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

November 2024

President Tamara Thayer



Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family, there is so much for us to be thankful for. Since our last newsletter, I enjoyed speaking to the Hugo Auxiliary

Unit; attended the Department Harvest Rally in Fridley; hosted the Third District Fall Family Gathering in Elysian; and met the former 3rd District Presidents at the Past President's Parley in Shakopee. I'm excited to have invitations to see 3 more Units and I welcome more invitations as it's a good way to meet the Auxiliary members in our district, and of course to talk about my project or on a variety of topics the units can pick from.

A special thanks to all who helped make our 3rd District Fall Family Gathering a big success. We had a great turn out. We began with guest speaker Edna Thayer on "Bringing Smiles to Veterans." What a fun way to begin the day with humor and some practical ideas on ways to bring smiles to veterans. The duties of the Sqt-At-Arms, Chaplain, and the leadership roles were divided among the Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL to include the whole family. The membership chairs gave their reports and encouraged members to get those forms turned in. Hutchinson won for bringing in the largest donation of dental supplies. The contest continues at both the Department Fall Conference in St Cloud and again for the Third District Mid-winter, so please bring in dental supplies to either and look for me with the donation box.

November is going to be another exciting month filled with activities for all veterans in our district. On Veterans Day, November 11th, many of our units are planning special programs or school assemblies to honor our veterans. Many area businesses are offering free meals or discounts for veterans, let's help our veterans know about the special offers in our area. Please send those pictures of any events you host in to Karla Otterness for next month's newsletter so we can see what you've done



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Facebook and Newsletter articles to be sent to

T.D.NEWS2SHARE@GMAIL.COM

to honor veterans on Veterans Day. The first Free Dental Clinic sponsored by our District 3, will be Nov. 11th at Mankato State University, I'll put pictures of the event in next month's newsletter.



How do we carry out my President's Theme: Bringing Smiles to Veterans? I continue to challenge you to think of the many ways we can bring smiles to veterans. Some ideas from the Fall Family Gathering: "Suggest they talk about their time in the service which is something they all enjoy and love to relive. Be sure to say thanks and buy them a pop or a burger." - Diane Mackenthun

"We are presenting a Quilt of Valor to two veterans."
"Fix a meal, take it to homebound veterans. Also mending, there are a lot of veterans that need buttons replaced." - anonymous

"Donate toothpaste and toothbrushes to the VA Hospital for dental hygiene kits!" - Wendy Arend "We are providing a rib lunch for Hastings Veterans Home. Giving 10 hair cut gift cards for Hastings." - Unit 43 "Giving supplies and cash to Fisher House. Presenting 20 hygiene bags to CRRC." - Unit 43 Please send me YOUR ideas to share in next months

newsletter. Together, we can bring smiles to veterans!

Third Dist. President Tamara Thayer

Chaplain Deanna

God is always there. He does not sleep. God hears our prayers always. It does not matter what we are doing at the time, if you feel a need to talk to God, do it. Many times I have said a quick prayer driving down the road, or watching TV, or anyplace else. The most important part is that you understand that he is always listening. Remember to thank Him for all he has done for us.

Lord, I pray today for all of our soldiers who are serving us at this time. Please watch over them wherever they are. We also ask that you watch out for all of our veterans. Some are in great need for help. Show us how we can help them. Our veterans' families also may need help, Lord, you are the one to guide us in what we can do. Also, Lord, watch over our country at this time. So many things are not good. We need

all your love and help. We also want to say thank you for all you have done for our veterans and their families. We ask for your guidance in all we do. Thank you, Lord. Amen



Edward Born Unit #343

Encourages All US Citizens age 18* to

VOTE!

Election Day 2024

Tuesday, November 5

Check location of your voting precinct:

Carver County Elections (952) 361-1941

MN Sec of State | http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting

You are invited to the



105th Birthday Celebration

hosted by Edward Born Unit 343

Saturday, November 2 10 AM – 2 PM

at

All Saints Lutheran Church 511 Merger Street Norwood Young America, MN

Topic for the day: Are You Patriotic?

