



The American Legion
Third District
Nathan Olson
District Adjutant

Helping Veterans Connect

We Are on the web!
www.mnthunderingthird.org

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Appreciation Rally - Bloomington, MN
15	16	14 St Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Volume 11 Issue 7

The Commander's Corner

My fellow patriots,

My project this year has been keeping me running. I held 7 dental clinics for veterans. Over 80 veterans received some level of dental care. A few still have follow up appointments that my project will cover multiple veterans. There are no more clinics scheduled. It has been so great to help so many veterans.

I want to talk a little bit about selfless service, something the American Legion does very well. Today's society seems to celebrate individual success, personal branding, and self-promotion, the idea of selfless service can feel increasingly rare. Yet for more than a century, the American Legion has stood as a powerful reminder that the strength of a nation depends not on selfish ambition, but on collective responsibility, sacrifice, and unwavering support for one another.

The tension between service and selfishness exists in every generation. The American Legion's continued relevance proves that service still matters. It proves that communities thrive when individuals are committed to mutual support. It also demonstrates that the most enduring legacy is not what we accumulate, but what we give. I feel that service strengthens character and helps builds resilience and that a selflessness unites communities.

For over a century, the American Legion has shown that when people choose service over self, the nation becomes stronger. I am always proud of the fact that the American Legion is led by volunteers with a similar goal.

Amy Larsen - Thundering Third Commander

The Chaplains Corner

March 2026 Third District Newsletter

Hello my fellow American Legion Family members! I recently had a strange thing happen to me. I was going about my day and while my nose was a little runny, I felt just fine. And then at 1900, (7:00pm), I logged on for my HOA Board of Directors Zoom meeting. The person leading asked me to turn on my microphone. But it was on. I simply had no voice. None. As hard as I tried, no words. Now, I'm someone who has made my living by preaching, teaching, talking! I suddenly felt lost and helpless. There was nothing I could do to fix this dilemma. That's another thing about me, I like finding solutions – there's ALWAYS a solution, right? I found my voice when I invited a friend to come with me to speak when I couldn't.

Have you ever felt voiceless? Was there a time when you wanted to speak up but were unsure where to start, or if you mattered, or if anyone would listen once you started speaking.

Speaking up matters. Listening matters.

The American Legion serves as the voice for veterans. It speaks in ways we cannot, in places we cannot go, tells our story. The story of those who were willing to make sacrifices, some small, some so big it meant giving over your life.

And then in our personal lives – when the rocks in the backpack of our lives grow too heavy, we can feel silenced. Do you know a veteran who feels the weight of PTSD? Is it you? A family member. Someone. This is the beauty of our “Be the One” Reach out – be a voice for someone and if it's you that's hurt reach out to your post comrades/chaplains. And as the American Legion Family let us pledge to hear one another and to lift our voice in concern for all of our veterans and those who love them.

As snows of winter begin to recede, we welcome the warmth that will arise. May we arise and go forward to search for those veterans who still feel unseen, unheard and remind them that it isn't just about the act of joining that matters, what matters is you will have a voice.

Holy One, as we enter into a season of new life, be with us in this as we navigate the winds and weather, the March winds and the April showers. Restore us, renew us, and remind us to be a voice for the voiceless. Amen

Chaplain Cindy Yanchury
cindy.yanchury@gmail.com

SAL UPDATE
No report this month

Membership Update

Happy Birthday, Fellow Legionnaires!

We celebrate The American Legion's birthday each year between March 15 and March 17. This year marks our **107th birthday**.

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veteran's organization. Focused on service to veterans, servicemembers, and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit organizations in the United States. Membership quickly grew to more than one million, and local posts sprang up across the country.

Today, membership stands at more than **1.6 million members in over 12,000 posts worldwide**. These posts are organized into **55 departments**: one for each of the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Latin America, and the Philippines.

Over the years, the Legion has built its identity by achieving hundreds of benefits and services for veterans, supporting the U.S. Armed Forces, and instilling the values of responsible citizenship among young people. From the nation-changing Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 drafted by The American Legion, to advocacy and relief for veterans exposed to toxic contamination during their service, Legionnaires have worked for more than a century to strengthen the nation they swore to defend.



A great way to celebrate the American Legion's birthday is to call or visit a member who hasn't renewed for the year. Do a "Buddy Check," and help them get their dues paid.

