



American Legion Auxiliary THIRD DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

June 2025 President Tamara Thayer

Wow! Here it is, my last article for the newsletter as Third District President '24 – '25:

I want to express my thanks and gratitude to the many people that supported me throughout my term. I worked with the best district officers this past year. My Program Chairmen, and Committee Members all did an excellent job and I'm grateful for their efforts in going above and beyond to make this district so successful.

I set a fundraising goal of \$5,000 and raised as of today \$16,515 with over a month to go! I am in need of more donations to finish this year as my balance today is at \$1,109 with a couple bills coming in for the last 3 crowns being done this week. If your unit/post/SAL/or Riders could consider a donation towards my project, please do. Remember to write in the memo line "for the President's Project '24 – '25, Free Dental Clinic". Every cent donated has gone for the dental treatment for the veterans. The clinics, dentists, and hygienists have donated their time and services, and the cost of the cleanings, fluoride, x-rays, were free. From the first 2 clinics my president's fund paid for the restorative care: fillings, crowns, and a partial. At the 3rd clinic the fillings and extractions done there were donated and only the follow-up partials, and dentures were covered by my fund. The value of what was donated by the volunteers and their clinics was about \$30,000. And the actual cost of further restorative care used the \$16,515 raised so far. Some of the larger dental bills were paid for by grants and that value will be reported in the fall when I have that final amount.

The need for these free dental clinics for veterans is ongoing and therefore I'm excited to announce that I have arranged for another free clinic at MSU on Veterans Day this year and instead of 3 clinics at RCTC there will be 8 this coming year with the dates being announced on our 3rd District website in 2 weeks. Mission Outpost also expressed an interest in hosting this again next year and when that date is decided it will be on the website. I'm so very excited that the newly elected 3rd District Commander, Amy Larson of Lonsdale will be continuing my project as her commander's project for '25 – '26. I will be working with her on providing the clinics. If your Auxiliary has volunteers who would like to help please contact me, and of course if you know of a dental office that would like to host a free clinic for veterans please let me know. We will make this happen.

I want to thank YOU for supporting this project and in the spirit of my president's theme, together we have been "Bringing Smiles to Veterans!"

I want to thank my whole family for their support this year. Many of you have met my mom, Edna Thayer who made mints in the shape of teeth at EVERY event we had in 3rd District this year as well as donated food for the volunteers at the first clinic. Thanks to my daughter Alli Cooney who made the crocheted poppy pins for my officers and helped at some of the events. Thanks to my daughter Andrea Nelson, who volunteered as a hygienist and found many of the volunteers needed. Thanks to my Elysian Legion Family 311 for their support in many ways. Thank you, Duane Anderson, for the beautiful wood vase you made with my president's pin in the design and presented to me at the convention. Oops, this list of thank you's would go on for pages so I need to end it here (I hope you all know how much I appreciate all you've done this year).

Please read my report in the Book of Annual Reports for more information about this wonderful year. Thank you, 3rd District, for this opportunity to serve as your president! Thank you to each unit who invited me to your meetings or special events.

Good luck to the upcoming President Ann Bovy, you will be amazed as you visit the individual units just how incredible our members are. They are doing impactful things for our veterans and their communities!

I tried to bring smiles with jokes at each district event, so I will end with a couple from this year: 1. My father was Lt Col in the Air Force, and he used to boast about how he saved more than 300 recruits from dying an excruciating death...it turns out he fired the mess hall cook. 2. Just because there are no complaints, it doesn't mean parachutes are perfect. 3. What date is a military command?...March Fourth! And with that we will March forth into another exciting year under the leadership of Ann Bovy.

Bringing smiles to Veterans,
Tamara Thayer, President '24 – '25
3rd District Auxiliary President

Membership-Ann Bovy Chair

To all members and their families. I hope everybody had a wonderful Memorial Day weekend and I hope you all have a great Summer.

There is no membership bulletin shown this month as the Department has not put out an update Membership Bulletin. The last one was 4/25/2025. Which showed the same totals 3179 and the 3rd District still in 2nd place.

I want to thank all the units for their hard work throughout the year on membership. We can keep Growing and Gathering our membership all the way up to the Department Convention to be held July 10-12. So, if you have membership, please send it in.

