

# American Legion Auxiliary Third District Newsletter

Movember 2025

Greetings to wonderful members of the Third District

Thank you everyone who has donated to my project so far on Hastings (landscaping) and St. Peter Regional Treatment (Disc Golf course). My goal is 4,000 dollars. Right now, I am almost halfway there. Please keep our donations coming to help our Veterans.

I attend the Third District Past President Parley. Were they discussed what we can improve in the Third District and mentor our members.

This month on November 11 is Veterans Day Please attend a Veteran ceremony to thank our Veteran for their service. And to remember them every day, and to wear the poppy to show our support for the Veterans.

In November, it is the Ameran Legion Auxiliary Birthday. This is where the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) birthday celebrates the organization founding on November 10,1919, and to recognize its century of service to veterans, military families, and their communities.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving Day

Ann Bovy
Third District President 25/26

Our unit 601 is having Bingo on November 25, 2025, that is Tuesday.

Bingo starts at 6:45pm this is put on by the American Legion post 601.

The American Legion Auxiliary will be sale Hamburg and cheeseburgers, pickles, chips, pop, and the Auxiliary will have the Bake sale too. We will start the Hamburg sale at 6pm. This will be held at the New Germany hall downstairs





## Appreciating the Season

### Take Time to Enjoy the Season

As we move through our daily routines, it is important to pause and truly enjoy the current season. We often find ourselves wrapped up in schedules and responsibilities, missing the simple beauty that surrounds us.

### A Moment of Reflection

This thought came to me during a lunch break drive. I noticed a combine working in a field, harvesting beans. The dust and dirt swirling around the machine created a stunning visual—one that was likely overlooked by the busy farmer focused on

the task at hand. Although I wanted to capture the moment with a photo, time constraints kept me moving.

### The Value of Slowing Down

This experience reminded me how much of our lives can slip by unnoticed when we are always in a rush. We miss opportunities to appreciate the present simply because we do not slow down long enough to notice them.

### **Embracing Opportunities**

Ultimately, it is important to take time for ourselves—to enjoy what is around us and avoid living with regret over missed moments. Make a conscious effort to embrace each day spending time with family and the opportunities it brings.

### **District Updates and Announcements**

### Changes

We have a couple of changes to chairmanships for the year 2025/2026. Helen Strong has resigned as VA&R chairman and Linda Kelly will be stepping into that chairmanship. Linda will also continue as past president parley chair but will no longer be our Public Relations chair. Karla Otterness will be the Public Relations Chair. Please note these changes for your year end reporting.

### Website and QR Code Launch

We are excited to introduce our new QR code, which will take you directly to our recently launched website. While the site is still a work in progress, we are continually adding valuable information that our units can utilize. Although we wish the site could be completed instantly, we appreciate your patience as we build out this resource. We encourage you to visit and explore the site, and we would love to feature photos from your unit's events. Please consider sharing your event photos with us so we can highlight your activities.



### Stay Connected on Facebook

Our Facebook page is now active and running. If you would like us to share updates about your unit's activities, please send the information to our email address at t.d.news2sgare@gmail.com. In addition to posting on Facebook, we will also include these updates in our newsletter. Your contributions help keep everyone informed and engaged across the district.

### Past President Parley Month

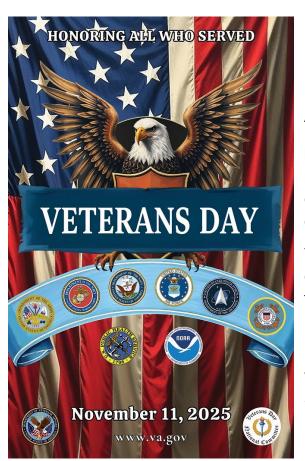
This month is dedicated to recognizing our Past Presidents. Please remember to thank them for their service and leadership at your next meeting. And send photos of any event or celebrations you might have in their honor.

### Upcoming Event: Pearl Harbor Rally

In December, the Department will be hosting the Pearl Harbor Rally in Buffalo, MN. We hope to see a strong turnout from the Third District and look forward to your participation.

Enjoy your time with family and friends have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Third District Secretary Karla



# A reminder never hurts!

**November 11** is significant for Veterans Day because it marks the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" in 1918, when the armistice was signed, effectively ending World War I hostilities.

This date was first recognized as <u>Armistice Day</u> to commemorate the peace that followed the "Great War" and to honor those who served in WWI.

In 1954, it was officially changed to Veterans Day by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to honor American veterans of all wars, past and present, for their service and sacrifice



### Junior Chair Lynn Duffy

Well, I'm hoping everyone that attended the District Junior Event on October 17<sup>th</sup> had fun and enjoyed the tour. I wish that there was a way to get more juniors involved. It was nice to have returning members and welcome some young SALs as well.

I hope that all of you include your juniors in the Unit's activities. They all need to learn about our programs. The fun event was a great way to get to know other juniors. As of this writing I am not sure if there is enough support to get our juniors formally organized at the District level. It sure would be nice. I'll report on that next month.

The Department Americanism Essay Contest has been officially announced. Even if your Unit doesn't participate in the program, you can still make sure the juniors receive the information. It is nice to see our District getting back involved in this great program.

