



**American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Minnesota  
2025-2026  
Department President  
Robin Dorf  
March 2026 Unit Mailing**

State Veterans Service Bldg. 20 W 12th St #314  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
Phone: 651-224-7634 Email: [deptoffice@mnala.org](mailto:deptoffice@mnala.org)  
Website: [www.mnala.org](http://www.mnala.org)



***Happy 107<sup>th</sup> birthday to the American Legion!***

March 15<sup>th</sup> is the American Legion's birthday. My hopes are that your units are planning to celebrate, or acknowledge, with your post homes in March. Don't forget to send pictures of your event to Department Secretary Christie to include in her events and write a short paragraph of what you are doing. This of course is for all your events.

Thank you to the units who have extended invitations to their unit events. My favorite part of this position is working on our programs alongside members. I had the opportunity to help serve at the Unit 435 omelet breakfast, have some scheduled fish fries and brat stands coming up. If your unit has an event, and my schedule allows, please let me know.

The **unit annual report zoom** meetings were well attended. I have included in this unit mailing feedback and the challenge questions that I gave to attendees to share with fellow members. My hope is that these zooms will evolve and only get better for you the members.

**District Presidents** will be receiving a link to a zoom for impact reporting for their districts on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. The **district chairman** annual report zoom will follow on the same date at 7pm. I am encouraging districts to promote this to their district chairman.

**Department chairman** annual reporting and awards zoom will be Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. If you are unable to attend, I am asking that you notify me in advance of the meeting. There is a lot of information to make sure our department programs are represented at the national level.

The **Appreciation Rally** is Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> and will be hosted by the Bloomington American Legion Post 550. There is a social hour starting at 11am with the lunch at noon and program to follow. If you register online before March 7<sup>th</sup> your meal is free with a donation to Department Commander Linda Dvorak's project. More information on our website under family events.

Department Leadership Chairman Mary Kuperus is working her program this year by offering two more **leadership workshops** in March. Flyers are included in unit mailing, on our department website under family events, and you can also contact Mary. I went to the first one and it was great!

The **Minnesota American Legion Family Bowling Tournament** starts Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> hosted at Sundance Lanes in Dayton. It goes through April and you can find more information on our website under family events. If you want to come out on Saturday's opener you will get to see your Department Leadership throw out the first balls. You can then stick around for some giggles, or highly supporting, Commander Linda and President Robin doing doubles, and then Commander Linda, President Robin, Commander Jeremy and Director Duane do the team event. Honestly sometimes I question myself and what I agree to, but it will be a fun time with our American Legion Family. Come out and watch! Or better yet put together a team!

My favorite time of the year is our **Department of Minnesota Junior Conference**. Department Junior Activities Chairman Brandi Christensen, the First District American Legion Auxiliary, and many others are working hard to have great conference for our Juniors. It will be held Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> hosted by the First District in Stewartville. Please look for the call to conference information on our website.

Have you joined the **American Legion Family USA 250 Challenge**? This is a movement to celebrate America's 250th birthday with purpose and pride. You can do this individually or as a team. You can pick one or all of three categories — fitness activities, mental wellness and community service. You can choose how to achieve these goals while having fun and supporting our disabled veterans and military families. I know there are many in Minnesota working already on their goals. For more information go to: <https://legion.myeventscenter.com/event/Usa-250-Challenge>



**Veterans Day on the Hill** is Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Department Legislation Chairman Jody Hassing has written an article and included the flyer in this unit mailing.



**The Department of Minnesota Joint Testimonial** will be on Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> in New Prague. Social at 5pm, dinner 6pm, with 7pm program, and then a live band until 10pm.

Only \$25.00 for the meal of turkey and brisket, sides, and dessert. And only one night out of your busy summer.

Please come celebrate with us. To me it is not about us, it is about all the hard work all our members have done this past year.

The flyer is in this unit mailing and on the department websites.



Thank you to the unit members who took the time to attend the zoom training and took the challenge! I asked members to answer questions and share their knowledge with all of our members in Minnesota.

My hopes are that this will evolve and only improve for you, our members. ~ President Robin

### **What advice would you give to someone new to doing annual reports?**

Tammy Ekstedt: If you can have others help you, it will make it much easier to complete the reports.

Debi Eischens: Start early, document early and get pictures. Pictures do not have to be of the worker's faces, it can be side or back views showing them working (our workers are camera shy). BRAG- we know what we do, but the outside world does not.

Sharon Lanctot: My advice to new reporters is to write a summary of everything your Unit does, big and small. Then at report time we divide the summaries between the appropriate program reports and write our reports. I was amazed the first time we were able to report something in each program, had no idea!

Michele Smith: Write a narrative soon after events so you don't miss any good information. Write down who was all involved and hours you volunteered. (encase they don't turn anything in)

Sandra Fredrickson: Don't be/feel overwhelmed! Don't do the reports alone---have other members help, so they too can learn. Don't wait to get started---you can start now and then finish them after March 31. Gather the info needed from the resources: manla.org and the national website. Set a date/time with members to go over the reporting (Impact and Awards) ---can start anytime --- Gather the info: hrs for each activity, \$ donated/spent, in-kind donations, etc.

Lisa Stadler: Ask lots of questions and take good notes.

Anonymous: When in doubt make a note as it could be included in the narrative somewhere. Also, those notes when discussed in a group, if doing reports together, could jog another's memory. The teacher in me says, feel free to ask questions!

Stacey O'Donnell: Have someone in your unit have a personal calendar and write down every event that your unit does for the year, keep track of hours volunteered, dollars raised or donated. Tell your members about the websites to go to for information. Helps with teaching about programs and ALA.

Dori Hamilton, Carol Santone-Royal, and Teresa Stuart: Be sure to read all of the instructions carefully and follow them. Send reports to the correct chairman. If you have questions don't hesitate to ask the District Chairman first. If you don't get an answer then ask the Department Chairman. If still no answer then ask the Department President. And as a last resort ask the Department office. Put articles in your local paper about

what your unit is doing and keep them for reference. Encourage your members to attend Fall Conference and your District Mid-Winter Conferences to learn more about the programs.

Lindy Kelly: Your unit's monthly minutes and treasurer's report provide so much information. We all think that we will remember what we did the past year, but using them is less taxing to your memory. We also send a paper for members to record their volunteer hours at our monthly meetings.

Edna Thayer: Many chairs do a great job with an activity or event, but are not comfortable writing a narrative. Offer help with this. When writing a narrative, try to make reference to the current chair's theme or special area of interest (from their newsletter articles).

