

Preamble to the Constitution of the ALA

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes.

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion; to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Our Mission

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

American Legion Auxiliary THIRD DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025

President Tamara Thayer

Happy New Year

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and enjoyed the season. Thank you all for the variety of ways you have carried out my president's theme by "Bringing Smiles to Veterans" this past year. As you make your New Year's Resolutions for this year, add a resolution to Bring Smiles to Veterans. I look forward to hearing what ideas you have for the new year.

Midwinter will be January 25th in Lonsdale. Will the 3rd District Chairs please bring a trifold describing your program? If you cannot make it to Midwinter, please send a copy of your report to both Karla Otterness and myself so it can be included in the agenda to be read. We will have our last contest to see which unit can bring in the largest donation of dental care supplies. These items can be toothbrushes, floss, small bottles of mouth wash, toothpaste, etc. Our Junior Honorary President Evelyn Koran will use those donations to make more dental care kits to be handed out at our last dental clinic.

My president's activities this past month included participating in the new member initiation ceremony at St Paul Park, attending the Pearl Harbor Rally in Spicer, and I attended the Bayport Christmas Bake Sale. The Forest Lake High School theater put on "White Christmas" and since the play is about veterans the director invited local veteran organizations to have a display table at each of 6 performances. Both the Forest Lake Auxiliary, and their Post had a table, also the Wounded Warrior organization, their local Veteran Memorial table, and I set up my author vendor table selling my autographed patriotic books to donate the proceeds to their local Poppy Program. Kudos to the theater director for reaching out and supporting the veteran organizations.

Please remind the veterans in your area of the next free dental clinic and encourage them to sign up now. I sent the link for the poster by email to all the unit presidents in our district so please contact me if you didn't get one.





Officers

President Tamara Thayer

TLTHAYER@GMAIL.COM

First Vice President Ann Bovy

ABOVYAUXILIARY@CENTURYLINK.NET

Second Vice President Deb Chicos

DEBCHICOSLEGION@GMAIL.COM

Executive Committee

Kelly Kauss

MKKAUSS@YAHOO.COM

WENDY AREND

WHISKEYDELTA2023@GMAIL.COM

Junior President Evelyn Koran

Junior Past President Deanna Meyer

DEEESTAR@HOTMAIL.COM

Secretary Karla Otterness

T.D.NEWS2SHARE@GMAIL.COM

Parliamentarian Barbara Klehr

BABSKLEHR@HOTMAIL.COM

Treasurer Diane Albers

diane.albers@ymail.com

Chaplain Deanna Meyer

DEEESTAR@HOTMAIL.COM

Sergeant at Arms Diane Mackenthun

DIANEMACKENTHUN8@YAHOO.COM

**Facebook and Newsletter
articles to be sent to**

T.D.NEWS2SHARE@GMAIL.COM

How do we carry out my President's Theme: Bringing Smiles to Veterans?

I continue to challenge you to think of the many ways we can bring smiles to veterans.

Three of the many ideas:

"Help them to be grateful for what they have instead of what they want" - anonymous

"Tell them a joke or two" - Carol Bachman

"Remind them that their service was special and greatly appreciated!"

- Bless you, Kathy

Please send me YOUR ideas to share in the next months newsletter.

Together, we are *Bringing Smiles to Veterans!*

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND
Mid-Winter Conference in Lonsdale
January 25, 2025

The 3rd District will be holding its annual Silent Auction for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund at Mid-Winter Conference. We are looking for new or gently used items to be donated from our members and Legion family. Please bring the donations with you to the 3rd District Mid-Winter Conference. We will have a table designated for drop-offs. As always, we will be accepting cash/check donations at the conference.

See you at Mid-Winter

Deb Chicos

3rd District Chairman - ALA Emergency Fund

Chaplain Deanna Meyer

Last month we celebrated the Birth of Jesus. This was a new beginning for mankind. Today we celebrate the new year. This can be a new beginning. It is a time when we can ask God for help in changing things that have been going on in our lives. One of those things we can do is to help our veterans deal with bad times. God can help them overcome what they have been through. Also, we can help the veterans and their families to overcome whatever they and their families are dealing with.

