



American Legion Auxiliary

Third District Newsletter

June 2026

Happy Summer to all 3rd District Members,

Memorial Day is the day we all set aside to honor our Veterans who gave their all for our country and our citizens. May you all take some time to remember these men and women and the sacrifices they made for us.

Thank you, to all the 3rd District members for your support on my two projects, Hasting Veterans Home (raised garden beds) and St. Peter Region Treatment Center (Disc Golf Course) I am happy to report that \$6,044.00 was raised, so we exceeded the goals for the Veterans Project.

A Big thank you to all the members who attended the convention on May 16, 2026 at New Prague Post 45. It was fun to see everyone. It was so great that we had 7 Auxiliary members who came for the first time. I am so glad that it was such a beautiful day for the convention.

I would also like to thank the executive committee members and the program chairman for their support and for all their hard work throughout the year. A Big thanks to the Past President Parley for your support and believing in me.

I want to take this time to thank my husband (Phil) and sons (Zach and Joe) for their support, when I was busy with 3rd District events.

I want to thank 3 people from the Auxiliary for presenting my dad (Roger) with a Quilt of Honor. The person looking for a story about my dad and his time in the service, the person who made the quilt, and the person who did the presentation. It was a special day for my family with good memories that we will cherish.

I am looking forward to being at Forest Lake Post 225 for the 4th of July parade. I can't wait to visit the members and be in the community parade on July 4, 2026.

I hope all members of the Auxiliary have a great summer with each of their families and enjoy the nice weather. My family is planning a camping trip with our camper this year. It will be great to be outside, enjoying the fresh air and the woods.

It has been a great honor to have this opportunity to be your 3rd District President. I will cherish the memories for the rest of my life.

Hope to see you all at the Department Convention in July

Sincerely yours,

3rd District President Ann Bovy



Secretary's dream vacation!

Hooray—it's June!

Summer Events

We have two new events to share for this summer: the Third District Picnic and the Third District Workshop.

Third District Picnic — Sponsored by the Third District Legion and held in Glencoe, Minnesota, at Oscar Olson Park. Social time begins at 11:00 a.m., and food will be served at noon.

- **This gathering is for Third District officers, chairmen, and past presidents.**
- Please bring a dish to share and a folding chair.
- Wear red, white, and blue for our photos, and bring your auxiliary hat if you have one.
- No materials will be handed out at this event—it is intended as a social gathering.
- If you are new to a chairmanship, this is a great opportunity to ask questions and get advice from those with experience.

Third District Workshop for District Chairman — July 25. The morning session will focus on instruction and information sharing.

- You will have the opportunity to write your plans and prepare a budget request for your chairmanship.
- Lunch details and the location are still being finalized.
- Every District chairman should attend. Curious Third District members are also welcome.
- The afternoon will include additional educational and informational sessions, along with team-building activities to help strengthen our District.
- We hope you will join us.

The Department of Minnesota Convention will be held July 8–11 in Willmar. As a District, we hope to host a hospitality gathering, and everyone is welcome to join us. Please bring an appetizer to share and whatever beverage you would like. On Thursday and Friday, our Third District caucus will begin at 8:00 a.m. The room location will be announced later. This will be Ann's final Minnesota event as presiding as president, so let's give her a warm welcome and a cheerful send-off. We will also welcome President-Elect Cavalene Regan and hear about her exciting year ahead.

Newsletter Reminder

Our next Third District newsletter will be published in September. Please do not send information until August, as I will be cleaning out past emails and may accidentally delete early submissions. The deadline for the September issue is August 15. Please do not send submissions as PDFs, because I am unable to use that format. The first chairman scheduled for an article is Juniors Activities, and I also hope to include an article from our Junior President.

Share Your Summer Celebrations

Have a fantastic summer! I hope you will share what your unit or post does to celebrate the 250th celebration of our Country. Please take pictures so we can feature them on Facebook.

Karla, Third District Secretary

Information from membership

- It is important to realize that all funds of the unit are the property of the American Legion Auxiliary. The Department and District should be first consideration when dispersing the funds. All obligations to the District and Department must be met. These include:
 - o District dues for membership.
 - o Fidelity Bond payment for the current Auxiliary year (if applicable).
 - o Current membership dues paid for any delinquent members they want to continue membership in the American Legion Auxiliary.
 - o Consider paying for a PUFL membership (Paid Up For Life) for any members who have significantly contributed to the Unit.
 - o Donations to the programs of The American Legion Post.
 - o Do not close the Unit bank account until after the final vote is taken to surrender the charter. Make sure that while deciding on how to distribute the remaining Unit funds, that enough money is left in the account to cover the costs of postage, service charges, etc.

