



Happy New Year to all 3rd District Members

A BIG Thank you to all 15 Units and everyone who has donated to my project for the, Hasting Veterans Home (Landscaping) and the St. Peter Regional Treatment (Disc Golf Couse). I am over halfway there to the goal. My goal is \$4,000.00 dollars

I am hoping to see many of you on January 24, 2026, at the Mid-Winter Conference at the Lonsdale American Legion Post 586, the program starts at 9:30 a.m. Please let everyone know that our mid-winter conference is changing this year. First, we will have a joint session with the Legion and the Sons of the Legion. There will be a guest Speaker, his name is Boima Freeman from the Minnesota Department of Commerce. He will be covering fraud and fraud prevention. The cost for lunch will be \$15.00.

Look for the registration, in this newsletter, Facebook or on our website. There will be a prize to win. The Auxiliary will have a new format which will be more of teaching, instructional and informational meeting. Hope to see a good showing from all the 3rd District units.

I was invited to attend and was part of the new member initiation ceremony at St. Paul Park American Legion Auxiliary Unit 98. It was nice to see the unit grow and visit with these new members.

I was invited to attend the Silver Lake American Legion Auxiliary Unit 141 meeting. It was a very nice meeting, and it was fun to visit with the members of the unit.

I attended the Department Pearl Harbor Family Gathering at the Buffalo American Legion Post 270. It was nice to see other District members and those from around the state. They talked about membership at the National Department, District and Unit levels. The Honorary Department Junior President talked about the history of Pearl Harbor. The lunch was served by the Buffalo American Legion.

There was also information shared about the Armed Forces Service center and how they escort the remains of our fallen service members. There was a lot of other information shared. Donations were collected to send packages to Qatar for our service members that are unable to be home for Christmas,

I joined the Chaska American Legion Unit 57 on December 13th to participate in the Wreath Across American at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. This was my first time ever doing this at Fort Snelling and it was an experience that I will never forget. This is one way we can pay respect to our veterans who did so much for our country. Have a wonderful New Year,

Ann Bovy Third District President





Reflecting on Connections and Setting New Year Goals

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! As we celebrate the start of a new year, the well-known song "Auld Lang Syne" comes to mind. Its opening verse asks:

Should old acquaintance be forgot
and never brought to mind?
Should old acquaintances be forgot
in days of auld lang syne?

Let these words inspire us tonight to set a personal goal for the New Year: let's make an effort to stay connected with our Legion Family. Consider reaching out to a member you haven't seen at a meeting this fall, perhaps with a simple phone call. If we all take on the challenge of calling just one person each month, we could spread cheer and maybe encourage members to return to meetings.

Reminders for Chairmen: Midwinter Reports

I want to remind all chairmen that their reports for Midwinter are due before January 15th. Please keep your reports to one page, as we will be compiling a Midwinter booklet that will be emailed exclusively to our Third District Units.

Looking Forward to Midwinter

Midwinter is approaching, and I am excited for this year's event. Working on a new agenda and seeking creative ways to make it engaging is always enjoyable. I hope the topics we have planned will be helpful to the units, and I encourage every unit to send a representative to check out the new agenda. You never know—someone might inspire you to take action in your own unit.

Year-End Impact Reports and "Just Ask" Segment

By now, unit presidents should have received their Year-End Impact Report forms, along with chairman reports. Between now and Midwinter, please review the paperwork and come prepared with any questions. We will have a segment dedicated to answering your questions, called "Just Ask."

Sharing Unit News and Newsletter Submissions

A reminder to all Third District members: you are encouraged to share your unit's events in the newsletter, on our Facebook page, and on our website. Please submit your information by the 15th of the month to ensure it appears in the following newsletter, Facebook update, and website post. Please do not send your article in a PDF format. If the newsletter becomes too lengthy, your article may be moved to the next month's edition.

Website Update

Be sure to check out our work-in-progress website for the latest updates and information.

Third District Secretary

Karla



January Prayer Tamara Thayer, Chaplain



Lord, as we reflect back on a busy season, we thank you for these amazing Auxiliary members who give of their time, talent, and donations to make Christmas a celebration for our service members at home and abroad. We are so thankful for the many hours spent placing wreaths on graves, serving veterans meals, sending Christmas gifts and care packages, volunteering at the Gift Shops, doing buddy visits to make sure our veterans have a joyful holiday, and all the other ways our members have given of themselves to celebrate Christmas making spirits bright.