Diana-Hackensack Unit: Use every possible resource available to you. For example, past years' District and Department Book of Annual Reports, as well as the previous year's Unit copy of annual reports. Having a mentor is 'the best'.

Joanne Joachim: Make sure everyone working on the reports knows what the "report year" is and is reporting on happenings for that time period. This year 4/1/25 to 3/31/26. Sometimes our ladies are confused about that.

Norma Tramm: Do the reports as a group. You will need the Secretary minutes and the treasurer reports for the year ( April – March ) For the impact report – you should check out the member report – it has a lot of information on what should be put in each group.

Nancy Albrecht: I believe it is important to get program chairs together for doing reports. Going month by month and discussing events, etc. you feed off each other and often forgot something the unit did and can be used in reporting. That also helps you decide which program should do the reporting.

### **What has helped you doing reports?**

Tammy Ekstedt: Being able to complete the forms electronically is MUCH easier and faster than manually filling them out.

Debi Eischens: Members help members, go through all the Unit's information and notes of other members.

Sandra Fredrickson: Discuss the 5 designated areas of the impact report---decide what and where it should be reported-(if not like you said ask the chairman)--while at the same time be jotting down what you can write for the annual reports/awards. Then decide what awards you ,may want to apply for (use jpg pictures). You may be surprised as to what award your unit could win!! Do not double up in areas when filling out the annual reports---i.e., don't claim it on Public Relations and then also community service. It can only be counted once.

Lisa Stadler: Ask all officers to participate and talk about the impact report and hours at every meeting.

Anonymous: I think what has helped me in writing reports is asking briefly at each meeting what the members have done for the 3 different reporting hats I wear. This is done informally in our small group and not during the actual meeting to show up in the meeting minutes.

Dori Hamilton, Carol Santone-Royal, and Teresa Stuart: Keeping a personal calendar from the past year to help keep track of what you have done and your hours. Secretary minutes and Treasures report.

Edna Thayer: I think every unit should have an advisor for reports and awards. (Perhaps someone like me who is handicapped and not as physically active but has a lot of experience and can still contribute.) Prepare a notebook for each program which can be handed down to the next chair.

Joanne Joachim: Last year I typed up some labels with our Unit info, etc. for the basic info on the report forms and also wrote on each report our Unit's membership on 3/31/24. Getting good info from the Treasurer on donations, contributions, Poppy collections etc.

Norma Tramm: I always look at last year's history as that will share all the projects that we do during the year. Most units do much of the same each year, but sometimes we forget a few things and reviewing the history will help us to remember.

Nancy Albrecht: Compiling volunteer hours each month definitely helps when report time comes. It's hard enough to remember what we do for 30 days, and I know I forget things when not done each month.

### **Any other advice you would like to share?**

Tammy Ekstedt: Would like a contact list of who to send the reports to each year since this can change and may be hard to find. Don't want to delay the distribution of reports

Debi Eischens: Collect info early.

Karen Rasmussen: Karen suggested a section in the unit mailing of "Where do the Hours Go?" (Great idea and we will be looking at adding information in unit mailings – Robin)

Michele Smith: Invite members to go to at least one mid-winter conference so they know from someone else how important it is to work together to help with the programs we do and understand why we need hours.

Sandra Fredrickson: Our reporting is April 1 to March 31 of each Auxiliary year. Any thing after March 31 2026 will now be reported on next year! We as auxiliary members must understand the importance of these documents. Our Veterans, their families, and our communities depend on our reporting when it goes to CONGRESS. Our work/Mission does not go unnoticed!

Lisa Stadler: Develop a system of tracking. I use an excel spreadsheet for our bank accounts that I can code each entry to correspond to the Impact report.

Anonymous: Please know that stepping up to help the units report also helps our veterans and is greatly appreciated.

Dori Hamilton, Carol Santone-Royal, and Teresa Stuart: Encouraging other members to keep track of their hours and turn them in.

Edna Thayer: I typically encourage chairs to apply for any and all awards that may apply. Every year since I've been doing this there's been surprises.

Sharon Cross: Don't try doing them alone, use the resources of the past chairman. A monthly sheet to record your volunteer hours and \$ so number two is to keep track. Lastly is having a folder to keep the photos together for year-end reporting. Then there are those members that do not attend meetings and not reporting their volunteering. Contact them and ask either by a personal note, phone call or maybe your Post and Unit have a newsletter that you can utilize for those questions.

Joanne Joachim: Put in the heading of the report form the dates the report is for: 4/1/25 to 3/31/26. Make sure your Treasurer brings you good info for donations, contributions, Poppy collections, etc. A nice spreadsheet is good.

Norma Tramm: If you are applying for an award, do not put the pictures in the body of the text. The pictures must be on a separate page as a Jpeg or they are not usable. When applying for an award don't forget to name drop. Who is doing what and where is it happening.

Nancy Albrecht: I believe writing a narrative has been helpful in our unit receiving Certificates of Merit and awards. Many things we do during the year are really important to our mission but not included in the impact reports.

### **Some feedback from the zoom**

*First off THANK YOU for doing this Zoom meeting! Wow, it was VERY helpful. Hope we have more meetings like this earlier in the year to get UNITS involved in reporting!*

*Sadly we are one of the units that have not reported, in my 5 years of being an Auxiliary member we have not filled out reports. This Zoom meeting was REALLY helpful and I plan to get some reports filled out this year!*

*As a member of 5 years and active in attending Fall Conference and Mid Winter this Zoom meeting was most helpful. Would like to have more on learning on what to report in each area, one month Children and Youth, Americanism, Community Service etc. Show us a report and examples.*

*I first want to congratulate you on holding the zooms for annual reports. I mentioned it to our program chairs and hope that other chairs signed up for the zoom. You are doing fabulous work!*

*Great job on the zoom meeting. That may have been my first zoom meeting but found it easy to follow the instructions & logon.*

*You did an excellent job in the Zoom meeting and was most impressed our Department President took time out of your busy schedule to do this presentation. I am looking forward to the District Zoom meeting in March.*

*Great presentation last night! Great way to reach the members it can only get better!*

# Department of Minnesota Joint Testimonial Dinner

American Legion Commander Linda Dvorak

American Legion Auxiliary President Robin Dorf

Sons of the American Legion Commander Jeremy Copher



**Saturday, June 27, 2026**

**New Prague American Legion Post**

5pm Social ~ 6pm Dinner ~ 7pm Program ~ Band until 10pm

Menu will be turkey and brisket, sides, and dessert

\$25.00 per person

Purchase your tickets on the Department American Legion website OR send check to New Prague American Legion, PO Box 113, New Prague MN 56071

Reservations due by June 19, 2026

Block of rooms available at Quality Inn & Suites in New Prague.

