# THE MIGHTY 1ST DISTRICT FAMILY NEWSLETTER

**The American Legion Department of Minnesota**
**October 2026**

AMERICAN LEGION | AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY | SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION | AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

**Commander**
**Myron Ehrich**
507-259-5261

**President**
**Wanda Prescher**
507-254-0304

**SAL Commander**
**Josh Erickson**
507-313-5861

**ALR Director**
**Wes Halverson**
507-383-7983

**Veterans Crisis Line**
988 Press 1 for live chat or text
838255

**Minnesota Legion Depart Office**
651-291-1800
**Minnesota ALA Office**
651-224-7634

You can go to the facebook page to get the full PDF of the October newsletter.

# ffThi

Newsletter email address: bigredonenewsletter@gmail.com

# 1ST DISTRICT FAMILY CALENDAR

The American Legion Department of Minnesota

## OCTOBER

Program Awareness: Launch the membership campaign. Remember, dues for the following year are payable by Oct. 20. Organize and participate in Halloween safety programs. Get information on contests, scholarships and awards for next year's convention.

| Date | Event | Location | Time | Contact | Info |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | District Fall Rally | Adams Post 146 | 10 | | 321 W Main St, Adams, MN 55909 |
| 3-4 | Zgoda DAV Turkey Hunt | Legionville | | | |
| 5-8 | National Fall Mtgs | Indianapolis | | | |
| 22 | Blood Drive | Dept Conf | 12-5 | | |
| 22 | First District Social | Dept Conf | | Commander | |
| 22-24 | Dept of MN Fall Conf | St Cloud | | | Rivers Edge Convention Center |

## NOVEMBER

Post/Unit/ Squadron/Chapter Development: Take time to recognize members and thank volunteers. Find out what members would like to do in the coming months. Review the CPR/CSR to see what needs attention. Do internal training on duties & responsibilities.

| Date | Event | Location | Time | Contact | Info |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Election Day | Communities | | | Do your part, vote! |
| 11 | Veteran's Day Observance | Duluth Nat'l Guard Trng & Comm Ctr | 8:30 | | 4015 Airpark Blvd. Free Breakfast. Program at 11 |

## DECEMBER

Seeing the Unseen: Acknowledge Pearl Harbor Day on Dec. 7. As the holiday season begins, encourage and support activities that bring Christmas cheer to underprivileged families in the community. Keep plugging for renewals and new members. Visit veterans who are ill or in assisted living facilities.

| Date | Event | Location | Time | Contact | Info |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | Pearl Harbor Rally | Brewster Post 464 | 11 | ALR Dir. | Online registration can be found at mnlegion.org - $20.00 |
| 13 | District Christmas Party | Preston Veteran's Home | | | |

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# Members of the 1st District American Legion Family....

After a great deal of consideration...I have decided that after the occurrence of certain things, it is time to publish the following Statement:

As per discussion with Department personnel, I have found out the District Commander has the final word about what articles are printed in the District Newsletter. If an article does not meet the Standards of the District- **it will not be published.... period!**

## Newsletter Submission Reminder

**All articles must be submitted by the 26th of each month.**

Any submissions received after that date—without prior communication to Michelle regarding the delay—**will not be included in that month's newsletter.**

Newsletter items should be emailed to

**bigredonenewsletter@gmail.com**

**There will not be a July newsletter.**
Per the District Legion Bylaws, the District publishes 11 newsletters per year, August through June.

*Thank you for helping us keep our District communications timely and organized.*

The 1st District Leadership

The opinions and viewpoints expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the individual authors. They do not necessarily reflect the official positions of the 1st District American Legion Family, the Department of Minnesota American Legion Family, or the National American Legion Family. Inclusion of any article, announcement, or advertisement does not constitute endorsement.