One of the goals I have for this year is for more juniors to work the Patch Program. It is a great learning experience for the girls. There are patches that can be earned from pre-school level through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade.

As you go forward with your programs keep in mind the District Awards: Luverne B. Marier Plaque goes to the Junior Group having the best program; and the Pat Kerber Junior Membership Plaque to the Unit signing up the highest percentage of new Junior members.

Finally, try to keep your Juniors interested. Make sure to incorporate fun into your activities. Happy Thanksgiving!





### Constitution and By Laws Month Barbara Klehr, Parliamentarian

Let's talk **Parliamentarian**! Does your unit have one? Is it because you don't know what they do? Is it because you think you don't need one? Or, no one wants the job? This is what a parliamentarian does:

"A parliamentarian maintains order and adherence to procedural guidelines. They advise the presiding officer on procedural matters, clarifying rules for members and assisting in the proper framing of motions. This guidance helps prevent procedural errors and ensures debates and votes align with established protocols.

Beyond advising during meetings, parliamentarians assist in drafting or revising an organization's constitution, bylaws, and standing rules. They also help in planning meeting agendas and preparing scripts for the presiding officer. When disputes arise concerning rules, the parliamentarian provides impartial expert advice to resolve them."

They can use the Unit Guide which has the simple Roberts Rules of Order format in it for conducting meetings, or they could use Roberts Rules of Order. Just knowing where to find the rules is the first part of the job. It actually makes the President's job a little easier because the president could call on the parliamentarian to state your rules for making a motion and voting and gently remind a member when they follow an improper format, help the president and executive committee when reviewing your Standing Rules. Questions to ask your Parliamentarian could be:

Can the President do "anything" as she is the President? - No, they can't. Your unit has its own Standing Rules that outline what is best for your unit. If you don't have Standing Rules, then get busy and appoint a committee to compile that document.

An officer has to be installed to assume her office. - No, they don't. An installation is nice and makes officers feel as though the have the official stamp of approval, but it is not a necessary ceremony to assume the office.

What does it mean "Unit is the judge of its own membership"? Then we can ask anyone to be a member? – No, not everyone is eligible to belong, but the unit set up rules of conduct for their unit e.g. no alcohol at meetings, etc.

How many meetings does a member have to attend to be a member in good standing? – None, they are a member in good standing as long as their current dues are paid.

How many meetings does a member have to attend to be elected an officer? - None, unless your local Unit Standing Rules states otherwise (see...you are in control of your unit).

Who serves on the Executive Committee? – On the unit level there are seven members. It is the President, the two vice presidents, the junior past president, two executive committee members and the secretary. The treasurer and parliamentarian should be ex-officio members without votes.

I would like to see every Unit this year have a Parliamentarian. A parliamentarian is usually appointed by the President, but if the Unit wants to put it in their Standing Rules that it should be an elected position (because you feel your President might "stack the deck in her favor") you just need to put it in your Standing Rules and have your nominating committee nominate several. Committee positions do not need to be only appointed when the President comes into office, but when an open position needs to be filled.

This year – send me your updated Standing Rules and have then sent by your Parliamentarian!

Past President Parley- Linda Kelly chair

Your past presidents met in early October. We had a great group and had great discussions. We are all very passionate about the American Legion Auxiliary and especially about the 3<sup>rd</sup> District.

I haven't received any questions from our members and I'm betting there are some out there. Please don't feel embarrassed about asking – there is no such thing as a bad question. If you have a question, someone else is probably also wondering.

When I mention questions, don't forget that someone in your unit may be able to answer your question. If you have a question on a particular program, you have a district chairman and a department chairman who you can ask. We are all here for you.

Each of our members belongs to a unit, most likely in their own town, but maybe they belong where they grew up, where their mother or grandmother belonged, or maybe where they just moved from. Any of these are fine. We are just glad you are a member. Your membership means that someone in your family signed on a dotted line for our country and you are honoring them by being a member.

There are ten districts in Minnesota. Some states have more, some have less. Most districts are divided by counties – there again some district have more counties that others and of course, the number of units within each district varies. Each district has its own officers and program chairman – same as your units.

Minnesota's ten districts make up the "Department of Minnesota" or our state organization. The department also have a chairman for each of our programs. You as a member on the unit level also belong to a district, a department, and our National organization and we all work together.

Keep in mind that none of the American Legion Auxiliary groups earn money. Each depends on dues paid by the members and donations from units. Your unit pays the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, the Department of Minnesota and the National organization part of the dues you pay the unit. That money is used to fund the operations of each of the organizations. It supports the programs that the Auxiliary sponsors.

Our district treasurer's report in the September newsletter talked about "per capita" dues. Per capita dues represent each unit's contribution to the operation of our district. It is based on your unit's membership, paying the district \$2 to operate our local programs. It was passed at our district convention to raise this amount to \$4 next year. Check out the newsletter and ask your treasurer to pay the district your share of operations.

### Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation by Linda Kelly

Quilts of Valor is a project under the VA&R Program. I know for a fact that the 3<sup>rd</sup> District has several quilters in our membership. I have witnessed some quilts being awarded to veterans of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District. It is so awesome for our veterans to receive this honor. I have seen our veterans' faces when that blanket is wrapped around them. The smiles and the tears tell it all.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation has a website. Check out <a href="www.qovf.org">www.qovf.org</a>. Be sure you use a "Q" not a "G" when you go into it. There is a lot of information there.

