



### Happy Springtime and Happy Mother's Day

The end of the year is fast approaching and if you would like to support my project for the Hasting Veterans Home (raise beds and growing vegetables' to be used in the cafeteria for Veterans. Or the St. Peter Region Treatment Center Disc Golf Course. Please send your donation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Treasurer. I do appreciate all the support from the members.

I am still visiting Units and participating in functions put on by the Units and Posts when invited If you would like me to come and visit or participate in something your unit is hosting, please let me know and I will be glad to attend.

I really enjoyed being a part of Shakopee American Legion Auxiliary Unit 2 at the Bowling Tournament. It was fun to visit and bowl with the members. I was honored to be asked to be on the team and to represent the 3<sup>rd</sup> District.

I would like to thank all members of American Legion, Auxiliary and SAL for attending the Testimonial dinner for the 3<sup>rd</sup> District leadership, at the Savage Post on April 10th. I had a great time visiting with everyone.

Just a reminder again that the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Convention will be on May 16, 2026, at the New Prague Post 54. I hope everyone has a chance to attend and hear about all the great work that our members do. I would love to see all the members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Auxiliary get together and make new friends and visit with those you know.

I what to Thank all the Units for taking the time to fill out and turn in their Year End Reports.

Holidays to Celebrate in May:

May is National Military Appreciation month, a time to recognize and show appreciation to the Armed Forces of United State.

Silver State Service Banner Day. This day is set aside to honor our wounded, ill and dying military personal, you can participate by flying a Silver Banner.

Let's not forget to celebrate Mother's Day with our children on May 10. I hope all mothers have a great day.

May 25 is Memorial Day; this is a day to commemorate all who have died in military service for the United States. You can participate by attending or marching in a parade, attending a memorial service or visiting memorials and/or cemetery.

Sincerely yours

3<sup>rd</sup> District President Ann Bovy



## Secretary Karla

Although the hat wasn't quite right in the image, my eyes are so bright, they certainly stand out and I have thick wavy hair, I think I look pretty good as a cartoon. I wanted to give you a glimpse into the life of a third district secretary. The illustration missed my phone and computer, which are essential tools for the role. I've been using a fun program called CHATGPT to create images of myself and others. It's a great tool for upcoming events, and flyers. There are several styles available, and I may try the Norman Rockwell style next. There is another illustration in this newsletter. Can you find it?



### Stay Connected

Have you checked out our Facebook page and website recently? We are working hard to keep you updated with current information, and there is a lot happening this spring. The "QR code" will take you right to our web page.

### Important Information for District Chairman

**District chairman** Remember to bring your 3-ring binder to convention, which should contain your current newsletter article for the 2025/2026 year, and your book of annual report article. If you contributed an article for mid-winter, please include that as well. We are introducing a new process: if you have been selected as a chairman for the 2026/2027 year, please sign and collect your 3-ring binder so you can review the necessary information. Watch your emails for updates and more changes.

**District officers** After the convention, I will need your officers' pins so our new president can distribute them. If you wish to wear your pin in Willmar, you can give it to me on Saturday, but please remember to do so. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, we have a meeting at 1 PM at Post 45 in New Prague.

### Convention Details

Regarding the convention on May 16, 2026, at 8:30 AM, we will begin with a joint session. I hope to meet with all judges and committee chairs at 8 AM to hand out their information and certificates. My goal is to attend the joint session.

**Auxiliary Members** If you are planning to attend the convention, I have sent your unit's delegate and alternate slips to your unit president. Be sure to bring your slips to the convention and have your president sign them. Serving as a delegate allows you to vote at the convention. Hope to see you there.

## Treasures Report

The Prior Lake and Glencoe Units have turned in their Charters so they will not be sending in their District Dues. The collection of District dues for the 2025 year is completed with a total of \$6484.00 being collected.