Ann Bovy

3rd District Membership Chairman

Department Goal 100% by July 4,2025

The Spring party at the St Peter Treatment Center was the end of April. The Veterans there were treated to Pizza & pop, that to our surprise Dominos donated. THANK YOU, DOMINOS!!! The Veterans were given a gift of a water bottle or a sweatshirt. BINGO was played with some with personal care items a prizes. The Veterans appreciate all we do for them; it helps so much in their recovery. Monetary donations can be sent to our District Treasurer.

Darlene Wondra
St Peter Regional Treatment Center District rep

Treasurers Report
Teri Richardson Treasurer

Members of the 3rd District,

Unfortunately, Diane Albers had to resign due to work obligations. Thank you, Diane, for your time and hard work on the finances this year.

There are still several units that have not paid the per-capita dues for the 2024-2025 year. These dues were collected for the 2024 membership year which is collected with the membership dues September of 2023 through July of 2024. Per the 3rd District Standing Rules, these per-capita dues were due by December 1st, 2024.

The following units should remit their dues by June 30th, 2025, to the acting Treasurer **Teri Richardson 200 Hallam Ave S Mahtomedi MN 55115**

FARMINGTON	Per-capita \$58.00	Jr Hosting Fund \$3.00	Total Due \$61.00
HASTINGS	Per-Capita \$56.00	Jr Hosting Fund \$3.00	Total Due \$59.00
LAFAYETTE	Per-Capita \$38.00	Jr Hosting Fund \$3.00	Total Due \$41.00
NICOLLET	Per-Capita \$116.00	Jr Hosting Fund \$3.00	Total Due \$119.00
NO MANKATO	Per-Capita \$162.00	Jr Hosting Fund \$3.00	Total Due \$162.00
WINTHROP	Per-Capita \$46.00	Jr Hosting Fund \$3.00	Total Due \$49.00

For the coming year 2025 Senior member per-capita will remain at \$2.00 per member which was collected with the 2025 membership and will be due by December 01, 2025.

For the following year 2026 as voted in at the 2024 District Convention the per-capita will be raised to \$4.00 per member and this will be collected with the 2026 membership.

To make sure your unit has collected enough money to cover this raise, your unit dues should be \$34.00 for each member. The amount shown on the 2026 Unit Dues form sent to Department should have shown \$34.00 to cover the 30.00 that will be sent to Department to cover the Department dues of \$12.00 and the National dues of \$18.00 and the \$4.00 per member District per-capita sent to the District by December 1st, 2026. If your unit wishes to collect money for your unit, let's say \$2.00 the amount shown on the Department 2026 Unit Dues form should be \$36.00.

For the coming year 2025 Junior member per-capita will remain at \$2.00 per member which was collected with the 2025 membership and will be due by December 01, 2025.

For the following year 2026 as voted in at the 2024 District Convention the per-capita will be raised to \$4.00 per member and this will be collected with the 2026 membership.

To make sure your unit has collected enough money to cover this raise, your unit dues for the Juniors should be \$10.00 for each Junior member. The amount shown on the 2026 Unit Dues form sent to the Department should have shown \$10.00 to cover the 6.00 that will be sent to the Department to cover the Department dues of \$2.75 and the National dues of \$3.25 and the \$4.00 per member District per-capita sent to the District by December 1st, 2026. If your unit wishes to collect money for your unit, let's say \$2.00 the amount shown on the Department 2026 Unit Dues form should be \$12.00.

If you have any questions about Finances, please contact Teri at email wildwwitch@msn.com or text 612-799-1905 or call 651-429-3885.