My challenge to you is to find quilters willing to work on a quilt of valor. This can definitely be a joint project with other quilters. As Department Chairman I will be awarding the book, "Quilts of Valor: A 50 State Salute Book" to one quilter from Minnesota. I have not seen the book yet, but I understand that it gives history of military quilts, features a Quilt of Valor for each of our 50 states, and features 16 quilt patterns.

Send me a picture as your quilt is being awarded to a veteran. Your name will go into the drawing to be drawn on March 31, 2026, so I can include the winner in my annual National report. I will be forwarding quilt pictures onto National – maybe we see them up on the big screen.

If your unit doesn't have any quilters, maybe you can donate money towards material for a group. Please share this information with fellow quilters.

Karen Foss created gift tags for this year's Gift Shop made from Christmas cards. (Thanks, Karen) She is willing to do the same for next year so please save your non-religious Christmas cards so we can recycle them. They can be brought to any ALA event.

# **Pearl Harbor Rally**



# **Overview**

• **When:** December 6, 2025

• Where: <u>Buffalo American Legion Post 270</u>

Details & Times:

 11:00 AM - Social Hour & Membership Turn-in

TBD: Lunch Served by the post



### **AFSC Volunteer and Chairman Kim Carlander**

Hello Third District, Auxiliary Members!
The holiday season is fast approaching. We at the Armed
Forces Service Center (AFSC) are gearing up for a very busy
time. We could have record breaking numbers coming
through our facility over the next couple months, as military
members travel within MSP Airport.

We at the AFSC are also excited about celebrating our 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! We have been in operation since November 22nd, 1970. We are the longest running private nonprofit for traveling military in the country. We're open 365 days a year. Please show your support and help us celebrate! Please consider making a donation to the AFSC. Thank you for your continued support, and for ALL you do, "For God and Country". Kim



### AMERICANISM - Chair Joanne Joachim

I hope you have been thinking about the Americanism essay contest. The theme this year is "Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans who fought for Our Freedom."

The DUE DATE to Department is March 26, 2026.

We are celebrating America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2026. We have a chance to offer programs to the youth and community about Americanism, pride in our flag, flag etiquette, and what patriotism means to you. This is an opportunity to invite a veteran into the classroom with you as a guest speaker.

Get into your local schools so you can talk to the schools about teaching them Pledge of Allegiance to the students and hand out American flags.

## **Chaplain Notes: Tamara Thayer**

As we get ready to hold our Veterans Day Services on November 11, let us offer a reflection on the future, looking toward a more peaceful world while honoring those who have served. Dear God of our Faiths, we call upon you as the author of peace. We give thanks for the courage and sacrifice of all who have served. We pray for an end to war and for a future where conflict gives way to justice. We ask for wisdom for world leaders to pursue peace and justice. We are so thankful for the ceasefire that took place in October and continue to offer our prayers for the prisoners and their families being reunited that they may find peace in their hearts. Bless those currently serving in harm's way and their families. I cannot express enough my hope for a new era of peace, where the sacrifice of veterans will ultimately lead to a world without war. We pray for inspiration in ways to show our appreciation and a renewed commitment to honor veterans every day.

#### **ENDORSEMNT FOR DISTRICT 1 VICE PRESDIENT.**



My name is Sally Strausser, I am a thirty-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary. I am eligible for my membership through my late father Walter Zambino. He was in the Army Air cop during WWII

At the unit level I was president for 10 years also was the secretary and held many chairmanships such as Girl State, Juniors, Poppy and assisted with may other

chairmanship.

At the district level I was 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, 1 Vice President and while I was first vice I was also the district membership chairman. I was District President in 2006/07, also at the Third District I have been the chair for these chairmanships Juniors and presently I am the Historian for the 3<sup>rd</sup> District.

At the department level I have served on the Girls State committee for two years. Auxiliary emergency fund, gift shop, for two years. I was part of the VA&R in field service and community service and historian chair.

I am currently asking for the Third District membership support for the 1st Vice President 2026/2027 year

St Paul Park Unit 98 President Stefanie Kittelson Sharon Langness Unit 98 Secretary

### **Donation information from our treasurer notes**

Below are the donations received for President Ann's projects at Hastings and St Peter, the Honorary Jr President Mae's project at Hastings and for the Spring Fling and Christmas parties at St Peter Treatment Center. Included in this newsletter is a donation form that can be filled out and sent with the unit's donation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Treasurer.

The St Peter fund is getting a little low so if your unit can donate to help provide Pizza at the Spring Fling party or for items needed by the Veterans for Christmas when donating to the Presidents and/or Jr Presidents projects, it would be greatly appreciated.