# 1st District Legion Contacts

AMERICAN LEGION

Veterans ★ Defense ★ Youth ★ Americanism ★ Communities

## Commander

Myron Enrich
507-259-5261
ehrichmyron@gmail.com

## Adjutant

Deb Williamson
816-807-2362
adjutantmnmightyfirst@gmail.com

## Membership

Mary Hanson
507-440-3606
mfhanson52@charter.net

## Chaplain

Empty

## Area One Vice Commander

Richard Grobe
507-295-5665
richardgrobe4@gmail.com

## Area Two Vice Commander

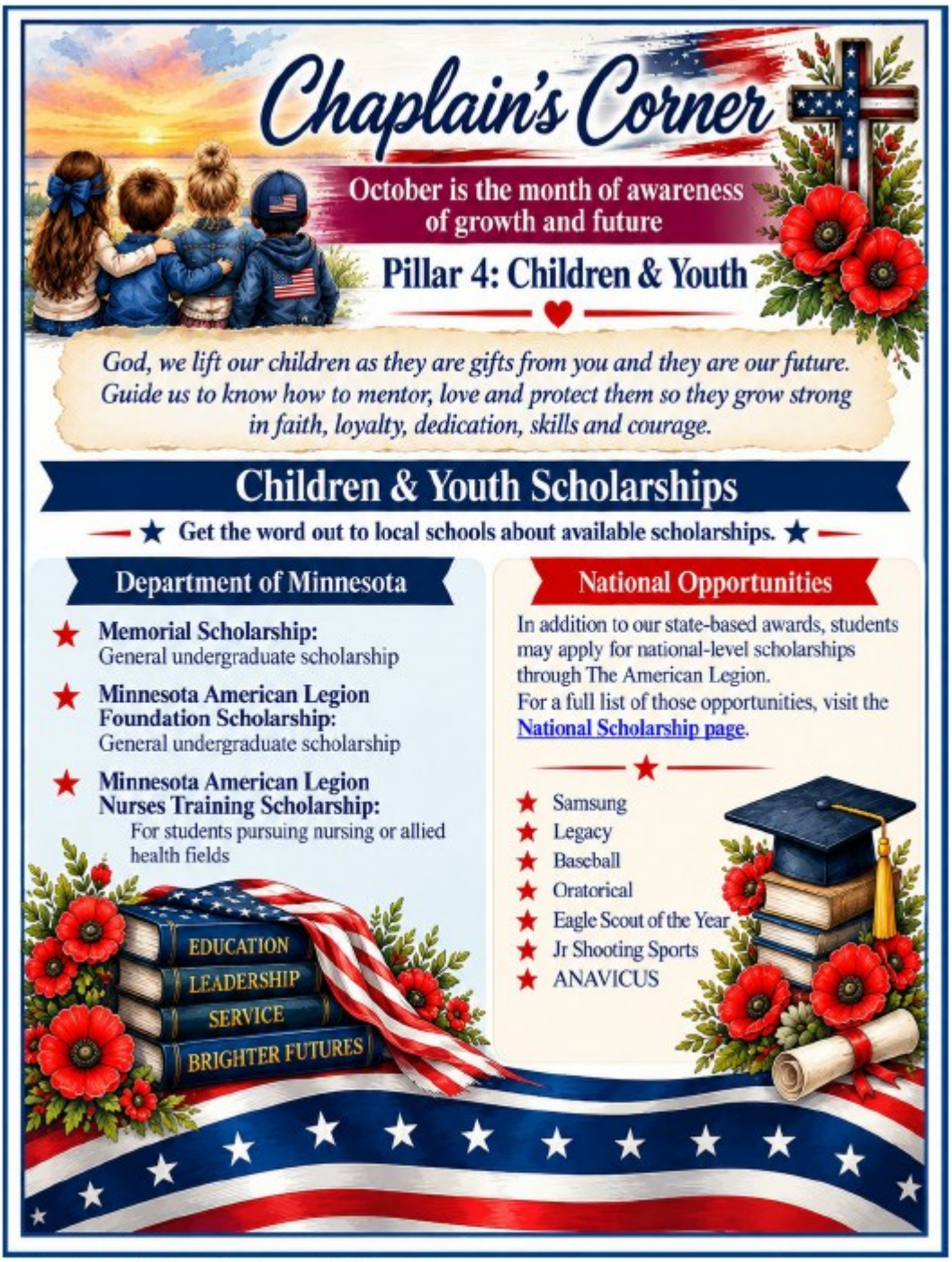
Richard W Klindworth Jr.
507-358-0019
richardklindworth475@gmail.com

## Area Three Vice Commander

Sy Fix
507-313-3376
papafixone@gmail.com

## Area Four Commander

Mary Hanson
507-440-3606
mfhanson52@charter.net


Chaplain's Corner
October is the month of awareness of growth and future
Pillar 4: Children & Youth
God, we lift our children as they are gifts from you and they are our future. Guide us to know how to mentor, love and protect them so they grow strong in faith, loyalty, dedication, skills and courage.
Children & Youth Scholarships
Get the word out to local schools about available scholarships.
Department of Minnesota
Memorial Scholarship: General undergraduate scholarship
Minnesota American Legion Foundation Scholarship: General undergraduate scholarship
Minnesota American Legion Nurses Training Scholarship: For students pursuing nursing or allied health fields
National Opportunities
In addition to our state-based awards, students may apply for national-level scholarships through The American Legion.
For a full list of those opportunities, visit the National Scholarship page.
Samsung
Legacy
Baseball
Oratorical
Eagle Scout of the Year
Jr Shooting Sports
ANAVICUS
EDUCATION
LEADERSHIP
SERVICE
BRIGHTER FUTURES

# From the Desk of
## Area 4 Legion Vice Commander
## Mary Hanson

Hi Legionnaires,

I am doing the rounds of post visits in Area 4. The posts are very welcoming, and some have had food. Always, a win in my book. My visits will continue until all posts are visited. We are looking for members to step up and take on bigger roles in the 1st District.

Do you know where your constitution and bylaws are? Have they been reviewed lately? Don't wait until there is dissension in your post and you don't know what to do next. **The constitution and bylaws are reviewed and approved by the post membership.** It lays out the rules in governing your post. If nobody seems to know where they are we can help set up new ones. Don't wait for a crisis.

The **2026 Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies** is available on legion.org for anyone to review and/or download. This guide has so much information in it. From Legion history, how to run a post meeting to ceremonies. Too many topics to cover here. Another great resource. Please review.