\$5 registration

Reply by Monday, October 28 to Diane -- 952-467-3534

Joyce -- 952-467-4088

Judy -- 952-373-2134

Please bring dental items for Third District President Thayer's Project. Personal care kit items for female veterans at the Minneapolis VAMC.

Unit	Goal	Unit Name 10-15-2024	Paid	Percent
1776	265	Apple Valley	55	20.75%
491	89	Bayport	24	26.97%
14□	105	Belle Plaine	50	47.62%
143	19	Brownton	14	73.68%
580	77	Chanhassen	30	38.96%
57	158	Chaska	33	20.89%
207	41	Cleveland	1	2.44%
594	13	Eagan	4	30.77%
311	180	Elysian	14	7.78%
43□	171	Faribault	64	37.43%
189	31	Farmington	1	3.23%
225	202	Forest Lake	77	38.12%
433	55	Gaylord	18	32.73%
95	16	Glencoe	7	43.75%
40€	35	Green Isle	3	8.57%
47	29	Hastings	1	3.45%
620	71	Hugo	6	8.45%
96□	174	Hutchinson	117	67.24%
42₽	10	Inver Grove Hghts	5	50.00%
380	14	Kilkenny	0	0.00%
300	21	Lafayette	0	0.00%
108	112	LeCenter	14	12.50%
463	15	Lester Prairie	0	0.00%
586	79	Lonsdale	31	39.24%
507	51	Mahtomedi	30	58.82%
79	142	Montgomery	53	37.32%
149	89	Morristown	5	5.62%
60⊊	21	New Germany	4	19.05%
45	68	New Prague	11	16.18%
510	60	Nicollet	23	38.33%
51&	84	North Mankato	5	5.95%
84□	36	Northfield	18	50.00%
34⊊	24	Norwood	10	41.67%
184	89	Pine Island	35	39.33%
447	10	Prior Lake	3	30.00%
54	172	Red Wing	75	43.60%
65	57	Rosemount	24	42.11%
643	56	Savage	10	17.86%
2	78	Shakopee	20	25.64%
141	65	Silver Lake	45	69.23%
98	127	St Paul Park	82	64.57%
37	76	St Peter	4	5.26%
125-	38	Stewart	33	86.84%
150	80	Waconia	42	52.50%
407	46	Winsted	2	4.35%
314	25	Winthrop	0	0.00%
	3476		1103	31.73%

MEMBERSHIP

Hello Auxiliary members,

I hope everyone is enjoying the fall colors. I would like to let everyone know that Brownton won the \$25 membership drawing at the Family Gathering in Elysian for reaching 40% by September 28.

The information on the left side of the page is the unit membership and percentage from the Department membership Bulletin sent on 10/15/2024.

The next District goal is 60% by October 26, at the Department Fall Conference. All units who reach 60% will be put into drawing for \$50.00. Remember, your unit can bring membership to Fall Conference to be dropped off at the Department office at the St Cloud Convention Center, or If your unit sends membership by mail to the Department, make sure it is mailed so Department receives it by Tuesday, and for those using ALAMIS please input your membership by Wednesday.

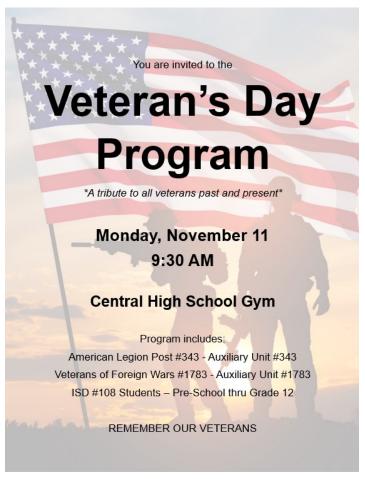
I know we can make our membership grow by gathering new members to grow our membership to reach these goals. I hope all of you have a great Thanksgiving with your family and friends.