	Donations as of	Pres	Pres	3rd Dist	St Peter
	4/15/2026	Project	Project	Honorary	Spring Fling
Unit #	Unit Name	Hastings	St Peters	Jr Pres Proj	Christmas Pty
1776	Apple Valley	\$175.00	\$175.00		\$300.00
144	Belle Plaine	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	
580	Chanhassen	\$150.00	\$150.00		
207	Cleveland			\$100.00	
311	Elysian	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
620	Hugo			\$200.00	
96	Hutchinson	\$125.00			
586	Lonsdale	\$300.00	\$300.00		
507	Mahtomedi	\$100.00	\$200.00		\$100.00
79	Montgomery	\$75.00	\$75.00		\$50.00
149	Morristown	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
601	New Germany	\$250.00	\$250.00		
45	New Prague	\$250.00	\$250.00		
84	Northfield	\$200.00			\$250.00
343	Norwood	\$35.00			
2	Shakopee	\$100.00	\$100.00		
141	Silver Lake	\$25.00			
98	St. Paul Park	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	
125	Stewart	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$20.00	\$30.00
150	Waconia	\$250.00	\$250.00		
	Cash Donations	\$5.00			
	Personal Cash donati	\$100.00	\$100.00		
	Cash Donations			\$120.00	
	Cash Donations		\$40.00		
	Mr & Mrs Sauerbrey	\$200.00			
	Kim Carlander	\$50.00	\$50.00		
	Edna Thayer	\$50.00	\$50.00		
	Transfer	\$200.00			
	Total	\$2,890.00	\$2,240.00	\$840.00	\$930.00

If you would like to donate to the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Presidents Project, the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Honorary Presidents Project or St Peter for the Veterans Spring Fling Party, Please make your donation for this year by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026. As we will be having the audit at the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Picnic if it is held in June. The Auditing Committee is Kelly Kauss, Lynn Duffy and Diane Mackenthun.

Thank you for all you do to help our Veterans, their families and our communities.

Hope you are making plans to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Convention on May 16th. It would be great to see everyone.

Teri Richardson  
3<sup>rd</sup> District Treasurer

dist3auxiliaryfinance@outlook.com

### RISK AND COMPLIANCE REPORT

To all the Units that submitted a Risk and Compliance report, **Thank you** for taking the time to do this. As of April 15<sup>th</sup>, I have received 16 reports out of 41 units.

A Big thank you to all the units that have filed their 990N's. We only have 9 units that have not filed for the 2025 year. There are 2 units that are not in compliance. Unfortunately, there are 3 units that have turned in their charter. These 3 units should go to the IRS website and go to where they would file their 990N and change the information to show their organization has terminated.



## VA&R by Linda Kelly

Greetings. It has been a challenge this year to write two separate VA&R articles since I am both 3<sup>rd</sup> District and Department Chairman. I just finished my article for the May Unit Mailing.

My article provided volunteer information for members and/or units to the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. It also listed donations that they can use for our veterans receiving services.

I am referring you, to my article in the unit mailing this month rather than repeating the same information - I feel it is good information for you. I hope all of you read the unit mailings. There is so much information there for our units and members.

Please remember that you can have the monthly unit mailing e-mailed to you. At that time, you can either print or read online. It is also posted on the website under "Unit Resources".

And, also as a reminder:

### AT JULY CONVENTION IN WILLMAR

I am still looking for volunteers to donate something to the prize for our "guessing game". The winner will receive a platter of "goodies" from our members. I have had pickles, salsa, caramels, and jam donated, but I need some baked goods. Please let me know if you will help me fill the platter.

*If I don't get donations, I'll be baking the days before convention. Please help.*



**Past President Parley by Linda Kelly**

**Saturday, September 19, 2026,**

**Shakopee American Legion Post**

Just a reminder to make a note on your calendar for the Informational Meeting that your District past presidents are organizing. The goal of this meeting is to prepare our units to complete their annual reports when the time comes.

We want you to start your year out on the right foot. We want you to know what qualifications are under each program. We want you to have a way to gather the information for your reports as the year goes on. Then when report time comes, it will be just a matter of adding up volunteer hours and donations.

More importantly, we are also looking for members to man the tables at this meeting. If you can provide information on one of our Auxiliary programs for our members, please contact me and volunteer – remember *“Volunteers may not have the time, but they have the heart”*



**Get Ready for National Poppy Day: Wear, Share, Remember**

National Poppy Day is May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Friday before Memorial Day, and it's time to rally your unit and get involved. This tradition, honors those who served and sacrificed by wearing the red poppy, a symbol that's been close to our hearts since World War I.

Wearing a poppy isn't just about remembrance. It's about action. Every poppy handed out, every dollar collected, goes to support veterans and active-duty military, helping with medical and financial needs, and even supporting programs like Honor Flight.