Want to learn more about the American Legion and the Four Pillars? Take the Basic Training Course on legion.org. It is open to all American Legion Family members. Another great source of information.

Please reach with any questions or comments.

For God and Country.

*Mary Hanson*

**1st District Area 4 Vice Commander**

# Adjutant's Corner

Serve
Support
Remember
Together

As everyone knows, fall is here and so is more functions, family obligations, football, and hunting season. So much to do, including getting registered for some important events. Things to get on your calendar include:

## District Fall Rally – Adams

OCT 3

Obviously, Oct 3rd is almost tomorrow, so you can't preregister for our Fall Rally in Adams, and that's okay! No one has. Register at the door, $10 for the event, $10 for the meal. One crisp 20 is beautiful.

Register at the door!
$10 Event
$10 Meal

## Dept. Fall Conference – St. Cloud

OCT 22-24

You can still register online at https://www.mnlegion.org/fall-conference. There will be a blood drive from noon to 5 p.m. The Dept DEC and some committees will meet Thursday evening. Oct. 22, the First District will have a social gathering (tbd where right now). If you attend the conference, come be social.

St. Cloud

## Halloween – October 31

While not a Legion date, it is a good day to honor our 4th Pillar, Children and Youth. Help them be safe. And if you're not a kid person, just so happens Henderson-Lewis Post 545 in Spicer is having a Spicy Halloween with a costume contest (11 p.m.). The Old Man Cover Band is performing, 8 – midnight, no cover charge.

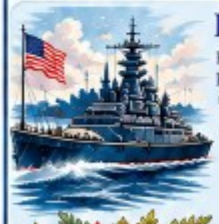
SPICY HALLOWEEN
Henderson-Lewis
Post 545 – Spicer
Costume Contest 11 p.m.
The Old Man Cover Band
8 – Midnight
No Cover Charge

## Veteran's Day – November 11

Duluth National Guard (4015 Airpark Blvd, Duluth MN) will be hosting an observance. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. There is a free breakfast and the program begins at 10 a.m.

VETERANS DAY

## Pearl Harbor Rally – December 5



Hosted by the Minnesota American Legion Riders at Brewster American Legion Post 464. Registration is $20.00 (covers meal). Online registration can be found at mnlegion.org under "Events" then "Pearl Harbor Rally" and use Zeffy (no processing fees).

Or mail your registration (Name, Post, Unit, Squadron, or Chapter you're representing) and $20.00. Make check payable to Minnesota American Legion Riders. Mail to:

Minnesota American Legion Riders
C/O Duane Mabon-State Director ALR
409 W. Harrison St.
Luverne, MN 56156

PEARL HARBOR RALLY

## District Christmas Party – December 13

At Preston Veteran's Home. More to come.

Save the Date

Families get together, support each other, set examples for the youth in the family. Let's make this season of food, pies, cider and other enjoyments a season for each other too.