Ann Bovy 3rd District Membership Chairman

Upcoming goals are 75% for the Department and 80% for the 3rd District by the Pearl Harbor Family Gathering December 7 in Spicer.









PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY

November is Past President's Parley month. Units here is an opportunity to recognize your Past Unit Presidents. Most have continued to be active by coming to meetings, taking chairmanships, holding an office, and volunteering for committees or answering questions.

The purpose of the Past President's Parley is for the members, who are Past Presidents, to use their experience and knowledge as Auxiliary leaders for the training and encouragement of future Auxiliary leaders. Through the Past President's Parley, we are here to mentor, answer questions and help develop knowledgeable leadership to ensure a strong leadership for the future of our organization. The same purpose continues in the District and Department Past President's Parleys. The Past President can be either a Unit, District, or Department past president.

A little about the American Legion Auxiliary Department of MN Past President Scholarship. It has been established to assist deserving students or adults to commence or further their education in any phase of the health care field including the entire medical, nursing, and dental support fields such as registered nurses, nursing assistant, licensed practical nurse, x-ray pr other technician, dieticians, physical or other therapist, dental hygienist, or dental assistant, etc.

It is a one year \$1,000.00 scholarship. The applicant must be a member of an American Legion Auxiliary unit in the Department of Minnesota, for a minimum of three (3) years; and maintain a C average or better in school if a student. The scholarship must be used for the purpose of continuing education, beyond high school, in a postsecondary educational facility. Put this information in your newsletter, let your members know about this at your meetings. Applications must be received into the American Legion Auxiliary Office by March 15th. Applications will be sent out to units when Department sends the 2024-2025 Plaques and Award material.

Third District has the Charles-Hale Past President's Parley Plaque: To the Unit submitting the best report of the Past President's Parley. Send a narrative to the District Past President's Parley Chairman.

Joanne Joachim 3rd District Past President's Parley Chairman



American Legion Auxiliary: Championing Veterans through the Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation Program

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) has long been a stalwart supporter of American veterans and their families. Among the various initiatives led by this dynamic organization, the Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) program stands as a core pillar. This program is dedicated to assisting veterans in their reintegration into civilian life, addressing their medical, emotional, and financial needs, and ensuring they receive the recognition and support they deserve.

The Mission of the VA&R Program

VA&R is designed to serve veterans, military families, and the communities that support them. Its mission aligns with the ALA's overarching goal of advocating for those who have served the country in uniform. VA&R focuses on direct service, advocacy, and raising awareness about the struggles veterans face. The ALA works closely with government agencies, hospitals, care facilities, and other veteran organizations to ensure that veterans have access to quality healthcare, disability assistance, and other essential resources.

One of the most critical aspects of the program is ensuring that veterans receive the healthcare they need, particularly those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injuries (TBI), and other combat-related conditions. The program advocates for timely care, promotes veterans' wellness initiatives, and provides support to veterans navigating the often complex healthcare system.

Supporting Disabled and Homeless Veterans

Veterans with disabilities often face unique challenges, both physical and psychological. VA&R works to aid these veterans by connecting them with vital resources, such as access to prosthetic services, rehabilitation programs, and mental health counseling. The ALA also partners with Veterans Affairs hospitals and rehabilitation centers, often providing volunteers who assist in these facilities, offering comfort and companionship to veterans undergoing treatment.

Another significant focus of VA&R is addressing veteran homelessness. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, approximately 33,000 veterans are experiencing homelessness on any given night. Across America, ALA members have been at the forefront of efforts to reduce this number, working alongside local and national initiatives to provide housing, employment training, and other essential services to help veterans rebuild their lives. The program promotes awareness campaigns, drives for donations of essential goods, and partnerships with shelters to give homeless veterans a pathway toward stability.

