

Preamble to the Constitution of the ALA

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes.

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion; to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

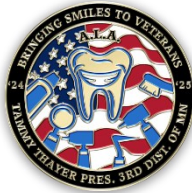
Our Mission

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.



American Legion Auxiliary THIRD DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

February 2025
President Tamara Thayer



Happy Valentine's Day! February is a great month to show our support and love of veterans. Some ideas on what units in 3rd District are doing: sending care packages with homemade valentine cards from students or from your unit; hosting Valentine's BINGO; bringing Valentine's treats to veterans that are either homebound or living at SPRTC, or Hastings Veterans Home.

February is full of special days for your unit to observe:

Feb 2- Army Nurse Corps Established in 1901

Feb 3- USO incorporated

Feb 3, 2025 is Four Chaplains Day - a day to remember the four US Army chaplains who made the ultimate sacrifice when the USAT Dorchester sank during WWII.

Feb 8, 2025 - Department Sweetheart Rally, Royalton Unit 137

Feb 13, 1943 - Marine Corps Women's Reserve Established

Feb 17, 2025 - Presidents' Day Observed

Feb 18, 25, and March 4 - Free Dental Clinics for Veterans at RCTC (see flyer)

Feb 23, 1945 - Iwo Jima Flag Raising

And get your registrations in for these events in March:

March 1, 2025 - 3rd District Appreciation Rally, St Paul Park

March 8, 2025 - Department Appreciation Rally, Chanhassen

I hope you enjoyed a fantastic 3rd District Mid-winter conference in Lonsdale. An article and pictures of the event will appear in the March Newsletter as the deadline for this newsletter is before the Mid-winter. We learn so many new ideas by networking and sharing ideas of what our units are doing at the conferences, rallies, and conventions. That's why I hope you bring several members from your unit to the Department Sweetheart Rally coming up in Royalton, and to the 3rd District Appreciation Rally in St Paul Park. The registration forms are in the newsletter and posted on the website: mnthunderingthird.org I'm hoping we have a great turn out at both events.

As units are working on their reports due in the Spring, don't hesitate to ask the Third District Program Chairman or the Department Chairman any questions you may have. The District President and Secretary are also available to answer any of your questions on your reports.

Keep your invitations coming for me to attend your special events or meetings. This past month, I enjoyed attending Stewart's Christmas Party along with the Dept Pres. Judy Ackerman. We had a delicious meal and both won at BINGO.



Officers

President Tamara Thayer
TLTHAYER@GMAIL.COM

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ABOVYAUXILIARY@CENTURYLINK.NET

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DEBCHICOSLEGION@GMAIL.COM

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MKKAUSS@YAHOO.COM

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Junior Past President Deanna Meyer
DEEESTAR@HOTMAIL.COM

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diane.albers@ymail.com

Chaplain Deanna Meyer
DEEESTAR@HOTMAIL.COM

Sergeant at Arms Diane Mackenthun
DIANEMACKENTHUN8@YAHOO.COM

Facebook and Newsletter articles to be sent to

T.D.NEWS2SHARE@GMAIL.COM

This month the top ideas for “Bringing Smiles to Veterans” are:
“Make buddy visits” - Edna Thayer
“Giving them Gift cards” - Linda Bell
“Send birthday cards or Valentines cards, (really any seasonal greetings)” - anonymous
“When doing a monthly fundraiser such as an omelette breakfast, choose one month to offer all veterans a free meal.” - anonymous

Bringing Smiles to Veterans, 3rd District President Tamara Thayer

HISTORY REPORT Edna Thayer Chair

The Past is History, The future is mystery, and the “present” is a gift from God.

Carl Sagan said, “You have to know the past to understand the present.”

The 24-25 Annual Report Forms for each program, and the list of 24-25 Annual Department Awards is now found on the MNALA.ORG Home Page. Unit historians, please follow the directions for both the Senior History and Junior History and submit to me (ednathayer@gmail.com or 7 Roots Beach Lane, Elysian, MN, 56028) so I receive it by April 15. I need to summarize the reports from the district units to send to the department as one report by April 30. The reports from all units that receive a district certificate of merit will also be forwarded to the department history chairperson for consideration for the department awards. The department awards the Betty Gartner Plaque for the best senior history and the Stickley Gifford Plaque for the best Junior History.