## The American Legion, Dept of MN, First District 2027 Membership Report for September 24, 2026

| Dist | Post | Location | New 2027 | PUFL 2027 | Online 2027 | Trad 2027 | Paid 2027 | HQ Trans 2027 | Total Membr 2027 | Goal 2027 | % of Goal | HQ Trans 2025 | Last yr at this date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 9 | Winona | 1 | 31 | 0 | 275 | 307 | 2 | 309 | 452 | 68.36% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 90 | Lewiston | 0 | 9 | 0 | 5 | 14 | 0 | 14 | 75 | 18.67% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 190 | St Charles | 0 | 13 | 0 | 46 | 59 | 0 | 59 | 85 | 69.41% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | | Winona County | 1 | 53 | 0 | 326 | 380 | 2 | 382 | 612 | 62.42% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 50 | Wabasha | 0 | 39 | 0 | 77 | 116 | 0 | 116 | 174 | 66.67% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 110 | Lake City | 4 | 16 | 0 | 85 | 105 | 0 | 105 | 152 | 69.08% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 179 | Plainview | 1 | 22 | 0 | 71 | 94 | 0 | 94 | 130 | 72.31% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 546 | Kellogg | 0 | 5 | 0 | 24 | 29 | 0 | 29 | 46 | 63.04% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 573 | Elgin | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 28 | 14.29% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 579 | Millville | 1 | 17 | 0 | 60 | 78 | 0 | 78 | 106 | 73.58% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 588 | Mazeppa | 0 | 8 | 0 | 28 | 36 | 0 | 36 | 56 | 64.29% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | | Wabsha County | 6 | 110 | 0 | 346 | 462 | 0 | 462 | 692 | 66.76% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 92 | Rochester | 4 | 69 | 0 | 316 | 389 | 3 | 392 | 654 | 59.94% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 119 | Byron | 2 | 14 | 0 | 69 | 85 | 0 | 85 | 114 | 74.56% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 164 | Stewartville | 1 | 22 | 0 | 166 | 189 | 0 | 189 | 265 | 71.32% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 446 | Rochester | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 12 | 25.00% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 551 | Eyota | 1 | 23 | 0 | 96 | 120 | 0 | 120 | 168 | 71.43% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | | Olmsted County | 8 | 130 | 0 | 648 | 786 | 3 | 789 | 1213 | 65.05% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | | Area One | 15 | 293 | 0 | 1320 | 1628 | 5 | 1633 | 2517 | 64.88% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 295 | West Concord | 0 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 9 | 35 | 25.71% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 330 | Hayfield | 0 | 13 | 0 | 110 | 123 | 0 | 123 | 171 | 71.93% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 333 | Kasson | 0 | 28 | 0 | 107 | 135 | 0 | 135 | 205 | 65.85% | 0 | 0 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 384 | Dodge Center | 1 | 8 | 0 | 25 | 34 | 0 | 34 | 53 | 64.15% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 422 | Claremont | 0 | 3 | 0 | 19 | 22 | 0 | 22 | 27 | 81.48% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | | **Dodge County** | 1 | 58 | 0 | 264 | 323 | 0 | 323 | 491 | 65.78% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 52 | Blooming Prairie | 0 | 16 | 0 | 31 | 47 | 1 | 48 | 73 | 65.75% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 77 | Owatonna | 1 | 47 | 0 | 159 | 207 | 1 | 208 | 342 | 60.82% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 296 | Ellendale | 1 | 4 | 0 | 29 | 34 | 0 | 34 | 41 | 82.93% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | | **Steel County** | 2 | 67 | 0 | 219 | 288 | 2 | 290 | 456 | 63.60% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 75 | New Richland | 0 | 8 | 0 | 17 | 25 | 0 | 25 | 39 | 64.10% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 228 | Waseca | 1 | 20 | 0 | 139 | 160 | 0 | 160 | 228 | 70.18% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 281 | Janesville | 0 | 3 | 0 | 41 | 44 | 0 | 44 | 63 | 69.84% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 587 | Waldorf | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 11 | 19 | 57.89% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | | **Waseca County** | 1 | 31 | 0 | 208 | 240 | 0 | 240 | 349 | 68.77% | 0 | 0 |
| | | **Area Two** | 4 | 156 | 0 | 691 | 851 | 2 | 853 | 1296 | 65.82% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 40 | Lanesboro | 0 | 11 | 0 | 46 | 57 | 0 | 57 | 99 | 57.58% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 68 | Spring Valley | 0 | 6 | 0 | 31 | 37 | 0 | 37 | 51 | 72.55% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 81 | Harmony | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 14 | 0 | 14 | 19 | 73.68% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 94 | Rushford | 0 | 9 | 0 | 49 | 58 | 0 | 58 | 93 | 62.37% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 166 | Preston | 2 | 14 | 0 | 23 | 39 | 0 | 39 | 46 | 84.78% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 197 | Chatfield | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 36 | 5.56% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 299 | Mabel | 5 | 25 | 0 | 84 | 114 | 0 | 114 | 140 | 81.43% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 369 | Wykoff | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 9 | 14 | 64.29% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 400 | Canton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 7 | 21 | 33.33% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 492 | Fountain | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 11.11% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 526 | Peterson | 1 | 4 | 0 | 22 | 27 | 0 | 27 | 30 | 90.00% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 544 | Ostrander | 0 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 13 | 0 | 13 | 18 | 72.22% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 637 | Whalan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 7 | 85.71% | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | **Fillmore County** | 8 | 72 | 0 | 304 | 384 | 0 | 384 | 583 | 65.87% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 191 | Caledonia | 0 | 9 | 0 | 74 | 83 | 0 | 83 | 109 | 76.15% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 249 | Spring Grove | 0 | 10 | 0 | 47 | 57 | 0 | 57 | 118 | 48.31% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 423 | Houston | 1 | 9 | 0 | 39 | 49 | 0 | 49 | 95 | 51.58% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 498 | Hokah | 0 | 1 | 0 | 14 | 15 | 0 | 15 | 18 | 83.33% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 595 | LaCrescent | 1 | 36 | 0 | 79 | 116 | 0 | 116 | 191 | 60.73% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | | **Houston County** | 2 | 65 | 0 | 253 | 320 | 0 | 320 | 531 | 60.26% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | | **Area Three** | 10 | 137 | 0 | 557 | 704 | 0 | 704 | 1114 | 63.20% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 56 | Albert Lea | 2 | 35 | 0 | 223 | 260 | 1 | 261 | 390 | 66.92% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 264 | Glenville | 1 | 11 | 0 | 41 | 53 | 0 | 53 | 79 | 67.09% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 266 | Hartland | 1 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 13 | 0 | 13 | 14 | 92.86% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 317 | Emmons | 3 | 3 | 0 | 19 | 25 | 0 | 25 | 39 | 64.10% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 404 | Alden | 2 | 2 | 0 | 28 | 32 | 0 | 32 | 68 | 47.06% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 552 | Freeborn | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 28 | 21.43% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | | **Freeborn County** | 9 | 56 | 0 | 324 | 389 | 1 | 390 | 618 | 63.11% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 91 | Austin | 0 | 38 | 0 | 133 | 171 | 0 | 171 | 311 | 54.98% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 105 | Lyle | 1 | 8 | 0 | 23 | 32 | 0 | 32 | 65 | 49.23% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 140 | Grand Meadow | 0 | 4 | 0 | 9 | 13 | 0 | 13 | 29 | 44.83% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 146 | Adams | 0 | 15 | 0 | 66 | 81 | 0 | 81 | 126 | 64.29% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 161 | LeRoy | 0 | 4 | 0 | 19 | 23 | 0 | 23 | 41 | 56.10% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 570 | Austin Spam | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 8 | 13 | 61.54% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | | **Mower County** | 1 | 69 | 0 | 258 | 328 | 0 | 328 | 585 | 56.07% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | | **Area Four** | 10 | 125 | 0 | 582 | 717 | 1 | 718 | 1203 | 59.68% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 1111 | Dakota | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | | **District Totals** | 39 | 711 | 0 | 3150 | 3900 | 8 | 3908 | 6130 | 63.75% | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Vice Commanders | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Area One | 15 | 293 | 0 | 1320 | 1628 | 5 | 1633 | 2517 | 64.88% | 0 | 0 |
| | | Area Two | 4 | 156 | 0 | 691 | 851 | 2 | 853 | 1296 | 65.82% | 0 | 0 |
| | | Area Three | 10 | 137 | 0 | 557 | 704 | 0 | 704 | 1114 | 63.20% | 0 | 0 |
| | | Area Four | 10 | 125 | 0 | 582 | 717 | 1 | 718 | 1203 | 59..68% | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

