

American Legion Auxiliary Third District Mewsletter

December 2025

Greetings to all the wonderful members of the 3 District,

It was fun seeing everyone that attended Fall Conference and getting to talk at the get together near the pool on Thursday and Friday night. Thank you to everyone who brought food to share.

As you all know my project this year at Hasting is a landscaping project and at St Peter Regional treatment center is a Disc Golf Couse for our Veterans. My goal is \$4,000.00 dollars. Right now, Thanks to your support we are halfway there on each project, please keep those donations coming to help our veterans.

This is reminder that on December 6, 2025, is the Pearl Harbor Rally sponsored by the American Legion Riders that will be held at Buffalo American Legion Post 270. I hope everyone can attend and enjoy the program and camaraderie of the American Legion Family from all around the state. Social Hour is 11 to 12, lunch is at noon with program to follow.

Here is a little bit of history about Attack of Pearl Harbor. Pearl Harbor was attacked by a surprise military strike by the Empire of Japan on the United State Pacific on Oahu, Hawaii on December 7, 1941. At that time the U.S was neutral country in World War II. So, remember all that gave their all that day.

I would like to thank Waconia Unit 150 and Chaska Unit 57. I really appreciated the opportunity to come and visit your units, and I enjoyed meeting your Auxiliary members and seeing the thing that your unit does at your meetings and post.

Christmas and the holiday season are fast approaching. What can our units do for our Veterans and their Family's during the Holidays? Here are some ideas: donating food, essentials, care package, gift cards, Adopt a family for the holiday or provide direct support like a meal or seasonal items. I hope all of our units have the opportunity to provide support for our Veterans and their families this Christmas.

I hope everyone has a great time with their families and friends during Christmas and the holiday season. One of my favorite things is making cookies with my mom every year. Moravian Sugar Cookies is one of my favorites cookies that we do. Here is the recipe.

Moravian Sugar Cookies (Double Batch) ½ cup butter ¼ tsp salt 1 cup sugar 1egg

1 tsp baking powder 1 ¼ cup flour

1 tsp vanilla

Mix all the ingredient together. Take 2 8 x10 well-greased cookie pan. Spread ½ of dough in each pan. Mix ¼ cup sugar, 1tsp cinnamon and sprinkle on dough. Bake at 350 degrees for 12-15 minutes. Cut into squares, remove from pan while warm and enjoy.

Have a wonderful Christmas and Holiday Season and a very Happy and prosperous New Year, Ann Bovy Third District President



Merry Christmas Auxiliary Members

As the holiday season grows near and we start to use our debit and credit cards more, please remember that there are individuals who what your personal information. They pray on everyone with their scams: card cracking, phishing, skimming, impersonation and pre-paid card scam. Don't be ashamed if you fall victim to the masters of fraud. Report it. If you're the

individual who thinks this will not happen to me. I would tell you to give it time, because it will happen. Be careful, know who you are talking to, and enjoy your holidays.

Mid-Winter Conference 2026: New Format

The 2026 Mid-Winter Conference will feature a new schedule and structure. The event will begin at 9:30 AM and include a joint session with the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) and the Legion. Our guest speaker, Boima Freeman from the Minnesota Department of Commerce, will address the important topic of fraud and prevention. This issue hits close to home, as many families, friends, and members of our Legion family have been affected by fraudsters. Your participation is encouraged, and attending will also benefit your unit or post reports under the appropriate programs or pillars.

For the Auxiliary Program Updates and Special Speakers

This year, program chairmen will not be presenting their reports in person. Instead, you will receive their updates via email. To enrich the conference experience, several special speakers are scheduled to present on various topics, including:

- Can You See Me Now a summary of our new website, Facebook, Twitter, X,
- **Just Ask** Ask our special judges any questions about our auxiliary programs or have questions on what poppy funds can be used for.
- In the know Stand or Sit. Pins, Motions, Gavel, oh my, what do I do?
- Do I need to do that? forms/ 990/Dues
- Knowledge Is Power- What do I report and where do I send it.
- Celebrate Good Times- party ideas for the upcoming year

We hope these sessions will inspire your units with fresh energy and enthusiasm. Please note that the order of the list above will change.