Heavenly Father, as we step into this New Year, we thank you for the gift of another year to serve our veterans, military, and their families; guide our hands, strengthen our resolve, and bless our efforts to uplift our communities, mentor our youth, and uphold the values of patriotism and good citizenship, that we may bring peace and hope.

Lord, may 2026 bring a fresh new start to renew our spirits to serve with dedication. Guide our units as we plan, inspire us to reach out to those in need, and grant us wisdom to build a stronger, more unified American Legion Auxiliary for the year ahead. Bless our members and the heroes we honor.

May the joy and hope of a Happy New Year fill our homes, strengthen our bonds of friendship, and inspire us to continue our patriotic work in the New Year.

In Your name we pray, Amen.



Diane Jankowski here, 3rd District Oratorical Chair.

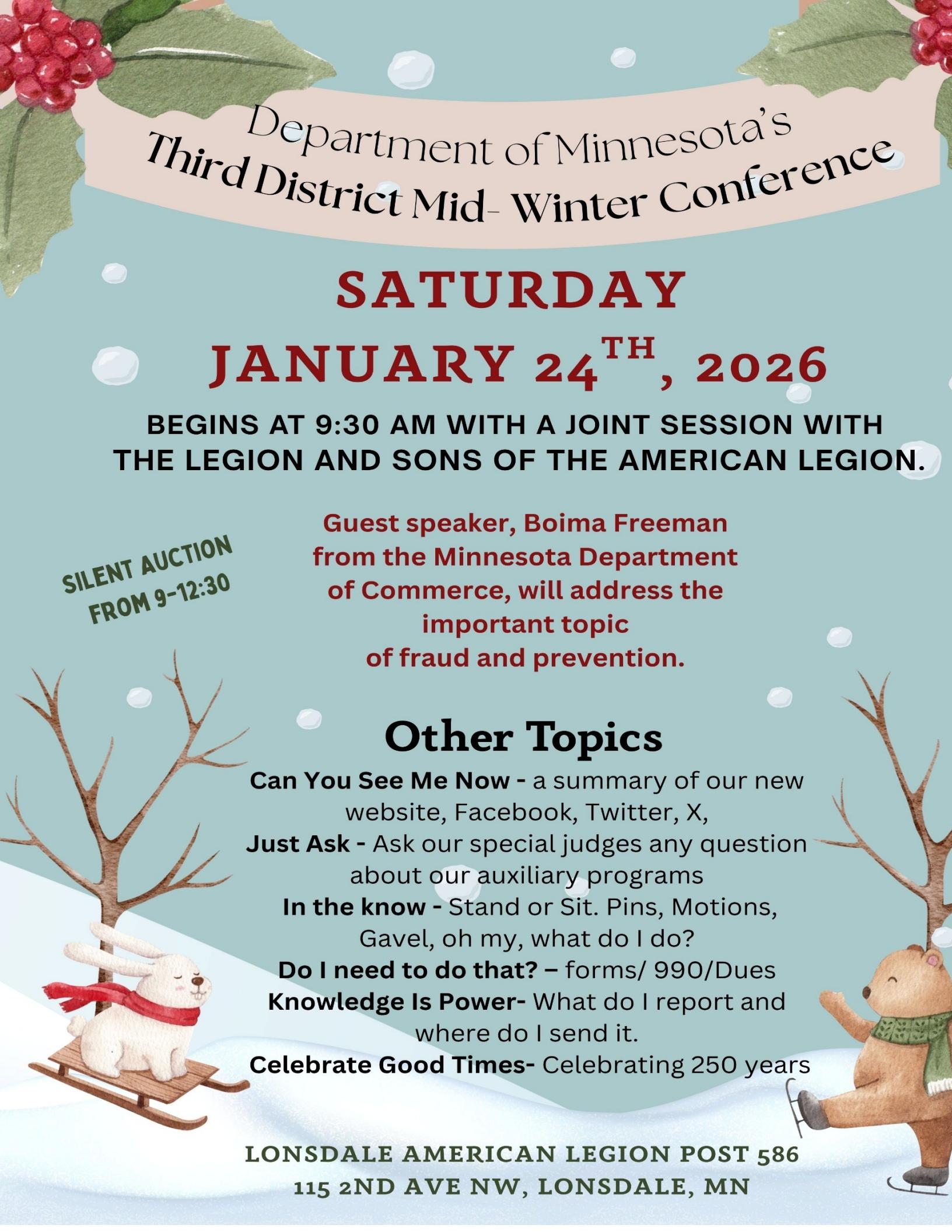
I am writing to let you know that the 3rd District Oratorical Contest is scheduled for 7 February 2026.