Dear Lord,

We thank you today for your love that you have shown us. I am personally asking that you help my niece who at 36 years old is fighting cancer. Things are not good. Thank you, Lord, for being there for all who are fighting health issues. We are so grateful for your love and caring. We have so many veterans who have been dealing with many issues. Lord, let this new year be a new beginning for our veterans and their families. Thank you, Lord for your love. In Jesus name, Amen.

Poppies by Linda Kelly, Chairman

Happy New Year!

Just as a reminder as the new year starts, think about how you can decorate through 2025 to remind people how important the poppy is to us. Valentine's Day is close approaching – make a valentine bouquet of poppies.

And, now what you have all been waiting for: our poppy contests. We will have two poppy contests at the Convention in May. I hope you will start planning early to be ready.

Since MN has a shortage of poppies and poppy makers, I hope you will think hard on how you can make your entries **WITHOUT** using a lot of poppies. In fact, Contest #1 is a display without using any actual poppies purchased from the Department office. I know that there are lots of options for you because I thought of 8 myself and you can probably add even more. My ideas are that you can sew, crocket, knit, draw, color, stamp, paint, or sculpture. Non-ALA poppies may be used (silk, paper, etc) – just **NO** American Legion Auxiliary poppies.

Contest #2 is in honor of President Judy's theme, "Back to the Basic: Recognize, Respect, Remember". Remember she is using building blocks. Again, please consider the number of poppies you use.

For those of you that were unable to attend Fall Conference, Judy's poppy-making event was awesome and so successful. Consider having a poppy event at your post. Invite members, scouts, crafters, and others in your community to a fun night making poppies. You never know – you may find people interested in helping us with our poppy shortage.

Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation by Wendy Arend chairman

On Saturday, December 14, 2024, American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) units partnered with Wreaths Across America to lay wreaths on the graves of military service men and women.

This effort reflects a beautiful tradition of honoring and remembering the sacrifices of U.S. military service members. The partnership between the ALA and Wreaths Across America is an excellent way to involve communities nationwide in ensuring that those who served are not forgotten. The \$17 sponsorship per wreath provides individuals an opportunity to personally contribute to this meaningful cause.

By laying wreaths and learning the stories of those who served, volunteers and donors keep the memories of these heroes alive. The invitation to view the stories or sponsor a wreath at WreathsAcrossAmerica.org opens the door for even more people to participate in this important mission.

Wendy Arend



Unit	Goal	Unit Name 12-9-2024	Paid	Percent
1776	265	Apple Valley	173	65.28%
491	89	Bayport	58	65.17%
144	105	Belle Plaine	68	64.76%
143	19	Brownton	16	84.21%
580	77	Chanhassen	61	79.22%
57	158	Chaska	108	68.35%
207	41	Cleveland	26	63.41%
594	13	Eagan	4	30.77%
311	180	Elysian	140	77.78%
43	171	Faribault	106	61.99%
189	31	Farmington	25	80.65%
225	202	Forest Lake	144	71.29%
433	55	Gaylord	28	50.91%
95	16	Glencoe	11	68.75%
408	35	Green Isle	5	14.29%
47	29	Hastings	15	51.72%
620	71	Hugo	43	60.56%
96	174	Hutchinson	155	89.08%
424	10	Inver Grove Hghts	5	50.00%
380	14	Kilkenny	8	57.14%
300	21	Lafayette	15	71.43%
108	112	LeCenter	94	83.93%
463	15	Lester Prairie	0	0.00%
586	79	Lonsdale	65	82.28%
507	51	Mahtomedi	34	66.67%
79	142	Montgomery	91	64.08%
149	89	Morristown	65	73.03%
601	21	New Germany	18	85.71%
45	68	New Prague	51	75.00%
510	60	Nicollet	43	71.67%
518	84	North Mankato	7	11.67%
84	36	Northfield	28	77.78%
343	24	Norwood	23	95.83%
184	89	Pine Island	66	74.16%
447	10	Prior Lake	7	70.00%
54	172	Red Wing	138	80.23%
65	57	Rosemount	45	78.95%
643	56	Savage	38	67.86%
2	78	Shakopee	55	70.51%
141	65	Silver Lake	60	92.31%
98	127	St Paul Park	100	78.74%
37	76	St Peter	4	5.26%
125	38	Stewart	33	86.84%
150	80	Waconia	57	71.25%
407	46	Winsted	25	54.35%
314	25	Winthrop	19	76.00%
	3476		2380	68.47%