(952)758-7300 ~ ask for the American Legion Block

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ # of Guests \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
*Veterans Strengthening America*

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

PO BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN, 46206-1055 • WWW.LEGION.ORG • P: (317) 630-1200 • F: (317) 630-1223

DD214 RETENTION  
FOR  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

***Effective immediately, the Adjutant or Secretary at each Unit shall verify a member's eligibility by reviewing documentation such as a DD214, then promptly return the document to the individual. No copies or electronic records containing Personally Identifiable Information shall be retained.***

***Some Units currently maintain decades of archived DD214s, including those of deceased members. These records should be securely destroyed to reduce exposure to identity theft and mitigate potential legal liability.***

***This policy should be communicated to all membership staff and incorporated into Unit and Department procedures effective February 4, 2026.***

Regards,

Mark C. Seavey, J.D.  
National Judge Advocate



 AMERICAN  
**LEGION**  
AUXILIARY  
FOUNDATION

# *Celebrate Women of Service on March 8*

To honor the remarkable women in our lives, the ALA Foundation is celebrating its fourth “Celebrating Women of Service” day alongside International Women’s Day on March 8. Join us by donating in honor of a woman who inspires you, just as the ALA community inspires this special day of giving. Show your appreciation for

women dedicated to service and volunteerism by supporting a cause that leaves a lasting impact.

Let’s make March 8 a day to honor the power of women in the ALA community. Give online or by texting **WOMAN** to **1-844-940-3450**.



Scan here  
to make  
a gift:



Department of Minnesota  
March 2026 Unit Mailing  
**Brain Science, ALA Chairman**  
**Barbara Hopewell**  
[barbara.hopewellala@outlook.com](mailto:barbara.hopewellala@outlook.com)

## *MARCH is Brain Science Month*

Did you know that there is a Brain Awareness Week in March?

Brain Awareness Week is the global campaign to foster public enthusiasm and support for brain science. It is a legacy initiative of the Dana Foundation that honors our history and long-standing commitment to supporting neuroscience outreach and education.

Giving to the Brain Science Center; accelerates life-saving research, supports critical studies on Alzheimer's and neurodegenerative diseases, and aids in developing new treatments for brain injuries and helping to understand the psychological diseases like, PTSD, Gulf War Illness and Chemical Dependency

### **Why Your Donation Matters:**

- **Accelerates Cures:** Donations fund vital research that brings scientists closer to treating or curing brain diseases that affect millions.
- **Supports Future Research:** It helps bridge the gap in funding for equipment and studies on Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, PTSD, Gulf War Illness and other disorders.
- **Raises Awareness:** That promotes brain health and inspire new generations of scientists.

### *March Challenge:*

**"Great things are done by a series of small things brought together." —**  
Vincent Van Gogh

During your March meeting: Pass a bucket/basket around the room and ask your members to donate the change they have in their purses/pockets to the Brain Science Center. It may not be much, but.....

**"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." —** Desmond Tutu



## CHAPLAIN / MEMORIAL

Marsha Bible – Department Chaplain  
5602 West Oakes Drive – St. Cloud, MN 56303  
(320) 492-8977 [marsha.bible@gmail.com](mailto:marsha.bible@gmail.com)

**MARCH, 2026**

*Happy 107<sup>th</sup> Birthday American Legion*

*March 15, 2026*



March 15, 2026 marks the 107<sup>th</sup> year since The American Legion was founded. Many of the benefits that our veterans and their families receive are because of the tireless work of members of The American Legion.

Some of these accomplishments include:

- ✓ They banded together to become a driving force in helping combat veterans receive the assistance they desperately needed when they returned home from World War I in 1919. In 1921 they created the U.S. Veterans Bureau which quickly became the Veterans Administration.
- ✓ In 1923 they drafted the first “Flag Code” which congress adopted in 1942.
- ✓ In 1925, they created the American Legion Baseball program. Today more than 50% of major league players are graduates of this program.
- ✓ In 1935, The Legion held its first American Legion Boys State program to help youths gain an understanding of the structure and operation of local, state, and federal government.
- ✓ In 1943, National Commander Harry Colmery began to draft the G.I. Bill of Rights. When it was signed into law in 1944 it was one of the greatest legislative achievements.
- ✓ In 1982 The Legion presented a \$1 million check to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for construction of The Wall in Washington, DC. They were the largest single contributor to the project.
- ✓ In 1983 The Legion sponsored a study on the effects of exposure to Agent Orange on Vietnam Veterans.
- ✓ In 2008, President George W. Bush signs into law the Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act, a new GI Bill strongly supported by the Legion.

## BIRTHDAY PRAYERS FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION

Heavenly Father, bless us as we gather to celebrate the anniversary of The American Legion, that great organization which has continued to serve America for the past 107 years. We thank Thee for the opportunity given to the American Legion Auxiliary to have a part in everything The American Legion has done and in sharing its endeavors. Grant that the patriotic enthusiasm which inspired these Legionnaires to serve our country in time of war may continue to always guide their activities, and that the principles of justice, freedom, loyalty, and democracy be preserved for a happy and secure America. Bless all our efforts for God and country, and may we continue to be mutually helpful to each other. Amen.

Almighty God, we thank Thee for permitting us to gather here for the purpose of celebrating the anniversary of the founding of The American Legion. We thank Thee for granting to the mothers, spouses, sisters, daughters, granddaughters, and grandmothers of these men and women the opportunity to share their unselfish program of service consecrated to God and country. Deepen our earnestness and devotion to the noble ideals for which our two organizations stand. May our numbers be increased, and may we, as members of these two great patriotic organizations, with Thy help, rededicate ourselves anew to our work. Lead us fearlessly, courageously, and nobly, increasing our usefulness and tempering our work with constant prayer for peace in our hearts. Amen.



### **An Irish Prayer**

May God give you...

For every storm, a rainbow,

For every tear, a smile,

For every care, a promise,

And a blessing in each trial.

For every problem life sends,

A faithful friend to share,

For every sign, a sweet song,

And an answer for each prayer.