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
91.19%	90.56%	89.90%	89.62%	89.32%	89.19%	88.62%	88.42%	84.65%	82.27%
District 6	District 9	District 1	District 3	District 2	District 8	District 10	District 7	District 4	District 5
									

★ The End of the 2025–2026 Amazing Race Is Near! ★

🎉 What an incredible year it has been for Membership in the Third District. We are currently holding 4th place at Department, and with only 1.57% separating us from 1st place, the finish line is truly within reach. 🎉

While we celebrate our progress, we also acknowledge that three Units have completed the paperwork to surrender their charters — Eagan #594, Glencoe #95, and Prior Lake #447 — and Kilkenny #380 has begun the process. Please take a moment to review the instructions included, as the highlighted section is especially important to complete accurately.

★ As of May 6th, 2026, eleven Units have already reached or exceeded the 100% membership goal for July 4th. We have welcomed 154 new members into the Third District — and that number continues to grow. Your dedication, your outreach, and your enthusiasm are making a real impact. Thank you to every Third District Auxiliary member who has recruited, renewed, encouraged, or supported someone this year. Your efforts shine.

★★★ Our next Department goal is 100% membership by July 4th. With the momentum we have right now, this goal is absolutely within reach. Many members across the District have not yet paid their 2026 dues, which means there is still a significant opportunity for growth. Many Units are only a few renewals or new members away from reaching their goal.

Let's keep the energy going by continuing personal outreach, engaging your Unit members, and sharing updates through social media and Department resources. Together, we can cross that finish line strong.

📞 Membership Outreach Tip

As we push toward our July 4th goal, those quick, friendly check-in calls truly make a difference. When reaching out about past-due dues, keeping the tone light and conversational helps open the door.

★ **Sample Script:** "Hi [Name], this is [Your Name] with the Auxiliary. I was just checking in to see how you're doing — and wanted to make sure you received your renewal information."

From there, the conversation usually flows naturally into a dues reminder. Many Units are so close to their goals, and sometimes one simple, friendly call is all it takes to get you there. us ★

📄 **Membership Chairs** Please carefully review the membership bulletin included in this newsletter. If any of your numbers differ from what you have recorded, reach out so we can ensure the Unit, District, and Department paid dues reports are aligned.

With appreciation, Jeorgia Cluckey

Membership Bulletin 05062026

UNIT	CITY	Department Member Goal	TOTAL	PERCENT	95% by 6/12/26	Dept 100% by 7/14/26	Dept 102% by 8/1/26
189	Farmington	29	31	106.90%	☑	☑	☑
225	Forest Lake	200	222	111.00%	☑	☑	☑
47	Hastings	28	28	100.00%	☑	☑	
620	Hugo	68	68	100.00%	☑	☑	
98	St Paul Park	130	132	101.54%	☑	☑	
149	Morristown	89	90	101.12%	☑	☑	
0108	Le Center	111	118	106.31%	☑	☑	☑
0045	New Prague	67	77	114.93%	☑	☑	☑
0150	Waconia	79	91	115.19%	☑	☑	☑
0601	New Germany	19	19	100.00%	☑	☑	
0343	Norwood	22	25	113.64%	☑	☑	☑

TEAM 3	McLeod/Sibley	Karla Otterness & Deanna Meyers					
UNIT	CITY	Department Member Goal	TOTAL	PERCENT	95% by 6/12/26	Dept 100% by 7/14/26	Dept 102% by 8/1/26
0143	Brownton	18	17	94.44%			
0433	Gaylord	52	45	86.54%			
0095	Glencoe	14	0	0.00%	Charter Turned In		
0408	Green Isle	33	23	69.70%			
0096	Hutchinson	170	127	74.71%			
0141	Silver Lake	64	56	87.50%			
0125	Stewart	36	29	80.56%			
0407	Winsted	42	29	69.05%			
0314	Winthrop	23	19	82.61%			
	Team Total/Average	452	345	76.33%			