In addition, there is a Women’s History Activity Award that the department awards for the most outstanding Senior activity to celebrate “Women’s History” in the month of March. The award guidelines for the Women’s History award requires a short narrative of 500 words or less on what your unit did to celebrate Women’s History in the month of March, 25. You may include 2 photos and/or 2 newspaper clippings. A hard copy of this report is required. You may send this report directly to Patti Coleman, the department Chair or to me and I will forward it to her. If you send this report directly to Patti, please briefly describe what you did in your history report which is submitted to me.

I look forward to reading all the wonderful things that are done by the auxiliary members.



Americanism

Michelle Leonard, Chairman
February 2025

Celebrate and promote Americanism this February

The American Legion Auxiliary promotes Americanism as a program in February. But don't we promote Americanism every chance we get?

Americanism is possibly one of the easiest programs your Unit can do! Think about it: just about any event or presentation you do in the name of the American Legion Auxiliary promotes patriotism, love of country and respect for the Flag of the United States of America! Think about whether your Unit did any of these projects or events during the past year:

American Essay Contest: The ALA Americanism question for this year is, "What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding our veterans and military)?" See the October 2024 Department of Minnesota Unit Mailing at www.mnala.org/unit-info for information. Essays are due to Department Americanism Chairman Kollette Kaehlert by March 25.

Flag Education and Flag Etiquette: Share your knowledge on flag history, etiquette, and proper disposal with school children and your community. Do demonstrations on how to properly fold the flag or share any of the Star Spangled Kids (<https://www.legion-aux.org/star-spangled-kids>) materials to help younger generations learn the Pledge of Allegiance or understand the foundation of the Declaration of Independence. The possibilities are endless!

Send a student to Minnesota Girls State: Young leaders in your community can get a week's education in Americanism and the basics of governmental operations by participating in Minnesota Girls State. If your Unit sponsors – or wants to sponsor – one or more future leader to this program, get your Girls State Reservation 2025 form (at www.mnala.org/downloads) in by March 31.

The possibilities are endless, and I look forward to reading how your Unit promoted Americanism this year. Please send your Americanism annual reports by **Tuesday, April 15** to:

Michelle Leonard, 614 7th St. E., Northfield, Minn. 55057
or by email to: leonardmichelle28@gmail.com

In the words of our presidents...

Patriotism is easy to understand in America. It means looking out for yourself by looking out for your country.

*Calvin Coolidge, Republican
30th President*

There is nothing stable but Heaven and the Constitution.

*James Buchanan, Democrat
15th President*

This country will not be a good place to live in for any of us unless we make sure it is a good place for all of us to live in.

*Theodore Roosevelt, Republican
26th President*

Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth.

*George Washington, Federalist
1st President*

America is too great for small dreams.

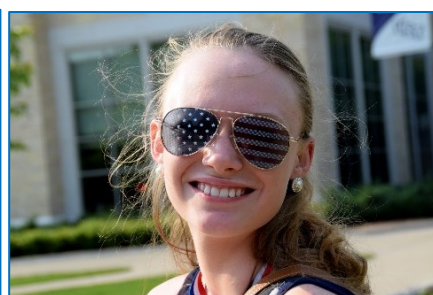
*Ronald Reagan, Republican
40th President*

There is nothing wrong in America that can't be fixed by what's right in America.

*Bill Clinton, Democrat
42nd President*

The Lord prefers common-looking people. That is the reason he makes so many of them.

*Abraham Lincoln, Republican
16th President*



Chaplain Report- Deanna Meyer

February is the month of Love. It is a month when we remember all we have loved over the years. My mom's birthday was in February and that is when I miss her the most. It is also the time we celebrate our past Presidents. I wish we had more respect for our Presidents. This country was formed by people of God who cared about how we run the country. Freedom is very important to me. We need to remember that we have Freedom to love, care and cherish all who are citizens of the United States. Please during this of February remember that our country was founded on love for others. Remember we need to love all mankind.



Dear Lord, please help us all to remember to show love to all people. As Legion Auxiliary we especially want to pray for our veterans. So many veterans and their families have given so much to help keep our country free. God, help us to remember that this is the month of love, and we should remember that it is very important that we love all mankind. I know you want us all to care about all people. Thank you,

Lord, for all you do for us. You are always there for us and helping us to get through whatever comes our way. I especially ask that you continue to help Miranda as she fights cancer. Help all who are struggling. Especially our veterans and their families. In your name, Amen.

Poppies by Linda Kelly, Chair

Here is my poppy decoration for our February meal. I bought the cups on clearance a while ago. If your unit is interested in making poppy decorations, I suggest you always be on the outlook for ideas and of course, items on sale or even better on clearance. I try to shop after every holiday for those items.