Prizes and Recognition

Prizes will be awarded to the unit that traveled the farthest distance, the unit that brought the most attendees, and additional categories. There will also be other drawings held throughout the afternoon. Roll call of units will take place, and gold stars will be presented to those in attendance. We guarantee that this year's event will offer a new and engaging experience, distinct from past Mid-Winter. Please send your registration early so we know how to plan for supplies that we will need.

Hope to see you there.

The Third district also wants to remind everyone to use the QR code, for a fast look at our new website.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very happy new year.

Karla Otterness

Third Dist. Secretary



St Peter Regional Treatment Center

What is the St Peter Regional Treatment Center???

It has come to my attention that some of the membership may not understand what one of our ALA Third District programs, the St Peter Regional Treatment is, as, so here is some clarification. First some background:

The St Peter Regional Treatment Center and Ah Gwah Ching (near Bemidji) was under the ALA Veterans Affair & Rehabilitation program of the Department of Minnesota. In the late 1990 – early 2000 these two locations were discontinued. The ALA 3rd District did not want the Veterans to go without the Gift Shop; \$5 bill shower and all the other benefits we provided for them. The Department American Legion includes them in all their benefits they provide the other homes/hospitals, for example the pheasant dinner. Ah Gwah Ching closed in 2000 after transferring their patients to St Peter. (I did visit them during one of their Gift shops)

The St Peter Regional Treatment Center has three programs on their campus: Forensic Services Mental Health Program (FMHP)
Forensic Services Nursing Home
Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP)

NO VETERANS LEFT BEHIND

Of the 500-600 patients/clients on this campus, about 25 are Veterans. In the form of the Gift Shop and the \$5 bill shower, our 3rd District has made sure each Veteran is appreciated. The veterans there enjoy their gifts, pizza parties and playing BINGO or Trivia (with prizes), during the Veterans Day and spring parties. We cannot visit with the veterans in the MSOP program, but they do receive their gifts. This year our gift to them is a long-sleeved T-shirt given to them at the Pheasant dinner.

Just like any of us.... How we feel about ourselves is important, which is a great part of their treatment. We say thank you, for their service through the parties and gifts we provide for them. When I'm there with them, they proudly wear their t-shirts, sweatshirts or caps they have been given, and can't thank me enough for not forgetting about them.

NO VETERANS LEFT BEHIND

Darlene Wondra, Chairman

Treasurer's Report

District Dues for 2025-2026 year Amt Due by Dec 1st 2025					
	Membership as of	7/31/2025	\$2.00		
Unit#	Unit Name	Mbrshp	per mbr	amt	
			amt due	paid	
1776	Apple Valley	235	\$470.00		
311	Elysian	172	\$344.00		
95	Glencoe	13	\$26.00		
408	Green Isle	32	\$64.00		
47	Hastings	30	\$60.00		
300	Lafayette	18	\$36.00		
586	Lonsdale	71	\$142.00		
79	Montgomery	120	\$240.00		
149	Morristown	103	\$206.00		
510	Nicollet	48	\$96.00		
518	North Mankato	80	\$160.00		
447	Prior Lake	8	\$16.00		
407	Winsted	40	\$80.00		
314	Winthrop	19	\$38.00		

Teri Richardson 651-429-3885

wildwwitch@msn.com

Hello Everyone,

Thank You to all the units that have paid their District Dues.