TEAM 2	Carver/Scott	Diane Mackenthun & Joanne Joachim					
UNIT	CITY	Department Member Goal	TOTAL	PERCENT	95% by 6/12/26	Dept 100% by 7/14/26	Dept 102% by 8/1/26
0144	Belle Plaine	102	86	84.31%			
0580	Chanhassen	75	64	85.33%			
0057	Chaska	158	130	82.28%			
0601	New Germany	19	19	100.00%	☑	☑	
0343	Norwood	22	25	113.64%	☑	☑	☑
0447	Prior Lake	8	3	37.50%	Charter Turned IN		
0643	Savage	58	40	68.97%			
0002	Shakopee	76	73	96.05%	☑		
0150	Waconia	79	91	115.19%	12/16/2025	☑	☑
	Team Total/Average	597	539	90.28%			

Membership Bulletin 05062026

M 5	Rice/Goodhue	Gina Little					
UNIT	CITY	Department Member Goal	TOTAL	PERCENT	95% by 6/12/26	Dept 100% by 7/4/26	Dept 102% by 8/1/26
0043	Faribault	168	143	85.12%			
0586	Lonsdale	77	70	90.91%			
149	Morristown	89	90	101.12%	☑	☑	
0084	Northfield	34	29	85.29%			
0194	Pine Island	94	87	92.55%			
0054	Red Wing	170	160	94.12%			
Team Total/Average		632	579	91.61%			

	Dakota/Washington	Wendy Arend & Sherri Hernandez					
UNIT	CITY	Department Member Goal	TOTAL	PERCENT	95% by 6/12/26	Dept 100% by 7/4/26	Dept 102% by 8/1/26
1776	Apple Valley	263	208	79.09%			
491	Bayport	88	65	73.86%			
594	Eagan	11	1	9.09%	Charter Turned In		
189	Farmington	29	31	106.90%	☑	☑	☑
225	Forest Lake	200	222	111.00%	☑	☑	☑
47	Hastings	28	28	100.00%	☑	☑	
620	Hugo	68	68	100.00%	☑	☑	
424	Inver Grove Heights	8	5	62.50%			
65	Rosemount	59	53	89.83%			
98	St Paul Park	130	132	101.54%	☑	☑	
507	Willernie	49	44	89.80%			
Team Total/Average		884	813	91.97%			

TEAM 4	LeSueur/Nicollet	Kelly Klaus					
UNIT	CITY	Department Member Goal	TOTAL	PERCENT	95% by 6/12/26	Dept 100% by 7/4/26	Dept 102% by 8/1/26
0207	Cleveland	39	37	94.87%			
0311	Elysian	176	169	96.02%	☑		
0380	Kilkenny	12	10	83.33%	Process to turn in Charter started		
0300	Lafayette	19	17	89.47%			
0108	Le Center	111	118	106.31%	☑	☑	☑
0079	Montgomery	138	114	82.61%			
0045	New Prague	67	77	114.93%	☑	☑	☑
0510	Nicollet	59	43	72.88%			
0518	North Mankato	82	70	85.37%			
0037	Saint Peter	73	63	86.30%			
Team Total/Average		776	718	92.53%			

Officers

President Cavallene Rean
St Vice President Sally Strasser
2nd vice President Tami Paul
Executive committee member Sherri Hernandez- Neville
Executive Committee member Jorgia Cluckey
Junior Past president/ chaplain Ann Bovy

2026 Convention Award Winners

Youth Development Pod

Children & Youth; Shirley Hamre Children & Youth Plaque Shakopee Unit 2
Juniors; Luverne B Mari Plaque Elysian Unit 311
Pat Kerber Junior Membership Plaque St Paul Park Unit 98

Veteran/Military Support & Advocacy Pod

Legislation Not awarded
National Security; Barbara Stussy National Security Award Faribault Unit 43
Poppy; Dolores Fink Poppy Plaque Waconia Unit 150
Savage Poppy Plaque and certificate Shakopee Unit 2
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation; Lois Wenz Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Plaque
150 & over members Elysian Unit 311
Under 150 members Chaska Unit 57
Service to Veterans; Dolly Huron Field Service Certificate, Montgomery unit 79

Family Support Pod

Americanism; Sieg & Ann Schmidtke certificate Elysian Unit 311
Patriotic Education Belle Plain Unit 144
Education; Education certificate Elysian Unit 311
Community Service; Juanita Lutz Community Service Certificate Faribault Unit 43
Memorial; Nancy Lemke Memorial Plaque Elysian Unit 311
Prayer book contest Hutchinson Unit 96