This will be held at the St. Paul Park American Legion.

Arrival time is 0930 and start time is 10:00am.

We could use as many volunteers as possible.

Please have everyone who would like to participate email me or call me at 612-227-6506.



Department of Minnesota's
Third District Mid-Winter Conference

SATURDAY
JANUARY 24TH, 2026

**BEGINS AT 9:30 AM WITH A JOINT SESSION WITH
THE LEGION AND SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION.**

**SILENT AUCTION
FROM 9-12:30**

**Guest speaker, Boima Freeman
from the Minnesota Department
of Commerce, will address the
important topic
of fraud and prevention.**

Other Topics

Can You See Me Now - a summary of our new website, Facebook, Twitter, X,

Just Ask - Ask our special judges any question about our auxiliary programs

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- Celebrating 250 years

**LONSDALE AMERICAN LEGION POST 586
115 2ND AVE NW, LONSDALE, MN**

Third District Mid-Winter Conference 2026 Official Pre-Registration

The 2026 Third District Mid-Winter Conference will take place at Post 586, Lonsdale American Legion, located at 115 – 2nd Ave. NW, Lonsdale, MN 55046. The venue is one block north of the Veteran's Memorial on Main Street. The conference is scheduled for **Saturday, January 24, 2026**, and will start at 9:30 AM

This conference is open to all members of the Third District Family. The morning session will begin with a joint gathering.

Guest speaker Boima Freeman from the Minnesota Department of Commerce will address the conference. He will provide valuable insights into fraud and prevention.

To register for the conference, please complete the official pre-registration form. Only one registration blank should be submitted per person.

Mail completed forms to:

American Legion Post 586
Attn: 3rd District Mid-Winter Conference
PO Box 66
Lonsdale, MN 55963
Phone: 507-744-2387

Checks for lunch should be payable to American Legion Post 586 Conference.

We would appreciate receiving your registration by January 12, 2026. However, walk-ins are certainly welcome.

- Lunch cost is \$15.00
- POST _____ UNIT _____ SQUAD# _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Adress: _____

- One registration blank per person

THIRD DISTRICT AUXILIARY IS CHANGING THINGS UP!!!

Chairman will not be giving *their reports. Instead, they have been asked to submit the report in writing so they can be published. There will be no hard copy printed, only emailed copy of their report.*

Please bring friends and family and join us for an educational Saturday.

Units who won traveling awards last May, it's time to turn them in. Please bring them to Mid-Winter.

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.



Leadership Workshop

Saturday, February 21. from 10 to 3.

Mary Kuperus will be in charge of the workshop. It will be held at the **Cosmos Community Center**

This will be hosted by Cosmos and Hutchinson. Look for more details in the Dept. newsletter.

JOIN THE FUN

Join the First and Third District as the Legion hosts a joint rally

January 31, 2026
Time 10: 00

Lunch will be available cost to be determined

at Post 43 Faribault
112 5th ST NE

507-334-8784

Mighty Minnow Racing is back



Past Presidents Parley by Linda Kelly

Who: Sponsored by your Past Presidents Parley

What: An event to help our units complete their annual reports

When: Saturday, September 19, 2026

Where: Shakopee American Legion

Goal: To make completing the annual reports a joy, not a task

Please mark your calendars and encourage several members of your unit to join us for a fun and learning experience.

We will be looking for members that have chaired the programs in the past and can man a table for that program.

Details to follow

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
95	Glencoe	13	\$26.00	
408	Green Isle	32	\$64.00	
47	Hastings	30	\$60.00	
300	Lafayette	18	\$36.00	
149	Morristown	103	\$206.00	
510	Nicollet	48	\$96.00	
447	Prior Lake	8	\$16.00	
407	Winsted	40	\$80.00	
		292	\$584.00	

DISTRICT DUES
Received as of 12-15-2025

Well, we are almost there. There are only 8 Units left that have not sent in their 3rd District dues for the year 2025. Per the 3rd District Standing Rules, these dues were due by December 1, 2025, and have not been received as of December 15th 2025. This information has been in the newsletter each month since September.