The units shown on the left have not paid their District Dues (previously known as per-capita) for 2025 as of November 15, 2025. Any dues received after November 15th are not shown because the newsletter article was submitted on November 15th. Per the 3rd District Standing Rules the dues are to be paid by December 1st. A reminder was

sent to all the unit Treasurers on September 12th or October 9th. Please send your District dues as soon as possible. The district dues form was sent to the Unit Treasurer with the reminder and can also be found in the November newsletter. The 2025 District dues should have been collected with the 2025 membership dues from August 1st, 2024, through July 31st, 2025, and shown in a separate fund to be sent to the District Treasurer by December 1st,

Here are the donations to the 3rd District Projects. Please check the November newsletter for the District Dues

Donat	ions as of 11-15-202	Pres	Pres	3rd Dist	St Peter
		Project	Project	Honorary	Spring Fling
Unit#	Unit Name	Hastings	St Peters	Jr Pres Proj	Christmas Pty
207	Cleveland			\$100.00	
620	Hugo			\$200.00	
96	Hutchinson	\$125.00			
586	Lonsdale	\$300.00	\$300.00		
79	Montgomery	\$75.00	\$75.00		
601	New Germany	\$250.00	\$250.00		
45	New Prague	\$250.00	\$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		
	Personal donation	\$100.00	\$100.00		
	Cash Donations	\$45.00	\$40.00	\$120.00	
	Mr &Mrs Sauerbrey	\$200.00			
	Transfer	\$200.00			
	Total	\$2,055.00	\$1,465.00	\$540.00	\$30.00

and Donation form to send in your donations for these projects. This way I have a receipt of where your unit would like your donation to go.

If you have any questions about donations, unit District dues, 990N or filing your unit taxes or filling out your impact reports, please contact me I am here to help.

Hope you all have a Very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a very Happy and prosperous New Year.

God Bless you and your families and God Bless America. Teri Richardson 3rd District Treasurer 651-429-3885

wildwwitch@msn.com

Pasts Presidents' Parley by Linda Kelly

Last month I told you that your Past President Parley had met. Our discussions that day got around to completing the annual reports. I can just hear you saying, "Is it that time of year again?" Or "What did we do this year?" I don't know if I know anyone that really enjoys completing these reports BUT they are important.

First, they give all units a chance to reminisce about their past year – the successes and the maybe not so successful events. They spark what we want to repeat or maybe what we need to revise. (I would even encourage you to share the reports at a unit meeting. If the timing is right and you can share before you mail them out, someone may remember something to include but was missed.)

More importantly, these numbers are shared with the American Legion Department of Minnesota AND they are included in numbers that our National Office of the American Legion gives to our Congress. Remember, they are the ones that make the decisions that benefit our veterans and our military. The dollars and hours we donate to them count.

For that reason, I can't stress the importance of every unit in our district taking the time to complete a report for every program. You may think that you don't do much for that program, but you would be surprised at how much the smallest activity is part of that program.

Once our District Chairman receive those reports, they take the time to read the unit reports, compile the numbers, and submit them to our Department chairman. Each department chairman would love to read reports from all ten districts, so they can complete a report to our National division.

After a lot of discussion at our meeting, your past presidents would love to help you with these reports or I should say (because of timing) help you with the 2027 reports. We have secured the Shakopee American Legion Post for an informational meeting on Saturday, September 19, 2026. Past program chairman will provide information on what qualifies on each program's report. They will be there to answer questions.

We are still in the planning stage, but we are planning to have a table set up for each program. We are also hoping that most facilitators will have handouts for you.

We encourage you to bring several members from your unit. You can split up the programs so your unit gains information about ALL the programs. There will be a small cost to cover lunch and any other expenses we incur.

For those of you that have been a program chairman on any level, we will be looking for volunteers to sit at the tables. Please contact me, if interested.





Prayer from the 3rd District Chaplain Tamara Thayer

Heavenly Father, as we celebrate the Christmas season, we lift up the American Legion Auxiliary in gratitude for their service, unity, and compassion. Bless each member, their families, and all those they support with peace, hope, and joy. May Your love guide their hearts and actions, strengthening their commitment to helping veterans, their families, and our communities. We pray for those serving in the military and the sacrifices they are making. Let the spirit of Christmas inspire us to share kindness and generosity, and may the New Year

bring renewed purpose and blessings to all. Amen.