## The American Legion Department of Minnesota 2027 9-24-2026 District Membership Report

| Dist | Rank | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6th | Myron Ehrich | 39 | 711 | 0 | 3150 | 3900 | 8 | 3908 | 6130 | 63.75% | | |
| 2 | 4th | Dennis Strassburg | 31 | 488 | 0 | 2631 | 3150 | 1 | 3151 | 4862 | 64.81% | | |
| 3 | 3rd | James Entiger | 74 | 1421 | 0 | 4265 | 5,760 | 21 | 5,781 | 8,878 | 65.12% | | |
| 4 | 1st | Daniel Bronk | 23 | 232 | 0 | 698 | 953 | 0 | 953 | 1,445 | 65.95% | | |
| 5 | 8th | Carl Lundin | 8 | 216 | 0 | 518 | 742 | 4 | 746 | 1188 | 62.79% | | |
| 6 | 2nd | Anthony Koop | 68 | 969 | 0 | 4624 | 5661 | 47 | 5,708 | 8,741 | 65.30% | | |
| 7 | 7th | Carl Wilson | 32 | 551 | 0 | 2208 | 2791 | 2 | 2793 | 4,436 | 62.96% | | |
| 8 | 5th | Steven Birkemeyer | 47 | 266 | 0 | 1410 | 1723 | 7 | 1730 | 2708 | 63.88% | | |
| 9 | 9th | Dennis Henkemeyer | 31 | 451 | 0 | 2314 | 2796 | 8 | 2804 | 4603 | 60.92% | | |
| 10 | 10th | Tom Olson | 59 | 825 | 0 | 2842 | 3726 | 12 | 3738 | 6551 | 57.06% | | |
| 99 | | | 0 | 188 | 0 | 715 | 903 | 0 | 905 | 1858 | 48.55% | | |
| Totals | | | 412 | 6318 | 0 | 25,375 | 32,105 | 110 | 32,217 | 51,400 | 62.68% | | |

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The First District
Department of Minnesota
The American Legion

# Proposed Constitution & Bylaw Changes

Will be discussed and voted on at First District Convention 2027

## Constitution Revision 6 states

**GRAMMAR AND SPELLING CORRECTIONS**

- Make Grammar changes throughout to make document tense consistent.
  - Rationale: make document read proactive not reactive.
- Add 'classes and the' to Preamble to make it correct.
  - Rationale: was, "to combat the autocracy of both the masses;"

**ARTICLE IV - ELIGIBILITY**

**Proposed Change:**

**Section 1:** The LEGION Act offers American Legion membership eligibility to any U.S. military veteran who served at least one day of active military duty since Dec. 7, 1941, and was honorably discharged or is serving now.

***Rationale: Per The American Legion membership page and the LEGION Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-35), "If you have served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and were honorably discharged or you are still serving active military duty honorably, you are eligible for membership with The American Legion."***

## Bylaws Revision 6 states

**GRAMMAR AND SPELLING CORRECTIONS**

- Make Grammar changes throughout to make document tense consistent.
  - Rationale: make document read proactive not reactive.

**10) Eligibility**

**Proposed Change:**

**Second Paragraph:** District Officers, elected and appointed, shall present documentation of an honorable discharge or proof of separation.

***Rationale: IRS Letter TEGE-04-1113-21 dated 26 Nov 2013 and correspondence from Mark Seavey, National Judge Advocate, these documents are not to be kept any longer once eligibility is proven due to privacy laws.***

**12) Remote Communication**

**Proposed Change:**

Meetings can be held via electronic means if members have a reasonable need to be absent. The Commander and Adjutant will determine the need for this.