Donations	s as of 10-15-2025	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	
586	Lonsdale	\$300.00	\$300.00		
79	Montgomery	\$75.00	\$75.00		
98	St. Paul Park	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	
150	Waconia	\$250.00	\$250.00		
	Cash Donations	\$5.00			
	Personal Cash donation	\$100.00	\$100.00		
	Cash Donations			\$120.00	
	Mvd Frm/to Hastings	\$200.00			
	Total	\$980.00	\$775.00	\$420.00	\$0.00

Dist	rict Dues for 2025-202	6 year Amt I	Due by Dec 1st 2	025
	Membership as of	7/31/2025	\$2.00	
Unit#	Unit Name	Mbrshp	per mbr	amt
			amt due	paid
1776	Apple Valley	235	\$470.00	
491	Bayport	77	\$154.00	
144	Belle Plaine	95	\$190.00	\$190.00
143	Brownton	18	\$36.00	
580	Chanhassen	73	\$146.00	\$146.00
57	Chaska	136	\$272.00	
207	Cleveland	38	\$76.00	\$76.00
594	Eagan	11	\$22.00	\$22.00
311	Elysian	172	\$344.00	
43	Faribault	149	\$298.00	
189	Farmington	28	\$56.00	
225	Forest Lake	222	\$444.00	\$444.00
433	Gaylord	53	\$106.00	\$106.00
95	Glencoe	13	\$26.00	
408	Green Isle	32	\$64.00	
47	Hastings	30	\$60.00	
620	Hugo	67	\$134.00	\$134.00
96	Hutchinson	160	\$320.00	7 = 0
424	Inver Grove	6	\$12.00	\$12.00
380	Kilkenny	12	\$24.00	\$24.00
300	Lafayette	18	\$36.00	<b>ΥΖ</b> Ψ.00
108	LeCenter	125	\$250.00	
586	Lonsdale	71	\$142.00	
507	Mahtomedi	45	\$90.00	\$90.00
79		120	\$240.00	\$30.00
149	Montgomery	103	\$206.00	
601	Morristown		\$36.00	¢26.00
	New Germany	18		\$36.00
45	New Prague	67	\$134.00	
510	Nicollet	48	\$96.00	
518	North Mankato	80	\$160.00	450.04
84	Northfield	29	\$58.00	\$58.00
343	Norwood	24	\$48.00	
184	Pine Island	88	\$176.00	
447	Prior Lake	8	\$16.00	
54	Red Wing	169	\$338.00	\$338.00
65	Rosemount	65	\$130.00	
643	Savage	53	\$106.00	
2	Shakopee	73	\$146.00	\$146.00
141	Silver Lake	60	\$120.00	
98	St Paul Park	127	\$254.00	\$254.00
37	St Peter	71	\$142.00	
125	Stewart	33	\$66.00	
150	Waconia	87	\$174.00	\$174.00
407	Winsted	40	\$80.00	
314	Winthrop	19	\$38.00	
		3268	\$6,536.00	\$2,250.00

## **District Dues**

Hello Everyone and welcome to November.

Someone asked me what percapita is, a lot of members do not know what per-capita is. So, I went to the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Standing rules under Finance where it has the information about percapita and I found out that the Standing Rules wording for per-capita had been changed.

The Standing Rules from 2024 shows

May 18, 2024

SECTION 1. THE DISTRICT DUES WILL BE TWO DOLLARS (\$2.00) PER CAPITA BASED ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

But in the Standing Rules for 2025 the wording was changed, and per-capita was removed.

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

SECTION 1. THE DISTRICT DUES
WILL BE FOUR DOLLARS (\$4.00) PER
SENIOR AND JUNIOR MEMBER
BASED ON THE DEPARTMENT
MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN POSTED IN
JULY FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND
TO BECOME EFFECTIVE IN 2026.

From this day forward the per-capita will be the District Dues.

A big THANK YOU to the 16 units that have paid their District Dues for 2025. I have included a new District Dues Donation form in this newsletter for the units that have not submitted their District dues.

It was great seeing everyone at Fall Conference.

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Teri Richardson 3<sup>rd</sup> District Treasurer Dist3auxiliaryfinance@outlook.com



# **3rd District**

# **American Legion Auxiliary**

	2	025-26 Di	strict D	ues Form	and	<u> 2025-2</u>	6 Dona	tion Forn	n
Unit #:				Location:					
Submit	ted By:					Date:			
Phone #:			Email A	ddress:					
3rd District	Dues	(see the <b>3rc</b>	d District N	lewsletter fo	r amou	nt due fro	m unit by	Dec 1st 202	25)
	Dist	trict Dues C	Check#:				Amount	t Due	
Please subm	nit a separat	te check for th	e unit Dist	rict Dues					
1. Make ched	cks payable	to the <i>Americ</i>	an Legion	Auxiliary	Please	write Dist	rict Dues	on the mem	o line
2. Mail the cl	neck and Di	strict Dues for	rm to the 3i	rd District Tre	asurer	at the addr	ess showr	n below:	
	3	ard District	Auxiliary	y Programs	<b>3</b>				Amount
		Project Hast			l and St	Peters Di	sk Course	Fund	\$ -
3rd District	Honorary Jr	Presidents F	Project Ha	stings					\$ -
St Peters Tr	eatment Ce	enter for Vete	erans Chris	stmas and S <sub>l</sub>	pring Fl	ing Parties	s		\$ -
			Tota	l 3rd Distri	ct Aux	ciliary Pr	ogram D	onations	\$ -
		Donation C	Check#:						
Donation ch	ecks MAY N	OT included a	iny other p	ayment. DON	NATION	PAYMENT	ONLY!		
1. Make ched	cks payable	to the <i>Americ</i>	an Legion	Auxiliary Pl	ease w	rite Donati	on on the	memo line	
2. Mail the cl	neck and Do	nation form t	to the 3rd D	istrict Treasu	ırer at tl	ne address	shown be	low.	
3. Any questi	ons email [	Dist3AuxiliaryF	Finance@c	outlook.com	or call 6	51-429-388	35		
	(	(THE 3RD Dis	trict Auxil	iary cannot a	accept	GAMBLING	G FUND D	ONATIONS)	
Any	donations	made with Ga	ambling Fl	unds must be	e made	out to and	d sent Dire	ctly to Hast	ting or St Peter
	Please p	ut 3rd District	t Pres Proj	ect in the m	emo lin	e if sendir	ng Directly	to Hastings	s or St Peter
Р	lease let th	e 3rd District	Treasure	know if you l	have m	ade a gam	bling don	ation for the	Presidents Project
	Teri Richard	dson		Hastings Ve	terans l	Home		St Peter Tre	eatment Center
	3rd District			ATTN:				ATTN:	
	200 Hallam	Ave S		1200 18th St	E			100 Freema	n Dr
	Mahtomed			Hasting Mn	55033			St Peter MN	N 56082