Here's how you can participate this year:

- Wear a red poppy and tell people why it matters.
- Distribute poppies in your community and share the story of their significance.
- Collect donations to support veterans' causes.
- Post your poppy story on social media with #ALAPoppyDay.
- Order supplies now from American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales—don't wait until the last minute.

Get your Juniors, Legionaries and Sons of The American Legion involved too, every poppy is an opportunity to teach the next generation about service and sacrifice.

Whether you're hosting a poppy party, setting up a donation jar, or just pinning on a flower, your efforts make a real difference. Let's make National Poppy Day 2026 the best yet!

Honor the fallen, support the living, and keep the tradition strong.

Don't forget to take a picture of the American Legion Auxiliary Poppy in the wild for one of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Convention Poppy Contest, and if you would like me to print it off , please email it to me at [tamipaul.ala@gmail.com](mailto:tamipaul.ala@gmail.com) by May 14<sup>th</sup>!

# Poppy Contests

at the 2026 3rd District American  
Legion Auxiliary Convention

**May 16<sup>th</sup> in New Prauge, MN**

## **Contest 1 – Poppy Picture**

We're holding a photo contest. Take a picture where the American Legion Auxiliary poppy is the star. Hold it up to the sky, weave a story into your photo, or capture a holiday moment. The 2 rules are to let the poppy be the main focus, and it must be your own photo, no internet photos

## **Contest 2 – Painted Poppy Rock**

Paint a rock with a poppy on it to be able to place it somewhere after the district convention. (i.e. a garden, a park, a walking path) –so that it can inspire others after the convention is over. Every rock should feature a poppy, but everything else is up to you. Add anything that honors you veteran or helps spread the poppy's message of love, honor and remembrance.

The logo for the American Legion Auxiliary, featuring a stylized American flag above the text "AMERICAN LEGION" in blue and "AUXILIARY" in red.

District 3 May Newsletter

Tamara Thayer, Chaplain



May is a unique time in the American Legion Auxiliary – it is the month we pause, reflect, and honor the true, deep meaning of service and sacrifice. Memorial Day is not merely the start of summer; it is our sacred duty to remember those who gave their lives in service to our country. As we prepare for Memorial Day, let us not only reflect on what was lost, but on what was given, the precious gift of freedom. I encourage everyone to participate in

local memorial services, visit a cemetery to honor our fallen heroes, and keep their families in our prayers.

May is Poppy Month when we honor the sacrifices of our veterans through wearing the Memorial Poppy. Tami Paul did such a wonderful job retelling the story as ‘The Poppy Lady’ during the Poppy Paloozas this year. She reminded us of our commitment to “not forget”. When you wear your poppy, think of the sacrifices made and the resilience of our veteran community.

Almighty God, as we approach this Memorial Day, we ask for a special blessing. Comfort those who are suffering from the ravages of war. May our duty to them be ever alive in our minds. We remember lovingly before You our departed heroes, whose splendid example guides us, now and forever. As we look toward summer, help us to be “Mission Driven, Family Focused” and to treat one another with kindness and care. In your name, we pray, Amen.

Let us spend this month with grateful hearts, honoring the fallen and supporting the living.

Thank you to President Ann Bovy for this appointment as District 3 Chaplain this year, it has been an honor. I appreciate all the Memorial Reports your units have sent in and the lists of those who have departed this year. Plans have been made for a beautiful Memorial Service during our convention in May. We will be reading the names of all those who have passed on and I encourage you to attend to pay tribute to those who have served those who served. My prayers are with all the names read and for their families that they might find comfort in their loved one being with the Lord, and that the best way for us to keep their memory alive is to carry on the auxiliary mission they were so much a part of.

Yours in Service,

Tamara Thayer

American Legion Auxiliary District 3 Chaplain

# ★ May Has Arrived, Third District! ★

🎉★ There are currently 10 units that have met or exceeded the 100% membership goal!

🎊 The winner of the Third District \$50.00 drawing for the Units that reached 100% by March 14<sup>th</sup> Appreciation Rally 2026 is Unit #343 Norwood. ★🎉

🌟 **And to the Units that have already reached or exceeded 100%—great work!** Don't stop there. Keep the momentum going by continuing to enroll new members and inviting others to join. Every new member helps strengthen our numbers, Units, our District, and our mission.