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Hello Auxiliary Members

I hope you had a very nice Holiday with your family.

The information on the left side of the page is the unit membership and the percentage from the Department membership Bulletin sent on 12-9-2024.

There were 10 units that reached the 80% membership goal for the 3rd District drawing by December 7th at the Pearl Harbor Rally. The unit names were placed in the drawing for \$50.00. Congratulations to Silver Lake Unit 141 for winning the drawing.

The next 3rd District goal is 90% by February 8, 2025, at the Sweetheart Really at Royalton Post 137. All units who reach 90% will be put into the drawing for \$50.00. Remember to mail in membership to the Department or input into ALAMIS or the members may renew online at the National website. Please do not hold on to the membership, Gather the members around the areas and support our Veterans. Spread the word about our programs and what the Auxiliary does for our Veterans, children and communities. Let's all reach the next goal.

Have a wonderful New Year.

Ann Bovy
3rd District Membership Chairman

Upcoming goals Department 85%
February 8th, Third District 90% Third
District 100% by March 15th 2025

National Security

Karen Rasmussen, Chairman

One of the ways to help with our National Security is by respecting and honoring our active-duty service men and women. We have a unique opportunity to do so in Minnesota by supporting the Armed Forces Service Center at the MSP Airport with our donations and volunteering. We can coordinate with Beyond the Yellow Ribbon which helps families of deployed service members and the service members whatever their need. So many service members come back from deployment with horrible circumstances and a way to help is to donate to Believet Canine Service Partners. They exclusively train dogs to be service partners to veterans, those who are suffering the effects of PTSD, traumatic brain injury, missing limbs, etc. so the veteran can feel safe and secure in public and have assistance with daily tasks.

If possible, get the names of the young men and women who plan to enter the military after their high school graduation and honor them with red, white, and blue honor cords to wear at their Commencement. The parents can be given Blue Star Banners to remind us that war touches every neighborhood in our land.

Honoring and thanking First Responders in the community acknowledges that our national security starts in our hometowns. They appreciate treats and thank you cards. K-9 Officers, if any, can be given treats as well.

The County Commissioners in Rice County have declared the week of Veterans Day as “Operation Green Light” to honor our military and veterans. The idea is to exchange a bulb for a green one and potentially let it shine year-around. It is humbling to see the green lights around town, the “Support Our Troops” license plates, the American flags waving daily even when it’s not a holiday.

Give blood. There is a huge need. Donate time to a Red Cross Bloodmobile. Sponsor or attend First Aid and/or CPR classes. Does your community have Community Emergency Response Team training? This program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may occur where they live.

Does your community remember those service members who die by suicide, now up to an average of 25 every day? “Be the One” campaign is an awareness initiative for suicide prevention for our veterans and military. On the first of every month wear “Be the One” pin or t-shirt. On Fridays we remember our deployed by wearing red to **Remember Everyone Deployed**. We are reminded of military children when we see dandelions, and we wear purple to honor those military kids on April 15th.

Do you have ceremonies for Memorial Day and Veterans Day? Do you remember our POW-MIAs with a ceremony at Legion Family meals? Does your unit honor veterans who have served in war with a Quilt of Valor? Do you have Gold Star families? Do you have family members in your community of someone deployed and found some ways to support them?

“Operation Christmas Cards for Our Troops” is part of a nonprofit organization, the United Soldiers and Sailors of America, USASOA, that coordinates the sorting and sending bundles of Christmas cards it receives without envelopes to our deployed troops around the world so they can reach them by Christmas Day. Have members write a note of encouragement and Christmas greetings. If you have addresses available, send care packages.