355 W Broadway Ave, Forest Lake, MN 55025

The Forest Lake American Legion Auxiliary Unit 225 endorses Sherri Hernandez-Neville for a second term on the MN District 3 Executive Committee for the 2026-2027 year.

Sherri Hernandez-Neville is a dedicated member of our Unit, having served as Member-at-Large and she is our membership chair. She is eligible through her grandfather, father, two

uncles, and nephew. In 2024, Sherri married Glen Neville, who is the 1st and 3rd Vice Commander of the Detachment of the Sons of the American Legion. They reside in North Branch.

Sherri who works in the Bakery at Costco has supported our American Legion Family with many donations for events. She has also collected donations for Chemo/Radiation Kits for VA Hospitals and continues to collect for her project. Sherri has attended the National Convention for the last three years and plans to continue. She is actively involved in our Unit, volunteering for bake sales, funerals, poppies, and conventions. She is passionate about helping wherever she can and is interested in working with the Children and Youth Committee.

In 2025, Sherri attended Legion College, further enhancing her skills and dedication. Additionally, she has been involved with the Third District, serving one year on the Executive Committee.

Thank you

# **MEMBERSHIP**

# **Third District Amazing Race!**



As of **October 15th**, the **Third District** is currently in **10th place at Department**—but don't let that number get you down! In fact, our Units have shown real progress, with membership percentages increasing month over month. The **Scallen Carlson Plaque** is still within our grasp! There's still time to process those renewals and welcome new members before October 25th. If you're attending the Fall Convention and have a membership list you haven't sent in yet, bring it along with your debit card—we'll help you get those renewals and new member applications processed in ALAMIS right on the spot.

### **Members/Membership Chair Reminders**

Membership Chairs, as you enroll new members in ALAMIS, please remember not to give out blank membership cards. ALAMIS assigns the member number after you enter them into the system. Once the card is updated, reach out to your new member and arrange for them to pick it up—handing them out at your unit meeting is a great way to encourage attendance and build community!

Members, if you haven't renewed yet, please contact your unit's membership chair or President—if your contact information has changed since your last renewal. We want to stay connected!

## Progress Update – Milestone Awards

Our next goal is 80% by the Pearl Harbor Rally in early December. If you need fresh ideas or a little boost to keep the momentum going, your Team Leaders and I are always here to help. Let's keep pushing forward together!

Congratulations to Silver Lake Unit #141! You're one of the seven units to reach 40% by September 20<sup>th</sup> — and won the drawing for \$20!

### And a big shoutout to Brownton Unit #143!!

They were the first Unit to hit the 60% renewal milestone before the Fall Conference, October 23–25 and will be receiving the \$50 award.

As we race toward our goals, remember to take care of yourselves and your families. Our Amazing Race is important, but faith and family always come first. I am truly grateful for your dedication, attention to detail, and unwavering support of our mission. Let's keep building on our successes and continue making a positive impact together. If you have questions or need assistance, your Team Leads and I are just a call or email away.

Let's keep the momentum going—every effort counts, and together, we're building something incredible. &

Here's to another fantastic month ahead!

### As the Race Continues into the Holiday Season

Did you know members can have a seasonal address entered in the ALAMIS system? If your unit isn't currently using ALAMIS, or if you need help updating a seasonal address, just reach out—I'm happy to assist! Keeping addresses current ensures all our members receive important correspondence and membership materials, no matter where they are.

★ Monthly Tip: Challenge your membership to a friendly competition—see if each member can enroll or reenroll at least one person. Let's make this season our best yet!

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!





