**Department of Minnesota**  
March 2026 Unit Mailing  
**Children & Youth, Chairman**  
**Sandy Wersal**  
**sandy.wersal@gmail.com**

April is coming soon, let's get excited about our Children and Youth month, set up a military kids table in your post to draw attention to these children. Kids of Deployed are Heroes (KDH2) This program honors military children who may be experiencing separation from one or both parents, whether deployed to a war zone, or short tour of duty. We need to recognize their sacrifices. Our military children bear a difficult burden that most children do not. They may not always understand what's going on when their parents deploy or get re-assigned, depending on their age; we need to be available to support where and when we can. If you know a family with children of deployed parents make a purple basket with treats and deliver it to them, this acknowledges their sacrifices. But remember them all year long.

On April 15th we urge the communities to wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. It's time to purple up members, wear PURPLE that day!! Why purple? Because it indicates all the branches of our military. Combination of Air Force Blue, Army Green, Navy Blue, Marine Red, and Coast Guard Blue all thought to combine as a single color, Purple.

Pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House can be collected. Keep track of the weight for your report and drop off at McDonalds.

Keep a watch out for Youth Hero Awards and Good Deed Awards and take time to send in a nomination. Need help give me a call. Minnesota needs to submit what our children do.

The American Legion Auxiliary works with the American Legion on the Children and Youth program as it is one of the four pillars' programs we share. Working to make our military children's lives better, including our local children who all need us to be good mentors. We began working with the Children and Youth program way back in 1919, that work continues today.

**Let's make April a fun month!**



Constitution/Bylaws & Standing Rules Chairman  
Carol Kottom, Chairman  
[ckakottom@gmail.com](mailto:ckakottom@gmail.com)  
763-360-6102 (cell/text)  
March 2026

This year will be a fun year if you are interested in governing rules. We have a number of proposals to be presented. They fall in the following categories:

1. Change in the Treasurer. For years our treasurer has been our Department Accounting Technician. No longer. Our treasurer is a volunteer who is not an employee. That change required a number of changes to our bylaws and standing rules. Most are minor but still need to be done.
2. Gift Shop 2-person Committee removed. We are so grateful to those who have served on this committee in prior years. Covid, however, changed so many things and this is one of them. I conducted an email survey with those who served in this position from 2019 to date. 2019 is the last year they did any of the buying which was a major part of their duties. First it went to gift cards for all of our veterans and then the hospital and home representatives started doing their own buying. The Department Office will handle the ordering from those that choose not to do their own buying. That is working out so well for almost all of them. The Reps know how much storage area they have (some have none) and they can shop in a timely manner to work with the distribution of the gifts. The committee members I communicated with agreed that they are no longer needed. There are a few proposals we found necessary to remove the Gift Shop Committee of two from our bylaws and standing rules. Of course, our President may still appoint any committee with the approval of the Department Executive Committee.
3. There are almost always a few changes that come up in other areas that need to be changed, and this year is no exception.

The proposals will be available on the internet by the end of March. **Please** – take the time to read through them so you are prepared when you come to the convention. This is especially very important for those who will serve as delegates to the convention. Review them at your District Convention so everyone is aware of the changes that will be presented.

Thanks for your dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary –



Department of Minnesota  
March Unit Mailing  
MN American Legion Auxiliary  
Girls State Chairman, Wanda Prescher

**Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary Girls State 2026 is soon approaching!  
June 14-19,2026 at Bethel University in Arden Hills**

Our new Girls State video and informational letter about Girls State went to ALL Minnesota High Schools and Unit Presidents. Please make sure that the school looks under SPAM mail if they say they didn't receive it. There have been a few issues with this.

We have had some great responses from students or parents wanting to know how to go about getting sponsored. Thank you to several units who have decide to sponsor these young ladies. If your unit wants to send a student but are unable to get one from your school, please let me know, we have students looking for sponsorship.

Please use your video to help with your recruiting, post on your own social media. What the office needs right now is your reservation and money, so we can get an idea of how many students to help with room accommodate in the dorms. If your Units want to purchase the Girls State Shirt Shack Package, the cost is \$60 for Sweatshirt, Tee-shirt and 1 additional Girls State item. **EXTENDED - Deadline is now April 1<sup>st</sup>!**

**Registration will open after April 15<sup>th</sup>** your Unit will receive instructions for you and your student. At registration, you will ask that your student(s) brings a photo of a family veteran or if they do not have a veteran, someone they admire in their family. This is for their **Honor Button** they will make to be worn during their week to honor that individual!

If Funding is an issue, please ask your Post or Gambling if they would be willing to help with sponsorship.

Thank you for the support of the **Girls State ALL STAR'S PROGRAM!** Since Fall Conference you have raised \$5000 to help the cost for the week and adding snack nights for the citizens! The committee can't thank you enough for your support!

If you have any questions, please do call, text, email any of us on the committee!

|                                    |                                                                        |              |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Chairman: Wanda Prescher           | <a href="mailto:w.prescher1951@gmail.com">w.prescher1951@gmail.com</a> | 507-254-0304 |
| Director: Peggy Tesdahl            | <a href="mailto:ranpett0814@hotmail.com">ranpett0814@hotmail.com</a>   | 612-715-4489 |
| Education Director: Amelia Tesdahl | <a href="mailto:ametes2014@hotmail.com">ametes2014@hotmail.com</a>     | 763-753-8247 |
| Committee Member: Renee Suess      | <a href="mailto:rsuess3@gmail.com">rsuess3@gmail.com</a>               | 763-300-2266 |
| Committee Member: Jen Stolz        | <a href="mailto:jstolz.de@gmail.com">jstolz.de@gmail.com</a>           | 763-234-1198 |
| American Chairman: Linda Kelly     | <a href="mailto:lkauxiliary@gmail.com">lkauxiliary@gmail.com</a>       | 507-421-8270 |



Department of Minnesota  
January 2026 Unit Mailing  
**Junior Activities Chairman,**  
**Brandi Christensen**  
**brandichristensen@gmail.com**

March is usually when Districts have their District Jr Auxiliary Conferences. Please make sure to get all juniors involved and make it fun!

Also please be sure to send your new District Jr officer lists to the Department office.

Has your junior ever expressed wanting to do more with the juniors? Please consider taking on an office with the Department of Minnesota Junior Auxiliary. Please send endorsements to me.

The call to Department Junior Auxiliary Conference was sent out. Please plan to have your juniors attend. It's going to be a good time.

\*\*I want to apologize for some of the typos in the Call to Junior Conference. I was going through some medical problems at the time and didn't proofread my work.