Monetary support of “Wreaths Across America” for wreaths at Fort Snelling National Cemetery is a visible way of honoring our deceased military.

Can you think of a way to thank the mothers, wives, sisters, daughters, and widows of veterans on Valentine’s Day for their loving support and sacrifice they have given?

Anything that honors a veteran, one who has served in the past, is presently serving, or will in the future, strengthens as citizens, as a community and as a country, all for our National Security.

We remember, we honor, we serve.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Please see the list of outstanding Per Capita Dues. These were due in December, if you have not paid, please do so. Please make your check out to American Legion Auxiliary or ALA and put in the memo line what the check is for. The mailing address is listed below under my signature line.

It has been brought to my attention that some of you may have the wrong address for me, so please use the address below. If you have sent me a check and it hasn't been cashed, please reach out to me and let me know.

I have also included the donations received so far for the Presidents Project, Jr Presidents Project and the St. Peter Treatment Center.

A special shoutout to SAL Squadron 57 for their donation of \$150 to the Presidents project, Edna Thayer for her donation of \$1000 to the Presidents project, Post 311 for their donation of \$1000 to the Presidents project, Kim Carlander for her donation of \$100 to the Presidents project, Michael & Brenda Pittman for their donation of \$50 to the Presidents project, and Lynn Duffy for her donation of \$84.00 to the Jr Presidents project.

Please contact with me any questions!

Diane Albers - 3rd District Treasurer

10030 161st Street West, Lakeville MN 55044

952-250-8438

diane.albers@ymail.com

Donations

Unit #	Unit Name	Presidents Project	St Peter
45	New Prague	2,000.00	
57	Chaska		200.00
79	Montgomery	150.00	50.00
141	Silver Lake	25.00	
150	Waconia	2,000.00	
225	Forest Lake	500.00	
311	Elysian	1,500.00	
343	Norwood	40.00	
491	Bayport	500.00	
620	Hugo	500.00	
1776	Apple Valley		300.00

Per Capita Dues 2024-2055 still due

Unit #	Unit Name	Membership as of 7/31/2024	Per Capita \$2 per member	Junior Assessment \$3 per Unit	Total Due by December 1, 2024
2	Shakopee	75	\$150.00	\$3.00	\$153.00
45	New Prague	65	\$130.00	\$3.00	\$133.00
47	Hastings	28	\$56.00	\$3.00	\$59.00
54	Red Wing	166	\$332.00	\$3.00	\$335.00
65	Rosemount	56	\$112.00	\$3.00	\$115.00
98	St. Paul Park	123	\$246.00	\$3.00	\$249.00
108	LeCenter	109	\$218.00	\$3.00	\$221.00
143	Brownton	18	\$36.00	\$3.00	\$39.00
149	Morristown	86	\$172.00	\$3.00	\$175.00
184	Pine Island	93	\$186.00	\$3.00	\$189.00
189	Farmington	29	\$58.00	\$3.00	\$61.00
300	Lafayette	19	\$38.00	\$3.00	\$41.00
314	Winthrop	23	\$46.00	\$3.00	\$49.00
407	Winsted	42	\$84.00	\$3.00	\$87.00
408	Green Isle	33	\$66.00	\$3.00	\$69.00
424	Inver Grove Heights	8	\$16.00	\$3.00	\$19.00
463	Lester Prairie	13	\$26.00	\$3.00	\$29.00
510	Nicollet	58	\$116.00	\$3.00	\$119.00
518	North Mankato	81	\$162.00	\$3.00	\$165.00
586	Lonsdale	76	\$152.00	\$3.00	\$155.00
594	Eagan	11	\$22.00	\$3.00	\$25.00
643	Savage	55	\$110.00	\$3.00	\$113.00

Endorsements

For Third District President

ANN BOVY

The Lowell Stender, Post 601 New Germany MN wishes to announce their endorsement of Ann Bovy for position of Third District President.

Ann Bovy is eligible for membership through Father Roger Sauerbrey who served in the Army from 1962-1970.