Membership Development Pod

Membership; Forciea Memorial Membership Plaque Forest Lake Unit 225
Leadership;-- Audrey Tolzmann Leadership Certificate Forest Lake Unit 255
Public Relations;- Margaret Lonergan Communications **not awarded**

Organizational Support Pod

Past President Parley; Charles-Hale Plaque Montgomery MN 79

History

Third District Plaques for Program Excellence
10-50 Gaylord Unit 433
51-100 Waconia Unit 150
101-200 Elysian Unit 311
201& Forest Lake Unit 225

Opportunities

Investing in this movie is an approved way to spend your gambling money! The Legion Department office said your donation must be paid directly to the director of the movie.

Why invest? Because the movie is a way to ***preserve the life story of a veteran*** who was an active American Legion Member in Minnesota. It is so important that we keep the memories of our veterans alive, their stories are important. This movie is also ***an educational film*** for the educational channel, and will help show classrooms what war was actually like during WWII on Tinian Island as told by Capt. Mike Thayer's own account. The book has a little Minnesota history as well.

The movie is based on the award winning book by Tamara Thayer, past 3rd District President. The book has won 12 awards.

Please be a part of getting this story on the big screen!

Contact the author for more information:

Tamara Thayer

507-319-4349

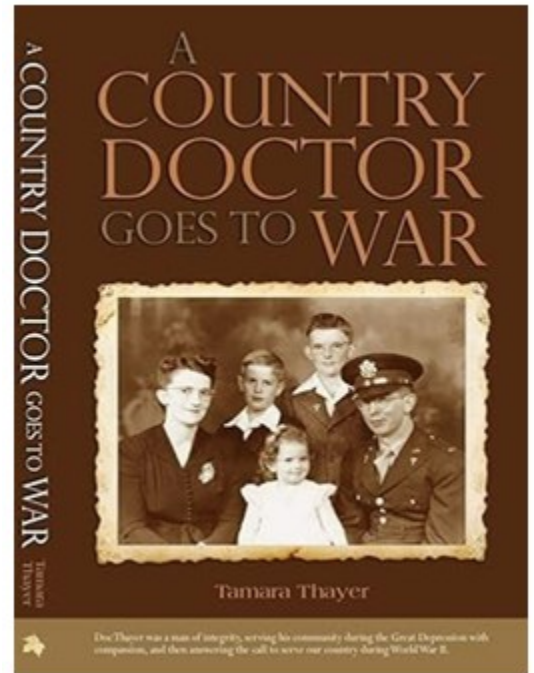
TLThayer@gmail.com

BIG SCREEN OPPORTUNITY

Author Tamara Thayer and Director Christopher Forbes are teaming up to create a full length feature film of “A Country Doctor Goes to War” based on the life of Dr. Mike Thayer. Most of the filming will take place around the Truman and Fairmont Minnesota area with the opportunities for local actors to play a role.

As a donor/supporter, you can have bragging rights as being an integral part of bringing history of a Veteran to life in a motion picture.

A Country Doctor Goes to War is much more than the biography of a veteran who served on the island of Tinian during World War II; it paints a vivid picture of facing the highs and lows of life with integrity.



Donor/Supporter Levels:

\$5000 Platinum: Your name will be in the movie credits. You will receive 8 tickets to the Red Carpet Showing.

\$2500 Diamond: Your name will be in the movie credits. You will receive 6 tickets to the Red Carpet Movie Premier.

\$1000 Gold: Your name will be in the movie credits. You will receive 4 tickets to the Red Carpet Movie Premier.

\$500 Silver: 2 tickets to the Red Carpet Movie Premier.

Neck Pillow

This neck pillow pattern is versatile for patient use as it has a wide neck base. Use the same fabric for both sides or different fabric for each side to give interest and use up extra fabric you may have available. You can also sew different fabric squares or scraps together to make an 18" x 20" quilted top then cut a pattern from that piece.