Each of these units shown to the left have been contacted and asked to pay their District dues which are shown in the 4th column under Amount Due. These dues were collected with the 2025 membership renewal between August 1st, 2024, through July 31st, 2025. The membership for the unit for the year 2025 is shown in the 3rd Column under 7/31/2025 Mbrshp and this information was provided by the Department in the final membership bulletin for the year 2025 at the end of July. There are no bills sent out to the units by U S Mail. This is the bill for the unit. The unit may also have receive email notifications sent to the President and Treasurer when the District Dues had not been paid by November. In the November Newsletter there was also a 2025-2026 District Dues and Donation form that can be printed and filled out and sent with the check. Please send your District Dues in ASAP. Thank You

Donations as of		Pres	Pres	3rd Dist	St Peter
	11/15/2025	Project	Project	Honorary	Spring Fling
Unit #	Unit Name	Hastings	St Peters	Jr Pres Proj	Christmas Pty
207	Cleveland			\$100.00	
311	Elysian	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$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		
	Cash Donations	\$5.00			
	Personal donation	\$100.00	\$100.00		
	Cash Donations			\$120.00	
	Cash Donations		\$40.00		
	Mr &Mrs Sauerbrey	\$200.00			
	Total	\$1,865.00	\$1,515.00	\$640.00	\$130.00

District Project Donations
Received as of 12-15-2025

Here are the donations for the 3rd District Projects. If you or your unit would like to donate, you can send the check with the 2025-2026 District Dues and Donation form found in the November newsletter. If you have any questions, please call Teri or email her at the number and email address below. The form can be printed, filled out and sent with the check with the name of the project in the memo and send the donation too.

3rd District Treasurer
Teri Richardson
200 Hallam Av S
Mahtomedi MN 55115
651-429-3885
dist3auxiliaryfinance@outlook.com

Community Service, Barb Van Eyll, chair

Yes, I am aware that March is Community Service month but let's not wait till then to practice Community Service, this program is a vital part that all Units should be participating in throughout the year. It has been a major outreach program of the Auxiliary since 1926. Community Service demonstrates our longstanding commitment to making our communities better places to live, as we support the work of American Legion posts and other organizations in local service projects. Don't forget to include your junior members when appropriate and always wear your auxiliary pins, shirts, vests, anything that identifies you as an auxiliary member.

Samples of Community Service:

- Singing in the church choir and/or teaching Sunday school.
- Volunteering with other groups or organizations such as Red Cross with blood drives, first aid and CPR training, child safety training, women's shelters, local hospitals, libraries, historical society.
- Are you a Scout leader, teachers aid, coach in school or park district?
- Are you a volunteer fire fighter? A wife, mother or sister of one and have prepared food/service as needed in disaster and emergencies
- Planning/volunteering with events like a 5k run, a raffle or dinner or golf tournaments to raise money for a hospital, nursing home or other entities in the community, Community Easter Egg Hunts, Christmas parties, Halloween parties, funeral dinners.
- Helping out at local food shelves, food drives, clothing drives, bible study groups, you donating blood, nursing home donations, cleaning up roads and parks,
- Serving on community boards such as park, planning, historical preservation.

Whatever you do, please remember to keep track of your volunteer hours, report all to your Unit Community Services Chairman. Members do so much, and we need to let our community know what we do, by identifying yourself as an American Legion Auxiliary member. Above all, have fun and enjoy what you do. Smiles are contagious.

Units reporting the best Community Service Program will be considered for the 3rd District Juanita Lutz, Community Service Award.

Please Note: Barb submitted this article for the December newsletter, and I missed getting it in. Sorry Barb, Thanks for your patience.

VA&R by Linda Kelly

VA&R is alive and well. Yes, the gift shops are over, but I know that our home and hospital reps are busy planning for their next event. Donations to the VA&R program are always welcome, but please remember to send them into the Department Office, so your contributions can be included in our numbers.

Remember that poppy funds and gambling funds can both be used for VA&R. Please make note on your check that it is for the general fund. Thank you for your consideration.

🏁 The Amazing Race: Second Half Sprint!

We're closing out 2025 and racing into 2026 with energy and excitement! The Amazing Race is officially in its second half—let's finish strong together

⌚ Don't Miss Out—Renew Your Membership!

Time is running out! To keep your continuous membership and be eligible for an Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) grant in 2026, make sure your dues are paid before January 1, 2026.

🎁 Pay easily online: # [Members](#)

Let's start the year with everyone on board

🏆 Milestone Magic—Congratulations!

16 units hit the Pearl Harbor Milestone of 80% by December 6th—amazing job!