TEAM 1	Dakota/Washington			Wendy Ar	end & Sherri Her	nandez			
UNIT	CITY	Department Member Goal	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT	Dist 40% by 9/20	Dist 60% by 10/23	Dist 80% by 12/6
1776	Apple Valley	263	1	44	45	17.11%			
0491	Bayport	88	0	16	16	18.18%			
0594	Eagan	11	0	1	1	9.09%			
0189	Farmington	29	0	20	20	68.97%		10/15/2025	
0225	Forest Lake	200	0	87	87	43.50%	9/16/2025		
0047	Hastings	28	0	13	13	46.43%			
0620	Hugo	68	0	41	41	60.29%		10/15/2025	
0424	Inver Grove Heights	8	0	5	5	62.50%		10/15/2025	
0065	Rosemount	59	0	3	3	5.08%			
0098	St Paul Park	130	10	82	92	70.77%	9/3/2025	10/15/2025	
0507	Willernie	49	4	26	30	61.22%	9/15/2025	10/15/2025	
	Team Total/Average	933	15	338	353	37.83%			

TEAM 2	Carver/Scott			Diane Macke	nthun & Joann	e Joachim			
UNIT	CITY	Department Member Goal	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT	40% by 9/20	Dist 60% by 10/23	Dist 80% by 12/6
0144	Belle Plaine	102	6	57	63	61.76%	9/16/2025	10/15/2025	
0580	Chanhassen	75	0	12	12	16.00%			
0057	Chaska	158	0	38	38	24.05%			
0601	New Germany	19	0	5	5	26.32%			
0343	Norwood	22	0	10	10	45.45%	9/23/2025		
0447	Prior Lake	8	0	3	3	37.50%			
0643	Savage	58	0	16	16	27.59%			
0002	Shakopee	76	0	36	36	47.37%			
0150	Waconia	79	0	59	59	74.68%	9/3/2025	10/7/2025	
	Team Total/Average	597	6	236	242	40.54%			

TEAM 3	McLeod/Sibley	Sibley Karla Otterness & Deanna Meyers							
UNIT	CITY	Department Member Goal	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT	40% by 9/20	Dist 60% by 10/23	Dist 80% by 12/6
0143	Brownton	18	0	15	15	83.33%		9/30/2025	9/30/2025
0433	Gaylord	52	0	25	25	48.08%			
0095	Glencoe	14	0	0	0	0.00%			
0408	Green Isle	33	0	4	4	12.12%			
0096	Hutchinson	170	5	71	76	44.71%			
0141	Silver Lake	64	0	36	36	56.25%	9/3/2025		
0125	Stewart	36	0	1	1	2.78%			
0407	Winsted	42	0	1	1	2.38%			
0314	Winthrop	23	0	7	7	30.43%			
	Team Total/Average	452	5	160	165	36.50%			

TEAM 4	LeSueur/Nicollet				Kelly Klaus				
UNIT	CITY	Department Member Goal	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT	40% by 9/20	Dist 60% by 10/23	Dist 80% by 12/6
0207	Cleveland	39	0	1	1	2.56%			
0311	Elysian	176	1	30	31	17.61%			
0380	Kilkenny	12	0	0	0	0.00%			
0300	Lafayette	19	0	1	1	5.26%			
0108	Le Center	111	0	12	12	10.81%			
0079	Montgomery	138	0	11	11	7.97%			
0045	New Prague	67	1	21	22	32.84%			
0510	Nicollet	59	0	25	25	42.37%			
0518	North Mankato	82	0	6	6	7.32%			
0037	Saint Peter	73	1	5	6	8.22%			
	Team Total/Average	776	3	112	115	14.82%			

TEAM 5	Rice/Goodhue				Gina Little				
UNIT	CITY	Department Member Goal	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT	40% by 9/20	Dist 60% by 10/23	Dist 80% by 12/6
0043	Faribault	168	2	75	77	45.83%			
0586	Lonsdale	77	0	11	11	14.29%			
0149	Morristown	89	0	2	2	2.25%			
0084	Northfield	34	0	0	0	0.00%			
0184	Pine Island	94	0	18	18	19.15%			
0054	Red Wing	170	0	87	87	51.18%			
	Team Total/Average	632	2	193	195	30.85%			

### I AM A VETERAN

### by Andrea Christensen Brett

For the land of the free and the home of the brave I faced my demons in foxholes and caves
Then one dreaded day, without drummer or fife I lost an arm, my buddy lost his life

I came home and moved on
But forever was changed
The perils of war in my memory remained
I don't really say much, I don't feel like I can
But I left home a child, and came home a man

There are thousands like me
Thousands more who are gone
But their legacy lives as time marches on
White crosses in rows
And names carved in queue
Remind us of what these brave souls had to do

I'm part of a fellowship, a strong mighty band Of each man and each woman Who has served this great land And when Old Glory waves I stand proud, I stand tall I helped keep her flying over you, over all

### I AM A VETERAN

You may not know me the first time we meet I'm just another you see on the street But I am the reason you walk and breathe free I am the reason for your liberty

#### I AM A VETERAN

I work in the local factory all day
I own the restaurant just down the way
I sell you insurance, I start your IV
I've got the best-looking grandkids you'll ever see

I'm your grocer, your banker Your child's schoolteacher I'm your plumber, your barber Your family's preacher But there's part of me you don't know very well Just listen a moment, I've a story to tell

#### I AM A VETERAN

I joined the service while still in my teens
I traded my prom dress for camouflage greens
I'm the first in my family to do something like this
I followed my father, like he followed his

Defying my fears and hiding my doubt I married my sweetheart before I shipped out I missed Christmas, then Easter The birth of my son But I knew I was doing what had to be done

I served on the battlefront, I served on the base I bound up the wounded
And begged for God's grace
I gave orders to fire, I followed commands
I marched into conflict in far distant lands

In the jungle, the desert, on mountains and shores In bunkers, in tents, on dank earthen floors While I fought on the ground, in the air, on the sea My family and friends were home praying for me



### Wreaths Across America

I was reading the Department of MN Unit mailing last month when I came across the article for Wreaths Across America. This article brought up my curiosity about the program so off I went to the website.