Empowering Veterans through Education and Employment

The ALA's VA&R program also places a strong emphasis on helping veterans transition into the civilian workforce. Many veterans struggle with unemployment after leaving the military, often due to gaps in their education or challenges translating their military skills into civilian terms. The VA&R program offers educational scholarships, mentorship, and vocational training, empowering veterans to achieve success in new careers.

Through job fairs, resume workshops, and skill-building seminars, the ALA helps veterans navigate the job market and connect with employers who value their discipline and experience. By supporting veterans' educational pursuits and career development, the program plays a vital role in helping them establish new lives after service.

Community Involvement and Advocacy

The strength of the VA&R lies in its extensive network of volunteers. ALA members are actively engaged in their communities, hosting fundraisers, organizing events, and spreading awareness about veteran issues. Local Units participate in holiday events at VA hospitals, provide care packages to military families, and volunteer their time to assist veterans with disability claims or other paperwork.

Through its tireless work, the ALA ensures that veterans are not forgotten. VA&R is a testament to the enduring commitment of the ALA to improve the lives of veterans and their families. It is a lifeline for many who have served,

offering a helping hand, a listening ear, and a community of support that continues long after the battlefield is left behind.

What We Can Do

The ALA encourages its members to support veterans through programs like Wreaths Across America, Honor Flights, Camp Hope, the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, and by fostering pets while veterans receive care in VA hospitals. Volunteering for these initiatives offers meaningful ways to honor those who served. From placing wreaths at veterans' graves to sponsoring creative arts therapy, every effort makes a difference. Fostering pets provides comfort for veterans, knowing their companions are cared for. Auxiliary members are urged to engage in these programs, helping to improve the lives of veterans and their families nationwide.

The ALA in Minnesota, like other state departments, recognizes individual members and units for their dedication and efforts in supporting VA&R programs. These awards often focus on volunteer service, fundraising, and initiatives aimed at enhancing the lives of veterans, military families, and active-duty service members.

Here are some of the ALA awards typically offered for VA&R-related activities:

Awards for Individual Members:

1. Service Awards:

- Given to members who contribute a significant number of volunteer hours in VA facilities or through programs supporting veterans and their families.
- Outstanding service in rehabilitation efforts, whether directly with veterans or through fundraising for rehabilitation projects.

2. Member of the Year (VA&R):

o Awarded to an outstanding member who exemplifies dedication to veterans' welfare, often recognized for their leadership in VA&R programs.

3. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Volunteer Award:

 Specifically recognizes members who volunteer extensively at VA hospitals, clinics, and other veteran support services.

4. Spirit of Service Awards:

o Recognizes exceptional dedication and impactful service to veterans, such as organizing local rehabilitation efforts or leading awareness campaigns for veterans' issues.

Awards for Units:

1. Outstanding VA&R Unit Award:

• Presented to units that demonstrate excellence in supporting VA&R programs. This could include innovative projects or exceptional fundraising for veteran rehabilitation programs.

2. Best Unit Program Award:

o Recognizes a unit's overall success in implementing VA&R programs throughout the year, measured by the number of veterans helped, funds raised, or events organized.

3. Most Hours Served by a Unit:

 Recognizes the unit that collectively contributes the most hours of volunteer service at VA facilities or in support of rehabilitation efforts for veterans.

4. VA&R Fundraising Excellence Award:

 Awarded to units that achieve remarkable fundraising success to support rehabilitation services and facilities for veterans.

Youth/Junior Involvement Awards:

• Some awards also recognize the involvement of younger members (Junior Auxiliary) who participate in VA&R programs, encouraging future generations to support veterans.

For specifics on current or upcoming awards, criteria, and nomination processes in Minnesota, it's best to consult the **Minnesota Department of the American Legion Auxiliary** website or reach out to local ALA leadership.