Three units have already reached or exceeded 100% membership—special shoutout to Team 2 Carver/Scott! 🎉

Let's keep the momentum going and celebrate every win

🥇 First Half Award Recap

🍁 40% by Fall Rally: \$25 drawing – Unit #141 Silver Lake

🍁 First to 60% by Fall Conference: \$50 – Unit #143 Brownton

⚓ 80% by Pearl Harbor Rally: \$50 drawing – Unit #98 St Paul Park

Your awards are on their way—enjoy your well-deserved recognition

🌟 New Year's Membership Resolutions

Will you plan an American Legion Family Day event in April?

Will you reach out to reconnect with members who haven't attended in a while?

ALAMIS units: Will you contact your snowbirds for updated addresses, so everyone stays in the loop?

Let's make 2026 our most connected and caring year yet

📌 Monthly Tip

Take time to enjoy the holiday season with your friends and family. Wishing you warmth, joy, and

togetherness as we ring in the New Year

💡 Share Your Festive Ideas!

Have a creative way to boost membership? Email me at <j.l.cluckey@outlook.com>—your ideas could be

featured in upcoming newsletters

🥂 Cheers to a Bright 2026!

Happy New Year,
Jeorgia Cluckey

Dakota/Washington		Wendy Arend & Sherri Hernandez						
UNIT	CITY	Department Member Goal	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT	Dist 80% by 12/6	Dept 85% by 3/15/26
1776	Apple Valley	263	2	159	161	61.22%		
491	Bayport	88	1	48	49	55.68%		
594	Eagan	11	0	1	1	9.09%		
189	Farmington	29	0	28	28	96.55%	11/18/2025	11/18/2025
225	Forest Lake	200	1	169	170	85.00%	12/9/2025	12/9/2025
47	Hastings	28	0	21	21	75.00%		
620	Hugo	68	1	56	57	83.82%	12/16/2025	
424	Inver Grove Heights	8	0	5	5	62.50%		
65	Rosemount	59	2	40	42	71.19%		
98	St Paul Park	130	11	105	116	89.23%	11/15/2025	11/25/2025
507	Willemie	49	8	35	43	87.76%	11/18/2025	11/18/2025
	Team Total/Average	933	26	667	693	74.28%		

TEAM 2	Carver/Scott	Diane Mackenthun & Joanne Joachim							
UNIT	CITY	Department Member Goal	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT	Dist 80% by 12/6	Dept 85% by 3/15/26	
0144	Belle Plaine	102	6	61	67	65.69%			
0580	Chanhassen	75	0	50	50	66.67%			
0057	Chaska	158	0	102	102	64.56%			
0601	New Germany	19	1	18	19	100.00%	10/25/2025	10/25/2025	
0343	Norwood	22	3	20	23	104.55%	10/25/2025	10/25/2025	
0447	Prior Lake	8	0	3	3	37.50%			
0643	Savage	58	0	39	39	67.24%			
0002	Shakopee	76	0	63	63	82.89%	11/11/2026		
0150	Waconia	79	0	80	80	101.27%	11/4/2025	11/4/2025	
	Team Total/Average	597	10	436	446	74.71%			

TEAM 3	McLeod/Sibley	Karla Otterness & Deanna Meyers							
UNIT	CITY	Department Member Goal	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT	Dist 80% by 12/6	Dept 85% by 3/15/26	
0143	Brownston	18	0	17	17	94.44%	9/30/2025	11/25/2025	
0433	Gaylord	52	1	33	34	65.38%			
0095	Glencoe	14	0	0	0	0.00%			
0408	Green Isle	33	0	23	23	69.70%			
0096	Hutchinson	170	11	97	108	63.53%			
0141	Silver Lake	64	0	54	54	84.38%	12/16/2025		
0125	Stewart	36	2	27	29	80.56%	10/30/2025		
0407	Winsted	42	1	16	17	40.48%			
0314	Winthrop	23	0	19	19	82.61%	12/9/2025		
	Team Total/Average	452	15	286	301	66.59%			

TEAM 4	LeSueur/Nicollet	Kelly Klaus							
UNIT	CITY	Department Member Goal	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT	Dist 80% by 12/6	Dept 85% by 3/15/26	
0207	Cleveland	39	0	30	30	76.92%			
0311	Elysian	176	9	117	126	71.59%			
0380	Kilkenny	12	0	8	8	66.67%			
0300	Lafayette	19	0	14	14	73.68%			
0108	Le Center	111	7	95	102	91.89%	11/25/2025	12/16/2025	
0079	Montgomery	138	3	89	92	66.67%			
0045	New Prague	67	1	58	59	88.06%	11/25/2025	11/25/2025	
0510	Nicollet	59	0	40	40	67.80%			
0518	North Mankato	82	0	49	49	59.76%			
0037	Saint Peter	73	1	41	42	57.53%			
	Team Total/Average	776	21	541	562	72.42%			