She has been active member since 2009 and has been serving her unit 601 as President for 11 years. She was awarded the Third District Member of the Year award in 2019. Also, in 2019 their Unit receive the Women History Award for an article that Ann wrote. Ann takes great pride in being an American Legion Auxiliary member and helping veterans, their family, and our junior programs grow.

In Third District she has served as chairman: Americanism, Poppy for 3 years, Education, Service to Veterans for 2 years, Children and Youth, Public Relationship, and Membership.

Ann teaches 2-3-year-old children at Sunday School at Waconia Moravian Church, and on Committee for Zoar Cemetery.

When Ann is home, she helps her husband and two boys Zach and Joe on a hobby farm. Ann has been full-time employee for Waconia hospital for the past 19 years.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vice President Shirley Paulson

Treasurer Linda Sauerbrey:

For First Vice president

Deb Chicos

Deb is exactly the type of Auxiliary member we want as Third District First Vice President. She has done an excellent job as Second Vice and as an Executive Committee member. She participates in a wide range of meetings at Unit, District and Department levels. She's outgoing, positive, creative and hardworking. She not only comes up with great and original ideas, but then does what it takes to bring those ideas to life! Deb also jumps in to volunteer in any number of events and activities. She's held many positions within our organization, such as AEF District Chairmen, Third District Membership Chairman, and District President's Project Fundraising Coordinator for 2022/2023 "Ooey Gooey Cookie" sales. She is currently doing a wonderful job as our Unit President, bringing fresh ideas and enthusiasm to our group. Deb knows how to work with people. She is one of 13 children, raised on a farm in southern MN. She is eligible through her grandfather Thomas Chicos, who served in WWII. Besides being an active Auxiliary member, Deb enjoys sewing, painting, and attending festivals and fairs. We look forward to supporting her in her future endeavors!

Kim Carlander First Vice Chanhassen
580

Joanne Joachim Treasurer Chanhassen
580

Second Vice President Kelly Kauss

The Elysian Unit #311 announces the endorsement of Kelly Kauss to 3rd District American Legion Auxiliary 2nd Vice President, Department of Minnesota. Kelly is eligible for membership through her husband, Michael Kauss and father, Wendell Stark. Both were Army Veterans. She has been an active member since 2010 and graduated from the Minnesota Legion College in 2021. She serves as a member of the Honor Guard in her Unit as well as the current chairperson for VA&R. She volunteers as her schedule allows with the Unit and Post and has written grants for Post #311. She attends District, Department and National Conventions. This is her second year as Third District Community Service Chairperson. She is a retired special education educator and has been a caregiver since 2012. Her primary interest is in using her leadership skills in ending Veteran suicide and homelessness.

Lanette Ayers, Treasurer Unit 311
December 9, 2024

Leslie Graham, Secretary Unit 311
December 9, 2024

Executive Committee Wendy Arend

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 225 endorses Wendy Arend for the MN District Executive Committee for the 2025/2026 Year.

Wendy Arend is a member of the American Legion auxiliary Unit 225. She is the current unit chaplain and a past unit president. She is the 2023-24 MN 3rd Dist. VA&R chair. Wendy is eligible through her late husband, younger brother, and three adult children. In 2023 Wendy married Dave Arend, 3rd Dist. Commander of the Sons of the American Legion. They reside in Forest Lake with their dogs, chickens and cat.

Wendy helps people with mental illness manage their symptoms to live more independently. As an on-call Death Investigator for the medical examiner office, Wendy responds to death scenes and determines the initial cause and manner of death. As last responder, Wendy has seen devastating effects of veteran suicide. Please, "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 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. Thank you
Cavalene Regan Unit 225 President
Joy Kowarsch Unit 225 Secretary



Nomination for Department 1st Vice President

Linda Kelly

Linda Kelly has been endorsed by Unit 184 of Pine Island and the 3rd District Executive Committee for Department of Minnesota, 1st Vice President for the year 2025-2026. Linda is an active member of her unit, having been a member for 26 years. She is eligible through the service of two brothers, Stanley and Melroy Kundert.