VA&R - Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation by Linda Kelly

Those of you that attended our Fall Conference found out a lot about the Honor Flight. I was up shortly after Nancy's presentation, and I had to be sure my tears didn't show. She showed videos of our veterans that took that wonderful trip to D.C. returning to the Rochester Airport – which brought tears to many of us.

The part that tore at my heart strings was when she talked about the "mail-call" they do at the time they return. Like me, many of you remember watching military shows where the soldiers all gathered around for mail call – hoping that there was a card or letter for them from home.

If you haven't read about the Challenge 250 that the Legion's past commander James LaCoursiere started and their current Commander Wiley is continuing, check it out online. It is a chance for us to celebrate our country's 250th birthday. The challenge is a way to honor the nation with a commitment to embracing physical activity, supporting mental health, and serving its communities.

You have endless opportunities to accomplish this. Many of you are already runners, walkers, or exercisers (not me) so it's just a matter of signing up and logging your hours. Well checks, youth training (flag etiquette) support mental health and our communities. Personally, I am in the process of crafting 250 "thank you for your service" greeting cards for the Honor Flight to use for their mail-call. Please consider joining the Challenge 250. The registration fee of \$30 goes to the Veterans & Children Foundation after the purchase of a T-shirt for you.

Honor Flight is just one part of the VA&R program. Robin is calling it "Minnesota's project" rather than her own, but I know that it is something very close to her heart. Donations will benefit all the Honor Flight hubs within Minnesota. Please ask your unit to consider a donation to her project.

AMERICANISM Joanne Joachim



Have you been able to get into your elementary schools to teach the kids the Pledge of Allegiance and hand out small American flags?

A reminder on the Americanism essay contest. Don't forget, the 3rd District essay contest (we do have prizes). Create and information packet for teachers on the Essay contest.

Last year at Fall Conference we were shown a deck of large "playing cards" that had some ideas on them for each of the Auxiliary programs. One idea was to host a red, white and blue

themed bake sale with proceeds to benefit an American Legion Auxiliary program.

Question: Who *originally wrote America the Beautiful?* Answer in January newsletter.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

History December 2025

I hope all of you can celebrate the holidays with family and friends.

I hope all of you write about our history each month while it is fresh in our minds and is still available, that is when it is the best time to start. All our members need to help by recording their year-end individual member impact forms. I would hope everyone is keeping track of what is happening in their units. Program chairs need it for their annual reports and historians need it for the history and summary and history scrapbook.

Record the who, what, where, when and why for each event or activity. Use specifics for each event such as who and how many volunteered, who it benefited and how many miles and hours were given. What the activity was and how much was spent or money raised. What impact did it have and where did it occur?

I am really looking forward to seeing what all of you have been doing in your units so far this year. If you could please email what you all have been up to by January 10th it would be great, I would love to report all the wonderful things you all do for the Veterans and their families in our communities.

Sally Strasser
District History Chairperson
Sallytrasser56@gmail.com
612-791-9208



AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST Contest Rules

The American Legion Auxiliary's Americanism Essay Contest is for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs, divided into six classes. One award in each class will be presented in each division. Winners will receive a \$50 check, and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund.

Essay Title:

"Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans Who Fought for Our Freedom"

Essay Classes:

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement*			
ı	3 and 4	150-250			
II	5 and 6	250-300			
Ш	7 and 8	350-400			
IV	9 and 10	450-500			
٧	11 and 12	450-500			
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level			

