



American Legion Davis-Darrow-Meyer Post 112

Elk River, Minnesota

2021, Volume 37, Issue 3

Commander's News

July and August

Summer is finally here! Two weeks ago we had temperatures in the 80s and 90s. Then the swing to freeze warnings. Now we're back to 90s and more 90s. Welcome to Minnesota!

The Memorial Day celebrations went well. The Honor Guard went to 10 cemeteries and read the names of the veterans buried there. The number of friends and relatives of those veterans that attended was unbelievable. The amount of road construction caused us to be a little late to some of our stops, but we made them all.

The Honor Guard now has sixteen members, with more to come. They looked great and were really impressive with the drill and ceremony, as well as on the rifle volleys. The Post 112 Riders and the local Flag Runners were with the Honor guard throughout the day, also very impressive!

I would like to thank the Hackenmueller family for hosting the Memorial Day breakfast for all of us on the cemetery runs.

The program at the River Edge was really unbelievable. All went smoothly, and the speakers, music and river backdrop were something special. The river park worked out great and I do believe we will return next year. The turnout at the Legion after the program was so great that we ran out of food! The bar was also busy. The addition of the replicas of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Viet Nam Wall also drew lots of people.

The Saturday following Memorial Day a group of ten Legion and Auxiliary members went to Nisswa for the 6th District Conference. The meeting was interesting.

Switching gears: We had elections for officers of the post, Auxiliary and the Bar Board. I am going to get the SAL members together to elect officers in their group. The attendance at all the meetings has really been growing. Thank you all! The future direction of the post will begin when the newly elected officers have a planning session and put forth some ideas and suggestions.

The legion does not have a meeting in July, so we hope to see you the first Thursday of August at 7PM.

The post will be operating the beer garden at both the Tractor Pull show and the Sherburne County Fair. **Volunteers needed!!!** See Tammy if you can help. Thank you all. Remember it's your post, and its success depends on all of us working together.

For God and country

Tom Kulkay, Commander Post 112

1st Vice Commander

Hello fellow legion members,

Some of you may already know me, but for those who don't, my name is Vaughn Smith. I am married to that very busy lady Michele (with one "l"). I am an Army Veteran and served a tour in Viet Nam. I've been a member of Post 112 for 29 years. All of the people we've met at the post are wonderful and we are honored to call them our friends. I am also humbled due to all the volunteers and donors who have helped this Post stand up with Pride. Keep up the good work and I am at your service.

Vaughn Smith, 1st Vice Commander

2nd Vice Commander

It is an honor to be the 2nd Vice Commander for my fellow comrades in arms. To give you a little history of my background; 25 years with the US Army, two deployments (one stateside and one overseas). I have been retired for 15 years, worked as Canteen Supervisor for Hutchinson Correctional Facility in Kansas, as Logistics Administrator for the Department of Corrections in Minnesota and served proudly as a Veteran Service Representative for the Dept. of Veterans Administration. I retired in August 2020 to take care of my Mom before she passed.

My position as 2nd Vice Commander "is responsible for building an atmosphere in which Legionnaires have fun while accomplishing the mission of the American Legion." So far it has been fun meeting many of you and getting together to do good causes. More plans in the future to continue this positive path. This next year will be filled with training and learning. There will be opportunities to work together and help those that need it. I will give Post 112 my utmost attention when needed. I ask for patience, as I get settled in. Let's work together to meet our goal a taking care of each veteran that needs us.

Janet Harnack, 2nd Vice Commander

2ndvice@elkriverlegion112.com

Service Officer

I am stepping into a position that has been vacant for some time and am here now to help those that would like my assistance. In this position it will be my responsibility to bring awareness to all the veterans, including dependents, the rights and benefits by law.

When I read about this position, my forethought was I have the background to do this. Once I have completed formal training, I will have additional information and a stronger grasp of what will be needed to accomplish the requests of veterans. It will not always be easy, as there are laws, VA regulations and other American Legion by-laws to work through. There is more information to come, some of which will be published in this newsletter. Contact me through the American Legion if you have questions or concerns.