The Technology Team, along with the Public Relations team, should form a committee to determine how Rallies, Conferences and Conventions can be properly streamed or recorded, ensuring privacy laws are followed.

***Rationale: When the original bylaw was written, a pandemic was happening and virtual was the only way to keep things going. Now that we're past it, it's time to get back to in person. While there are valid times people cannot be present and adjustments should be made; the general rule for an action-oriented organization is presence. One reason participation is due to the fact that people are not present.***

REGULATIONS GUIDELINES FOR FIRST DISTRICT FUNCTIONS

COMMANDERS AND ADJUTANTS SCHOOL

**Proposed Change:**

Officer Training

All District Officers are strongly encouraged to attend MN Legion College at the first possible opportunity if they have not already done so. All post officers are also encouraged to do the same; or, at a minimum, complete the online Basic Training Course of The American Legion.

***Rationale: Redundancy consumes resources.***

**MID-WINTER**

**Proposed Changes:**

1. Registration of $10 and meal prices of $15 are to be reviewed by the District Legion Executive Committee. The number of attendees at the previous year's event and the cost of goods can be reconsidered if modest changes (up or down) are warranted.
2. As this is hosted by the Auxiliary, the Auxiliary Public Relations committee will handle programs, flyers, etc.
3. Legionnaires, Sons, and Riders will help in any facet requested and capable.
   a. Each group facilitating sessions, i.e., meeting or training separately, is responsible for their own agenda, minutes, etc., for that segment.

***Rationale:***

***1. Prices removed so economic conditions could be considered when setting the prices.***

***2 & 3*** Added to help facilitate returning responsibilities that had been taken on by a pervious adjutant to help others out.

**SECTION G**

**Registration**

**Proposed Change:**

*SECTION G-Registration*

For planning purposes, all attendees must register at least 14 calendar days prior to Convention start.

1. All attendees must be in good standing with their membership and will present proof of current membership at sign in.
2. National, Department or visiting District Officers are not charged. Registration is for paperwork purposes only.
3. Distinguished Guest Chairman shall provide the registration table with an updated list.
4. Registration is $15.00 if pre-registered; $20.00 at the door.
5. Sign-in / registration will be at a convenient location for attendees and determined by the District Executive Committee.
    a. Registration monies offsets cost of Convention Badge, Convention Brochure and any other information deemed appropriate.
    b. One registration per person, regardless of number of memberships.

***Rationale: Clarity***

**SECTION J**

**District Convention Noon Luncheon**

**Proposed Change:**

1. The Host Post arranges lunch. Lunch is $15; however, it is to be the District Legion Executive Committee and based on the number of attendees at the previous year's event and the cost of goods, can be reconsidered if modest changes (up or down) are warranted. The District Commander shall act as the Master of Ceremonies.

***Rationale: The last two years the Convention has cost more than brought in, mainly because of meals. With this change, the host post won't have to foot the bill, which discourages posts from volunteering as host.***

# 1st District Auxiliary Contacts

**President**
Wanda Prescher
507-254-0304
w.prescher1951@gmail.com

**1st Vice President**
Sandy Fredrickson
507-383-3776
dsfredrick@gmail.com

**2nd Vice President**
Leah Milburn
507-272-2133
leahmilburn81@gmail.com

**1st Exec Committee Member**
Nancy Lewison
507-440-2090
lewisonnancy@gmail.com

**2nd Exec Committee Member**
Chandra Gillis
507-440-0754
chandragilles1@gmail.com

**Secretary**
Lesley Heimer
612-756-1649
Lesleyheimer@hotmail.com

**Treasurer**
Tonia Betterman
507-456-2315
bettm88@outlook.com

**Chaplain**
Audrey Farnsworth
507-319-0257
audreyivah41@gmail.com

**Parliamentarian**
Louise Kleiboer
507-251-9211
louisekleiboer@gmail.com

**Past President**
Michelle Weaver
507-850-2407
weaver.michelle595@gmail.com

Newsletter email address: bigredonenewsletter@gmail.com #

As the holiday season approaches, we are reminded of the importance of giving back to those who have given so much for us, our Veterans. At the Minnesota Veterans Home in Preston, we are committed to ensuring that every Veteran feels valued, supported, and celebrated, especially during this meaningful time of year.

We would like to invite individuals and organizations to participate in our **Holiday Giving Program.** There are several ways to make a difference:

- **Cash or Check Donations**
  - Monetary contributions are always appreciated. These funds help us provide items that enhance the quality of life for Veterans. If preferred, donations may also be directed specifically to our **Recreational Therapy Program**, which organizes engaging and fun activities that bring joy and connection to our residents. Donations may be mailed to:
    **Minnesota Veterans Homes-Preston**
    ATTN: Gabby Kinneberg
    1864 First Minnesota
    Preston, MN 55965
- **Holiday Giving Guide**
  - We will share a Giving Guide with a list of general items that are most needed at the Home this holiday season. These donations directly impact the daily lives of our Veterans in meaningful ways.
- **Adopt a Veteran**
  - For those who wish to give on a more personal level, we offer the opportunity to **Adopt a Veteran** for the holidays. This allows you to make the season brighter for an individual Veteran by providing gifts tailored to their personal needs and wishes.

