



American Legion Davis-Darrow-Meyer Post 112

Elk River, Minnesota

Website: elkriverlegion112.com

Volume 38, Issue 1

Commander's News

January-February 2022

To the Post #112 family,

I hope you had a nice holiday season and that Santa was good to all. This new year of 2022 will hopefully be better than 2021, with its Covid, inflation, gas and oil prices rising, etc.

There were good things that occurred at our post, though. We had a very successful Lenten season (even with drive-up service), and remodeled our kitchen with new ovens, flooring and paint. We even managed to upgrade the lighting and electrical! We did some repairs on our roof and our heating and air conditioning.

A major achievement was the updating of our post bylaws. The Board of Directors, also known as the Bar Board, was merged with the Executive Board to increase efficiency and accountability. The Executive Board will now consist of the following: The Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, Auxiliary President, Sgt. of Arms, Financial Officer, Membership Officer, and past Commander. Also representing are 2 SAL members (from the bar board), our new Controller (Jennifer), 1 day shift supervisor and 1 second shift supervisor (both are bartenders). The first shift supervisor (Lisa) will have the responsibility for daytime operations, booking the halls and depositing payroll and all monies. The 2nd shift supervisor (Kelly) will be responsible for nighttime activities, schedule the bartenders and, with Lisa's help, handle the stock required for the bar. We also added a post chef (Eric) who will be responsible for the kitchen, menus, deliveries and inventory. The Executive Board also includes the SAL Commandant, Glen Haugen, and the Riders director, Todd Jagodzinski. The Post Adjutant, Greg Artman, is the "ringmaster" for this circus! Whew!

We also have a great maintenance staff consisting of Keith Quammen, Greg Crow, Tom Mendenhall and Vaughn Smith.

The Honor Guard had a dinner on December 19th as a thanks to its members for their duties over the past few years.

The Executive Board, with the approval of the membership, voted to replace the plumbing in the bar. The carpet will also be replaced. The post will be closed for business to accomplish these long overdue tasks from Monday, January 3rd through Thursday January 6th, reopening on Friday January 7th.

We have had many more members in attendance at our monthly meetings!! The Auxiliary has also seen an increase. You all will learn more about what's going on at the post if you attend.

I will close my report by voicing my concern about some anti-Post #112 misunderstandings or lies spreading through our community. If you want the truth, ask me or any of the post officers to state the facts.

We are doing extremely well. With your support we will continue this into and through 2022.

Thank you.

For God and country,

Tom Kulkay, Commander Post #112

Adjutants Corner

December 20, 2021

My hope is that this newsletter finds each of you safe, healthy and blessed. This is the third draft to write this issue. Sharon extended my deadline until 5PM tonight and I was compelled to rewrite after attending last night's Honor Guard Christmas dinner.

The food was really good, the occasion was Christmas and the attendees were awesome. It made for a "lovely" evening. It had been over 30 years since the Honor Guard had a Christmas dinner. So it was long overdue. My heart was beaming for these servants of Post 112. We performed 30 honor ceremonies for our fallen, 6 Color presentations, the county fair parade, a 9/11 ceremony, a very memorable Memorial Day ceremony at 10 cemeteries and the Rivers Edge closing for the Elk River Community, and our Veterans Day Post Everlasting Ceremony.

This year end closing article needed a rewrite. The inspirations from this great group of Post 112 members at last night's dinner, reminded me of something I learned at a Covey leadership class many years ago. The class brought to light about what we do today may not be brought to light for many days ahead. The class inspired us *to Live, to Love & to Leave a Legacy*.

After thinking about everyone in attendance, it hit me pretty hard. Here was a room of servants who have selflessly served the Post, their fellow veterans and the Elk River Community for most of their lives and they were still serving. Listening to the many inspiring stories is proof that they have truly *Lived* a life to be proud of.

When you spend time with the treasures of such servants, you get to hear their stories including the good, the bad, and the sad. Getting to hear how they came together as couples, their families and their love stories will touch the heart. These stories enlightened me to understand what it means *to Love*. They not only loved their families, they also loved what they were doing for others. They served out of love for the post, the veterans and the community.

While trying to choose which photos from the dinner I wanted to share on our FB sight, I could see in plain sight a room full of servants that has already left *a Legacy*. Their legacy of serving others is inspiring to say the least. That my fellow Legionnaires and Post members is a legacy to be proud of, *a Legacy* to leave for your family and friends.

