



American Legion Davis-Darrow-Meyer Post 112

Elk River, Minnesota

Website: elkriverlegion112.com

Volume 38, Issue 4

Commander's News

July-August 2022

Hello Post 112!

It is with a deep honor to write this newsletter as your newly elected Post Commander. But first and foremost let me express my sincere gratitude for your confidence in me to represent all of you. I also want to extend a big thank you to CDR Kulkay, for his years of service to Post 112. He will continue serving as Judge Advocate and on the Executive board. We communicate several times during the week. I have asked Tom to remain active and continue in sharing his insight & wisdom with me.

At the close of the June meeting was an opportunity for me to address attending members and the Auxiliary. Trying to make the message short and sweet I presented my goals and vision for the next 12 months and would like to share them with you here.

We will continue to remain focused on keeping the post profitable as we stay true to the *Four Pillars of the American Legion*.

Goals:

1. **Membership** – We have been looking at some ideas that may help focus on the young veteran families. In the upcoming months we will be focusing on the membership with directors. We want to establish recruiting teams for all entities. This will include recruitment training. All members are welcome to attend. This is your post. Each and every member should set a goal of recruiting 1-3 new members each year...
2. **Outreach Program** – We have been working on an Outreach plan since last year, but fell short to launch as we were short the people to focus on it. Now with our new chaplain and PSO Paul Deneson, he is ready to get it off the ground. We will be working on this immediately.
3. **Relationships** – The need to nurture and grow our relationships with Organizations in our community is of the utmost importance. We are a Veteran's Organization to serve Veterans and our community first.
4. **Committees** - The American Legion was set up to operate under a committee structure. In years past most organizations ran on the 80/20 rule in volunteerism. In today's world at Post 112 it is more like 90/10. We need help in making your post the best in Big 6! Come help on a committee.



5. **Revenue Streams** – Our current revenue streams are the Bar, Kitchen, Hall Rental and now we have a catering department to go with the hall rentals. It is proving to be an opportunity of profit. Then we have events. Post 112 hosts' events and we do them well. Events take volunteers and we need volunteers. We have the county fair coming up in July and we need help. Also we are working on a big event in October that will take a lot of volunteers. Stay tuned for more information.

I want to thank our Auxiliary, Honor Guard, staff and volunteers who make our events so successful. Your unwavering dedication to Post 112 is very much appreciated. You consistently go above and beyond and your American Legion Family really appreciates what you do.

As many of you know, the summertime is notoriously slow at the post. Many are heading north to enjoy the season. So here is one of my "asks". Would you come out and patronize your post for dinner and a beer? We offer the freshest and coldest draft beer in town. Check out the new 1919 wall and remodel. A lot has changed since many have been here.

A final "ask" is to please reach out to your fellow members and neighbors and do a wellness check. Everybody is going through something and sometimes a call is all that is needed. We are all in this together.

Have a safe and wonderful summer,

For God, Country and our Veterans.

Greg Artman

Commander

1st Vice Commander

Summer is finally here and it's time to get out and enjoy yourselves. I am so pleased at the direction our post is heading...we have so many members who have been loyal to the American Legion and to its meaning. I am truly amazed and grateful.

We do need volunteers for the county fair. Your help would be very much appreciated. Don't be shy – it is a lot fun meeting people and getting to know fellow members.

Feel free to contact anyone of us if you have questions or suggestions that could help the post.

1st Vice Commander

Vaughn Smith

Adjutant's Corner

Hello and stay cool. By the time you read this the Memorial Day, Flag Day, The Tractor pull, and "Rockin Rogers" day events will have happened. We can't thank those who helped enough. We are still awaiting the results of the east west beer tent sales war at the Tractor Pull.

This is my first article as Adjutant. If I can do half of what the last guy did I think I'll be doing well. We are working on staffing the fair booth so if you have some spare time sign up with Lisa at the bar. We are also working on some new event ideas for later this summer. I have also participated with some Legion rider rides and would welcome anyone with a motorcycle to join us. Some of us have ridden to some of the nearby Legions for Lunch. I guess when your retired you can do stuff like that. I hope everyone has a great summer. Stop on by the post to say hello.

Gregory Crow

Post Adjutant

Retired fish fry Potato Wrapper

Post Chaplain and Service Officer

God's blessings to Post 112 Membership!

Hope this message finds you all well! I want to publicly thank the Members for their vote of confidence in electing me as your Post Chaplain and Service Officer. I'm a 28 year retired Army Medical Service Corp Veteran and being elected as your Chaplain and Service Officer I consider to be two of the greatest honors yet in my service as a Veteran. First being a Gospel Minister of Jesus Christ, I consider serving the spiritual needs of our Post as a "Calling" and extension of my existing ministry. Thanks to all for your assistance as I assume my duties.