While looking at the website I went to where you can order wreaths and was very happy to find out that I could designate where I wanted the wreaths to be placed or I could order them for a veteran I did not know. I ended up purchasing several wreaths to be placed on certain graves and several for veterans I did not know.

There are 5,200 locations to choose from and some of these locations are grave specific and allow you to designate the Veterans grave you wish to have a wreath placed on. Fort Snelling and the Mn State Veterans Cemetery in Duluth are the only 2 in Minnesota that I could find that are accepting grave specific.

If you purchase a wreath for a certain veteran that already has a wreath purchased for them one of the wreaths will be placed on a grave that has not been designated. You will also be asked if you would like to lay the wreath or if you would like a volunteer to place the wreath.

You need to pick how many wreaths you would like to sponsor then choose a specific location such as Fort Snelling. If you wish to purchase wreaths and it does not matter to you where they go, you do not need to pick a location, they will pick one for you.

If you pick grave specific you will need to know the Veterans Name, Branch, Rank, Date of Birth, Date of passing, Section row and marker.

To make this a little easier you can go to the National or the Fort Snelling website, if you go to the National website on the left click on Cemeteries then click on locate a grave, then fill in all the information you know, even if it is just the first and last name and click on search. This will give you information on every Veteran with that name buried in a National cemetery throughout the country. If it is a common name, try to put in as much information as you can because you will have to sort through the names until you find your veteran. When you find your veteran, it will give you all the information you need for your Veteran that is requested by Wreaths Across America to make sure your wreath is placed on the correct grave.

### If you go to Fort Snelling

### Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis, Minnesota - Find a Grave Cemetery

A screen will appear that requests First Middle and Last name, year born year died. Put in as much information as you know. If there is more than one Veteran by the name typed in, they will all appear, so it is best if you have a year born and/or year died to put in with the name.

You can order a wreath for \$17.00, or you can order a wreath for \$21.50. The \$21.50 have flags on them.

You can also order a wreath for a Spouse of Veteran (or child/other) when you pick the grave specific selection. In the first request it shows U S Veteran and to the right is a down arrow. If you click on the Down Arrow, it will bring up the spouse request, and you can click on that and fill out the necessary information which can be found on the Fort Snelling grave site information or the National grave site locater.

Please do not forget about our Veterans buried in private cemeteries. You can order wreaths from Wreaths Across America for the private cemeteries, but you will need to pay for shipping. Some Boy Scout Troops are selling wreaths as a fundraiser. Or pick one up at your local florist.

# Keeping Quilts of Valor Alive in the Third District submitted by Karla

**Get Involved: A Special Invitation to Sewing Enthusiasts** Attention unit presidents: Do you have members in your unit who are passionate about sewing? We have an exciting idea for you and your members.

**Indoor Projects for the Season** As we transition into the time of year when indoor activities become more appealing, it's the perfect moment to dust off your sewing machine, prepare a hearty pot of chili, pour a hot cup of tea, and plan your next creative project.

**Third District Leadership and Quilts of Valor** There are three past Third District presidents who love to sew for Quilts of Valor (QOV). Two of us have even chosen QOV as our district project in the past. We would be thrilled to have more members join us in creating patriotic quilt blocks for this meaningful cause.

The Patriotic Quilt Block Challenge We are launching a challenge for members who enjoy sewing: help us create quilt blocks for QOV. You are welcome to make your favorite quilt block, but please ensure the block measures 12" x 12". Use only quilting-grade fabric in red, white, and blue colors. Many dedicated American Legion Auxiliary members volunteer their time and talent to this wonderful cause, and your contributions are always valued.

Why Your Help Matters It takes a great deal of love, patience, and resources to produce these beautiful quilts. By participating, you help honor veterans in our district a tradition that means a lot to the American Legion.

**How to Participate and What's Next** Your challenge is to make your favorite quilt blocks and bring them to the Mid-Winter event. Cavalene, Teri, and Karla will assemble a couple of quilts from the blocks to be presented in May. If anyone else would like to assemble a quilt, you are more than welcome to join in. Our goal is to honor veterans from the Third District at our next convention in May.

**Nominate a Veteran** We are also seeking recipients for these special quilts. If you would like to nominate a veteran, please contact Cavalene, Teri, or myself. We will do our best to fulfill your request. If we are unable to complete your quilt ourselves, we have contacts in Minnesota who can assist.

### **Quilts of Valor Guidelines**

- The quilt must be machine-quilted or hand-quilted (not tied) and include a top, batting, and backing.
- Finished size must be at least 55" x 65" and no larger than 72" x 90".
- Use high-quality, adult-appropriate fabrics in red, white, and blue.
- A label must be attached, including the words "Quilt of Valor" and space for the recipient's name.
- The quilt should be pre-washed to prevent dyed bleeding.
- Use low-loft batting for comfort and a double-fold binding for durability.