Thank You

Teri Richardson Acting 3rd District Treasurer

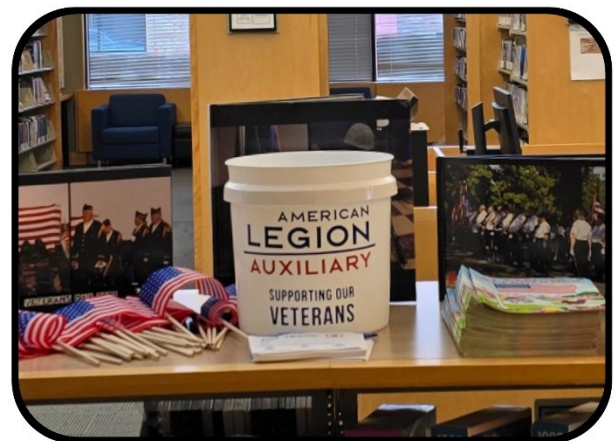
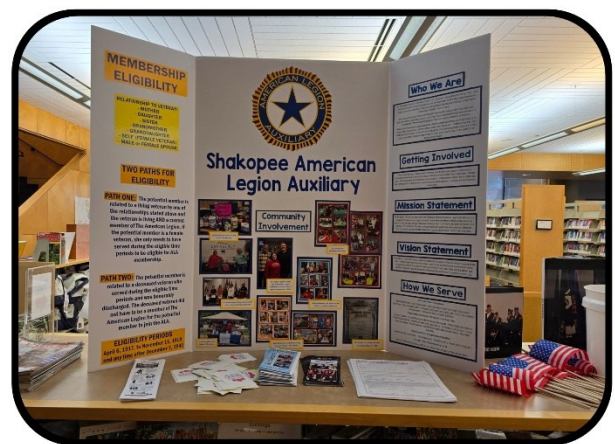
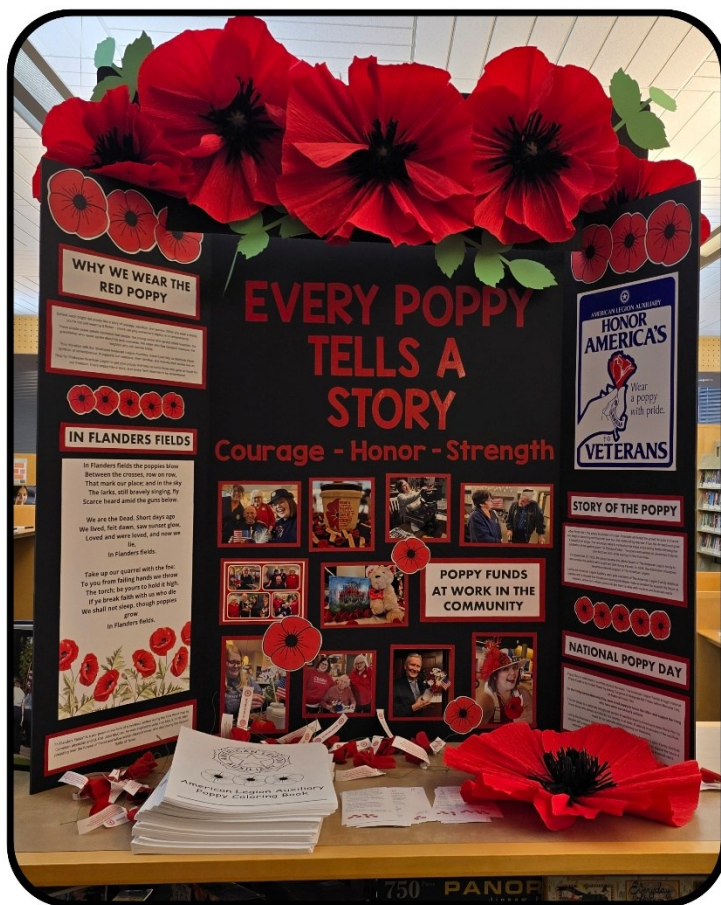
POPPY LINDA KELLY Chair

Greetings!! As I write my last article as the 3rd District Poppy Chairman, I think back over the past year. Our units have done great things for our poppy program, and I thank you.

By the time you read this, we will have completed our district convention, looking forward to the end of our auxiliary year and forward to the coming year. I encourage you to continue using the poppy ALL YEAR LONG.

At our last unit meeting, I was gifted a key chain with a ceramic poppy on it. Several unit members recently visited family in Texas, and they know how important the poppy is to me. They attended the annual “poppy festival” there, where they saw lots of poppy decorations throughout the town. They visited with some residents who didn’t think it had anything to do with the American Legion Auxiliary, but my friend, Google, tells me that there is a Legion Post there and I wonder if that Legion Family is active in the festival. I think Georgetown, Texas has been added to my travel bucket list.

I enjoy seeing how the poppy (and the red, white, and blue) is displayed throughout our country. Every time we show them off, we are promoting us. My phone gallery has many pictures that I have taken throughout my travels. I challenge our members and units to come up with new ideas (and not only poppy ideas) to continue promoting the American Legion Family. I thank Tammy for giving me the opportunity as Poppy Chairman this year.