She has served her unit in many ways including President two terms, Vice President, Executive Committee, and is currently their Chaplain. She works many of the programs and is passionate about working with the local school to educate students about our programs and encouraging Americanism in our youth.

Linda served as President for the 3rd District for two years due to the Pandemic, working her way up from Executive Committee. She has also served as Chairman of Membership, Children and Youth, Education, Girls State, Leadership, Public Relations, and Community Service and is currently the District Poppy Chairman.

Linda has served as Department Chairman for Membership, Poppy, Girls State, and is the current Legislation Chairman. As the Legislation Chairman, Linda has been attending the monthly meetings of the Commander's Task Force. This group of several Veteran organizations works together to determine what bills they want our legislators to support, and they ask for your support in their endeavors. She feels that all Legion Family members, along with members of all Veteran organizations can work together to get these bills passed for the betterment of our veterans.

She attends numerous events throughout the year such as District, Department, and National Conventions, Fall Conferences, and Mission Training Workshops.

Linda worked for 52 years in Pine Island and retired a few years ago. She has two daughters, Jennie and Sarah, and one grandson, Miles.

Pine Island Unit 184 proudly endorses Linda for the position of 1st Vice President, Department of Minnesota, for the 2025-2026 year.

Anita Witthoeft, Unit 184 President

Pat Jackson, Unit 184 Secretary



Could this be you!

We are looking for someone to run for the Third District Executive Committee. If you are interested in this position, please call the nominating chairman / district secretary, at 320-420-8163 or t.d.news2share@gmail.com.

You will need to be a member in good standing of the Third District, we will need an endorsement from your Unit signed by two officers. In this position you will begin what is known as the “chairs”. First the executive committee (2 years) then second vice president, first vice, and president. each year moving up until you become president. Being President is a wonderful experience, it does take time, commitment, and knowledge of the American Legion Auxiliary programs. But you will have wonderful committee members surrounding you, and they will have the same desires as you. “TO HELP OUR VETERANS.” Please keep in mind that anyone can be nominated from the Third District Convention floor for any elected position.

MID WINTER



Don't fight the cold, instead let's gather for a fun day of learning, friendship, and of course good food.

On January 25

we will meet at Lonsdale, Post 586
for our

MID WINTER CONFERENCE

9AM

The auxiliary will hear reports from the Third District Chairman. They will be sharing their goals and providing you with new ideas. **Don't forget your traveling plaques. Otherwise, your unit is responsible for getting them to the Third District Secretary.**

Thundering Third District MidWinter

Will Be held at Lonsdale American Legion

January 25th

Cost \$10 Registration or \$15 the day of and \$10 for Lunch

Registration by mail closes January 20th online January 23rd

8 am Social and Registration

9 am Start

Registration online at Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/d/mn--Lonsdale/3rd-district-midwinter/>

OR by mail to:

Lonsdale American Legion POST 586

Atten: Midwinter

PO Box 66

Lonsdale, MN 55046

Name _____ Post, Unit and or Squad _____

Post/AUX/SAL _____ Registration \$10 _____ Lunch \$12 _____

Name _____ Post, Unit and or Squad _____

Post/AUX/SAL _____ Registration \$10 _____ Lunch \$12 _____

Name _____ Post, Unit and or Squad _____

Post/AUX/SAL _____ Registration \$10 _____ Lunch \$12 _____

Name _____ Post, Unit and or Squad _____

Post/AUX/SAL _____ Registration \$10 _____ Lunch \$12 _____

Name _____ Post, Unit and or Squad _____

Post/AUX/SAL _____ Registration \$10 _____ Lunch \$12 _____



Hutchinson Unit 96 helped at the St. Cloud VA Gift Shop on the first day. This year, the gifts all came from Kohl's and the St. Cloud VA canteen. Merry Christmas!