With your encouragement as Chaplain I have started hospital and home visitations, sending cards and telephone calls to Post members with physical challenges including bereaved family members. I will monitor the American Legion Chaplain's Calendar Events and notify the Post of service opportunities.

Second, as your Post Service Officer, I am working with the County Veterans Post Service Officer to coordinate a planning meeting with the Commander and his designated representatives. Its mission is to explore how to implement the "Outreach Program" to inform and advise Post Veterans and their families of military benefits they are eligible for. It is our hope to efficiently combine County with American Legion resources. Once done, this program might then be used for other Veteran Services organizations as well.

Chaplain's Calendar: Father's Day 19 June; Independence Day 4 July; Korean War Armistice 27 July and American Legion 103rd National Convention, Milwaukee, WI, 26 August to 1 September, 2022.

Chaplain and Post Service Officer

Paul Deneson

Girls State

Auxiliary Unit 112 has always been a strong supporter of Girls State. Traditionally funding for three high school juniors to attend even when we had no candidate to send. This year we were proud and delighted to send two girls, Avery Mortenson and Averi Schirmers. They spent the week of June 13th at Bethel College.

Throughout the week they shared updates with Auxiliary member Rebecca Pratt.

After campaigning, Averi was elected Mayor of Daisy City and Avery was elected one of two Sheriffs.

A quote from Avery, "This week has shown more than any other time, what it means to be an American Citizen".

Averi's message to Rebecca read, "Avery and I are home from Girl's State. I would like to thank you and the Auxiliary for sending us. It is impossible to put into words how thankful I am. This program is beyond words amazing and I hope that Avery and I can work together to find more passionate incoming juniors to hopefully send next year".

The Auxiliary looks forward to working with these great ambassadors for next year's event and to arrange for them to share their experiences at a Post event in the near future.



Avery and Averi

Legionville Scholarships

A letter from Matt Greenhoe, a teacher at Parker Elementary, was instrumental in awarding four scholarships for the Safety Patrol Camp at Legionville. The school sends four students every year. The camp will teach those four kids how to “captain” a team for the next school year. The American Legion family consisting of the Post, Riders, SAL and Auxiliary each funded a \$400 scholarship which was presented on May 3, 2022.



Seated (L to R): Nick, Hunter, Brynlee and Stella
Standing (L to R): Michele Smith, 1st Vice President; Greg Crow, Adjutant; Sharon Mendenhall, Secretary; Cathy Artman, President; and Greg Artman, Post Commander.

MEMBERSHIP

Bill Stevenson, Post Membership Chair shared that renewal letters from national will start showing up in mail boxes and e-mail. Paying via e-mail saves him paper work but if you prefer checks and cash still work. The Post membership is currently at 310.

Michele Smith handles membership for the Auxiliary. She has organized all membership forms, legion members, SAL, Auxiliary, Riders and transfers in a vinyl file box. This is located in the cabinet below the information booth in the entryway. Feel free to access it as needed.

Welcome to new Members

POST: Scott Corbin, Kevin Hannan and Lester Hogetvedt

SAL: Joe Cook

Greetings to all Auxiliary Members and happy summer!

All that can be said is WOW! What a busy few months it has been for Post 112 and the hard working volunteers. Without you, our much needed fundraisers would not be possible. Thank you to each and every one of you. As the sign in Koehler hall says; *Alone You Can Go Fast or Together We Can Go Far* (AYCGF and TWCGF). Our volunteers definitely choose the latter. The momentum from a successful Lenten Fish Fry, spring boarded our wonderful auxiliary into hosting the Minnesota Department Auxiliary Training in Commanders Hall. It was an Honor to host the Department President and the wonderful ladies from the other posts. All the while, nominations were raised for the May elections with many dedicated members that I am honored to serve along side with.

We presented four scholarships to Parker Elementary school students to attend Crossing Guard training at the Legionville camp this summer.

Our Honor Guard has been very busy serving the community presenting colors at graduations, presenting the Jodie Walz Music Scholarship and several funerals as well.

We then moved to Memorial Day where our Honor Guard honored 10 cemeteries in the rain which required a change of venue indoors at the Furniture & Things arena at the High School. It was another great success for Post 112, its members and the community. Then our wonderful ladies and volunteers did an awesome job of hosting the community back at the post serving lunch. It is exciting to see all of the new faces and families at the post, especially the kids. We had an education table set up for the kids that explained the meaning of Memorial Day as well as other subjects including Americanism. It is our goal to continue to reach the young families and kids. We are open to any and all ideas you have to reach out to our community.

The tractor pull was next and thank you to our awesome volunteers that made it a fun and enjoyable event even in the heat. Great job Lisa!