If your Post is already at 100% or higher in membership, make it a tradition to celebrate the Legion's birthday by covering the membership dues for a new member.

Calling all Children & Youth Post Chairpersons

If you are the chairperson for the adjutant for your post now is the time to write up your report of children and youth activity for the year. Remember ANY activities reported on your CPR do not count, but there are so many other ways to serve children, youth and families in your community.

If you did not receive the report form in the mail or have misplaced it, please reach out to me and I will send a new form.

Cindy Yanchury

Third District Childre & Youth Chairperson

Cindy.yanchury@gmail.com

Text: 651.261.1594

Calendar of Events

Mar. 14	Appreciation Rally	Bloomington, MN
May 15 – 16	3 rd District Convention	New Prague, MN
June 27	Commander's Testimonial	New Prague, MN
July 9 – 11	Department Convention	Willmar, MN

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

Third District Events

22 April - Wednesday

Post 620, Hugo dinner & program

23 April – Thursday

American Legion Post 45, New Prague Dinner & program

Learn more about Commander Wiley on [Legion.org](https://www.legion.org).

Position Endorsements

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

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

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

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

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.

We have one open committee seat available and we are looking to fill the position immediately.

One open seat on the convention committee. If anyone is interested, please contact Commander Amy at 612-306-4438.

Post 108 endorses Doug Wendtland for a Third District five-year finance committee position.

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

The American Legion Post 501 & VFW Post 9024 had their annual Joint Awards Banquet at the Green Mill Restaurant. This event is the VFW and American Legions way to recognize and celebrate the youth in our community and some of the amazing people in Woodbury that make it a great place for veterans to live.

Great fun was had by all that attended. Here are some of the pictures from the night's festivities.







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!

We are excited for another great summer at Legionville and can't wait to get kids registered. Please spread the word and reach out if you have any questions. Thank you!

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 woodburypost501@gmail.com



**WE HAVE 8
BOX SEAT
TICKETS
TO AWARD FOR
LEGION NIGHT
AT CHS FIELD!**



**AMERICAN
LEGION**



American Legion Night at CHS Field is Friday, May 22. Commander Linda Dvorak is tossing out the first pitch, and the New Prague Area Honor Guard is presenting the colors during the national anthem.

**THE CHALLENGE:
TOP 4 RECRUITERS
OF NEW MEMBERS
BETWEEN JAN. 1 & MAR. 1
WILL EACH RECEIVE
2 BOX SEAT TICKETS,
WHICH COMES WITH FREE
FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS.**



Winners will be announced March 14 at the Appreciation Rally in Bloomington.

Winners to sit with the department commander during the game.

Minimum qualification: recruit at least 3 new members.

To enter, submit the full names and member IDs of the new members to Membership Director Joe Bares by 5 p.m. March 12 via email at jebares@yahoo.com or via mail to 843 Lodge Drive, Jordan, MN 55352.

(Any transportation, lodging or additional expenses are not included.)

Department of Minnesota 2026 Membership
as of 2/28/26

District Summary Including all HQ Transfers

	District	New	Pufl	Renewals	Hq Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal	Retention %
6	MN Dist 0006 LGN	183	1010	6981	78	8252	9043	91.252903	91.06979927
2	MN Dist 0002 LGN	86	516	4005	12	4619	5104	90.497649	90.22151267
3	MN Dist 0003 LGN	183	1488	6602	98	8371	9251	90.487515	88.79982431
1	MN Dist 0001 LGN	116	740	4887	38	5781	6396	90.384615	90.78437702
10	MN Dist 0010 LGN	154	876	5083	69	6182	6846	90.300906	88.45811052
7	MN Dist 0007 LGN	61	573	3541	6	4181	4645	90.010764	89.6882494
9	MN Dist 0009 LGN	80	489	3709	34	4312	4829	89.29385	88.93833439
8	MN Dist 0008 LGN	72	285	2131	16	2504	2857	87.644382	85.79040853
4	MN Dist 0004 LGN	30	246	1093	3	1372	1568	87.5	87.80327869
5	MN Dist 0005 LGN	26	229	863	5	1123	1305	86.05364	84.91446345
11	MN Dist 0099 LGN	10	194	1284	0	1488	1751	84.980011	84.40890919
	Sum:	1001	6646	40179	359	48185	53595	89.897388	89.72349945