- The Americanism Essay Contest cover sheet must be filled out <u>legibly</u> and <u>completely</u>.
 Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
- Departments (states) will determine the deadline for the local unit contests.
- Essays will be due from the state department chairs to the Americanism Division chairs by April 15.
- Essays received after the contest deadline will not be accepted.
- Submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary. Through submission of an essay, contestants and their legal guardians grant non-exclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted and agree to have their names and writing published for commercial use without additional compensation or permission.
- The essay shall be the work of only one individual.
- Use of AI in writing essays is not allowed. Essays will be checked for use of AI. Any essay determined to be 30% or more AI written will be disqualified.
- Essays will be scored using the following rubric:
 - Word Count: 5pts.
 - Cover Sheet: 5pts.
 - Topic/Theme Does the Essay Answer the Topic Question?: 25pts.
 - Content Original Thought: 25pts.
 - Grammar: 10pts.
 - Clarity/Coherence: 10pts.
 - Organization Introduction, Body, and Conclusion: 10pts.
 - Correct Word Usage: 10pts.



***** The Race Is On—and we are nearing the end of 2025! *****

■ Did You Know?

To maintain continuous membership and be eligible for an Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) grant in 2026, your membership dues must be paid before January 1, 2026.

Don't miss this important deadline!

Progress Update – Milestone Awards

We're making fantastic strides together! Our next District Unit goal is to reach 80% by the Pearl Harbor Rally in early December, and the momentum is truly inspiring. Already, six units have soared past the 80% mark—with two units achieving an incredible 100% or more! Even more exciting, six additional units are right on the cusp, with percentages at or above 75%.

Let's keep this positive energy going! Remember, every unit that reaches 80% by the Pearl Harbor Rally on December 6th in Buffalo, MN, will be entered into a drawing for \$50.00. Your dedication and teamwork are what make these achievements possible—let's push forward and finish strong!

Make Membership Shine at Holiday Events!

As the holidays approach, many units are hosting Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings—a wonderful opportunity to connect with current and potential members. Why not decorate a table with eye-catching membership materials for attendees to browse? These festive events are often combined Legion Family occasions, so team up with the Legion, SALS, and Legion Riders at your Post to help staff the Membership table and promote each branch.

By working together and making membership visible, you'll welcome new faces and strengthen your community spirit. Let's make this holiday season all about coming together and growing as a community.

冷 Introducing Team Number 2: Diane Machenthun and Joanne Joachim

Diane is the President of Unit #343 Norwood, and Joanne is the Treasurer of Unit #580 Chanhassen. Both have been dedicated Auxiliary members for many years, holding a variety of positions within their units and the third district. If your unit is listed under Team Two, you can count on their extensive knowledge of Auxiliary programs and membership. Their guidance and advice come from years of experience, so you're in great hands.

Monthly Tip:

Please Note: Membership cards are owned by National HQ, if a member has paid their dues (to the Unit, Online or by Phone with National HQ) and requests a copy of their card, you are required to make it available to them. Membership Cards are not the unit's to hold on to. Membership Cards mailed by National HQ can take 4-6 weeks for the member to receive it, so if they request it from you, please make it available to them.

★ Have an idea to increase membership you'd like to share? Let me know via email at j.l.cluckey@outlook.com. I'll be sharing your ideas in upcoming newsletters!

Happy Holidays,

Jeorgia Cluckey

What: Auxiliary Emergency Fund Silent Auction

When: January 24th, 2026

Where: 3rd District Mid-Winter Conference to be held at

Lonsdale Post 586

Please bring a gift basket, baked goods, new or gently used item(s) to bid on.

Bidding will be from 9 till 12:30 PM.
All proceeds will be donated to the American Legion Auxiliary
Emergency Fund.
Unit and Personal donation accepted.

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund was established in 1969 and is a national grant assistance program that provides temporary assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary during times of financial crises or weather-related emergencies and natural disasters.

Hope to see everyone at Mid-Winter
Have a wonderful Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year.
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact
Linda Bell
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman



Endorsement for Second Vice President

Shakopee American Legion Auxiliary Unit 2 endorses Tami Paul for the position of Second Vice President of the Third District, American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota.

Since joining Shakopee Unit 2 in May 2023, Tami has brought renewed energy and vision to our organization. In under a year, her fellow members recognized her leadership abilities, electing her as unit president. Tami's dedication, leadership, and genuine commitment to service have made a lasting impact on our unit and community and the veterans.