Donna

SAVE THE DATE

AMERICAN LEGION | GIVING TUESDAY



Giving Tuesday is a movement that encourages people to give and celebrate generosity. Held on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, it inspires people all over the world to make a difference together in their communities. **Giving Tuesday is Dec. 3.** We invite you to join us by making a gift to The American Legion. You'll help support vital programs for veterans, their families and our youth. Together we can make a lasting impact this Giving Tuesday!

How to contribute:

Online:
legion.org/GivingTuesday

Mail: (make check payable to)
American Legion Charities
2024 Giving Tuesday Campaign
P.O. Box 361626
Indianapolis, IN 46236-1626

Scan the QR code below to give:



Notes from Forest Lake Auxiliary Unit 225



Our Father in Heaven, we thank You for good health, good friends, and all the things we so often take for granted. We thank You, for the challenges of this hour, for work to do that demands the best we have. Then may we seek your help, knowing that in partnership with you, in applying Your will to our problems there shall be no dull moments and no problems beyond solution. God bless us all and help us to be right and to do right. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Where did the 2024 Fall Season – more importantly where did December go? We started the month with a trip to Hastings Veterans home to deliver Christmas Cheer to the residents, a tree lighting at the lake helping our local Chamber of Commerce bring us into the Christmas Season, a trip to Spicer for the Pearl Harbor Rally, so much fun to see so many Legion Family members there. Thank you to Spicer for hosting the lunch. When we returned to Forest Lake it was a great time for Community projects. We were invited by the Forest Lake High School to partner with the

production of "White Christmas" - since the play was about some Veterans during WWII – we set up a small booth with information about our American Legion Family, added brochures on Girls State, Scholarships and the Poppy program. We made poppies, handed them out along with copies of Flander Field. We spent 4 evenings and 2 Sunday afternoon, talking to families about the American Legion programs. What a wonderful opportunity we were given. During all of this we also enjoyed our Holiday Craft Fair/Bake Sale. While Dorothy Nelson retired from this event it was passed on to me and I have to say with all the turmoil in the world today I was overwhelmed with a wonderful and gracious group of talented crafters. Along with that we had over 40 women from our Unit that donated baked goods. Then as we moved closer to Christmas we had Caroling and our Widows Luncheon. I am so thankful and proud of all the ladies in Unit that have worked so tirelessly on Community Service and raising funds for our Veterans.

Wishing you all a very exciting and blessed New Year – you have so many ideas to share with us and us with you. See you at Mid-Winter in Lonsdale in January.

May God continue to Bless you and your families,

Cavalene Regan – Forest Lake President



Unit 43 Highlights

"Operation Christmas Card"

Over 250 Christmas cards were written on by Faribault's Unit 43 to send to the nonprofit group United Soldiers and Sailors of America that collects Christmas cards. The all-volunteer group sorts and ships them to various military bases worldwide for our troops to receive them in time for Christmas. The deadline is December 5th. They also resend care packages sent to: USASOA, Christmas Cards For Our Troops, 714 Farmington Road West, Accokeek, Maryland 20607.



Poppy-Making

A couple of group get-togethers and some busy at-home workers have added up to about 2,000 poppies being made in Faribault. Only 1,000 more to go and we are fluffing them for our baskets as we go.



Granola Bars to Thank Educators and Staff

Over 1,400 granola bars were delivered to 23 schools, the bus barn and to school offices in the Faribault School District for National Education Week in November by members of Unit 43. Here, Kathy Larson is pictured at the Cannon River STEM School with staff members.



Annual Christmas Dinner

Some of the attendees at the annual Legion Family Christmas Dinner of Post and Unit 43 in Faribault.



Waconia Unit 150

Our Auxiliary Unit 150 Waconia decided to give baskets to staff in our Veterans homes this year. We picked the ones in the lower part of the state, plus St. Peter facility where we have developed a partnership. Baskets were delivered to Minneapolis, Luverne, Monticello, and St. Peter. At the St. Peter facility, we also donated t-shirts for a Christmas gift for the 20 veterans they have there. Auxiliary member Lynn Schwichtenberg and Vicki Sorensen made the track to those veteran's home. We were told that usually the Veterans receive gifts, but not the staff. So, these baskets of goodies were very appreciated.

