



The American Legion
Third District
Nathan Olson
District Adjutant

Helping Veterans Connect

We Are on the web!
www.mnthunderingthird.org

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day - 250
5	6	7	8	9 Department Convention Willmar, MN	10 Department Convention Willmar, MN	11 Department Convention Willmar, MN
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Volume 11 Issue 11

The Commander's Corner

I'm James Entinger, the new incoming 3rd District Commander. I have been a District Officer for 13 years; I'm not a newbie.

I have put together a great team. We are here to help you and yours post any way we can.

Happy 250th Birthday America and God Bless us all.

P.S. Hope to see at the Department Convention this week.

Membership Update

Hello, Thundering Third!

It's July already! Happy 250th Birthday to the United States of America!

Attached are our end-of-year membership numbers as of June 30, 2026.

The Third District finished 3rd in membership with 95.47%, just 0.55% out of 1st place. That is an accomplishment we can all be proud of. Thank you to every Post, Membership Director, Commander, Adjutant, and Legionnaire who worked so hard throughout the year.

We had 11 Posts reach 100% membership or better:

- ☐ Post 3 – Jordan
- ☐ Post 65 – Rosemount
- ☐ Post 74 – Henderson
- ☐ Post 150 – Waconia
- ☐ Post 184 – Pine Island
- ☐ Post 380 – Kilkenny
- ☐ Post 407 – Winsted
- ☐ Post 586 – Lonsdale

- ☐ Post 598 – Bellechester
- ☐ Post 620 – Hugo
- ☐ Post 1995 – Victoria

Congratulations to each of these Posts on an outstanding achievement! Two of these Posts also reached the level necessary to earn a National Membership Ribbon.

District Commander Entinger and I are looking for two Posts that would like additional assistance with their membership program. If your Post is struggling with membership or would simply like some extra help, we are ready to assist. We will gladly come to your Post and work with your membership team.

Please contact me at 952-686-3311 or jebares@yahoo.com to schedule a visit.

I am also looking for two Posts interested in hosting a District Membership Workshop. Topics will include:

- ☐ Finding 1982 and 1982AD At-Large members
- ☐ Processing membership transfers
- ☐ Sample renewal letters
- ☐ Sample letters for recruiting and retaining members
- ☐ Effective membership phone calls, including conversation starters and questions
- ☐ Calling 1982 and 1982AD members to transfer them into your Post or another Post within the Third District

Whether you are an experienced Post commander, Membership Director, Post officer, or just getting started, these workshops are designed to share ideas, answer questions, and help every Post become more successful.

If your Post would like to host a weekend workshop, please get in touch with me. Together, we can strengthen membership throughout the Third District.

If your Post needs officer or Legion training in any area, please reach out to the Department Training Committee. They are available to help your Post succeed.

Thank you again for everything you do for our veterans, our communities, and The American Legion. Let's keep the momentum going as we begin another membership year!
For God and Country,

Joe Bares
Third District Membership Director

Sons of the American Legion (SAL)

Happy 4th of July everyone, 250 years strong. My name is Glen Neville, and I am the newly elected Commander for the 3rd District Sons of the American Legion. I am looking forward to having a great year and helping to make the American Legion Family stronger with the help of all the squadrons in the 3rd District. During the convention we held the yearly elections and here are the newly elected officers for the Sons of the American Legion.

Commander Glen Neville

Adjutant Dave Arend

Vice Commanders Kirtby Olesen, Tom Koch, Dave Vulcan, Gregg Wilwert

Membership Casey Lenort

Finance Gregg Wilwert

Sgt-at-Arms Dave Vulcan

Historian Casey Lenort

Chaplin Casey Lenort

Vice Commanders for the District are being assigned shortly and will be delivering Membership Card to you when we get them from National. As of this writing, we have not heard when Membership cards will be delivered. As soon as we get them, they will be sent out.

Have a great and safe 4th of July, enjoy the celebration of our nation with all your family and friends. Keep our deployed service members in your thoughts.

Talk to you next month,
Glen

Calendar of Events

July 9 – 11

Department Convention Willmar, MN

www.mnlegion.org/departement-convention

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 Tappanner

Position Endorsements

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

Post 1776 endorses Carla Tappaniner 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.