If you would like more information about the **Holiday Giving Guide** or the **Adopt a Veteran Program**, please contact: **Gabby Kinneberg at 507-808-8927 or gabby.kinneberg@state.mn.us**

Your support ensures that our Veterans experience the care, gratitude, and holiday cheer they deserve. Together, we can make this season truly special for those who have served our nation with honor.

With gratitude,
*Gabby Kinneberg*
Public Relations and Volunteer Coordinator
Minnesota Veterans Home – Preston

# 1st District SAL Contacts

**Commander**
Josh Erickson
507-313-5861
josheric@hbci.com

**Adjutant**
Dave Bilderback
507-250-1057
dbilderbackb@aol.com

**SAL Advisor**
Brian Medinnus
507-219-7188
ftdavis8589@gmail.com

**Chaplain**
Christopher Taulbee
ctaulbee76@gmail.com
608-799-6965

**East Side Vice Commander**
Empty

**West Side Vice Commander**
Empty

**Membership**
Greg Lemmer
507-312-2222
gslemmer@hbci.com

**Finance Officer**
Gary Weaver
507-450-9580
gweaver@acegroup.cc

**Parlimenterian**
Gary Weaver
507-450-9580
gweaver@acegroup.cc

**Sgt at Arms**
Greg Lemmer
507-312-2222
gslemmer@hbci.com

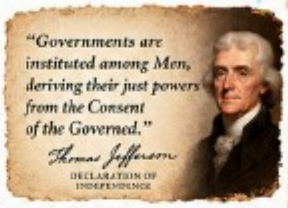
# From the Desk of THE COMMANDER

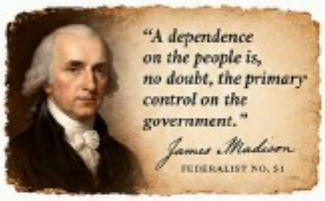
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
★ 1st DISTRICT ★

## Greetings Legion Family,

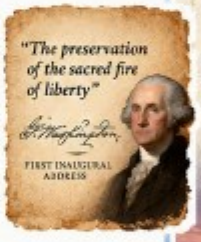
The Founding Fathers were very clear that a republic could function only when citizens accepted responsibility for governing themselves.

In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson wrote that "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the Consent of the Governed." Voting is one of the clearest ways citizens give or withhold that consent. When citizens stop voting, they allow public officials to exercise power without the broad participation and judgment on which legitimate self-government depends.




James Madison expressed a similar principle in Federalist No. 51: "A dependence on the people is, no doubt, the primary control on the government." The people, in Madison's view, were the government's first and most important safeguard. If citizens become apathetic and fail to monitor their representatives or participate in elections, that "primary control" is weakened.




George Washington echoed these sentiments in his First Inaugural Address, describing the American experiment as one in which "the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty" was entrusted to the American people. That responsibility could not be permanently delegated to elected officials. It required citizens to remain attentive to government, informed about public affairs, and willing to exercise their political rights. When citizens cease voting or show indifference toward public decisions, they risk allowing the "sacred fire" of liberty to weaken through neglect.

These principles do not only apply to our great Nation but apply equally to any organization which adopts a similar form of government. This is especially true for the American Legion where the national organization and all state, territorial and intermediate organizations are governed and administered by the members of the posts and squadrons within them. These organizations cannot effectively carry out their purposes if the posts and squadrons do not accept responsibility for and actively engage in the governing and administrative processes.

You are probably aware that a portion of your annual dues goes to the district, but do you know what the district organization actually does? Minnesota is home to more than 50,000 Legion members from over 500 posts, more than 12,000 SAL members from over 250 squadrons, and more than 12,000 Auxiliary members from over 380 units. To make things more manageable the Department of Minnesota has geographically divided the state into ten districts, each with its own governing and administrative body.

The governing body for the district is the District Convention. In convention, each squadron is represented by delegates it elects from its own membership. The District Convention is responsible for maintaining the constitution and bylaws of the district and for nominating and electing district officers from the district membership. The elected officers collectively form the District Executive Committee which functions as the administrative body of the district.

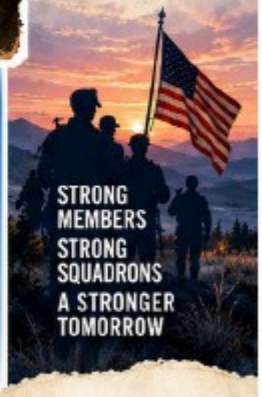
The District Executive Committee is responsible for maintaining the "health" of the district by providing guidance and leadership to the squadrons, conveying information between the squadrons and the Detachment, and representing the district on the Detachment Executive Committee.

The district plays a key role in keeping the squadrons connected to rest of the organization, but it can only function when the squadrons are actively engaged. The roles might be slightly different on the Legion and Auxiliary sides, but the vulnerability is the same. If there are no new nominees to elect and no new delegates to vote, the organization eventually fails to function.