Janet Harnack, Service Officer

Post Officers

Commander – Tom Kulkay

1st Vice Commander – Vaughn Smith

2nd Vice Commander – Janet Harnack

Post Adjutant – Greg Artman

Finance Officer – Jim Holt

Sergeant-at-arms – Keith Quammen

Chaplain – Jim Lacy

Service Officer – Janet Harnack

SAL Squadron Commander – Vacant

Legion Riders Director – Vacant

Honor Guard Director – Greg Artman

Honor Guard

The month of April was real quiet for the squad as we had no funerals. The month of May started out with the Honor Guard performing a salute ceremony at the end of the Haven 4 Heroes benefit ride that finished in Anoka. We only had one funeral in the month of May, saluting a Navy WWII Veteran who was a 60 year member of Post 112.

It was a beautiful morning when we pulled out on Memorial Day with escorts from the Flag Runners and the Riders. We traveled safely across the community without any incidents or problems. Unfortunately, due to traffic and construction we were running just a bit behind. But on the bright side of that, it seemed like each location had more people attending than usual. Our schedule was tight with little room for error, but just like everything, all plans must allow for the necessary inevitable changes on the ground. That is one thing this Honor Guard squad is good at, is on the ground changes. The squad entered the Rivers Edge Commons Park marching in step and looking sharp as always. If you open You Tube and search for Elk River Memorial Day National Anthem, you can see us marching in.

The Honor Guard would like to thank you all for your support and patience as we were behind schedule due to construction and detours. We hope you enjoyed the Memorial Day event.

Adjutants Corner – Communications

** The post hosted the “**Ride 4 Heroes**” benefit ride with 110 bikes registering and starting from the post and the Honor Guard performing closing ceremonies in Anoka. They were so pleased with us hosting, that they have asked us to do it again next May.

****Post Officers Elections** were held on May 6, 2021 – Post Members Vaughn Smith was elected as 1st Vice Commander and Janet Harnack was elected as 2nd Vice Commander. If you see them congratulate them and say thank you for serving. These two are always volunteering and helping Post 112 in some form or another. Everyone should also thank the outgoing officers, Bob Hackenmueller and Bernard Richter for serving. Thank you Bob & Bernard, you served Post 112 well and we are better for it.

**The 2021 6th District Conference was held on June 4-5 in Nisswa. We had 5 Post Members and 4 Auxiliary members representing Post 112. Thanks to all who attended.

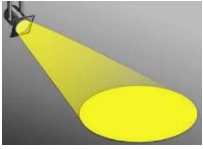
**Thanks to Tammy’s successful managing of the beer sales and relationship with the Sherburne County Fair Board, they have offered a 5 year agreement to handle the beer sales for the fair. This creates a great opportunity for the post as well as a serious need for volunteers. Tammy said it takes over 100 volunteers to handle the fair successfully. Many times over, we have heard, “*nobody asked me*” or “*all you have to do is ask*”, well, we are asking each of you now to please sign up as early as you can to help Tammy manage the event. Volunteers can sign up at the bar or email her at info@elkriverlegion112.com

**SAL Members – The Post Commander will be sending you an invitation in the upcoming weeks to attend an SAL meeting. Keep your eyes on your mail.

**Thank you to everyone that participated and helped to make the Memorial Day event successful.

**Email addresses - If you can receive an email, the post would like your email address. The goal is that in the near future, the newsletter can be sent electronically, and you could see it in color as well as save money on postage. If interested, please send a test email address to: adjutant@elkriverlegion112.com or post112newsletter@elkriverlegion.com .

Greg Artman, Post Adjutant



Veterans Spotlight

He was the oldest of 13 growing up on a farm in Eaglebend, MN. At just 17 years old he joined the US Navy with World War II in full swing, William G. Hadley shipped out to the Great Lakes Training Center in December 1944 for basic training, then on to the Navy Corpsman/Medic School in San Diego California. When asked why he joined the navy, Bill replied with a laugh, “*cause I didn’t want to sleep on the ground or in a foxhole*”. After Corpsman school, Bill received his orders to Camp Schumacher in Hayward, California. There he worked in the Navy hospital until the war was over.