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:

DEC members, district adjutants, department staff, et al.,

You will find the Annual Committee Reports as a downloadable PDF at the department website here. [Committee Reports](#)

You will find several years of Committee Reports on this page. If you don't see 2026, you might need to refresh your browser. If you still don't see it, you might need to refresh the cache of your browser. Then it should appear. Trust me. It is there, and our members typically can find it.

Finally, I have attached it for you, too. Feel free to send it to your district officers and to the posts. Thanks.

Tim Engstrom | Communications Director & Baseball Secretary

American Legion Department of Minnesota

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e: tengstrom@mnlegion.org | w: legionnaire.org & mnlegion.org

d: 651-424-4612 c: 952-679-0134



July 20-Fastpitch Tournament

Southwest Substate playoffs are hosted by **Kasson** while the Southeast Substate playoffs are hosted by **La Crescent**.

(fyi, La Crescent will be hosting State in 2027).

ALL are welcome to attend.

Next year looks to be even bigger as we already have teams asking about joining us.

We all know it costs money to put on tournaments and Girls Fastpitch is no different. Those needs are:

For the Tournament

Umpires: 2 per game x 12 games x \$89 per game = \$1,920.00

Awards: Banner & Plaque for champs; medals for 1st & 2nd place \$548.00

For the Season

Season Coordinator Schedules games/umpires/playoffs \$300.00

Total Need \$2,768.00

Forward donations to: MN American Legion Softball
(mnsoftball@gmail.com)

More information is on their website [MN American Legion Softball](#) including the Contacts and Schedules. If every post pitches in, the girls will have a great tournament. Thank you.

The Mighty First District of the American Legion is committed to empowering the next generation of female athletes through our fundraising campaign for girls' fastpitch teams. By supporting this initiative, you not only contribute to youth development but also strengthen community ties. Our programs engage young leaders in sports, offering them a platform for civic education and personal growth. Together, let's inspire and educate these young athletes through our collective efforts.

Please contact one of the following regarding any questions or concerns you may have about Boys State:

Boys State Director Kyle Oldre – 507-920-8900

Boys State Dean David Way – 612-747-5078

Boys State Staff Member Knute Oldre – 507-920-3334

SENT June 27th:

There will not be Legion Baseball & Softball Rankings next week because of the Independence Day holiday.

SCHEELS Top 20 Rankings

Division I Sr. June 26 Rankings

() indicates first-place votes

1. Shakopee Post 2 (5)
2. Farmington Post 189 Tigers (4)
3. Edina Post 471
4. Bayport Post 491 (1)
5. Champlin Post 600
6. Hamel Post 394 Hawks
7. Alexandria Post 87
8. Rochester Post 92 Redhawks
9. Hopkins Post 320 Flyers
10. Foley Post 298
11. St. Michael Post 567 Mikes
12. Excelsior Post 259 Blue
13. Grand Rapids Post 60 Wolfpack
14. Maple Grove Post 172
15. Fridley Post 303 Gold Eagles
16. Eden Prairie
17. Bemidji Post 14
18. Chaska Post 57

19. Sartell Post 277

20. Tri-City Post 513 Red

Division I Jr. June 26 Rankings

1. Bayport Post 491 #2

2. Lakeville Post 44 North Panthers

3. Shakopee Post 2 Red

4. Excelsior Post 259 Red

5. Bayport Post 491 #1

6. Alexandria Post 87 Jr 16s

7. Montgomery Post 79 TCU

8. DeLaSalle Islanders

9. Cokato Post 209

10. New Prague Post 45

Division II Sr. June 26 Rankings

1. St. Cloud Post 76 Chutes

2. Montevideo Post 59 Thunder Hawks

3. Le Sueur-Henderson Posts 55 & 74

4. Dilworth Post 397

5. St. Charles Post 190

6. Ely Post 248

7. Springfield Post 257

8. Wadena Post 171

9. Parkers Prairie Post 219 Pride
10. Providence Academy
11. Warroad Post 25
12. Dawson Post 177 Devil Dogs
13. Eden Valley-Watkins Posts 381 & 453
14. Morris Post 29 29ers
15. Crookston Post 20
16. Fosston Post 114
17. Proctor Post 106
18. Sleepy Eye Post 7
19. Glenwood-Lowry Posts 187 & 253
20. Rochester Post 92 Eagles