Shakopee Unit 2 made displays for their local library for poppy month. They made an informational one about what being a member is and how to become one, and another about what the meaning of the poppy is.

Only twelve units out of 45 have sent this information to the Third District Secretary. I need this information as soon as possible. Thank you!

Please fill out the form and mail or email it to Third District Secretary Karla Otterness 239 Westgate Dr Winsted MN 55395 or t.d.news2share@gmail.com. Please return it to Karla as soon as possible.

Unit # _____ Unit Name _____ Location _____
District _____

President: Name _____ Membership ID# _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip code _____ Phone _____
Email _____

Secretary: Name _____ Membership ID# _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip code _____ Phone _____
Email _____

Treasurer: Name _____ Membership ID# _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip code _____ Phone _____
Email _____

Membership Chairman:
Name _____ Membership ID# _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip code _____ Phone _____
Email _____

District Newsletter will be sent by email to any member who would like a copy.

If you have the form from department filled out, you may send that one.



Third District Convention
24/25



New Officers for 2025/2026



President Elect... Ann Bovy, New Germany Unit 601

First Vice President... Cavlene Regan, Forest Lake Unit 225

Second Vice President ... Wendy Arend, Forest Lake Unit 225

Executive Committee... Tami Paul, Shakopee Unit 225

Executive Committee ... Sherri Hernandez, Forest Lake Unit 225



Highlights from the 3rd District Convention held in Forest Lake, May 17th

By Tamara Thayer

We began with a joint session with the Legion and SAL where we heard from the Dept. Commander Carl Moon and other distinguished guests. The National Auxiliary Americanism Program issued another challenge to send in a recording of our version of the National Anthem sung at a convention involving as many of the Legion Family as we can. So, I signed the song in ASL while we sang and it was recorded. I'll find out at national convention how we did in both the mid-winter "You're a Grand Old Flag" entry, and this entry too.

Our Program Chairman presented their awards. First time attendees were acknowledged. It was great to hear the highlights of the year from each unit attending. Karla Otterness did a fantastic job with our Book of Annual Reports that each unit received. Officers, chairman, and committee members each received a small canvas bag from me that said, "May You Be Proud of the Work You Do, the Person You Are, and the Difference You Make." They were each given a poppy pin also from me in appreciation of all they do.

Resolutions and changes to the standing rules were made. A beautiful memorial service took place with former District President Kim Carlander and the Legion Sgt at Arms Gary Richardson as soloists with former District President and current Chaplain Deanna Meyer accompanying on the keyboard. TAPs were played. Presentation of the 3rd Dist. Past Presidents was held. Auxiliary Member of the Year was awarded.

Special Convention Appointees:

Convention Page: Tami Jo Paul, Shakopee

Personal Page: Andrea Nelson, Elysian

Timekeeper: Barbara Klehr

District Color Bearers: Diane Mackenthun, Norwood; Bonnie Walton, Elysian

Credentials Chairman: Teri Richardson, Mahtomedi

1. Lynn Duffy, St Paul Park
2. Paulette Jameson, Faribault

Convention Rules Chairman: Edna Thayer, Elysian

1. Joanne Joachim, Chanhassen
2. Betty Schlueter, Hutchinson

Resolutions Chairman: Barb Klehr, Shakopee

1. Betty Schlueter, Hutchinson
2. Barb Van Eyll, Unit 57

Poppy Contest Judges: Chairman Linda Kelly, Pine Island

1. Pat Jackson
2. Deanna Meyer, Brownton

Prayer Book Judges: Chairman Deanna Meyer, Brownton

1. Ann Bovy, New Germany
2. Jan Evans, Elysian

History Scrapbook Judges: Chairman Kim Carlander, Chanhassen

1. Tami Jo Paul, Shakopee

2. Judy Hanna, Forest Lake

Press Book Judges: chairman Jeorgia Cluckey, St Paul Park

1. Deb Chicos, Chanhassen
2. Teri Richardson, Mahtomedi

Election Committee: Judge of Election, Kim Carlander, Chanhassen

1. Teller – Janet Thompson, Apple Valley
2. Teller – Gina Little, Faribault

2 Flag Bearers for Memorial Service: Diane Mackenthun, Norwood; and Bonnie Walton, Elysian

Executive Table Duty – Wendy Arend, Forest Lake; and Kelly Kauss, Elysian

Unprecedented was our elections this year due to the rescinding of endorsed candidates due to personal and medical reasons. We had vacancies and nominations from the floor to hold an election.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers and the delegates for the national convention:

President 2025 – 2026 Ann Bovy, New Germany

1st Vice President Cavalene Regan, Forest Lake

2nd Vice President Wendy Arend, Forest Lake

Executive Committee Member

2nd year term is Tami Jo Paul, Shakopee

1st of 2 yr term is Sherri Hernandez, Forest Lake

3 Delegates for National Convention in Tampa, Fl

1. Tamara Thayer, Elysian
2. Sherri Hernandez, Forest Lake
3. Wendy Arend, Forest Lake

Alt Del for National

1. Gina Little, Faribault
2. Sarah Wilwert

The evening banquet and pinning ceremony was held at the Forest Lake Legion. QOV were given to 4 veterans during the banquet program.

Testimonial by Tamara Thayer

Joint 3rd Dist. Testimonial April 17th for Legion Commander Joe Tappainer, SAL Commander Dave Arend, and Auxiliary President Tamara Thayer hosted by the Lonsdale Legion.

The Little Dandy catered a delicious supper of roast beef, chicken, potatoes, corn, rolls and salad. Some of the Auxiliary members brought desserts to add to the sheet cake and teeth shaped mints. Dept Pres. Judy Ackerman was our special guest, and she brought me a unique poppy designed water bottle. I presented Judy and all of my officers, program chairs, and committee members a picture frame with a few pictures from the year and a large canvas tote bag that reads "May you be proud of the work you do the person you are, and the difference you make." I gave both the Commanders a "Thank You" gift box with a variety of items inside. The testimonial was a great opportunity to share with you the end of year results of our projects and what activity highlights we had this year. It gives us a chance to recognize our chairman, and district officers who have done a fantastic job carrying out our programs.

My testimony: "This has been a wonderful opportunity to see all the ways our 45 Units in these 10 counties have served our veterans, communities, and youth. I appreciated all the invitations to their meetings and special events. I enjoyed the camaraderie, parties, trivia night, salad luncheon, doing talks on the Four Chaplains, talks on my project, Memorial Day Keynote speaker, presenting essay awards, conducted Initiation of new members, met with Unit officers on how to get their membership up, etc.

A special thank you to our 3rd District Legion Family Leaders for their teamwork, Legion Commander Joe Tappainer, and SAL Commander David Arend, in planning many District events, beginning with our Summer Picnic for the new leadership to meet and get their Program Chair guidebooks and share a potluck with the Legion family. We then held 2 opportunities for 3rd District to meet at the National Convention in New Orleans, with a dinner cruise and meeting at the National WWII Museum for a group photo and to hear the 9th District Band perform. Raise your hand if you attended one of these? District events we held were the Fall Family Gathering hosted by 3rd Dist. Auxiliary at the Elysian Legion, the Mid-Winter Conference in Lonsdale, and the Spring Membership Rally hosted by SAL at St Paul Park Legion. I was so proud to have my mother, Edna Thayer, as our guest speaker for the Fall Family Gathering talking about the many ways to bring smiles to veterans through humor. I think everyone will remember Edna's homemade mints in the shape of teeth served at the Fall Gathering, Mid-winter, Testimonial, and coming up for our 3rd Dist. Convention, and at every free dental clinic. What a great way to really jump start my theme and project.

My theme was "Bringing Smiles to Veterans." As I visited each Unit I asked for ideas on how to do this and shared some each month in our newsletters. Thank you all for the creative ideas! How did I pick this theme? I was shocked when my son who at the time I began my presidency was 95% disabled from his service but didn't have dental coverage. My daughter, a hygienist, said many veterans call for appointments without coverage and they are limited to taking one free bono patient a year. She wanted to know what could be done. I researched and found out that even though a veteran is twice as likely to develop

cavities or gum disease then a non-veteran only 7% of all veterans have dental coverage. This is why I became very passionate about this project and determined to educate the clinics on the ongoing need to provide for our veterans.