With new orders in hand, he boarded a converted German Luxury liner, the USS Lejeune with 4000 other troops. Enjoying the converted ship with three swimming pools on deck they headed to the Philippines to join the rebuilding efforts. His duties assigned him to a small medical hospital caring for sailors and Sea Bee units. Everyone quartered and worked out of 10 Quonset Huts where they lived and performed their duties.

Bill’s enlistment ended in November 1947 at the same place he began. The ETS out processing station was at Camp Schumacher in Hayward, California. It had recently been converted to handle the discharging of soldiers after the war.

He stayed in California for about a year, determined to not return home in the middle of the winter. Also, not knowing that would be the best decision of his life. It was in early 1948 when he met Annie Lane who he dated, married and moved to Minnesota in June 1948, where the newlyweds would make their home and raise their family. They have one daughter, Glenda, two sons, Rodney and Bob. Both of their sons served in the US Army in Vietnam. They were married for 67 years when Annie passed away on September 13, 2015.

When they arrived in Minnesota, Bill wasn’t sure what type of work he wanted to do so he became a Commercial Tourist with routes out east which he ran for 41 years hauling Fords out of the St Paul factory, eggs to Boston, and various manufactured goods. Bill worked for Murphy Motor Freight and Franklin Manufacturing out of St Cloud, as well as trying his hand as an Owner Operator. Bill finally retired at 86 from the Ryder Rental Truck company with runs throughout the Midwest.

Bill has been a member of the American Legion for 65 years, starting his membership with the Coon Rapids American Legion in 1956. There he served in many different capacities including the building committee. After moving to Otsego in 1993, he transferred his membership to the Elk River Post. When asked what brought him to join the American Legion? Bill’s response was that he wanted to belong to an organization that served veterans.

Bill talks with his remaining 2 brothers and 3 sisters almost every day and enjoys weekly lunches with his grandkids at Shorewood Forest in Milaca. He stays active and enjoys coffee with his friends at Denny’s in Rogers. He is also a steady attendee to the Saturday morning donuts and coffee with the Commander at the Post. Bill often times brings a great friend of his and Annie’s, Florence Bubalo. If you have ever met Bill, you are quickly drawn in by his laugh and smile. He really enjoys Post 112 and all of the friendships he has made through the years. If you get a chance, stop by, and say hello to another treasure from The Greatest Generation.

Greg Artman, Adjutant





Auxiliary Unit 112 News

Celebrating 100 years 1921-2021

“Service not Self”

The auxiliary has hit the ground running hard with a really busy spring. The unit installed new officers and kicked off the 2021 Poppy Campaign with new records of donations. A big thank you to the DECA students, we are really proud of the wonderful job you did.

Then the unit was all hands on deck for Memorial Day. The day was planned full from start to finish as always. It was recognized that there were record attendances at the cemeteries across our community, as well as the ceremony downtown and luncheon back at the post. It was really nice to see the constant flow of traffic over the whole weekend to visit the tribute trucks on display. It was a Memorial Day to remember, that took the whole post working together to make it such a successful day.

And then we headed to District conferences only four days later with 4 Auxiliary members attending, along with 5 Post members. It was a memorable and great experience.

Then a great visit at the ST Cloud Stand down, that we are so excited to support and be affiliated with serving veterans.

Then on to supporting the Veteran’s Lake Flag Day event. A special thank you to those who worked really hard to make sure everything was completed and ready for the day. The Auxiliary brought delicious food for the tasty picnic which was enjoyed by everyone after our Honor Guard performed their ceremony. Also, I’m very grateful that the weather cooperated and for everyone’s efforts.

Be sure to mark down October 9th on your calendar for our 100th Anniversary celebration. We are currently making plans for informative speakers and a lovely brunch. We would like to see a huge turnout with ALL of you there. We will pass the information on when everything is established.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Cathy Artman, Unit 112 Auxiliary President



On behalf of Auxiliary Unit 112, Cathy Artman and Michele Smith presented a massage chair and monetary donation to Kerry at the Lady Veterans Boutique, at St Cloud Stand Down.