Division II Jr. June 26 Rankings

1. New London-Spicer Posts 537 & 545
2. Le Sueur-Henderson Posts 55 & 74
3. Sleepy Eye Post 7
4. Thief River Falls Post 117
5. Starbuck VFW Post 4582
6. Ashby Post 357
7. Parkers Prairie Post 219 Pride
8. Dilworth Post 397
9. Barnesville Post 153
10. Breckenridge Post 53

Fastpitch Softball June 26 Rankings

1. Virginia Post 239
2. Caledonia Post 191
3. Wayzata Post 118
4. Bemidji Post 14
5. Kimball Post 261
6. Wadena Post 171
7. Fairmont Post 36
8. Swanville Post 313
9. Adams Post 146
10. Melrose Post 101

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](#)

Membership Reports

Area 1 Mark Doble

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
37	ST. PETER	229	211	92.14%
55	LE SUEUR	46	38	82.61%
74	HENDERSON	32	34	106.25%
79	MONTGOMERY	119	102	85.71%
108	LE CENTER	244	233	95.49%
144	BELLE PLAINE	74	69	93.24%
149	MORRISTOWN	109	100	91.74%
207	CLEVELAND	66	58	87.88%
311	ELYSIAN	178	138	77.53%
380	KILKENNY	12	12	100.00%
433	GAYLORD	74	67	90.54%
510	NICOLLET	104	100	96.15%
518	NORTH MANKATO	219	218	99.54%
Total		1506	1380	91.63%

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Area 3 Kelley Ackerman

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
48	STILLWATER	147	131	89.12%
65	ROSEMOUNT	196	199	101.53%
98	ST. PAUL PARK	382	375	98.17%
225	FOREST LAKE	675	666	98.67%
424	INVER GROVE HTS.	60	55	91.67%
447	PRIOR LAKE	72	67	93.06%
491	BAYPORT	257	236	91.83%
501	WOODBURY	126	121	96.03%
507	MAHTOMEDI	44	35	79.55%
521	MENDOTA HEIGHTS	48	44	91.67%
620	HUGO	159	159	100.00%
643	SAVAGE	252	230	91.27%
Total		2418	2318	95.86%

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Area 2 Jim Entinger

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
95	GLENCOE	74	73	98.65%
96	HUTCHINSON	418	392	93.78%
125	STEWART	38	35	92.11%
141	SILVER LAKE	158	156	98.73%
143	BROWNTON	56	53	94.64%
226	GIBBON	16	15	93.75%
250	ARLINGTON	33	30	90.91%
300	LAFAYETTE	45	43	95.56%
314	WINTHROP	50	49	98.00%
407	WINSTED	79	81	102.53%
408	GREEN ISLE	32	29	90.63%
463	LESTER PRAIRIE	37	31	83.78%
641	PLATO	19	17	89.47%
Total		1055	1004	95.17%

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Area 5 Marissa Lacourt

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
43	FARIBAULT	324	313	96.60%
44	LAKEVILLE	94	91	96.81%
47	HASTINGS	286	259	90.56%
54	RED WING	377	370	98.14%
78	KENYON	53	45	84.91%
142	CANNON FALLS	119	118	99.16%
183	ZUMBROTA	41	38	92.68%
184	PINE ISLAND	92	93	101.09%
189	FARMINGTON	115	83	90.22%
586	LONSDALE	123	128	104.07%
594	EAGAN	213	201	94.37%
598	BELLECHESTER	60	60	100.00%
Total		1897	1799	94.83%

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Area 3 Wayne Beierman

Post	City	Goal	Current	Percent of Goal
2	SHAKOPEE	143	140	97.90%
3	JORDAN	57	64	112.28%
45	NEW PRAGUE	195	187	95.90%
57	CHASKA	240	223	92.92%
84	NORTHFIELD	161	156	96.89%
121	WATERTOWN	47	44	93.62%
150	WACONIA	222	222	100.00%
343	NORWOOD	41	39	95.12%
580	CHANHASSEN	364	360	98.90%
601	NEW GERMANY	36	35	97.22%
1700	BURNSVILLE	58	45	77.59%
1776	APPLE VALLEY	786	758	96.44%
1995	VICTORIA	11	11	100.00%
Total		2361	2284	96.74%