I hope you are planning your entries to the two poppy contests in May at our convention. I am looking forward to seeing what you come up with. As a reminder, I explained the two contests in last month's district newsletter.

I know that I have mentioned this several times but consider having a "poppy making" event. Invite members of your American Legion Family AND members from your community. In fact, if you have a neighboring unit, invite them, too.

We had a resident of Pine Island that heard about our shortage and volunteered to make poppies for us. I think she made over three kits for us – that's 3000 poppies. She once told me that s

he made them watching TV and set her goal of doing a minimum of 25 every night. What dedication and she wasn't eligible to be a member – just thought we were a great group and always volunteered at our Veterans Day Dinner, too.



Greetings From The Armed Forces Service Center



Hello fellow ALA members! I have just officially become one of the newest volunteers at the **Armed Forces Service Center**, located in terminal one at MSP Airport. The AFSC is a beautiful facility. I hope many of you come by when you get a chance, to tour the lounge and check out what we've got going on. Our holiday season was very busy, and the constant flow of traveling military personnel and their families really kept us on our toes. I made countless hot pockets and breakfast sandwiches, served up with coffee, hot chocolate or sodas. We also serve many other snacks to suit any type of craving for any time of day. Each volunteer shift lasts 4 hours, and we're open seven days a week from 8:00am to 10:45pm. I'm enjoying my time at the AFSC very much, and others seem to enjoy it too. Many of the volunteers I've worked with have been with the facility for 10 or more years! Maybe YOU would like to become a volunteer! If you'd like to know more about the AFSC, please feel free to contact me, or check out mnafsc.org to learn more. I also want to mention, that the AFSC runs completely on donations. If your Unit would like to make a donation to the AFSC, either General Funds or Poppy Funds may be used. Thank you for your support!

PS: One more thing on a completely unrelated note: We still have a bit of winter left. If you're staying in and need a movie for movie night, I highly recommend the Netflix movie "6888" (six triple eight). It's based on a true story involving our WAC during WWII. Enjoy! Stay cozy!

Kim Carlander
Armed Forces Service Center Chairman



Love is that condition in which the happiness of another person is essential to your own." - Robert A. Heinlein.



(Photo of 2024 Luncheon)

SAVE THE DATE
Faribault American Legion Auxiliary
Salad Luncheon
Saturday, March 22, 2025
Variety of in-house made salads, soups and
breads
More Info and ticket sales to follow

Shakopee American Legion Auxiliary Unit 2 Presents

TV Sitcom

Trivia Night

**1st PLACE
TEAM wins
\$350**

**All funds
go to help
Local
Veterans**

March 15th at 7pm

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

\$150/ 6 person team

\$200/ 8 person Team

\$30 individual*

Before Feb 25th

and get a free Mulligan.

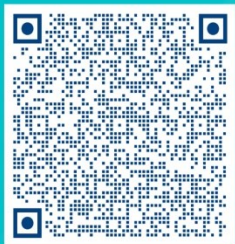
Prices goes up \$50

after Feb 25th

*individuals will be put on a team

Join us for a night of...

- ~ Sitcom Trivia
- ~ Silent Auction
- ~ Wine Draw
- ~ Horse Races
- ~ Costume Contest
- ~ Food Drive
- and more...



Learn more or
Register online by scanning
the QR Code or ask a bartender for a registration form.

**Bring a non-perishable food item for each member of
your team for the food shelf and get a free Mulligan Text**

Shakopee American Legion Post 2 -1266 1st Ave E Shakopee, MN

The American Legion Family Sweetheart Rally



February 8, 2025
Royalton American Legion Post 137
103 North Maple Street Royalton, MN

11AM Membership Turn-in / 12 PM Lunch / Program to Follow

Menu: Chicken & Ham, Mashed Potatoes & gravy, Dressing, Vegetable, Dinner roll and a Beverage (water & lemonade & coffee)

Cost: \$18.00

Tickets: Order online at www.eventbrite.com
or

Make check payable and send to:
ALA Department of Minnesota
20 W 12th St Room #314
St. Paul, MN 55155

Name/s _____
Email _____
Cell Number _____



**AMERICAN
LEGION**
AUXILIARY
Minnesota
Girls State

ATTEND MINNESOTA GIRLS STATE 2025

"Girls State was one of the best weeks of my life! I highly recommend any Junior interested to apply!" -Kate O.