Carol Heath was the recipient of the Auxiliary Unit 112 Americanism Award for 2021.

Sons of the American Legion

Hello SAL members,

In light of the recent changes in the SAL chain of command, I want to communicate the importance of the SAL to Post 112. Since its founding in 1932, The Sons of the American Legions primary mission was to serve and honor the sacrifice of a veteran parent or relative. In my tenure as the Post Commander, the SAL members have always served with distinction. You have been there when the Post needed you the most. There are currently 73 members in the SAL unit. Each and every one of you is valuable to the success of this Post. In July, there will be an SAL meeting held with the goal of nominating, electing and swearing in a chain of command. Look for an invitation in the mail in the upcoming weeks. If you would like to communicate your interest in serving, email me at tkulkay@hotmail.com

Thank you all for your continued support.

Tom Kulkay

Post 112 Commander

Volunteer Opportunities

The Legion has been asked to host the beer garden for the Sherburne County Fair, July 15-18, again this year. We will be looking for volunteers to help with the initial cleaning of the main beer garden, security during the events, ID checkers/money takers and beer pourers. There will be multiple shifts and we try to keep the shifts to no more than 3-4 hours per shift. There is a volunteer sheet at the bar or you may contact Tammy at the Post if you are interested in helping out. (info@elkriverlegion.com)



These photos were taken at the tractor pull June 12th. A first time volunteer commented that it was busy so the time went by fast, it was fun getting to know other post members, the “people watching” was great and asked to be added to the volunteer list for the fair! COME JOIN THE FUN!!!!

Membership News

Michele Smith, Auxiliary 1st Vice President/Membership Chair, reported that August/September is the start of renewal time. The Auxiliary reached our 2021 goal set by National which was 122 and we have 124 members.

Please invite your friends, neighbors, sisters, brothers and children to become an American Legion Family Member. If you are not comfortable asking please contact me and I can do an outreach. We appreciate the membership and support you all do. You can contact me at msmith1659@gmail.com or post112outreach@elkriverlegion112.com or by phone, 763-300-6061.

Bill Stevenson, Membership Chair for the Post, says National started working on a new program in April and it is yet to be completed. He has not received any information regarding 2022 memberships. If you have questions, please contact Bill at 763-370-2955 or wsteven444@aol.com.

Menu Options

Monday's Burger Night (5-8pm)

Wing Wednesday's (5-8pm)

Thursday's Tacos (5-7pm)

Friday's Fish Dinner (5-8pm)

All are available for dine in, take-out or curbside.

Schedule Changes

Beginning June 22nd through August 31st the bar will be closed on Tuesdays, with reopening scheduled for September 7th.

Thursday hours are changing. Starting Thursday, June 24th, we will open at 3:00pm instead of noon.

Meeting Schedule

Bar Board Meetings at 8:15

Thursday July 8th

Thursday August 12th

Legion Riders

Rider Meeting, Thursday, 7-15 & 8-19

Cruise-in Breakfast, 7-18 & 8-15

Post Meetings

No meeting in July

August 5th at 7:00 pm

Auxiliary Meetings

No meetings in July or August

County Council

July 19th in Big Lake

Bingo on Wednesdays at 6:30

Live Music

Terry DuBois

July 23rd and August 6th

7:30-10:30pm

District 6 Website

Staying up-to-date with happenings in

District 6, is easy by logging onto:

Mn6thdistrict.org

The menu provides easy access to a variety of topics, including the newsletters of other posts.

Memorial Day 2021





**Deceased Veterans
June 2019 thru
May 2021**

Victor Arnold	James Aurd
William Campbell	Larry Pepus
David Clough	William Schulz
Duane Fluke	Hartley Story
Wallace Fox	James Tachens
Dennis Fyten	Roger Tarnowski
Larl Greer	Norman Walkers
Alfred Grell	William Walker
Eugene Guimont	Dean Warden
Curtis Job	Kenneth Weeks
Daniel Maher	Roger Westholter
Murray McVair	Thomas Wilson
Steve Nichols	Leonard Wirtz

Honor Guard CDR William Dollansky
Honor Guard Bugler SFC Jodie Walz-Army Ret.