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Grand Total 9251 8832 95.47%

COATES (Post at Large) 37 47 127.03%



Department of Minnesota 2026 Membership
as of 7/1/26

District Summary Including all HQ Transfers

	District	New	Pull	Renewals	Hq Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal	Retention %
6	MN Dist 0006 LGN	224	1012	7337	110	8683	9043	96.01902	91.72163588
10	MN Dist 0010 LGN	224	877	5343	94	6538	6846	95.501022	89.02893154
3	MN Dist 0003 LGN	251	1488	6957	136	8832	9251	95.47076	90.02879386
1	MN Dist 0001 LGN	142	740	5148	57	6087	6396	95.168856	91.28411911
9	MN Dist 0009 LGN	94	489	3922	49	4554	4829	94.305239	90.85290482
8	MN Dist 0008 LGN	97	285	2279	26	2687	2857	94.049702	88.90045092
7	MN Dist 0007 LGN	81	573	3699	10	4363	4645	93.928956	92.20807252
2	MN Dist 0002 LGN	105	517	4153	15	4790	5104	93.847962	91.96534069
4	MN Dist 0004 LGN	43	246	1139	8	1436	1568	91.581633	87.60278305
5	MN Dist 0005 LGN	33	229	906	12	1180	1305	90.421456	86.50914634
11	MN Dist 0099 LGN	12	195	1351	0	1558	1751	88.977727	85.50884956
	Sum:	1306	6651	42234	517	50708	53595	94.604478	91.28739144

MN Dist 0003 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	Pufl	Rnwls	HQ Tran	Total	Goal	% of Goal	Ret %
MN-0002	Shakopee	Shakopee	6	18	113	3	140	143	97.90	89.12
MN-0003	Robert Patterson	Jordan	6	8	45	5	64	57	112.28	89.83
MN-0037	William R Witty	St Peter	7	41	161	2	211	229	92.14	88.99
MN-0043	Faribault	Faribault	8	24	279	2	313	324	96.60	93.23
MN-0044	John Vessey	Lakeville	1	12	77	1	91	94	96.81	89.90
MN-0045	Charles Borak	New Prague	2	26	153	6	187	195	95.90	91.79
MN-0047	Nelson-Lucking	Hastings	2	52	200	5	259	286	90.56	88.42
MN-0048	Stillwater	Stillwater	2	26	103	0	131	147	89.12	87.76
MN-0054	Leo C Peterson	Red Wing	10	51	296	13	370	377	98.14	88.97
MN-0055	Le Sueur	Le Sueur	0	7	31	0	38	46	82.61	84.44
MN-0057	Chaska Inc	Chaska	3	104	115	1	223	240	92.92	89.02
MN-0065	Rosemount	Rosemount	13	23	155	8	199	196	101.53	87.68
MN-0074	Sibley	Henderson	6	2	26	0	34	32	106.25	90.32
MN-0078	Joseph A Gates	Kenyon	1	6	38	0	45	53	84.91	84.62
MN-0079	Montgomery	Montgomery	1	25	75	1	102	119	85.71	84.03
MN-0084	Northfield	Northfield	0	35	119	2	156	161	96.89	94.48
MN-0095	Glencoe	Glencoe	3	11	58	1	73	74	98.65	90.79
MN-0096	Hutchinson Inc	Hutchinson	1	114	276	1	392	418	93.78	92.42
MN-0098	Richard Dingle	S T Paul Park	13	51	302	9	375	382	98.17	89.14
MN-0108	Le Center	Le Center	3	55	173	2	233	244	95.49	93.06
MN-0121	Eugene Earley	Watertown	2	2	39	1	44	47	93.62	89.13
MN-0125	De Gree-Fleisch	Stewart	0	1	34	0	35	38	92.11	92.11
MN-0141	Silver Lake	Silver Lake	1	33	122	0	156	158	98.73	97.48
MN-0142	Kraft-Ostrom	Cannon Falls	3	19	95	1	118	119	99.16	93.44
MN-0143	Edward Ewald	Brownton	0	9	44	0	53	56	94.64	96.36
MN-0144	Leo B Neubeiser	Belle Plaine	0	9	60	0	69	74	93.24	94.52
MN-0149	Roy Leider	Morristown	4	14	82	0	100	109	91.74	87.27
MN-0150	Waconia	Waconia	19	44	159	0	222	222	100.00	89.82
MN-0183	Zumbrota Inc	Zumbrota	0	9	29	0	38	41	92.68	95.00
MN-0184	Charles Cowden	Pine Island	1	14	77	1	93	92	101.09	100.00
MN-0189	Clifford Larson	Farmington	3	14	66	0	83	92	90.22	87.91
MN-0207	Ray Keenan Inc	Cleveland	0	6	52	0	58	66	87.88	89.23