### **Department Junior Poppy Contests**

- It is the responsibility of the District Junior Activities Chairman to see that all District entries are brought to the Department Conference.
- There is no limit to the number of entries per Unit for the contests Only one entry per Junior per contest.
- All entries must include a large or small, or a combination of the Poppies. All white tags must be removed from the Poppies.
- All entries must be at the Department Junior Conference by 9:00am on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> 2026, for judging.
- All entries must have a sealed envelope attached with the contest name and class number on the envelope. Inside of the envelope must have the Juniors name, Unit number, location, and District number on a card inside

#### ***Classes for each contest***

Class I Ages 6 years and under

Class II Ages 7 - 12 years Class III  
Ages 13 - 18 years

Awards

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$10 cash award for each class

2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$5 cash awards for each class

#### ***Small Poppy Table Display***

To the Junior member in each class with the best Small Size Poppy Table Display using Honorary Department Junior President Anastasia's theme "***Be the SUN in Veterans Lives***" using the Sunflower

#### ***Poppy Corsage/Boutonniere Contest***

To the Junior member in each class with the best Poppy corsage or boutonniere using Honorary Department Junior President Anastasia's theme "***Be the SUN in Veterans Lives***" Her symbol is the Sunflower.

#### ***Poppy Memorial Day Wreath***

To the Junior member in each class with the best Poppy Memorial Day Wreath with the poppy as the focus of the wreath.



Department of Minnesota  
March 2026 Unit Mailing  
Leadership Chairman, Mary Kuperus  
wmkuperus@tds.net

## Leadership Workshop Opportunity

### Reminder Final Leadership Workshop

**March 21, 2026**, is the fourth and final Leadership Workshop at the Redwood Falls American Legion, 100 Industrial Dr., Redwood Falls. The workshop will begin at 10:00 and will be completed by 3:00 pm. A flyer is included in this mailing to pre-register. The cost is \$15.00, which includes lunch and course handouts. The deadline to register is March 18<sup>th</sup>. Please register early, so we know how many folders and the amount of lunch is needed. Hosted by Redwood Falls ALA Unit #38.

### Unit Member of the Year

American Legion Auxiliary units all have hardworking, dedicated members who give their time and talent to further the mission of our organization but have no desire to serve beyond the unit level. To recognize such dedicated service, each unit may select one candidate for Unit Member of the Year in its department.

#### Requirements:

1. Open to senior members who are not currently, nor have ever been, in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than unit president. Current membership dues must be paid. Years of membership are not a part of the criteria; the nominee may be a new member.
2. Units submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less to your department Leadership Chairman. Describe the nominee's accomplishments and activities for the current administrative year. Include the nominee's name, telephone number, and address. The Unit President and Secretary must sign the entry unless the nominee is one of them in which case, a Past Unit President must sign the entry. **This is due by April 15<sup>th</sup>.**
3. Department will submit only one entry. The Leadership Chairman will include the unit's narrative when submitting the form. Entry is due June 1<sup>st</sup> and must be entered by the Leadership or PPP Chairman. The Leadership Chairman will use the electronic form to submit the department's Unit Member of the Year. Recognition of the winners occurs at the American Legion Auxiliary's national convention.



**Department of Minnesota**  
March 2026 Unit Mailing  
**Legislation Chairman, Jody Hassing**  
jodyhassing@gmail.com

Hello fellow Auxiliary members,

Veterans Day on the Hill is an important occasion for us to come together as one American Legion family. As members of the American Legion Family, we have an opportunity to demonstrate our support for Veteran's initiatives. This day is dedicated to championing veteran initiatives and acknowledging their contributions. It is a time for unity and collective action in service to our heroes. This year Veterans Day on the Hill will take place on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please see the enclosed flyer for addition information on how you can join us to show your support for Veterans and your reason "why".

When posting on social media or attending events please remember the American Legion Family is a bipartisan organization, if your profile picture has you in Legion branded clothing or if you are wearing Legion branded clothing you should not show support for one political party or another. Doing so can give the impression that The American Legion supports that particular political party. Thank you in advance for helping to preserve the image of The American Legion by remaining bipartisan when wearing American Legion branded clothing.

I know there is a lot of controversial events going on in Minnesota and across this great nation and everyone wants to demonstrate their individual support or non-support, that is your constitutional right – what our Veterans and military fought for, just remember every one has a right to their thoughts. A difference of opinion does not have to be the end of a relationship or a friendship. We live in a county with many freedoms, just please do not give the impression that The American Legion supports your personal view by wearing Legion branded clothing. God Bless America.

**MN COMMANDERS  
TASK FORCE PRESENTS:**

# **VETERANS DAY ON THE HILL 2026**

**WHEN:  
APRIL 23RD**

**WHERE: CEDAR ST. ARMORY, ST.  
PAUL MN & MN CAPITOL ROTUNDA**

**ARRIVAL TIME SHOULD BE BETWEEN 9-  
10AM AT CEDAR ST. ARMORY**



**NO MEMBERSHIP IN  
ANY ORGANIZATION  
REQUIRED.**

**ALL SUPPORTERS ARE  
WELCOME!**

**More Info @  
MNCTF.org**



**Topics Include:**

CTF has 1 priority for  
this session!

**INCREASE THE  
DISABLED  
VETERANS  
PROPERTY TAX  
EXCLUSION  
NOW!!**

**The DAV MN will cover  
50% of the cost of a  
bus.**

**Reach out to  
Trent@davmn.org for  
details**

**Special Thanks to V4V  
for supporting funds**



**Minnesota  
Veterans 4 Veterans  
Trust Fund**



**Department of Minnesota**  
March 2026 Unit Mailing  
**Membership Chairman,**  
**Kollett Kaehlert**  
**kkaehlertaux@gmail.com**

This is the time of year when our membership slows down, many are gone South, it's normally snowy and cold outside and some have the "Winter Blues." We need to continue to reach out to those remaining members that have not renewed, as of 2/11/2026 we are 614 renewed memberships behind a year ago, with a retention value of 80.39%, the goal is 95% by 7/21/26.

The National goal of 85% is coming up quickly on March 15<sup>th</sup>, as of 2/15/2026 Minnesota is at 82.47%. We need every Unit and District to strive to meet the goal of 85%, we have 189 units at 85% or above, with many only needing one or two more members to reach 85%. Minnesota needs 21,155 paid memberships to reach 85%, as of 2/15/2026 we have 20,525. We need to work together to obtain the remaining 630 memberships in the remaining 4 weeks. Please reach out to your non-renewed members this week and focus especially on those who would help your unit reach the 85% mark.