APPLY FOR A SPONSORSHIP TO ATTEND!

Complete the attached
form and return to the
Post or contact us!

Deadline for applications is February 28

Contact American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112
email: mMurphy0522@msn.com

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

Candidate must be in her junior year. She must be attending a Minnesota public, charter, home school, parochial or private school or be a resident of Minnesota.

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING:

Attending Girls State is not only an excellent learning opportunity; it's an impressive accomplishment that looks great on a resume. Those who attend leave with life-long skills in leadership & self confidence. Are you up for the challenge?

WHEN:

The Minnesota program will be June 15-21, 2025 at the Bethel University campus in Arden Hills, MN. You must be able to be present the entire duration.

The American Legion Auxiliary, Elk River Unit 112
MINNESOTA GIRLS STATE JUNE 15-21, 2025

CANDIDATE APPLICATION

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, St Zip: _____
Primary Phone: _____
Alternate Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____
Parent/Guardian: _____
Parent/Guardian Primary Phone: _____
Parent/Guardian E-Mail: _____
High School: _____
High School Activities: _____
Other Activities: _____
Leadership/Service Activities: _____

Attach a short essay explaining why you are interested in participating in Girls State. Your statement can include how you can contribute to or what you hope to gain from the experience. This essay will have significant impact on your possible selection to participate in Girls State.

Return a completed application and your essay to MMurphy0522@msn.com or mail it to:

**AMERICAN
LEGION**
AUXILIARY
Minnesota
Girls State
Elk River American Legion Post 112
ATTN: Auxiliary Unit President
525 Railroad Drive
Elk River, MN 55330

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 28th!

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION
Squad 98

Proudly presents

3RD DISTRICT
MEMBERSHIP RALLY

\$10 ADMISON FOR RALLY ONLY. LUNCH ADD-ON IS \$15
FOR PRE-REGISTRAION OR \$20 AT THE DOOR

Where:
328 Broadway Ave. Saint Paul Park

When:
Saturday March 1st. 2025

■ 2025 Pre-Registration form

Arrival: 11:00
Happy hour: 11:00-12:00
Luncheon: 12:00-13:00 Rally following lunch
Opening Ceremony 13:00
Greetings
Guest Speaker Marissa LaCourt - What the Legion
means to you.
Legion Commander, Remarks
Auxiliary President, Remarks
SAL Commander, Remarks
The Smokin' Whiskey Band: 16:00-20:00

Sons of the American Legion Squad 98 is honored to be hosting this years
3rd District Spring Membership Rally. They are striving to make this a rally
of fun with food, drinks, guest speakers, live band and much more.

The cost for rally only is \$10 per person. Lunch is \$15 for Pre-Registration
per person or \$20 at the door.

Lunch menu: Baked Chicken, parmesan potatoes, 328 Grill's famous fried
brussels sprouts, and dessert.

The Smokin' Whiskey Band is open to all at no extra charge

■ Personal Information Pre-Registration must be in by Feb 14th 2025

First Name	:		Last Name	:	
Street Address	:				
City / Country	:		State:		
Zip Code	:				
Legion	:				
Legion Post #	:				
E-Mail	:				
		☐ Legion	☐ Auxiliary	☐ SAL	☐ ALR

Rally only

How many	Pre- Registration \$10	Total Dollar Amount enclosed

Lunch add-on

How many	Pre- Registration \$15	Total Dollar Amount enclosed

Mail this form with your payment to: SAL Post 98
328 Broadway Ave. Saint Paul Park, MN 55071

■ Make checks out to: Richard Dingle Post 98 SAL



328 Broadway Ave.
Saint Paul Park, MN 55071
651-459-9016
richarddinglepost98.com

FREE DENTAL CLINIC FOR VETERANS!

FEBRUARY 18, 25, AND MARCH 4TH, 2025

Bringing Smiles to Veterans



When:

Feb 18 or 25
or March 4th, 2025

Where:

Rochester Community
and Technical College
851 30th Ave. SE,
Rochester, MN 55904

For All Active, Reserve, Retired Military, and for all those who served in the military, we would like to say "thank you for your service" by providing you with free dental and wellness services. Free dental care kits made by the 3rd District Auxiliary Juniors are also provided. (appointments are limited so call now to schedule. Office is closed from Dec 19 - Jan 12 for school break.)