My project was to provide 3 free dental clinics for veterans with a goal of raising \$5,000. A donation from Forest Lake Auxiliary at Fall Dept Conference helped me reach that goal. My first free dental clinic was partnered with the Mankato State University Dental Program seeing 31 veterans with 50 volunteers and providing just under \$5,000 in free care the day of the clinic and \$2,500 in follow-up care. My second Interprofessional Clinic was held at RCTC in Rochester with their Dental Hygiene Students and Bridges, PC of Winona which provided nurses and social workers to provide resources and services in their expertise. This second clinic was held on 3 different days. The third free clinic was held at Mission Outpost, Burnsville. All together we provided free dental care for 63 veterans, with over 100 volunteers.

Full exams, x-rays, fluoride treatments, and dentist evaluations valued at \$12,000 was provided by volunteers. The restorative care: extractions, fillings, crowns, and partial dentures were provided by my fund and are expected to use the full amount. The cost of the individual restorative care over \$5,000 was referred to a VSO to apply for a grant and any pending amount not paid will be covered by our fund. At least 6 veterans are in this process. Thank you to our Auxiliary Units who donated dental supplies to be given to each veteran.

Thanks to the generosity of the Legion Family: Posts, Auxiliaries, SAL, and individual members, the donations are over \$16,000 to attending the clinics. Thanks to the Junior members who provided dental care kit supplies and attended the District 3 Fun Day event to help assemble them for Evelyn Koran's Honorary 3rd District Junior President's Project. I truly wish you all could have seen how grateful the veterans were to have this opportunity, and it really did make them smile.

Actually, my testimony is all numbers explaining how your donations were used but the real satisfying testimony comes from the veterans we treated who literally had life changing procedures done. Let me give you a couple of quick examples.

1. We helped a Vietnam vet who needed hip surgery in Rochester but couldn't get it until his teeth were fixed.
2. One veteran needed 4 fillings and 5 crowns, if he had waited a month the Dr said the fillings may have all been root canals instead.
3. One gentleman withdrew from the honor guard because he was embarrassed with his smile. We are giving him 4 new teeth on the upper and 4 new teeth on the bottom. He will be stuck doing honor guard I'm afraid.
4. And lastly, many who had such bad infections didn't understand that oral health is connected to your overall health. If you have an infection orally and have surgery, the infection goes to the surgery location and won't heal. The opposite is true. You could have healthy teeth, but when your diabetes is out of wack or you have an infection in your body like it will cause tooth decay faster. The two work together. So, one man came in such pain he could hardly open his mouth and said just to pull his teeth, he hadn't been to a dentist since the Vietnam war. 8 teeth needed to be

pulled, the infection had already spread to the bone, and he needed bone grafting and will get follow up partial dentures. He could have died once that infection reached his heart.

5. **I saw mostly smiles on the veterans when they left and a few tears of joy and thanks.**

All of our Executive Committee, Program Chairmen, and Committee Members really went above and beyond with their duties this year, and I thank them for their commitment to the Auxiliary and in serving veterans. Highlights are reported in their annual reports available at the Convention in May.

A special thanks to our Department President Judy Ackerman for her leadership and to our 1st VP Robin Dorf, and 2nd VP Linda Kelly. All 4 of us started working together at the National Convention in New Orleans with the Community Outreach Project helping with 2 veterans' homes. I enjoyed attending every DEC meeting and every Department Rally held this year.

At the national convention I was honored to be one of two Pages for the MN delegation. I attended all the sessions and special events as well as an optional "Be The One" training which was so rewarding. I'm looking forward to attending my 5th national convention in Tampa this August and guarantee you if you decide to join us this year you will be inspired with the wealth of information and networking opportunities to bring back to our state.

I'd like to thank my home Unit and Post 311 Elysian for all the support they gave me in my President's Project. Thanks also to my family who supported me this year. My daughter Alli Cooney helped at the district Junior Fun Event and made the poppy crochet magnets for my officers. My daughter and hygienist Andrea Nelson volunteered at my clinics and arranged for all the volunteer hygienists at the Burnsville Clinic, and provided the volunteers with thank you gifts.

Thank you for the opportunity and honor to serve as your 3rd District President!
We had several door prizes and everyone seemed to really enjoy the evening.
Tamara Thayer, Dist. President '24 – '25





Bayport Unit 491

April 11 when the Bayport Auxiliary had 8 residents (plus Holly, the Activities Director) to the Bayport Legion for fish dinner and bingo. All had a great time. The first pic is one of the residents who won \$99!! Our Post paid for everyone's dinner and our Auxiliary paid for their bingo.



Third District New Past Presidents Flag