In history from years gone past, there have been many statements that have been made that drove this country and communities to step up for the cause. Such statements as "*a day that will live in infamy*" inspired the greatest generation to win WW2 or "*ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country*" inspired a generation to win the race in space.

As our post continues to grow with many new members and transfers in, my closing words to you as a member of Post 112 is; will you continue to help in the cause by serving? Will you help in the welcoming culture we are building? Will you strive to *Live, Love* and *leave a Legacy* like the generation of post members before us?

I'm confident that the answer from you will be yes

My hope is for Post 112 and its members to have a blessed and prosperous New Year.

For God...Country and our Veterans

Greg Artman, Post Adjutant

2ND Vice Commander

Happy New Year! I am Greg Crow the new 2nd Vice Commander. I've been a Legion member for over 30 years and transferred to Elk River from Windom, MN about a year ago. Since then I've been involved in many of the post programs and met a lot of great people. So first I thought I should find out what this job was all about and this is what I found.

“The second vice commander is responsible for building an atmosphere in which Legionnaires have fun while accomplishing the mission of your American Legion post. The commander depends on the second vice commander:

To help run operations

To spice up meetings

To attract members to the post.”

The second vice commander should be looking for ways to involve members in post activities, operations and programs to assist the first vice commander by providing improved member retention.

While looking this up I also ran across something on the American Legion website www.legion.org. It's called www.legion.org/alei/basic-training. It is an online course designed to explain the history and the purpose of the Legion. If you have the time, check it out. I think it helps remind us of our purpose in the American Legion.

To steal a line from the movie Bull Durham “Sometimes you win, Sometimes you lose, Sometimes it rains.” I'm just Happy to be here and hope I can help the team”.

Gregory Crow 2nd Vice Commander

PS: in an effort to get more people to attend the post meetings the first Thursday of the month I started a small door prize program.

Auxiliary



Happy New Year to all,

The Auxiliary had a busy and productive year –closing out with a record breaker Holiday Bake Sale! We are all so appreciative of all the support we receive from the Post and community.

Thank you all!

We will not be meeting in January as the post will be closed for repairs and updates. Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 3rd. Please remember to bring any school supplies you wish to donate to CAER to replenish kids back packs .We will be doing this in February.

Our soup and chili fundraiser will be Saturday Feb.19th at noon. Dine in or take out.

Once again I wish welcome our new members and express our appreciation for your involvement and generosity! It has been my pleasure to serve with you and get to know you all! I am looking forward to 2022.

Heartfelt prayers for the health and well being of our members, veterans, and community,

May God bless us all.

Auxiliary President Cathy Artman



Legion Riders

Happy New Year from Director Todd Jagodzinski and the Legion Riders. The fall newsletter mentioned two breakfast events that had been favorites in the past and we were again blessed with great attendance. The November breakfast with Bingo was busy and we served 120 breakfasts. The gambling staff completed all of their games in about two hours with many winners. The pancakes were hot off the grill thanks to Mike Lestico helping out from the SAL and Gary Lore was dishing out welcomes with eggs and sausage. Assistant Director Troy Bixby and his daughter arrive very early every breakfast Sunday and make the fresh biscuits and gravy. Take a little advice and try the gravy on the potatoes too.

I am typing this with chaffed hands from washing the many dishes from yesterday's Breakfast with Santa. We served 200 breakfasts and provided many visits with our big guy in the red suit. The riders provided another great meal and a few extras that included a successful bake sale thanks to Jean Jagodzinski and Bette Allen. Thanks to Cathy Artmann for the goodie bags for the children and hot chocolate.

Hosting these events make it possible for the donations we have made to families of veterans in our community. The riders recently provided \$1,500 to the Yellow Ribbon Committee to help three veteran's families this holiday season in the Elk River area.

2022 will provide a few more opportunities to serve the post with another Bingo and Breakfast in February, assisting with the Memorial Day events, the tractor pull, the County Fair and of course riding our motorcycles. If you ride and would like to be part of a great group of dedicated riders we always welcome new members. The 2022 riding season will be coming up soon. Riders meetings are held at the Post at 1900 on the third

of
month.

Thursday
every





Presenting: Commander Kulkay, Michele Smith. Todd Jagodzinski, Danita with Yellow Ribbon, Mayor
Dennis Coons, Greg Artman, Jerry Stevenson.
Ken Smith, Greg Crow and Glen Haugen

Sons of the American Legion

Happy New Year to everyone!