Tami is currently serving on the Third District Executive Committee and has been appointed as the Third District Poppy Chairman for the 2025-2026 year. Her willingness to step into these roles demonstrates her ongoing commitment to the Auxiliary's mission and her readiness to serve at higher levels.

As Unit 2 president, Tamis efforts have been recognized at both the state and national levels, including being named the 2025 Department of Minnesota Member of the Year and leading her unit on receiving the Northwestern National Leadership Award.

She has been involved in every unit poppy distribution, membership outreach event and organized a Sitcom Trivia Night and created engaging displays for the local library. She also took part in the American Legion 250 USA Family Challenge and helped assemble 250 basic back-to-school kits for local students.

Beyond her Auxiliary service, Tami is married to her Husband Adam, and they have 2 lovable dogs, Chip and Goober. She has devoted over two decades to early childhood education as an early childhood teacher. She brings creativity, inclusiveness, and a spirit of patriotism into her classroom—qualities that also define her work with the Auxiliary. She has attended leadership courses, conventions, and is currently taking a parliamentary course to better serve our organization.

Tami's passion for honoring veterans is deeply personal, motivated by her desire to honor her late father, Korean War veteran Harlow LeRohl. Her hands-on leadership style, respect for tradition, and willingness to embrace new ideas, and listen to the past, have helped our unit thrive and brought our community closer together.

We believe Tami Paul's blend of compassion, creativity, and dedication make her an outstanding choice for Second Vice President of the Third District. We offer our endorsement, confident she will serve the Third district with integrity, empathy, and vision.

Jennifer Berg

Barb Klehr

Unit 2 Secretary

Past Unit President

ATTENTION DEPARTMENT DUES RAISE

At the 2025 Department Convention a resolution was passed to increase the Department of MN dues \$5.00, raising the Department dues from \$12.00 to \$17.00 for the year 2027 membership.

When your Unit President receives the **2027 Unit Dues Form** in the Department of Minnesota Unit mailing (in January or February), if your unit dues are not \$39.00 or more, your unit will need to vote to raise your unit dues to cover this raise.

On the **2027 Unit Dues Form** there will be a line that reads: 2027 SENIOR DUES OF THE UNIT ARE (Amount each Senior member pays to your Unit) \$ _ **Dues sent to Department per Senior = \$35.00** The \$35.00 sent to Department only covers the National Dues (\$18.00) and Department Dues (\$17.00). It does not include the 3rd District Dues (\$4.00) or your Unit Dues. The amount each Senior member pays to your Unit that is filled in on the form must include the \$4.00 3rd District Dues and if your unit has unit dues, the amount of your Unit dues. If your Unit Dues are \$1.00 the total filled in on the line would need to be \$40.00. \$40.00 will cover the National dues (\$18.00), Department dues (\$17.00), 3rd District Dues (\$4.00), and your Unit dues of \$1.00. The form would need to be filled out as follows. 2027 SENIOR DUES OF THE UNIT ARE (Amount each Senior member pays to your Unit) \$ 40.00 **Dues sent to Department per Senior = \$35.00** The members will send \$40.00 to the unit Membership chairman, and the membership chairman will send \$35.00 to Department with the transmittal for each senior member to cover the National and Department dues. If the membership chairman uses ALAMIS, \$35.00 for each senior member will be charged when the membership chairman inputs the paid members. If the member pays online, they will pay \$40.00 and \$18.00 will go to National, \$17.00 will go to Department and \$5.00 will go to the unit fund held at Department. For each paid member \$4.00 of the dues received should be set aside in a designated fund to pay the District Dues. In the 3rd District September newsletter there will be a District Dues chart which will show how much each unit will need to remit. Per the 3rd District Standing Rules, this amount will need to be sent to the 3rd District Treasure by December 1st of the membership year to cover the units District dues for that year. 2027 JUNIOR DUES OF THE UNIT ARE (Amount each Junior member pays to your Unit) \$_ **Dues sent to Department per Junior = \$6.00** The \$6.00 sent to Department only covers the National Dues of \$2.50 and Department Dues of \$3.50. It does not include the 3rd District Dues \$4.00 or your Unit Dues. The amount each Junior member pays to your Unit that is filled in on the form must include the \$4.00 3rd District Dues and if your unit has unit dues, the amount of your Unit dues. If your Unit Dues are \$1.00 the total filled in on the line would need to be \$11.00. The \$11.00 will cover National dues of \$2.50, Department dues of \$3.50, 3rd District Dues of \$4.00, and your Unit dues of \$1.00. (The form would need to be filled in as follows). 2027 JUNIOR DUES OF THE UNIT ARE (Amount each Junior member pays to your Unit) \$_ <u>11.00</u> **Dues sent to Department per Junior = \$6.00**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email or give me a call.