TEAM 5	Rice/Goodhue	Gina Little							
UNIT	CITY	Department Member Goal	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT	Dist 80% by 12/6	Dept 85% by 3/15/26	
0043	Faribault	168	3	113	116	69.05%			
0586	Lonsdale	77	3	57	60	77.92%			
0149	Morrstown	89	4	76	80	89.89%	12/2/2025	12/2/2025	
0084	Northfield	34	3	24	27	79.41%			
0184	Pine Island	94	1	69	70	74.47%			
0054	Red Wing	170	0	113	113	66.47%			
	Team Total/Average	632	14	452	466	73.73%			

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY THIRD DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA
PROUDLY PRESENTS OUR SECOND....

Poppy Palooza

WACONIA AMERICAN LEGION POST 150
4 E. MAIN ST #1, WACONIA, MN 55387

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11TH
1PM-5PM

COME CELEBRATE, LEARN, AND CONNECT WITH OTHERS, WHILE EXPLORING
THE IMPACTFUL ROLE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY IN HONORING
VETERANS THROUGH POPPIES!

NO EXPERIENCE
NEEDED WE'LL TEACH YOU!

Dabble in poppy trivia to test
your knowledge for your chance
to win prizes.

BE AN ARTIST AND PAINT A POPPY
ROCK TO HONOR YOUR VETERAN

SNACKS WILL
BE PROVIDED

Meet the inspiring
"Poppy Lady" and
discover her
remarkable story in
promoting the symbolic
significance of the
poppy flower.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY THIRD DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA
PROUDLY PRESENTS OUR THIRD ...

Poppy Palooza

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28TH
1PM TO 4PM

St Paul Park Post 98
328 Broadway AVE, St Paul Park, MN

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED WE'LL TEACH YOU!

Meet the inspiring "Poppy Lady"
and discover her remarkable
story in promoting the symbolic
significance of the poppy flower.

Dabble in poppy trivia to
test your knowledge for
your chance to win prizes.

SNACKS WILL
BE PROVIDED



—Tami Paul Poppy Chair

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season—full of family, friends, and maybe a little fun. If this last year has taught me anything, it is that life is really about the people you are surrounded by, not the stuff you own, and I'm very grateful for my Auxiliary Family.

I must give a HUGE shoutout to every unit that's hosted or is planning to host a Poppy Palooza. The Department only asked for one per district, but guess what? We said, "Let's make it four!" Our first event was back on October 18th in Forest Lake, where we made 1,000 poppies (yes, a thousand!). Up next: Post 150 in Waconia on Sunday, January 11th from 1PM–5PM, then Post 98 in St. Paul Park on February 28th from 1PM–4PM, and we'll wrap things up at Post 207 in Cleveland on March 21st from 10AM–2PM.

It's not always about being #1... but I think we've got a real shot at winning the department's poppy challenge! And remember—whether you make a hundred poppies or just one, you're making a real difference in a veteran's life.

The Poppy Lady and I can't wait to see you in Waconia on January 11th!

2026/2027 Third District Officer Nominations

President



We are writing to endorse Cavalene Regan for the position of President of the American Legion Auxiliary 3rd District. Throughout her tenure with our organization, Cavalene has demonstrated exceptional dedication, leadership, and commitment to our mission and values.

Cavalene Regan is eligible for membership through her father, Lee Goodyear, who served as a Master Sergeant in the Korean War and World War II. Additionally, her grandfather also served in World War I and the Korean War Boxer War. This legacy of service and dedication to our country is a testament to her commitment to the values and mission of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota.

As a mother of three children, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren, Cavalene Regan is a proud PUFL (Paid Up For Life) member and a relatively young auxiliary member in years. Her passion for the American Legion Family's mission to support our veterans, their families, and our community is truly inspiring. Over the past twelve years, she has been actively involved at the Unit, District, and Department levels, serving as chairman, executive committee member, chaplain, vice president, and president. For the last three years, she has served on the department finance committee.

Cavalene has been instrumental in the success of our Unit's programs and initiatives. She has been invaluable to our Unit and will continue to be as she looks to serve the Department as 2nd Vice President.