**Our Voice**
REPRESENTS MEMBERS

**Our Vote**
KEEPS US STRONG

**Our Involvement**
BUILDS OUR FUTURE




Josh Erickson

JOSH ERICKSON
FIRST DISTRICT
SAL COMMANDER

# 1st District ALR Contacts

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

**Are you interested in joining the 1st District American Legion Riders?**
**Want to know who to reach out to about a Chapter near you?**
**Below are contacts for the Chapters in the 1st District.**
**Also listed are the District ALR officers and their contact info.**

**Director**
Wes Halverson
507-383-7983

**Vice Director**
Roe Naylor
507-438-5804
roe.land@yahoo.com

**Secretary**
Sunshine Maloney
507-459-5962
sunshin1alr@gmail.com

**Treasurer**
Mark Maloney
507-703-0026
markmaloney1962@gmail.com

**Historian**
Tricia Peterson
507-500-0449
Tlynn1318@gmail.com

**Chaplain**
Jill Reed
507-450-5525
jill22kimber@gmail.com

**Sgt at Arms**
James Rinehart
612-991-4699
kgwencl@msn.com

**Parliamentarian**
Chuck Stone
507-213-7517
castoney@hotmail.com

**ADAMS – CHAPTER #146**
Dennis & Nancy Lewison – lewisonnancy@gmail.com

**ALBERT LEA – CHAPTER #56**
Terry Lewis - Director - 507-573-2926

**AUSTIN – CHAPTER #91**
Roe Naylor - Director - 507-438-5804

**EYOTA – CHAPTER #551**
Mark Maloney - Director - 507-703-0026

**GLENVILLE – CHAPTER #264**
Bruce Camerer - Director - 507-850-2025

**OWATONNA – CHAPTER #77**
Chuck Stone – 507-213-7517

**RUSHFORD – CHAPTER #94**
Ray Steichen - Director - 563-379-8421

**WASECA – CHAPTER #228**
Ryan Berg - Director - 507-461-5245

**WINONA – CHAPTER #9**
Brian Degnan - Director - 507-458-3043

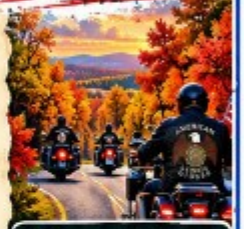
**You can also get information about the District ALR on our Facebook page.**
**1st District ALR of MN**

# AMERICAN LEGION Riders

## 1st District Newsletter

RIDE ★ SERVE ★ HONOR

ALL GAVE SOME
★ SOME GAVE ALL



## Greetings Riders!

★ Fall is here! The temperature begins to get cooler. The days start to get shorter. However, that doesn't mean we quit riding! Some of the best and most beautiful colors of leaves are beginning to turn this time of year. I hope you can get out and ride and enjoy the fall weather.

★ **Glenville ALR Chapter #264** hosted the final leg of the 2026 Nation of Patriots (NOP) Tour last month with the homecoming. They escorted the Rider's with the NOP US Flag from Eden Prairie Harley Davidson to Albert Lea. This flag traveled the United States for 130 days. The route through all 50 states and just over 14,500 miles.

★ Once it returned to Albert Lea they handed out a flag of each 50 states to a rider with a passenger. Also, with a flag representing each of the military branches was handed out to another 5 riders.

★ The riders, around 120-150 bikes, proceeded from the edge of town through the city. Residents greeted them as they ended the ride Bergdales Harley Davidson in Albert Lea. At Bergdale's they held a ceremony at which time the US Flag and the NOP banner were handed back to Glenville's ALR Director, Bruce Camerer to present to Post #264's Commander, Bruce Stilley.

★ This last month ALR's along with other local riders helped to escort the Vietnam Memorial Wall from Albert Lea to the North Iowa Event Center in Mason City, IA . It was on display during the Veterans Stand Down.

★ **October 3rd is the 1st District Fall Rally**. The general session will run from 10:00AM to 4:00PM. Our 1st District ALR will be taking time to meet from tentative 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM or once Legion business is taken care of. I really hope to see members from each of the ALR Chapters in attendance this year.

★ **Operation Green Light** is in November. I encouraged everyone to put a green light bulb in your outside light fixture to show everyone that you care.

★ Just another reminder. ALR membership is open to all active members of The American Legion, The American Auxiliary and The Sons of The American Legion. Members must own and ride a motorcycle. Also, they need to maintain active membership within The American Legion Family. Chapters please be checking your memberships to making sure that each of your members have their 2027 dues paid up.

★ If your chapter has an upcoming ride or event please send your flyers into 1st District Newsletter, bigredonenewsletter@gmail.com.

★ There are still a number of great days of riding yet this year. I hope you can get out there and enjoy those final days of fall. Be extra careful. Be safe and have fun.

★ **OPERATION GREEN LIGHT IN NOVEMBER**

Show your support for our veterans by putting a green light bulb in your outside light fixture.

FREEDOM ★ BROTHERHOOD ★ SERVICE ★ VETERANS ★ COMMUNITY

*Wes Halverson*
Director, 1st District