Teri Richardson

3rd District Treasurer 651-429-3885 <u>dist3auxiliaryfinance@outlook.com</u>



It was an honor to present Honor Flight information to the Department of Minnesota Auxiliary members at fall conference. Department President Robin Dorf has chosen this as our project for the year. Her goal is \$35,000 which will be distributed to the hubs that take our veterans on this amazing

Nationally, over 317,000 veterans have traveled with Honor flight hubs to see the monuments at Washington DC.

I am on the board of the North Star Honor Flight that services SE Minnesota and NE Iowa. We are very new to the honor flight organization with having taken just two flights.

Veterans fill out an application with the hub that services their area, submit it and wait for the call.

Veterans take this trip at no cost. This could be an 18-hour day or an overnight trip depending on the hub.

Family guardians are welcome to apply to accompany the veteran. Each hub asks for a fee from the guardian to help offset the cost of the flight. They must be between age 18-70. Spouse or significant other are not allowed to be your guardian.

We travel through DC by bus with medical staff and a flight team. Food, snacks, and beverages are provided throughout the day. Wheelchairs are also provided as needed.

The cost of flights can vary by service area. Honor Flight hubs are individual 501C3 organizations and operate by donations only. We are always looking for funding by donations, grants, and sponsorship.

It is interesting that back in 2021, our national headquarters entered a formal partnership with the Honor Flight Inc to support the mission. Poppy funds can now be used for many of the expenses of an honor flight. Auxiliary units, if you are looking for another program to use poppy funds for, this is it! National has approved several expenses for the veteran and the guardian. Here is the link to that information. https://www.legion-aux.org/Blog/Utilize-poppy-funds-to-support-ALA-partnership-wit

In the ALA August magazine, there was a wonderful article about an honor flight, I hope that you read it. If not, please do.

Please consider making a donation to the Department President's project. Don't stop there, continue to donate funds and volunteer hours to the hub in your area.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have about the Honor Flight Organization. Please reach out to me at lewisonnancy@gmail.com

ACTIVE UNITS IN THE THIRD DIST.



Winsted Unit 407's five-year-old Junior Auxiliary member and granddaughter of Commander Jeff Sterner was observed reading significant news.

Hutchinson Unit 96 Juniors helped to make Veteran Day cards.

64 total cards were made and given to Veterans at Harmony River and their staff, Woodstone, River Oaks, 1 teacher, 1 neighbor, 4 QOV recipients, and Hutchinson Legion Post 96 members. A small treat and small flag were included. Poppies were also given to the Harmony River Veterans. We also held a program at Harmony River.

- 3 Quilts of Valor were presented at Harmony River.
- 4 Quilts of Valor were presented at the Immanuel Grace Lutheran School program.





Shakopee Unit 2 hosted a free burger night for the veterans in the area 55 plus communities for Veterans Day. We were also able to present a Quilt of Valor to one of our Legionnaires at our posts Veterans Day service.