Here are a few tips/tricks for calling members to renew:

- Do not start the conversation with your late on your dues.
  - Start off with asking how they are doing. Checking on them to ensure that they are ok. We never know what is going on in someone's life.
- Tell them the upcoming events occurring in your unit:
  - Next meeting
  - Dinner
  - Are you holding a special renew/rejoin event
- Tell them that you hope to see them soon
  - This is a great opening to telling them that you have their membership card and when is a good time to stop by to drop it off, or when can they come pick it up. This could be a great opportunity to remind them of the benefits of membership.
- Be creative, positive, and LISTEN to them. Share the great things your unit is working on, and how their membership helps our mission. Especially if they state they just don't have time!

Thank you for the time and care you give our members—your efforts truly make a difference.

# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Bulletin #28 as of 2-17-2026

2026 Membership

**Celebrating Members**

"Finding Members in Everyday Places"

Leading the Celebration is Kollett Kaehlert

| DISTRICT                              | # of Units | Goal   | Period Gain | Membership To Date | Percent of Goal | Membership LY 2/21/2025 | Difference from Last Year |
|---------------------------------------|------------|--------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| One                                   | 47         | 3,240  | 21          | 2,737              | 84.48%          | 2860                    | -123                      |
| Two                                   | 68         | 3,229  | 8           | 2,762              | 85.54%          | 2845                    | -83                       |
| Three                                 | 45         | 3,390  | 31          | 2,737              | 80.74%          | 2962                    | -225                      |
| Four                                  | 5          | 456    | 0           | 345                | 75.66%          | 386                     | -41                       |
| Five                                  | 7          | 344    | 5           | 251                | 72.97%          | 280                     | -29                       |
| Six                                   | 57         | 4,370  | 23          | 3,721              | 85.15%          | 3895                    | -174                      |
| Seven                                 | 49         | 2,427  | 16          | 2,025              | 83.44%          | 2150                    | -125                      |
| Eight                                 | 20         | 1,092  | 40          | 884                | 80.95%          | 888                     | -4                        |
| Nine                                  | 43         | 2,786  | 12          | 2,369              | 85.03%          | 2451                    | -82                       |
| Ten                                   | 40         | 3,146  | 41          | 2,546              | 80.93%          | 2673                    | -127                      |
| 1982                                  | 1          | 408    | 3           | 241                | 59.07%          | 241                     | 0                         |
| Depart. Total                         | 382        | 24,888 | 200         | 20,619             | 82.85%          | 21631                   | -1,012                    |
| Group 1 (Even)<br><i>Jodi Hassing</i> | 190        | 12,293 | 112         | 10,258             | 83.45%          | 10,687                  | -429                      |
| Group 2 (Odd)<br><i>Linda Kelly</i>   | 191        | 12,187 | 85          | 10,119             | 83.03%          | 10,944                  | -825                      |



**RANKINGS**

|                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1st</b><br>85.54%<br><b>District 2</b><br> | <b>2nd</b><br>85.15%<br><b>District 6</b><br> | <b>3rd</b><br>85.03%<br><b>District 9</b><br> | <b>4th</b><br>84.47%<br><b>District 1</b><br> | <b>5th</b><br>83.44%<br><b>District 7</b><br> | <b>6th</b><br>80.95%<br><b>District 8</b><br> | <b>7th</b><br>80.93%<br><b>District 10</b><br> | <b>8th</b><br>80.74%<br><b>District 3</b><br> | <b>9th</b><br>75.66%<br><b>District 4</b><br> | <b>10th</b><br>72.97%<br><b>District 5</b><br> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



**Department of Minnesota**  
March 2026 Unit Mailing  
**National Security Chairman,**  
**Anna Eells**  
**a\_eells@yahoo.com**

The National Security Program promotes a strong national defense by supporting Service members and their families.

What we can do to help:

Support the emotional and social needs of Active, Reserve, transitional military service members and their families.

R.E.D. (Remember Everyone Deployed) on Friday was created to remind people of our Heroes overseas and show that we are thinking of them. People across the country wear red every Friday to serve as a reminder and spread the message of how important it is to keep our troops in our thoughts throughout the year.

Complete a Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) course. Refer to – how to train for FEMA’S Community Emergency Response Teams for information.

Wednesday Warriors – We have a link for the service members to share their story via Formstack.

[https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/stories\\_of\\_servicemembers\\_and\\_their\\_families](https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/stories_of_servicemembers_and_their_families)

There are no requirements of rank or how long they have served. It can be a family member or friend. If you don’t know someone, ask the members of your department for suggestions.

Past Department Commander Thomas Fernlund & wife Veronia’s daughter shared her story on the National Security Facebook page.

It would be nice to see more than one service member from Minnesota have their story told.

## **Care Packages for our Servicemembers** **by Norma Tramm, National ALA National Security Chair**

On November 20, 2025, I responded to a request for packages to be sent to Airmen. Through communication, I discovered that there were 283 in the squadron- 216 male and 67 females.

I reached out to the National committee for some units to assist in sending care packages. There was no response. They may have realized that it was too late to be received by Christmas.

On November 24, 2025, I called the to ask for homemade Christmas cards to packages. I picked up the cards on my surprise there were over 400 cards packages.



schools in my district send with the December 5<sup>th</sup>. To to send with the

On December 1<sup>st</sup> another request came into our national office. This was for 14 sailors and if we were doing 283 airmen, another 14 sailors would be easy.



Between my neighbor Marsha Fratzke and I we made over 400 cookies. Sugar, Chocolate Chip, Monster Cookies and Peanut Butter. They were all shrink wrapped to keep them fresh and hopefully not a bunch of crumbs when they arrived.

Our unit December meeting was on Monday December 1<sup>st</sup> and I requested and received up to \$1000.00 to spend on the care packages. I then reached out to Department President Robin Dorf to see if I could get some help from the Department of Minnesota. President Robin was fast to get the ball rolling. She connected with Department Commander Linda, and they decided to pass the Box at the Rally on December 6, 2025.

I was overwhelmed at the generosity of the members who shared money so we could send care packages to our service members. \$1836.50 Thanks so much.

