45.62
MN-0521	Challenger	Mendota Heights	0	7	19	0	26			59.09
MN-0580	Chanhassen	Chanhassen	3	34	95	0	132			35.15
MN-0586	Lonsdale	Lonsdale	0	35	15	0	50			38.76
MN-0594	Daniel R Olsen	Eagan	1	32	74	0	107			52.22
MN-0598	Bellechester Inc	Bellechester	0	1	10	0	11			18.64
MN-0601	Lowell Stender	New Germany	0	4	12	0	16			45.71
MN-0620	Hugo Inc	Hugo	1	12	59	1	73			44.38
MN-0641	Plato	Plato	0	7	0	0	7			41.18
MN-0643	Dan Patch	Savage	0	36	23	0	59			25.32
MN-1700	Patrick Kopp	Burnsville	0	9	35	0	44			95.65
MN-1776	Apple Valley	Apple Valley	0	130	101	3	234			30.07
MN-1995	Victoria	Victoria	0	5	0	0	5			45.45
MN-3333	Quad Three	Coates	0	7	4	0	11			23.40
		Sum:	**28**	**1419**	**2006**	**13**	**3466**			**38.500507**