This Interprofessional Clinic will provide several services for veterans. 3rd District of the American Legion Auxiliary, will be teaming with the RCTC Dental Hygiene Students and Bridges Health, PC (a nonprofit organization) to provide free dental cleanings, x-rays, fluoride treatment, and exams. Also, included will be graduate nursing students and social work students from Bridges Health, PC working together to offer veterans resources for housing, food, preventative care, etc. if needed. Call the number on the tabs below and make your appointment for one of the 3 dates. If you need assistance with transportation please let Tammy Thayer know, 507-319-4349.

Dental Cleaning
(507) 280-3169

Dental Cleaning
(507) 280-3169

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(507) 280-3169

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Unit	Goal	Unit Name	Paid	Percent
1776	265	Apple Valley	206	77.74%
491	89	Bayport	63	70.79%
144	105	Belle Plaine	77	73.33%
143	19	Brownton	16	84.21%
580	77	Chanhassen	67	87.01%
57	158	Chaska	119	75.32%
207	41	Cleveland	36	87.80%
594	13	Eagan	9	69.23%
311	180	Elysian	162	90.00%
43	171	Faribault	113	66.08%
189	31	Farmington	27	87.10%
225	202	Forest Lake	148	73.27%
433	55	Gaylord	41	74.55%
95	16	Glencoe	11	68.75%
408	35	Green Isle	29	82.86%
47	29	Hastings	15	51.72%
620	71	Hugo	58	81.69%
96	174	Hutchinson	156	89.66%
424	10	Inver Grove H	6	60.00%
380	14	Kilkenny	11	78.57%
300	21	Lafayette	16	76.19%
108	112	LeCenter	104	92.86%
586	79	Lonsdale	66	83.54%
507	51	Mahtomedi	36	70.59%
79	142	Montgomery	100	70.42%
149	89	Morristown	65	73.03%
601	21	New Germany	18	85.71%
45	68	New Prague	63	92.65%
510	60	Nicollet	43	71.67%
518	84	North Mankat	58	69.05%
84	36	Northfield	29	34.52%
343	24	Norwood	24	100.00%
184	89	Pine Island	73	82.02%
447	10	Prior Lake	7	70.00%
54	172	Red Wing	150	87.21%
65	57	Rosemount	54	94.74%
643	56	Savage	42	75.00%
2	78	Shakopee	64	82.05%
141	65	Silver Lake	60	92.31%
98	127	St Paul Park	104	81.89%
37	76	St Peter	54	71.05%
125	38	Stewart	33	86.84%
150	80	Waconia	67	83.75%
407	46	Winsted	25	54.35%
314	25	Winthrop	19	76.00%
	3461		2744	79.28%

Membership Ann Bovy

Hello Auxiliary Members

Happy Valentines Day

to all members and their families.



Our next goal for the 3rd District is 90% at the Sweetheart Rally on February 8, 2025, at Royalton Post 137. All the names of the units that reach 90% of their goal will be eligible for the \$50.00 drawing. Remember to mail in all the membership you have on hand to the Department, input into ALAMIS or have the members renew online at the National website. Please do not hold on to your membership and keep trying to find those new members.

The information shown on the left side of the page is the unit membership and the percentage from the Department membership Bulletin sent on 1-15-2025. We are in 4th place in Department, and we needed 25 members to maintain 3rd place.

Gather the members and help support our Veterans. Spread the word about our programs and what the Auxiliary does for our Veterans, children and communities. Let's keep renewing our members to reach our goals.

It was great to see everyone that came to Mid-Winter,

Ann Bovy

3rd District Membership Chairman

Upcoming goals

March 8,2025 85% at Department

Sweetheart Rally

February 8,2025 Third District 90%

March 15,2025 Third District 100%

Hello Everyone!

Please see the list of outstanding Per Capita Dues. **These were due in December, if you have not paid, please do so.** Please make your check out to American Legion Auxiliary or ALA and put in the memo line what the check is for. The mailing address is listed below under my signature line.

It has been brought to my attention that some of you may have the wrong address for me, so please use the address below. If you have sent me a check and it hasn't been cashed, please reach out to me and let me know.

Please contact with me any questions! Stay warm!