🎉★ **The momentum is building!** Our next Department milestones are right within reach—95% by June 12, 100% membership by July 4, and an incredible 102% by August 1. This year, our Third District was given an ambitious goal of 3,390 members, and thanks to your dedication and teamwork, we've already reached 2,389 (88.17%) as of April 25th. That means we're just 401 members away! Every conversation, every invitation, and every renewal or new member brings us closer. Keep believing in what we're building together—your hard work is making a real difference, and the finish line is in sight. **Outstanding job, Third District!** 🌸

🕒 **The countdown is ON!** There are just two incentives left to be awarded at the Third District Convention on May 16, 2026, in New Prague—and the excitement is building!

👉 **Incentive #1:** The first Unit to add three Junior Auxiliary members earns \$25.00

👁️ Spoiler alert... we already have a winner! 🎊

🔥 **Incentive #2:** The first Unit to add a PUFL will also take home \$25.00. **If your Unit has added a PUFL, be sure to let me know who and when, as this isn't something I cannot track in ALAMIS. Email me at: [j.l.cluckey@outlook.com](mailto:j.l.cluckey@outlook.com)**

🕒 There's still time to claim this prize and snag that elusive PUFL for your Unit—don't miss your chance to celebrate at Convention! 🌟

🌟 **Be on the Lookout...** 👁️

**Something important is headed your way.** In the coming weeks, Unit Presidents and Membership Chairmen will receive an email from me containing your membership data. When it arrives, please take a close look—details matter, and accuracy is key. Ensuring everything aligns with your records is especially critical for units that submit paperwork. Stay curious... 🌟

**With appreciation,  
Georgia Cluckey**

Dakota/Washington		Wendy Arend & Sherri Hernandez			
UNIT	CITY	Department Member Goal	TOTAL	PERCENT	Dept 95% by 6/12/26
1776	Apple Valley	263	204	77.57%	
491	Bayport	88	62	70.45%	
594	Eagan	11	1	9.09%	
189	Farmington	29	31	106.90%	1/20/2026
225	Forest Lake	200	220	110.00%	3/15/2026
47	Hastings	28	28	100.00%	4/15/2026
620	Hugo	68	68	100.00%	4/8/2026
424	Inver Grove Heights	8	5	62.50%	
65	Rosemount	59	51	86.44%	
98	St Paul Park	130	130	100.00%	3/15/2026
507	Willernie	49	44	89.80%	
	Team Total/Average	933	844	90.46%	

TEAM 2		Diane Mackenthun & Joanne Joachim			
UNIT	CITY	Department Member Goal	TOTAL	PERCENT	Dept 95% by 6/12/26
0144	Belle Plaine	102	82	80.39%	
0580	Chanhassen	75	64	85.33%	
0057	Chaska	158	129	81.65%	
0601	New Germany	19	19	100.00%	1/4/2025
0343	Norwood	22	25	113.64%	1/11/2025
0447	Prior Lake	8	3	37.50%	
0643	Savage	58	47	81.03%	
0002	Shakopee	76	73	96.05%	4/15/2026
0150	Waconia	79	91	115.19%	12/16/2025
	Team Total/Average	597	533	89.28%	

TEAM 3		Karla Otterness & Deanna Meyers			
UNIT	CITY	Department Member Goal	TOTAL	PERCENT	Dept 95% by 6/12/26
0143	Brownton	18	17	94.44%	
0433	Gaylord	52	45	86.54%	
0095	Glencoe	14	0	0.00%	
0408	Green Isle	33	23	69.70%	
0096	Hutchinson	170	122	71.76%	
0141	Silver Lake	64	56	87.50%	
0125	Stewart	36	29	80.56%	
0407	Winsted	42	29	69.05%	
0314	Winthrop	23	19	82.61%	
	Team Total/Average	452	340	75.22%	

TEAM 4		Kelly Klaus			
UNIT	CITY	Department Member Goal	TOTAL	PERCENT	Dept 95% by 6/12/26
0207	Cleveland	39	37	94.87%	
0311	Elysian	176	169	96.02%	3/25/2026
0380	Kilkenny	12	10	83.33%	
0300	Lafayette	19	17	89.47%	
0108	Le Center	111	118	106.31%	2/11/2026
0079	Montgomery	138	112	81.16%	
0045	New Prague	67	74	110.45%	3/10/2026
0510	Nicollet	59	43	72.88%	
0518	North Mankato	82	70	85.37%	
0037	Saint Peter	73	55	75.34%	
	Team Total/Average	776	705	90.85%	