The Forest Lake American Legion post 227 was full of excitement on October 18th as 38 volunteers came together for the first third district Poppy Palooza of 2025/2026 auxiliary year—a legion family event that quickly proved to be a success. Attendees worked together to assemble close to 1,000 poppies.

The event, hosted by the Forest Lake American Legion Auxiliary and organized by Cavalene Regan 3<sup>rd</sup> District 1<sup>st</sup> vice president, drew 3<sup>rd</sup> district members and nonmembers and several notable guests. Among the VIP attendees were Department ALA President Robin Dorf, Department ALA Poppy Chairman Hope Marie Wilson, 3rd District ALA President Ann Bovy, and Tami Jo Paul 3<sup>rd</sup> District Poppy Chair—who made quite the entrance as "The Poppy Lady," Moina Belle Michael, in a playful nod to the iconic figure, who read the story of

Throughout the day, participants enjoyed a lively atmosphere filled with laughter, photo opportunities, snacks, and food. Poppy-themed trivia kept everyone on their toes to win "fabulous" prizes, challenging even the most knowledgeable regulars.

We are already looking ahead to future events. The next Poppy Palooza is scheduled for January 11th in Waconia, followed by another gathering on March 7th in Cleveland. Additional details will be announced

soon.



Don't forget with the seasons changing, it's a perfect time to capture photos of the American Legion Auxiliary poppy for the district poppy contest in May. Every Season is a reminder to honor the symbol of remembrance and the community spirit behind each bloom







# Snapshots from Fall Conference 2025

























### Units in the Third District.



On World Heart Day, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, four members of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 43, Louise Flom,
Kathy Larson, Jeanette Hammond, and Karen Rasmussen, delivered muffins and a thank you card to six places to honor and thank First Responders. Kwik Trip partially donated the variety of muffins. The two K-9 officers received dog treats. Stops were made at the Sherif &39; s Office, Allina Emergency Dept, the Fire and Police Depts, and both the North Memorial Ambulance and Air Care Ambulance.

Chanhassen Unit 580 held a food drive collecting food for Minneapolis VA.



Jane Cervenka is pictured with Tammy Thayer, Unit 311 president, with the 12 most recent bibs that she sewed to total 75 that she has donated in the past year. Most of the bibs have been given to Veterans Homes that use them. Others have been donated to veterans and other residents in assisted living homes in the area. Jane's daughter, Cheri Winegar is a member of Unit 311 and helped supply some of the material needed for the bibs. Jane is a member of the Waseca Unit.





**Third Dist. Past President Parley** 

**Front Row**: Joanne Joachim 2013/14, Linda Kelly2019/21, Darlene Wondra 2001/02, Lois Wenz 2003/04, Betty Schuelter 1990/91 **Back row**: Kim Carlander 2022/23, Barb Klehr2008/09, Cavalene Regan 2021/22, Tamara Thayer2024/25, Diane Mackenthun2004/05, Cynthia Wenz2010/11, Michelle Leanord 2014/15.



Forest Lake received a Certificate of Appreciation from Bill Hottel who is the person that organized Camp Gratitude. This is a camp that happens for 1 week in June to support Veterans - they come from all over the country and spend a week at the Veterans Camp on Big Marine in Forest Lake.

Nancy Dashel is one of the Unit 225 members that does a lot to help feed the veterans during that week.









Unit 1776, Apple Valley Poppy making

Several People have asked for these recipes.

### Oriental salad

1 large napa cabbage shredded or cut fine 5 green onions chopped (set aside in large bowl)

light brown 2 package ramen noodles uncooked break noodles any flavor (don't use flavor pack)

1 package slice almond

1/2 cup butter (put almond in butter and toast almond)

Add to above 20 min before serving
Mix 1 cup salad olive oil
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup vinegar

2 tsp. soy sauce

From Linda Sauerbrey

# **Dill Pickle Saltine Crackers**

Dill pickle saltine crackers are a delicious way to enjoy the flavors of the classic sandwich accompaniment. These seasoned crackers are buttery, briny and full of addicting flavor that will turn them into your favorite snack!

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time
10 mins	30 mins	40 mins



**★★★★** 4.60 from 25 votes

Course: Appetizer, Snack Cuisine: American

Servings: 12 Calories: 245kcal

Author: Meaghan @ 4 Sons R Us

### Ingredients

- · 4 sleeves saltine crackers regular size
- · 1 stick butter melted
- 2 1/2 tbsp dry ranch seasoning mix
- · 1 1/2 tbsp dill pickle juice
- · 1 heaping tbsp dried dill
- 1 1/2 tsp garlic powder

### Instructions

- 1. Open the crackers and transfer them all to a large mixing bowl. Set aside.
- In another mixing bowl, whisk together the remaining ingredients until evenly combined. Pour this mixture over the crackers.
- 3. Gently toss the mixture with the crackers to evenly coat, being careful not to break them up.
- 4. Spread a sheet of parchment paper out over a large baking tray.
- 5. Add the seasoned crackers to the prepared tray, and spread them out evenly in a single layer.
- Using a spatula to scrape down the sides of the mixing bowl, get every last bit of seasoning onto the crackers.
- 7. Bake the seasoned crackers at 250° for 30 minute, carefully stirring every 10 minutes.
- Allow the cooked crackers to cool before serving, and enjoy!