Wendy Arend American Legion Auxiliary Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chair Minnesota 3rd District



AAUW Halloween Omelet Breakfast Benefit for Scholarships

Breakfast Benefit for Scholarships on Sunday, Oct. 27th at the Faribault American Legion, 112 5 th St. NE, from 8 am to 12:00 pm.

The Sons of the American Legion will be preparing made-toorder omelets, with choice of meats and

vegetables, breakfast potatoes, cheese sauce, salsa, coffee, juice, and milk. There will also be an assortment of jumbo muffins to choose from, assorted coffee creamers, and a

Halloween treat. Adult presale tickets are \$18, and at the door \$20, children 9 and under will be \$6, both presale and at the door. Presale tickets will be available until Oct. 20th from AAUW members, or by texting 507-412-1011. Mimosas and Bloody Mary's will be available in the bar for \$6. Halloween attire or costumes encouraged, but not required

3rd District Historian. Edna Thayer,

ANNUAL REPORT FORMS

The Universal Report Form which was submitted following each event or activity was discontinued last year. Because some units have been submitting these report forms this year, I checked with the Department and was assured that it has been discontinued and will not be used this year. So save yourself some effort, keep good records of the information, and include a summary of all of it on the annual report form at the end of the year.

Public Relations Chairman Jeorgia Cluckey

We are thrilled to announce our new website to you https://www.mnthunderingthird.org The site's purpose is to provide all of you with a single location to access to all things related to the Third District Auxiliary and The Legion Family. You will see our Officers and contact information, Newsletter, Calendar of events (District, Department and National), Program information, a photo page so we can see what's been happening around the Thundering Third and much more. Our goal is to reflect our dedication to the American Legion Family and to provide all of you with easy accessibility to what's happening in the 3rd District, our programs. The website is currently under construction, but you can access it to take a tour. We will be adding additional information and functionality in the next few weeks. Wendy Arend is our website liaison if you have any questions. If you have photos you would like to submit, please send those to Wendy as well.

Kind regards,



Poppy chairman Linda Kelly

Happy Fall! By the time you receive this, our unit is planning its November Monday Night Meal so I wanted to come up with a table décor where I could use poppies. The picture shows a simple scarecrow – just added a couple poppies to it. Let your imagination fly. Of course, with Veterans Day being in November, any event that you plan for our veterans should include poppies.

I am also including an informational sheet that I created to have available at our monthly meals. My wish is that over the next eight months when we have meals, they will take a look and learn something about poppies.

What is a Poppy?

A symbol of remembrance and sacrifice - of mourning and respect.

- This flowering plant, with delicate petals is long associated with remembrance for soldiers who died in conflict, especially following World War I.
- Its vibrant red petals remind us of the bloodshed and sacrifices made by countless soldiers.
- Moina Michael was an American humanitarian who first proposed the idea of wearing a red poppy to honor the fallen soldiers. She is fondly called "the Poppy Lady".
- The American Legion Auxiliary adopted the flower as its national symbol in 1921. The American Legion Auxiliary uses the poppy as a central symbol of its mission to honor and assist veterans, military families, and active-duty service members.
- National Poppy Day is observed on the Friday before Memorial Day.
- They make the poppies available to all, usually in the month of May. They do not charge for the poppies but do accept donations. All donations are used in direct support of our veterans.
- The poppy continues to keep the memory of fallen soldiers alive.
- Poppies can be worn year-round because of its symbol.

In Flanders Fields

By Lt Col John McCrae in 1915
In Flanders fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie, In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow, in Flanders fields.

For many years, our Veterans made poppies for the Auxiliary units. In the past few years, Minnesota has not had enough veterans making poppies, so Minnesota is looking for others to make the poppies. If interested, please contact an Auxiliary member.

AAUW Halloween Omelet Breakfast Benefit for Scholarships

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is having their 10th annual Omelet Halloween Breakfast Benefit for Scholarships on Sunday, Oct. 27th at the Faribault American Legion, 112 5th St. NE, from 8 am to 12:00 pm.