TEAM 5		Gina Little			
UNIT	CITY	Department Member Goal	TOTAL	PERCENT	Dept 95% by 6/12/26
0043	Faribault	168	141	83.93%	
0586	Lonsdale	77	70	90.91%	
0149	Morristown	89	80	89.89%	
0084	Northfield	34	29	85.29%	
0184	Pine Island	94	87	92.55%	
0054	Red Wing	170	160	94.12%	
	Team Total/Average	632	567	89.72%	

**Hutchinson Unit 96** provided the April Free Community Meal. We displayed our flag and the American flag. Before the table prayer, everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.



**Hutchinson Unit 96** had one team bowling and had a blast! Post 96 also had two teams bowling. Hopefully, four teams will be bowling next year!

# North Mankato American Legion Auxiliary Unit 518



The **North Mankato American Legion Auxiliary Unit 518** had their 6th annual Spring Shop and Sip fundraising event on April 11, 2026 from 1:00-3:00 P.M. at the North Mankato American Legion, 256 Belgrade Ave, North Mankato, MN. The event includes a bake sale, silent auction, bottle raffle and wine tasting. All proceeds went to support the building of a new Bravo Zulu House for Women Veterans with PTSD and addictions.

Event Planner: Deb Maus

Volunteers: Sonja Frye, Lynette Cline, Lisa Roberts, Orianna Maus, Deb Joerg, Gail Norris, Sheila Yocom, Barb Mueller

Volunteer Hours: 37

A successful fundraiser for the Bravo Zulu House for Women Veterans:

\$1934.00





## American Legion Auxiliary Chaska Unit #57 Says Thank You for Making the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt a Success!

On Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the American Legion Auxiliary Chaska Unit #57 hosted the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Chaska City Square Park. Children ages 0-10 years old participated in the Easter Egg Hunt and were able to have their picture taken with the Easter Bunny. Started in the 1950s, this Easter Egg Hunt is one of Chaska's oldest celebrations and takes place each year on the Saturday before Easter.

Members of the Chaska American Legion Auxiliary had a great time stuffing thousands of plastic eggs with candy, setting up for the event in Chaska City Square Park, and working the event.

We want to thank everyone who came out and supported our event. It is because of this wonderful community that allows us to continue our purpose of 'Service Not Self'.

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) is a community of volunteers serving veterans, active military members, and their families. Our members also support the mission of The American Legion in improving the quality of life for our nation's veterans. Founded in 1919, the ALA is one of the oldest patriotic membership organizations in the United States. To learn more and to volunteer or join our organization, check us out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/alachaskaunit57chaskamn> or email us at [ALACHaskaUnit57@gmail.com](mailto:ALACHaskaUnit57@gmail.com).

# PURPLE UP!!!



*American Legion Auxiliary Chaska Unit #57 members proudly display the color purple for "Purple Up! For Military Kids Day" on April 15th, 2026. Pictured left-to-right, Back row: Cynthia Wenz, Libby Fairchild, Natasha Schmiege, Charlotte Holland, Karen Kath, Sue Oestreich, Sue Wherley, Kelley Buckentine; Front row: Lois Wenz, Christine Myhre, Buffy Knopik*

## **American Legion Auxiliary Chaska Unit #57 Purple Up! For Military Kids Day**

The American Legion Auxiliary Chaska Unit #57 celebrate Purple Up! For Military Kids Day during their monthly membership meeting on Monday, April 6, 2026.

What is Purple Up! For Military Kids Day? It is a day for communities to wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices.

The American Legion Auxiliary Chaska Unit #57 is dedicated to help build awareness for the needs of our military families and celebrate our other heroes... our military children. This grassroots effort began in 2011 to honor the sacrifices that our military children make every day for our country.

Why PURPLE? Because it indicates all the branches of our military. Air Force BLUE, Army GREEN, Navy BLUE, Marine RED, and Coast Guard BLUE; all combined to PURPLE.

If you miss the official day, that is ok because the whole month of April is known officially as the month of the military child.