Diane Albers - 3rd District Treasurer

10030 161st Street West, Lakeville MN 55044

952-250-8438

diane.albers@ymail.com

Per Capita Dues 2024-2055

Unit #	Unit Name	Membership as of 7/31/204	Per Capita \$2 per member	Junior Assessment \$3 per Unit	Total Due by December 1, 2024
2	Shakopee	75	\$150.00	\$3.00	\$153.00
45	New Prague	65	\$130.00	\$3.00	\$133.00
47	Hastings	28	\$56.00	\$3.00	\$59.00
54	Red Wing	166	\$332.00	\$3.00	\$335.00
65	Rosemount	56	\$112.00	\$3.00	\$115.00
98	St. Paul Park	123	\$246.00	\$3.00	\$249.00
108	LeCenter	109	\$218.00	\$3.00	\$221.00
143	Brownton	18	\$36.00	\$3.00	\$39.00
149	Morristown	86	\$172.00	\$3.00	\$175.00
184	Pine Island	93	\$186.00	\$3.00	\$189.00
189	Farmington	29	\$58.00	\$3.00	\$61.00
300	Lafayette	19	\$38.00	\$3.00	\$41.00
314	Winthrop	23	\$46.00	\$3.00	\$49.00
407	Winsted	42	\$84.00	\$3.00	\$87.00
408	Green Isle	33	\$66.00	\$3.00	\$69.00
424	Inver Grove Heights	8	\$16.00	\$3.00	\$19.00
510	Nicollet	58	\$116.00	\$3.00	\$119.00
518	North Mankato	81	\$162.00	\$3.00	\$165.00
586	Lonsdale	76	\$152.00	\$3.00	\$155.00
594	Eagan	11	\$22.00	\$3.00	\$25.00
643	Savage	55	\$110.00	\$3.00	\$113.00



Eagle Scout Awarded Scholarship from the PPP of American Legion Auxiliary Unit #43

The Past Presidents Parley of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #43 selected Cameran Helgeson to be the recipient of their scholarship. Helgeson is a sophomore at NDSU studying mechanical engineering. As a scout in Troop 306 he volunteered at the Legion's third Friday Night Suppers. He is eligible for the scholarship as his grandfather, Rodney Little, served in the Army. Past Presidents who congratulated him included Paulette Jameson, Babe Nordgaard, Karen Rasmussen, Kathy Larson, Candy Braun and Karen Kittlesen.



Stewart Post and Unit 125 Christmas Party



Hutchinson Unit 96 presented a Good Deed Award to the Maplewood Academy high school students. They packed bags for the county weekend food program which prevents hunger. They packed 100 bags! We also gave them flag pins and chocolate kisses cuz we love what they did!



Hutchinson Unit 96 presented a Good Deed Award to the Christ the King church middle school youth group. They packed bags for the county weekend food program. They packed 140 bags! We also gave them chocolate kisses cuz we love what they did. They were also given flag pins.



We had a group of Legionaries and Auxiliary members that were involved in Wreaths Across America.

This is our third year, and our group keeps getting bigger. More legion members this year. This is a program that I am trying to champion for. I talked to a couple of different groups to encourage them to become sponsors for wreaths. Also, talking to our members to donate, especially if they had family members buried at Fort Snelling. I encouraged them to not only purchase a wreath for their family members but also an additional one.

This coming year, I have a goal to try and raise funds for a least 500 wreaths. I'm trying to get the word out about this program. It is another way to honor our veterans.

Thank you,
Vicki Sorensen

List of people in the photo: Left to right, front row; Randy Sorensen, Vicki Sorensen, Lauren Olson, Amanda Holt-Olson, Donna (legion member), Back Row; Friend of a member, Amy Williams, Mike and Joanne Werner, Gary and Anita Goenner.



Waconia Unit 150

On January 6, 2025 we presented a \$2000 donation to Veterans on the Water. This is such a valuable and free resource available to any Veteran regardless of their branch. We were thrilled to use our Poppy monies towards this donation.

A bit about this incredible resource.

"Most Veterans today face some kind of challenge and obstacles. We want to help our Veterans with these challenges, and at the same time become part of their healing process. We have found that putting Veterans together in the water on a boat or pontoon has helped. Many of our older Veterans gave up on fishing, a sport they have loved for years mainly because they cannot get around like they used to and do not want to be a burden on anyone. We are here to tell you that no Veteran is a burden to us and once you get the older Veterans back in a boat or pontoon it's game on.

No matter what situation the Veteran might have, we will figure out a way to take them fishing. The excitement, fun and laughter created by these trips is priceless.

Whatever the needs of the Veteran may be, we will figure out a way to take them fishing at no cost.

This year Veterans on the Water took over 250 Veterans on free fishing trips, and plan on taking over 300 Veterans on free trips in 2025.

Pontoons are equipped with latrines and to move the Veterans around we have two red, white, blue buses.

We are the only group that have their own boats."