Forest Lake Unit #225 wholeheartedly supports Cavalene Regan's candidacy and believes her continued involvement in this great organization will greatly benefit the American Legion Auxiliary 3rd District.

First Vice President Candidate



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 225 endorses Wendy Arend as Minnesota Third District First Vice President for the 2026-2027 year. Wendy Arend is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 225 in Forest Lake, MN. She is the current Chaplain and sits on the Standing Rules Committee for Unit 225 and is a past Unit President. She was the 2024-25 Minnesota Third District VA&R Chair. She is the 2025-26 Minnesota Third District National Security Chair and sits on the Constitution & Bylaws Committee for the Third District.

Wendy is eligible through her late husband, younger brother, and three adult children. In 2023, Wendy married Dave Arend, Sons of the American Legion National VA&R Committee Member and Detachment Membership Director. They reside in Forest Lake with their dogs, cat, and chickens. They often volunteer together at various events.

As a Death Investigator for the medical examiner's office, Wendy responds to death scenes and determines the initial cause and manner of death. As a last responder, Wendy has seen the devastating effects of veteran suicide. Wendy encourages everyone in the Legion family to, "Be The One."

Training and education are important in Wendy's personal and professional life. She is a clinical psychology doctoral candidate; The focus of Wendy's PhD dissertation is Veterans Treatment Courts and its impact on veterans. She also holds a Forensic Psychology MS, Criminal Offender Behavior BS, Homeland Security BS, Crime Scene Evidence AAS, and Homeland Security AAS.

First Vice President Candidate



My Name is Sally Strasser, I am a 30 year member of the American Legion Auxiliary. I am eligible for membership through my late father Walter Zambiano. He was in the Army Air Cop. During WWII

At the Unit level I was president for 10 years also, I was secretary and held many chairmanship such as Girls State, Juniors, Poppy and assisted with many other chairmanships. At the district level I was 2nd Vice President, First Vice President and while I was first vice president, I was responsible for membership which was 2005/2006. I was District President in 2006/2007 also, at the district level I have held other chairmanship such as; juniors and presently I am the Third District Histroy Chairman.

At Department level I have been on the Girls State Committee for 2 years, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, gift Shop for 2 years. I was part of the VA&R , Field Service and Community Service and also Histroy chairman.

I am asking for your supportas District 1st Vice President.

Second Vice President candidate

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.

Executive Committee Candidate



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.

Executive Committee Candidate



The American Legion Auxiliary Unit #98 of St. Paul Park proudly endorses Jeorgia Cluckey for the Minnesota Third District Executive Board for the 2026–2027 term.

Jeorgia has been a dedicated member of Unit #98 since 2019. Her leadership and commitment to the mission of the Auxiliary are evident through her service as 2nd Vice President, three consecutive terms as Unit President, is a current member of the Executive Board and her roles as Chair for Public Relations, Leadership, Poppies and Past President Parley. At the district level, she served as the 2024–2025 Third District Public Relations Chair and currently holds the position of 2025–2026 Membership Chair.

Jeorgia's eligibility for membership is through her grandfather who served in WWII and the Army Reserves. Her connection to the Auxiliary runs deep—her mother was a member in the 1970s in St. Croix Falls, WI, and Jeorgia herself volunteered at the Post for many years alongside her sisters, even before officially joining.

Professionally, Jeorgia brings over 18 years of experience at UnitedHealthcare, where she currently serves as a Regulatory Affairs Consultant. Her organizational skills, strategic thinking, and dedication to service have greatly benefited Unit #98, where she remains actively involved in volunteering, event planning, fundraising, and program leadership.

Jeorgia resides in South St. Paul with her husband, Clint. Her passion for the Auxiliary and her proven leadership makes her an outstanding candidate for the Third District Executive Board.

We wholeheartedly support her candidacy and are confident she will continue to serve with integrity, enthusiasm, and excellence.



Endorsement for Jeorgia Cluckey Unit #98, St. Paul Park – Third District

The members of Unit #98 of the American Legion Auxiliary, located in St. Paul Park and representing the Third District, proudly endorse Jeorgia Cluckey as a Delegate for the 2026–2027 American Legion Auxiliary National Convention.

Jeorgia has demonstrated exceptional dedication to the mission and values of the American Legion Auxiliary. Her leadership, commitment to service, and active participation in unit and district activities make her an outstanding representative for our organization at the national level. We are confident that Jeorgia will serve with integrity, professionalism, and enthusiasm, contributing positively to the success of the National Convention.