Materials

- 1 yard of soft fabric such as flannel or cotton
 - or ½ yard of fabric plus ½ yard for contrasting
 - or 2 pieces about 18 x 20 inches
- 1 yard lightweight single-side fusible interfacing (optional)
- Fiberfill (new only)



Directions

1. Print and cut out the pattern piece. Use this pattern to cut the backing for your pillow.
2. Place pattern piece on fold of fabric and cut. Repeat with same or different pattern fabric.
3. Apply a light-weight single-sided fusible webbing to both pieces. Do this according to your package directions. It is optional to use interfacing though it gives the project more body and looks nicer once the pillow is stuffed.
4. Pin the front piece to the back piece with the right sides together. Stitch all the way around using a 1/2" seam allowance but leave a 3" opening on one of the sides.
5. Clip cuts in the inner curve so that the pillow will lay flat. Do this by cutting slits through the curve. Cut very close to the stitching, just be careful not to go through it.
6. For the outer curves, notch them out with V-cuts to remove bulk so the curves will lay flat when turned right side out.
7. Turn your fabric right side out and press. You may have to work the curves so that they are nice and smooth.
8. Stuff your pillow with new fiberfill stuffing until firm. Move the stuffing around so it is even and supportive throughout the pillow.
9. Hand stitch the 3" opening closed with coordinating thread.



THIS EDGE ON FOLD OF FABRIC

Print pattern full size on 8.5" x 11" paper. Fabric pieces must be twice the size of this pattern. Fold fabric in half and place pattern on fabric fold as directed. Repeat with same or different fabric for back of neck pillow.

Cottage Neck Pillow

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

By Linda Kelly

This is my last newsletter as your district chairman for VA&R. I have learned so much this year and I thank Ann for giving me this opportunity. This program is all about the veterans and that's why our great organization exists. The men and women in these facilities gave up part of their life for us – they raised their right hand and pledged to defend our constitution.

As you know, the VA&R program has many parts and I found that our units contribute to all of them in one way or another. I hope you will continue to participate in these projects that fall under Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation: Creative Arts, Honor Flight, Wreaths Across America, Quilts of Valor, Gift Shop, and the Fisher House.

I am still receiving your old Christmas cards and I will be giving them to Karen Foss from the 6th District at their convention. She repurposes them into gift tags for all the Gift shop events that take place in our 12 veteran facilities. If you happen to see her, tell her "Thanks".

Past Presidents Parley

By Linda Kelly

It's still on

I went to the 3rd District convention on May 16th all ready to announce the cancellation of the informational meeting we had planned for September 19th due to lack of volunteers. But instead, I was greeted by many of your Past Presidents telling me that they hadn't contacted me to volunteer - but felt this meeting would be beneficial to all members and units.

I have half of the programs covered by an Auxiliary member that is willing to share her knowledge with you. These presenters do NOT need to be a District Past President. We are looking for volunteers to present information on one program – tell you its purpose (mission), what you can do to support this program, and finally, what events/donations qualify to be listed on that program's unit annual report. Do you have a passion for one of our programs? Please give me a call and we can talk about your options.

Please talk about this at your next meeting. Some units don't meet in the summer months, so I ask you to put it on your agenda at your June meeting and encourage a few of your unit members to attend. The registration information will be in our first fall newsletter. There will be a small registration to cover copies of information that will be available. Lunch will also be available.

Since this is my last newsletter for the year, I want you to mark your calendars so you are available on that date (Saturday, September 19th).



These little cuties were out distributing poppy flowers for Mahtomedi Unit 507 this spring. What a wonderful way to promote our American Legion Auxiliary program—and who could say no to them?

EDWARD BORN ALA UNIT #343
Announces 2026 Girls State Citizens

Edward Born American Legion Auxiliary Unit #343 has proudly sponsored a local high school junior for Minnesota Girls State since 1952. This year, the Unit will sponsor two “Citizens”: **Tenley Read and Rayne Schouville-Menk**. Registration fees for both students are provided by American Legion Post #343 through its Gambling Funds.



The **79th session of American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State** will take place June 14-19, 2026, at Bethel University in Arden Hills. Citizens arrive on Sunday and conclude their week of study and leadership training on Friday before noon.

Girls State is widely recognized as a premier civic education, offering citizens an intensive, hands-on experience in government, leadership, and public service. Attendees gain lifelong skills in leadership, public speaking, and self-confidence – attributes that strengthen future academic and career pursuits. It’s an impressive accomplishment that looks great on a resume.

A week of Government in Action – Girls State brings together a diverse group of young women from communities across Minnesota, all sharing a commitment to learning and civic engagement. The purpose of the ALA MN Girls State program is to provide Americanism and good citizenship training, and to inform citizens about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of government as practiced in a democratic society.