This year we honored Resolution 440 with the retirement of our nation's flags at a brand new location at ERX Motor Park in Elk River. They donated the space that provided facilities and handicap accessibility for our members. We are excited about this relationship as they are very supportive of all things Legion and community. Thank you, to the ERX staff and again our dedicated volunteers.

The Rockin' Rogers parade was on June 18th and it really came together as Auxiliary members hopped on board our Legion float and followed the Honor Guard that led the parade with the colors. Everyone had fun and enjoyed representing Post 112. Thank you to the Auxiliary members that participated and our awesome Honor guard for representing us so well. Great job sirs!

Our biggest fundraiser of the year is the Sherburne County fair starting July 14 – July 17. Post 112 has the Beer Garden and two Grandstand Beer Tents that are open all 4 days and there is set up and teardown. This takes many volunteers and we need help serving at this fun event. Please contact the Lisa, myself or the post to sign up at 763-441-3150. The Honor Guard and float will be leading the parade on Saturday morning you are welcome to join us on the float. It will be shaded from the sun as well as seating to make it comfortable as well. It was so much fun last year and provided great visibility for Post 112 in the community.

Over the summer we will still be working on plans for next year and really do appreciate any and all suggestions for events and outreach to the community. We have a lot of new faces and participation from new members this last year and that is wonderful to see. If you have any thing you wish to communicate between regular meetings please reach out! My number is 763-433-8535 or my email address is auxpres@elkriverlegion112.com.

Serve Others not Self,

Cathy Artman, Auxiliary President

Congratulations to Abigail Kohout, the recipient of the 2022 SFC Jodie Walz Memorial Music Scholarship provide by the Elk River American Legion. Abigail sang the National Anthem at the Memorial Day Ceremony.



Installation of Officers

At the June 2, 2022 membership meeting, the Post and Auxiliary installed the following officers for the 2022-2023 year.

POST

Greg Artman, Commander
Vaughn Smith, 1st Vice Commander
Keith Quammen, 2nd Vice Commander
Greg Crow, Adjutant
Dave DeLong, Finance Officer
Jerry Stange, Sergeant at Arms
Paul Deneson, Chaplain and PSO
Tom Kulkay, Judge Advocate
Bill Stevenson, Membership

AUXILIARY

Cathy Artman, President
Michele Smith, 1st Vice President
Carol Heath, 2nd Vice President
Laurie Tonsager, Treasurer
Sharon Mendenhall, Secretary
Elysia Littlefield, Sergeant at Arms
Mary Murphy, Chaplain
Lorraine Salk, Executive Committee
Roberta Takle, Executive Committee
Sharon Mendenhall, Executive Committee
Kristina Dahlin, Executive Committee

Summer Hours

The Post will be closed on Mondays for the summer.

Regular hours will be Tuesday-Sunday

Kitchen open Tuesdays-Fridays 5-8:00

Monday Reopening after Labor Day

Closed July 3rd and 4th.

Meetings

No July Meetings

August 4- Post membership 7:00

August 11 – Riders 6:00

August 20 – SAL 10:00

Sept 1– Post and Auxiliary 7:00

Sept 8 – Riders 6:00

Sept 17 – SAL 10:00

YOU ARE

Wanted

FOR COUNTY FAIR DUTY ANY
TIME JULY 14TH THRU THE 17TH

WE ONLY NEED 4 HOURS OF
YOUR TIME

YOUR REWARD IS FREE
ADMISSION TO THE FAIR AND A
FREE T-SHIRT

SIGN UP AT THE SALOON OR
CONTACT LISA AT 763-441-3150

Entertainment

July 8– Terry DuBois 7-11

July 22 – Tim Hadler 7-11

August 5 – Terry DuBois 7-11

Bingo every Wednesday 6:30

Meat Raffles every Friday and

Sunday at 5:00



Kelly Hennen, Director of Personnel and Lisa Ronneng, Director of Operations were recognized by Commander Artman for their dedication to the cause of the American Legion and their “Serve Others Not Self” values.



The Flag Day ceremony on June 14th was held at the ERX Motor Park in Elk River. It was a great location with facilities to meet everyone's needs. The best part was a sound system that enabled all to hear the ceremony.



June 18th found the Honor Guard at Rockin' Rogers leading off the parade. The Legion float followed carrying some Auxiliary members.





Poppy Day was observed on May 13, 2022. Darlene Salitros, Rose Primus and Brenda Breyen were part of the crew distributing poppies.

The Riders escorted the Vietnam Memorial truck to the Post parking lot on Friday afternoon in preparation for the Memorial Day Event.



Rain forced the ceremony indoors to the Furniture and Things Community Event Center.



Meanwhile back at the post, Ramona, Rose, Brenda and Darlene were busy preparing lunch for everyone.



At noon the Honor Guard once again performed in the rain for the return of the flag to full staff. Earlier in the day they honored Veterans in 10 cemeteries in the rain.