My hope is that your holidays were memorable for you and your families. We are going to start the New Year off with an SAL planning meeting. Since many of us are still working and weeknights can be difficult to schedule. My thoughts are a Saturday- January 18th at 10:30AM. We could do it after the Commanders Donuts & Coffee. If you would like, you can attend the Commander Donuts & Coffee on any Saturday. That is a great place to meet Post members and learn more about your post.

In that matter, the SAL is also invited to the monthly Post meeting on the first Thursday night at 7PM. A good showing of the SAL would be nice. A reminder to all SAL members that Post 112 has added two SAL members to the post Executive Officers Board as Consulting Members. That would be myself, the SAL Commander and the SAL Adjutant Mike Leistico. Post 112 allows our voice to be heard and that is welcoming.

In the upcoming months there are events that will take participation of volunteers from all of us. Including the Lenten Fish Fry's, Sherburne County Tractor Pull and the Sherburne County Fair

There will be signup sheets at the bar. If everyone helps it always makes it easier and helps the post **tremendously.**

Reminder; The post will be closed January 3 – 6, reopening at noon January 7th.

I am looking forward to getting together with everyone in January.

Stay safe and warm.

Glen Haugen, Sal Commander

Membership

Now that the holidays are past us, let the winter games begin!!

Several members have not renewed yet. Please send your renewal in the mail, bring to the Post or pay online. If you are not renewing, please let us know so we may update our records. Remember your membership is important and it allows us to do great things for our veterans. **Welcome to Post 112's new members:**

Post	Post	SAL	Auxiliary
Tim Atchley	Calvin Camerer	Brian Eccles	Dawn Pritzl
Jim Carrier	Dennis Coons	David Hansen	Elysia Littlefield

Preston Dodds

Don Harvey

David Meacham

Marilyn Kuiper

Bob Larson

Paul Maahs

Jacob Sanborn

Kimberly Jansen

Mark Martin

George McMullen

Chuck Naig

Tim Sanborn

Andrew Schmidt

Attention Snowbirds

The Postal Service will not forward the Newsletter while you are away. If you would like to receive it online and in color while away, contact

Bill Stevenson at wsteven444@aol.com or 763-370-2955

or

Sharon at sammenden@comcast.net or 763-441-7800

We will need the date you are leaving, email address and tentative date of your return.

Volunteers Needed

The Post has many activities throughout the year that rely on members volunteering to lend a hand. The Lenten Fish Fry dinners will be starting soon, Memorial Day celebration, the county fair, the tractor pull, the various dinners at the post and occasionally projects at the post.

There is a list at the bar to put your name on if you would like to volunteer for a specific activity or just be available for anything that comes up. We will call you for your assistance when a need arises.

Entertainment

(Keep in mind the Post will be closed

January 3rd through the 6th.)

Meat Raffle every Friday and Sunday at 5pm

Horse Races every Thursday at 5:00 pm

Karoake last 3 Thursdays of the month 7-11 pm

Bingo every Wednesday at 6:30 pm

Music

January

1-14 Clear Blue Band 7-11 pm

1-21 Terry DuBois 7-11 pm

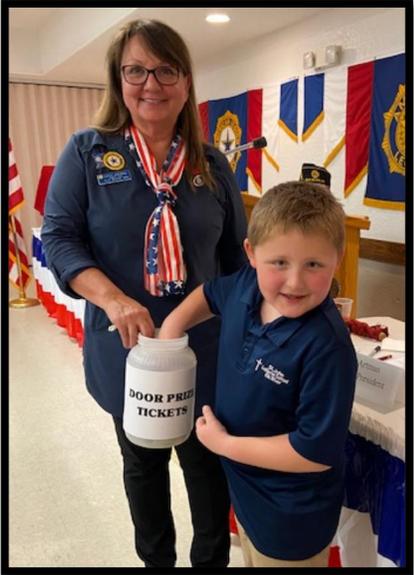
1-28 Short on Cash 7-11 pm

February





Guard performed at Rogers Football games
Veterans Day Dinner



Youngest volunteer at the dinner, Bryce, assisted Auxiliary President Cathy Artman, in



Bob Behrens of the St. Cloud Stand Down was presented with a \$500 donation by Greg Crow, Greg Artman and Keith Quammen.



Post 112 Honor Guard at Dinner at Rockwoods on

Breakfast with Santa



Looks like an elf
escaped the workshop!