Shakopee Unit 2 hosting a Wizard of OZ Trunk or Treat and a Halloween bingo Halloween weekend







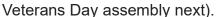


Elysian Unit 311

The first picture is Tamara Thayer, president of Unit 311 reading "I'm Your Flag so Please Treat Me Right," by Julia Cook, to kindergarten classrooms. The students memorized the Pledge and were able to lead the pledge for the Veterans Day Assembly. next pictures are of the Quilt of Honor.



. The first picture is of Kayla Bronk who spoke at the Elysian Early Bird Membership dinner about her experience at Girls State and how thankful she was for having this opportunity. We presented 5 Quilts of Honor in November. Two were given on Nov 11th at the Waterville/Elysian/ Morristown high school during the Veterans Day assembly. The recipients were Ron Gregor and Ron Berndt. An additional 3 were presented at the Early Bird membership banquet at the Legion on Nov 12th. These recipients were Dan Paukert, Orlyn Reindl, and Dan Wesley. (I will send the pictures from the











Waconia Unit 150

Waconia Unit 150 assembled and returned 4250 small poppies and 188 dozen large poppy bouquets to Department on September 10, 2025. On November 14, they returned 3000 small poppies and 58 dozen large poppy bouquets. I guess you could say that we took the "poppy challenge" seriously and are trying our best to make District 3 the winner in the Department Poppy Palooza contest.

Waconia Unit 150 will also be hosting a Poppy Palooza event on January 11, 2026, at the Waconia American Legion, 4 East Main Street, 1:00-5:00pm. Save the date and join us for an afternoon of poppy construction and fun!



Did you know everything about the American flag has meaning? Our first flag had 13

stars and 13 stripes which stood for the first 13 colonies that later became our first 13

states. The Old Glory red stripes on the the flag stand for bravery. The white stripes

represent liberty or freedom while the Old Glory blue background for the stars stands for

justice or fairness. There have been 28 different designs for the flag as more stars

representing new states were added. The current flag with 50 stars was designed 66

years ago by Robert G. Heft, a 17 year old student, who originally submitted it for a high

school class project. His flag first flew over the Capitol in Washington D. C. on July 4,

1960. In connection with Veterans Day, NYA Edward Born Unit 343 American Legion

Auxiliary members Dottie Simmons and Mary Spille visited kindergarten and second

grade classes at Central Elementary, Emanuel Lutheran, and St. John's Lutheran School to present a citizenship lesson including these facts and more on the history and meaning of the American flag and the Pledge of Allegiance. At the end of each lesson the classroom teachers were given small American flags to send home with their students at the end of the day.

Quilts of Honor Veterans Presentation Sunday, November 9, 2025

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 150 was given the privilege of presenting Quilts of Honor to our area Veterans on behalf of the Brainerd Quilts of Gratitude Chapter on Sunday, November 9. All 16 of the local Veterans honored served during the Vietnam War era.

Quilts of Honor is a non-profit organization founded in April 2010 with chapters in 13 states. Minnesota is fortunate enough to host one of those chapters in Brainerd. Their mission is "to bestow a universal symbol and token of thanks, solace, and remembrance to those who serve in harm's way to protect and defend our lives and freedoms." The organization is comprised solely of volunteers who cut fabric and assemble patchwork quilt kits, sew the patchwork quilts, and then finish them by sewing a binding onto the quilt.

Each numbered quilt is labeled with the 3 people responsible for creating the quilt, the name of the Veteran receiving the quilt, their military Branch, the Era of their service, and the date & location of the quilt's award. It is the Brainerd Chapter that provided the quilts for the ceremony, and it is their dedicated volunteers who have worked tirelessly on the various aspects of each quilt to be presented to our local Veterans. Local Waconia American Legion Auxiliary Unit 150 members Bonnie Luedloff and Anita Goenner are quilters in this project and were honored to work on the quilts and coordinate this special presentation.



Pictured: Vietnam Veterans Honored with their Quilts on November 9, 2025