Throughout the week, citizens study the structure and functions of city and state government. They form fictional cities and political parties, campaign for office, debate issues, and elect officials at every level. Every girl will hold a government office or will become a member of the House or Senate.

Citizens also take part in caucuses, conventions and legislative sessions – many held in official state government facilities, including the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul. Parliamentary procedures are used in the processes. Throughout the program, citizens hear from distinguished speakers such as state and local officials, veterans, Gold Star families, and first-generation Americans.

Preparing Tomorrow’s Leaders – In addition to government instruction, Girls State provides a preview of college life. Citizens live in dormitories, share facilities, and dine in the university cafeteria – an experience that fosters independence and community.

With approximately 200 young women attending from across Minnesota, the program emphasizes both opportunity and responsibility. Citizens are encouraged to bring their new knowledge back to their schools and communities, strengthening civic awareness at home.

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

Written By: Hazel Koepp

First I'll tell you why America's 250th birthday is important. Then, why veterans are important.

First up, America's 250th birthday is important to us because we've stayed united for 250 years, while other countries haven't stayed united. One major freedom we enjoy is the freedom to speak our mind, without having to hide what we think. That freedom to speak our mind matters, if we lived in a world where we couldn't present our thoughts in any way, what kind of world would we be living in? I wouldn't want to live in *that* kind of world.

Next up is why veterans are so important. Veterans are important because so many of them didn't come back from war, and many came home severely wounded. Because of veterans we have the rights to do all of the things that I described previously. Veterans fought off all of the people that would have tried to take away those freedoms. A few ways to honor and thank our veterans could be: a simple "thank you for your service / sacrifice for us", writing a note / letter, or making dinner for them.

As America celebrates 250 years as a united country, we must never forget all of the sacrifices that veterans have made for us. All of those reasons mean the world to me. I'm hoping we can make the world a better place by honoring our veterans.



One of the Third District American Essay winners

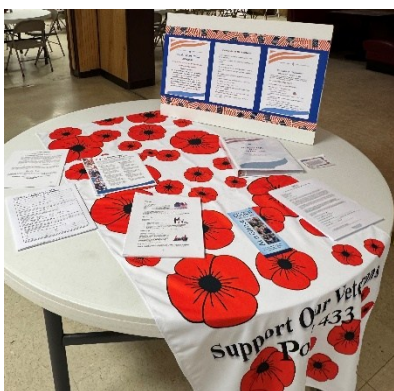
From Gaylord Unit 433

The National Executive Committee passed Resolution No. 7, American Legion Family Day, at its fall meeting in October 2022. The resolution established an American Legion Family Day to be observed annually on the last Saturday of April wherein posts are encouraged to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of American Legion Family, including Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion, Legion Riders, and the American Legion Auxiliary and to bring awareness to the organization's "Be the One" initiative to reduce the rate of veteran suicide.

On Saturday, April 25th, the Manthey-Asmus American Legion Post No. 433 in Gaylord held a family-friendly event featuring:

- a spaghetti supper (free-will donation);
- silent auction;
- resources available to veterans, service members and their families;
- information re: American Legion programs and projects;
- membership details; and
- plenty of kids' games/activities.

Honoring our heroes, celebrating our families.



Poppy Poster Contest Winners – 2026

During April, the Edward Born American Legion Auxiliary Unit 343 and Young America VFW Unit 1783 hosted their annual Poppy Poster Contest for local **6th grade students**. This year, 74 students from **Central Middle School** (ISD #108) in Norwood Young America MN participated, creating a variety of beautiful and patriotic posters.

On Monday, May 4, committee members from the veteran's organizations met to select the winners.

The winners are as follows:

- Grand Champion – Olivia Hartman
- 1st Place – Avery Alsleben
- 2nd Place – Jessica Duenow
- 3rd Place – Katelyn Litfin



The Poppy Posters will be displayed at Citizens State Bank in Norwood Young America through Memorial Day weekend.

From **Poppy Day on May 15 through Memorial Day, May 31**, volunteers will distribute millions of handmade small red poppies. These symbolic flowers are offered in exchange for donations that directly support disabled and hospitalized veterans, as well as service members currently serving and their families.

We encourage everyone to take a poppy and wear it proudly! The red poppy has served as a national symbol of remembrance and sacrifice since World War I, honoring all who served and those who gave their lives for our country.