The Sons of the American Legion will be preparing made-to-order omelets, with choice of meats and vegetables, breakfast potatoes, cheese sauce, salsa, coffee, juice, and milk. There will also be an assortment of jumbo muffins to choose from, assorted coffee creamers, and a Halloween treat. Adult presale tickets are \$18, and at the door \$20, children 9 and under will be \$6, both presale and at the door. Presale tickets will be available until Oct. 20th from AAUW members, or by texting 507-412-1011. Mimosas and Bloody Marys will be available in the bar for \$6. Halloween attire or costumes encouraged, but not required.



Members who helped with the 2023 breakfast include L>R Anne Wieber, Carol Quail, Sue Olson, Sylvia Kerben (guest), Judy Graham, Ruth Ann Marsh, Kathy Larson, Pauline Schreiber, Sue Stout, Pat Rice, Carmen Tripp, JoEllen Schulz, Pat Umbreit, Gail Kielmeyer, Diane Hagen, Sayaka Yamazaki, and Karen Rasmussen.



Carmen Tripp helped serve dozens and dozens of muffins.



AAUW members ready to serve the 2023 Halloween breakfast were Kathy Larson, Liz Hartman, Emily Nesvold, Mary Osborne, Bonnie Becker, and Mary Niermann.

Waconia Unit 150

On Wednesday, October 2, Waconia Unit 150, Post 150 and SAL donated \$2000 to Honor Flight Twin Cities.



This organization is dedicated to providing Veterans with their no-cost trip of honor and respect to Washington D.C. Details of this organization and their vision to form a nation where all of America's veterans experience the honor, gratitude, and community of support they deserve, was published in the May 2024 issue of American Legion Auxiliary magazine.

The Waconia Auxiliary approved a donation of \$1000 to Honor Flight Twin Cities and then challenged Post 150 & SAL to match the donation. *Now Waconia Unit 150, is CHALLENGING District 3 and all American Legion Auxiliary members to match this donation.* Poppy funds **can** be used to make a donation to Honor Flight Twin Cities.

For more information, contact Honor Flight Twin Cities and all donations will be used for Minnesota honor flight veterans. Honor Flight Coordinators Jerry & Jana Kyser can be reached at janakyser@gmail.com, phone 651-481-8835 **OR** Honor Flight-Twin Cities, 2674 Mackubin Street, Roseville, MN 55113.



On October 16, Waconia American Legion Unit 150 made their annual donation of \$1000 to the Gather & Grow United Food Shelf in Waconia, MN. Community Generosity in Action: Every contribution helps fight hunger and brings hope to our community.



On October 14, Waconia American Legion Auxiliary Unit 150, donated \$200 to the Waconia DandyLions. The DandyLions' mission is centered around health and wellness for families in our communities.



Hugo Unit 620 had 3rd Dist. Pres. Tammy speak on Oct 1, about the Auxiliary and ideas on how they can get more involved. They presented her with a check for her president's project.



Faribault Unit 43

Six American Legion Auxiliary Unit #43 members present Rice County Deputy Sheriff Joe Yetzer with a Thank You card, two dozen assorted jumbo muffins and three bags of dog treats for the K-9 officers. We wanted to thank our First Responders for what they do for us every day. Also included in the deliveries were the Allina Health Emergency Department, North Memorial Ambulance, the Fire and Police Departments. Members included Louise Flom, Pat Walter, Paulette Jameson, Linda Clauson, Mary Lillquist and

Karen Rasmussen.



Legion Auxiliary Unit 43 Packs Hygiene Bags for Female Veterans

Judy Lee, an American Legion Auxiliary Unit #43 member, is shown packing female hygiene bags for the VA to give to female veterans that are either inpatients or outpatients. A total of seventeen items were collected for each of the ten bags that were completed.