MN-0225	Forest Lake	Forest Lake	43	60	547	16	666	675	98.67	86.82
MN-0226	Loftness-Bandow Inc	Gibbon	0	0	15	0	15	16	93.75	100.00
MN-0250	Scharmer-Berger	Arlington	0	9	21	0	30	33	90.91	96.77
MN-0300	Lafayette	Lafayette	0	4	39	0	43	45	95.56	95.56
MN-0311	C Adams-R Stierlen	Elysian	4	18	114	2	138	178	77.53	73.74
MN-0314	Gedig	Winthrop	0	8	41	0	49	50	98.00	98.00
MN-0343	Edward Born	Norwood	1	6	32	0	39	41	95.12	95.00
MN-0380	John Balfe	Kilkenny	1	1	9	1	12	12	100.00	90.91
MN-0407	Martin Krueger	Winsted	1	23	55	2	81	79	102.53	97.50
MN-0408	Green Isle	Green Isle	0	7	22	0	29	32	90.63	93.55
MN-0424	Inver Grove Heights	Inver Grove Height	0	9	44	2	55	60	91.67	88.33
MN-0433	Manthey-Asmus	Gaylord	0	5	62	0	67	74	90.54	91.78
MN-0447	Prior Lake	Prior Lake	0	7	60	0	67	72	93.06	94.37
MN-0463	Ray Kirkpatrick	Lester Prairie	0	12	19	0	31	37	83.78	86.11
MN-0491	Hesley Jensen	Bayport	1	35	197	3	236	257	91.83	87.55
MN-0501	Woodbury	Woodbury	6	18	94	3	121	126	96.03	88.19
MN-0507	Kramer-Berg	Mahtomedi	1	3	31	0	35	44	79.55	79.07
MN-0510	Nicollet	Nicollet	0	34	65	1	100	104	96.15	98.02
MN-0518	North Mankato	North Mankato	12	34	171	1	218	219	99.54	88.36
MN-0521	Challenger	Mendota Heights	0	8	36	0	44	48	91.67	93.62
MN-0580	Chanhassen	Chanhassen	8	35	316	1	360	364	98.90	95.38
MN-0586	Lonsdale	Lonsdale	8	38	81	1	128	123	104.07	97.54
MN-0594	Daniel R Olsen	Eagan	1	34	163	3	201	213	94.37	91.20
MN-0598	Bellechester Inc	Bellechester	3	1	56	0	60	60	100.00	95.00
MN-0601	Lowell Stender	New Germany	3	4	28	0	35	36	97.22	91.43
MN-0620	Hugo Inc	Hugo	9	17	127	6	159	159	100.00	88.34
MN-0641	Plato	Plato	0	7	10	0	17	19	89.47	94.44
MN-0643	Dan Patch	Savage	5	37	185	3	230	252	91.27	87.75
MN-1700	Patrick Kopp	Burnsville	0	9	36	0	45	58	77.59	78.95
MN-1776	Apple Valley	Apple Valley	20	129	592	17	758	786	96.44	88.66
MN-1995	Victoria	Victoria	0	5	5	1	11	11	100.00	90.91
MN-3333	Quad Three	Coates	3	6	30	8	47	37	127.03	90.00
		Sum:	251	1488	6957	136	8832	9251	95.4707599	90.028794