On Sunday Marsha Bible and I went shopping. We bought socks, deodorant, toothpaste, candy canes, powder drink mix, granola bars and Netflix. We finished as I needed to sing at a Doug Bible finished, and Doug delivered the remainder to my house on Monday December 8<sup>th</sup>.



went shopping – and purchased treats, and toothbrushes, mints, bounce, games, didn't have time to concert. Marsha and delivered the

On Monday Carol Kottom and Mary Kuperus came to my house to help with all the goodies. I had obtained several boxes from the Post Office and we began the process. I contacted Ship Thrifty to get some information as this was a first for me. Luckily Carol, our computer go to person, spent the day getting information that was needed for the labels. It would not have happened without her talent. (Sadly, I didn't get a picture of Carol at the computer.)



Mary was counting items and we put them into boxes. We also needed to share the items with Carol so she could find the correct code for the label. It was quite the process.



We did not have any boxes sealed by the time they had to leave. Do you remember the weather on December 8 and 9?





With all the help I was all set to print the labels and seal the boxes. I completed 14 boxes by the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> and realized that I needed more boxes. Off to the post office by 9 AM to mail the first batch and pick up more boxes.

My neighbor volunteered to come with me to the post office in the afternoon and then called back to say her husband would be driving us in the truck because of the bad roads. Another 21 boxes were mailed by 2:30 on December 9, 2025. Thirty-two boxes to the Airmen and three boxes to the Sailors.



On December 29<sup>th</sup> one of the boxes had reached the sailors. They were very appreciative of the treats.

Thanks MINNESOTA American Legion Family for showing our servicemembers that we care and have sent them a taste of home.

The following are taken from Robert's Rules for Dummies. It is a great book and easy to read.

### **SOME MYTHS**

- The Parliamentarian makes rulings to decide procedural questions  
The parliamentarian's job is to advise the presiding officer and give an opinion when asked. **IT IS THE** chair that makes the ruling on a point of order or answering a parliamentary inquiry.
- A motion that's adopted without being seconded is void.  
First we need to understand the purpose of a second to a motion. If only one person - the one making the motion - wishes to discuss a topic, then it is not productive to take time on the subject.  
A second simply verifies that others are interested in a discussion. If a member debates an unseconded motion, vote on an unseconded motion or it is adopted, the motion is presumed to have a second because members discussed it or acted upon it.
- The chair should always ask for unfinished business  
The Presiding officer and the secretary aren't doing their jobs if neither knows whether the group has any unfinished business. Unfinished business is business brought over from an earlier meeting. It is a motion not finally disposed of or postponed from the prior meeting or pending when the meeting adjourned. **IT IS NOT** an opportunity to bring up old ideas that were previously rejected.  
The Presiding officer does not ask for unfinished business, but would state "Under Unfinished Business the first item of business is \_\_\_\_\_."  
(The expression "old business" should be avoided, since it may incorrectly suggest the further consideration of matters that have been finally disposed of.)  
Or the Presiding office may simply state – "There is no unfinished business."
- The chair must call for nominations from the floor **THREE** times  
The chair needs only to determine that no member wishes to make another nomination. It may take only one call for further nominations or it could take several times. The motion to close nominations is never in order as long as anyone wishes to make a nomination. It is typical that when the chair realizes that all nominations have been made, they simply declare nominations closed.
- Motions don't take effect until minutes are approved  
A motion is in effect upon adoption, unless the motion provides for some other effective date. The fact that minutes aren't yet approved has nothing to do with whether a motion is in effect. Approving minutes only approves the record of the adoption of the motion, not the motion itself.

Robert's Rules of Order – a great tool for every unit. Consider obtaining one for your unit to reference when questions arise at your meeting. Feel free to contact me with your questions.



**Department of Minnesota**  
March 2026 Unit Mailing  
**Public Relations Chairman,**  
**Michelle Weaver**  
**weaver.michelle595@gmail.com**

As we move into the final stretch of the reporting year, this is an important time for every Unit to help tell the story of the American Legion Auxiliary. Public Relations is more than publicity—it is how we show our communities who we are, what we do, and why our mission matters. Strong reporting and steady communication ensure that our service is seen, understood, and remembered.

### **Annual Reports: Please Submit to Your District Chairman**

Annual Reports are due soon, and every Unit's participation is essential. These reports document the incredible work you have done throughout the year—your volunteer hours, your impact on veterans and families, and the programs you have supported.

Please make sure your Unit's Annual Reports are completed and sent to your District Chairman by the required deadline. Even if your Unit's activities were limited this year, submitting a report ensures your efforts are counted and your voice is included.

### **Continue Sending Public Relations Items**

I also encourage Units to continue sending me your photos, event write-ups, announcements, and community highlights. These submissions help us:

- Showcase the work happening across the District
- Inspire other Units with new ideas
- Strengthen our presence in local communities
- Demonstrate the value of the Auxiliary to potential members

Every project—large or small—helps tell the story of who we are. If your Unit is hosting an event, supporting a Legion Family activity, honoring veterans, or participating in community service, please share it. Your contributions help keep our District informed, connected, and proud of the work we do together.

### **Thank You for All You Do**

Your dedication is what keeps our mission strong. Thank you for continuing to serve, support, and uplift veterans, military families, and our communities. I look forward to receiving your reports and your ongoing Public Relations submissions as we close out this reporting year.



# VA&R SILENT AUCTION

Department Convention

Willmar Conference Center, 240 23<sup>rd</sup> St, SE, Willmar, MN

Thursday, July 9 - Friday, July 10, 2026

Items can be dropped off from 3 pm to 7 pm on Wednesday, July 8

Bidding will be Thursday and Friday, 8 am to 4 pm.

Bring new or slightly used items, theme baskets, quilts, patriotic items, jewelry, jams, jellies, baked goods, munchies, pies & etc. \$2 Grab bags and more.

All money raised will go towards the Auxiliary VA&R program - the program that touches the lives of so many Minnesota veterans. Bid high, bid often.



## New this year

Please make a donation and participate in our "guessing game". The question will be listed at the Silent Auction on Friday morning. The winner will receive a large tray of goodies, all made by the wonderful bakers of the American Legion Auxiliary. Donate high, donate often.





UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 14: MN ALA DEC Meeting, Bloomington Post 550  
Mar 14: Appreciation Rally, Bloomington Post 550 - 11a Turn-in  
**Mar 15: 2026-2027 Dues Form DUE**  
Mar 15: The American Legion Birthday  
Mar 19: Annual Report District ZOOM Meeting 7pm  
April 3: Good Friday – Office Closed  
April 7: Annual Report Department ZOOM Meeting 7pm  
April 10-11: Dept Jr Conference – 1<sup>st</sup> District Hosting  
April 15: Purple Up Day!  
April 15: Annual Reports Due to District Chairman  
April 25: 9th District Joint Testimonial, Bagley Post 16  
May 9: 4th District Convention, North St. Paul Post 39  
May 16: 1st District Convention, Wild Wings Activity Center in Lake City (for now but location could change)  
May 16: 2nd District Convention, Redwood Falls Post 38  
May 16: 3rd District Convention, New Prague Post 45  
May 22: American Legion Night at CHS Field, Saints vs. Omaha Storm Chasers, CHS Field, St. Paul  
May 25: Memorial Day, local observances  
May 30: 7th District Convention, New London Post 537  
May 30: 10th District Convention, Buffalo Post 270  
**June 1: 2026-2027 Officers List DUE**  
June 6: 5th District Convention, Holiday Inn, Bloomington June  
June 6: 6th District Convention, St. Augusta Post 621  
June 6: 8th District Convention, TBD  
June 13: 9th District Convention, Moorhead Post 21  
June 14-19: Minnesota Girls State, Bethel University  
June 14-20: Minnesota Boys State, St. John's University  
June 27: Joint Testimonial Dinner (for department commander and president), New Prague Post 45

**\*\*Find the Unit Annual Report PowerPoint from the February ZOOM training at mnala.org**

**\*\*March 19, 7PM - District Chairman Annual Report ZOOM - email Department Secretary to signup**

**\*\*MN ALA Girls State reservations DUE April 1st (deadline extended)**

**\*\*2026-2027 Dues Form due March 15th**

**\*\*Send pictures to the Department Secretary to be include in "What's Happen"**

**Reminders:**

**Memory book**

As Mid-Winters and Holiday Parties are happening all over our State, I am asking everyone to send me pictures of President Robin Dorf as she attends these many events. Please include details such as the date and location where the photo was taken, as well as a brief description of the activity or event. I ask you to only send digital pictures as President Robin has asked for her memory book to be digital this year. Thank you in advance! Email- ashleypaige309@gmail.com

**PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR OLD CHRISTMAS CARDS**

We have an Auxiliary member that volunteers to recycle old Christmas cards into tags for our Gift Shop at our eight veterans' homes and four VA Medical Centers. I am collecting them for her. I will be at the Appreciation Rally in Bloomington in March and at several of the conventions in May. Please contact me if you need to make arrangements to get them to me. THANK YOU in advance.  
Linda Kelly 507.421.8270



# American Legion Auxiliary

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

## 2026 - 2027 UNIT OFFICERS LIST

The Department is in the process of compiling the 2026 - 2027 Unit mailing list. We need the information noted below from your Unit for the 2026 - 2027 Auxiliary year. You can also find this form in a fillable format on our Department website [mnala.org](http://mnala.org). **Please type or print** each person's information and make sure you have the **current/complete** address for each. One copy is to be sent to the Department Office and one copy to your District President (or your District President-elect) **no later than June 1st 2026**. This needs to be sent as soon as your Unit has held Election of Officers. **This 2026 - 2027 form is required of all units even if the same officers are re-elected.** Mail to the address below or email to [deptoffice@mnala.org](mailto:deptoffice@mnala.org). **If mailing address is a PO Box, please include street address as well.** We do not always use USPS for mailing. Thank You!

UNIT # \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT # \_\_\_\_\_

**President:** Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID # \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary:** Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID # \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer:** Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID # \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Chairman:**  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID # \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues Remit to (if Different from Membership Chairman):** \_\_\_\_\_

**This 2026-2027 form is required of all units even if the same officers are re-elected. 2027 Membership cards will only be sent to Units who have submitted this form.**

**\*\*\*Unit mailing is to be sent to:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Unit Mailing Preference: Mail \_\_\_\_\_ or Email \_\_\_\_\_**



**What's Happening  
Department of Minnesota  
March 2026**

The Minneapolis VA Health Care System's National Salute to Veteran Patients Thursday, February 12, 2026. (l-r) Dept 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Linda Kelly, Minneapolis VA Hospital Rep Janet Thompson, Elaine Whelen and Minneapolis Veterans Home Rep, Sandy Gibson



Hutchinson Unit 96 provided the meal for the Red Cross workers and volunteers for the February 10 Bloodmobile. Also, cookies were provided for all the donors. Pictured on the right is Unit President, Donna Telecky and on the left is Shari Zieman, who also volunteered to make future appointments for the donors.



Sanborn Unit 286 fills goodie bags each year for our local veterans, shut-ins, etc. In December 2025 we filled 44 bags for singles, 22 bags for couples, and 7 for families. In November of 2024 we began tying fleece blankets for our local shut-ins, nursing home residents, people recovering from surgeries, and as of December 2025 we had tied and given away 46 blankies, including 16 that went out with Christmas goodie bags.

First photo is of the 16 blankets that went out at Christmas. Second is of all the bags set up ready to fill with Auxiliary members Mary Loechler, Elly Trebesh, and Crystal Falk. Third photo is of goodie bag and blanket recipients Al and Darla Stark (and daughter), with Darla already enjoying her blankie.



6<sup>th</sup> District Mid-Winter held February 7<sup>th</sup> in Pequot Lakes



The Aurora American Legion Post #241 had their Christmas Party on December 27th. Pictured are Members of the Legion, Sons, and Auxiliary Members, Scott Shuck, Lisa Bolen, Betty Bolen, Santa aka Bruce, Mary Hess, Bill Marchand, Cheri Mormann, Tricia Shuck, and Steve Biondich



1st and 3rd District American Legion Department of Minnesota Family event. Held in Fairbault Post 43 on Jan 31, 2026. Great leadership activity and ideas were shared while appreciating each other strengths. L to R: Diane MacKenthum 3rd, Kim Carlander 3rd, Linda Kelly 3rd, President Ann Bovy 3rd, Gina Little 3rd, Darlene Wondra 3rd, Kelly Kauss 3rd, Paulette Joneson 3rd, Karen Rasmussen 3rd, President Wanda Prescher 1st, Michelle Leonard 3rd, Michelle Weaver 1st



Department President Robin, worked the Minneapolis-Richfield Unit 435 omelet breakfast February 8<sup>th</sup>. Tips went to the 2025-2026 Department Project - Honor Flight Network.



Auxiliary unit 1776, Apple Valley, Minnesota. Awarded 3 Quilts of Valor to Vietnam veterans during the post's Veterans Day ceremony.



Unit 357 hosted a Turkey Bingo event on November 23<sup>rd</sup> in honor of Month of the Military Family.