Endorsed by:
American Legion Auxiliary Unit #98
St. Paul Park – Third District

Stephanie K. Kuttchen 12-1-2025
Unit 98 President

Sharon Gangren 12-1-2025 Secretary

Dear American Legion Family -

I am happy to share that I exceeded my donation goal of \$800 for my project this year. My current total raised is \$942.66. I am so grateful to all those who have donated including various Units in the state.

These funds are contributing to Ann Bovvy's project for the building of a flower garden at the Hastings Veterans home, and I am happy that we can send her this additional money.

I also wanted to talk about the Junior District event that took place in October at Post 98. For those who weren't able to make it, we played fun games such as trivia and "pin the poppy". After that, we headed for a tour of the Aliveo Military Museum. It was really interesting to see the different weapons, photographs, and uniforms from past wars. I would recommend making a visit if you are in the area.

Thank you,

Mae Wright
Honorary Junior District President



Hutchinson Unit 96 provided the free community meal December 17. A Christmas meal was made with ham, cheesy hash brown potatoes, corn, caesars salad, bun, and desserts. We received many compliments!!!

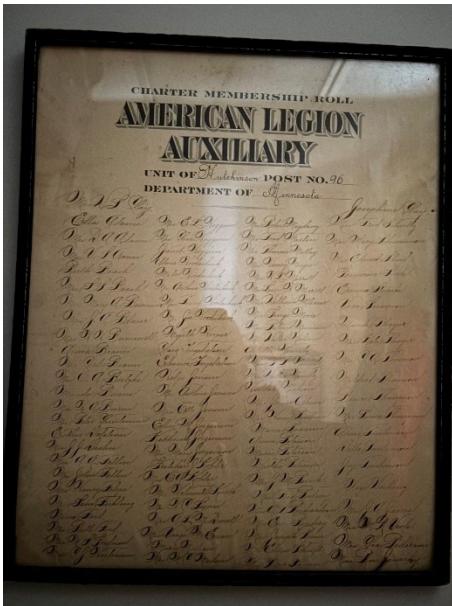


Apple Valley Unit 1776

Janet Thompson of unit 1776 delivered water proof mittens and heavy sweat pants to Virginia Fritz social worker at Westview Elementary School valued at \$300.00



Apple Valley ALA Unit 1776 has contributed \$2,000 to the local food shelves. Here Chaplain Janet Thompson, presented a \$1,000 check to Linda Thompson of the 360 Communities food shelf at Messiah Lutheran Church in Lakeville.



Hutchinson Unit 96

Here's our picture of our Charter membership which is hung in our office.

District President Ann, attended the new member Initiation on December 1st at Unit #98 in St Paul Park





PHOTO BY LYNN LAUER

American Legion Auxiliary members, from left, Donna Telecky and Judy Brandt delivered a basket of thanks to Ridgewater College staff Kris Smutka, Felicia Telecky and Tara Stey.

Legion Auxiliary delivers baskets of thanks

BY KAY JOHNSON

kajohnson@cherryroad.com

During American Education Week Nov. 17-21, members of the American Legion Auxiliary in Hutchinson delivered heartfelt thanks and 19 baskets of goodies to staff at Hutchinson's public and parochial schools. This is a longtime American Legion Auxiliary tradition that honors and supports educators and education initiatives.

American Education Week is

an annual observance established in 1921 by the National Education Association. It was created in response to concerns after World War I, when reports showed that 25% of draftees were illiterate and 9% were physically unfit.

The first American Education Week took place Dec. 4-10, 1921, with the National Education Association and the American Legion as cosponsors. It's a relationship that continues to this day.

SMOKERS ALI ESS

114 Main Street Hutchinson
320-587-4449



The Waconia American Legion, Post 150, Legionnaires and Auxiliary had a group 14 out of 20, brave souls that braved the cold today to lay wreaths at Fort Snelling. This is our 4th year participating. We started with only two Auxiliary members 4 years ago and had the most of both groups this year.

This year we had the honor of doing Grave Specific wreath placement. We did 92 wreaths in section 31. It was very gratifying to help families place wreaths they purchased for their loved one.

I hope we can keep growing our volunteer numbers to be an asset for the Wreaths Across America program and honoring deceased Veterans.



Waconia Unit 150 presented 3 Quilts of Honor to local veterans on Thursday, December 4, thanking them for their service

