



American Legion Davis-Darrow-Meyer Post 112 Elk River, Minnesota

Website: elkriverlegion112.com

Volume 39, Issue 2

Commander's News

Mar-Apr 2023

Post 112 Family,

My hope is that this newsletter finds you healthy, safe, and warm. The 41st Annual Lenten Fish Fry should be in full swing now and run through Good Friday, April 7. We served 2905 meals in 2022, and we hope to break that record this year.

As I am drafting this article the volunteer signup sheet for it is sitting next to me and starting to fill up. My faith in our American Legion Family is that there will be an abundance of help, as each year the volunteers come together to make this event successful year after year.

Here we are in the beginning of February with a much-needed warm streak of weather and we are already off to a busy year. We hosted the County Council meeting in January. The kitchen served the visitors our famous burgers, and we have received many comments about the hospitality. Excellent job everyone!

In recent days, I enrolled a new member for the post. One of their questions was, by becoming a member of the Legion, what's in it for me (WIIFM)? A very valid question. My explanation made sense and he said yes, sign me up.

There are several, but the one that is most important.

As a member of the American Legion Family, did you know that you belong to the largest Veteran Advocate organization in the country? What does that mean? The legion membership brings influence to protect and provide for veterans nationwide. Our voice is a loud one for the legal battles that fight for Veteran rights by Legion MN Dept. and Legion National.

In the past few years, the American Legion Department of MN has prioritized legislation for:

- Veterans Omnibus Bill
- Veterans Home Campus Revitalization
- MVDA Funding for Veteran Suicide
- Amended the Post 9/11 Service Bonus
- Property Tax Exemption for Gold Star Families

And currently the Legion Department of Minnesota is taking a stand against Governor Walz's attempt to reverse E tabs and attempting to implement major tax increases on proceeds that support legion posts across Minnesota. His changes will be a detriment to food shelves, Children & Youth programs, Veterans families, Veteran homeless shelters, fire stations, city festivals, 4th of July displays and much more. This would eliminate \$33M in charitable giving and \$35M in wages. *This one benefit alone is the line that the American Legion must hold.*

We attended the 6th District Mid-Winter Conference in Ironton, MN. I'm confident that we brought back lots of information as we always do. We are always looking for ways to improve our mission in serving veterans as an American Legion Post, and this is a perfect place to gain knowledge.

Your post has been well represented at conferences by Post and Auxiliary members. So much to learn and so many people with years of experience to meet. If you are ever in Ironton, stop at the legion and try the meatloaf, it is good!

To recap; We need fish fry volunteers, and the SAL is having a luncheon meeting on 3/25/23. Lunch will be served at 1PM and the meeting will start at 2PM. All members are urged to attend as we plan out the upcoming year and some awesome events this summer.

Those of us that are motorcycle enthusiasts are ready for some handlebars in the wind or knees in the breeze. It won't be long, that's for sure.

Also, all members are invited for Saturday morning donuts and coffee. We always have a great crowd that enjoys the camaraderie and fellowship. The donuts are fresh, and the coffee is good. Come out and meet your post and auxiliary members.

Our monthly Post & Auxiliary meetings are still the first Thursday of the month at 7PM. Your attendance alone helps the Legion as a whole.

In closing, I want to thank all our volunteers and staff that keep Post 112 moving forward.

Stay safe and healthy.

Greg Artman

Commander Post 112

1st Vice Commander

Greetings to all of my Comrades at Post 112.

I hope you have been well. I'm finally making time to sit down and write my report for the newsletter. As most of you know, the Post is heading in the right direction because of the dedicated "CREW" we have at the helm steering our Post and creating the steam to power it along.

Sometimes we feel disheartened when we hear criticism or get questioned on decisions we've made or things we have done. Everything we do is for the good of the Post, its members and the community.

Also I'd like to thank every one of you who have stepped up and volunteered when there was a need. Keep up the Good Work and remember you are appreciated.

Vaughn Smith

1st Vice Commander

P.S. A big thank you to the "Hole in the wall gang" for all your help installing the case in the front entry.

PS:

2023 Lenten Fish Fry

2/24/23 to 4/7/23 Every Friday 5-7PM

Fish Dinner - \$14

Fish & Shrimp - \$15

Shrimp Dinner - \$15

Adjutant

By the time you read this the Super Bowl and the Daytona 500 will be over, it will probably snow again and we will be well into the Lenten Fish fry season.

As the Adjutant I receive lots of correspondence regarding donation requests and information about the various Legion programs. In a few months I am supposed to send in a report explaining our participation in many of the nationally recognized programs. As I read the list of American Legion programs I was overwhelmed with the number of things I had never heard about. Boys State, Girls State, Blood Drives, Baseball, Softball, Legionville, etc. At Post 112 we do a tremendous job with the programs we are involved with (*with incredible help from the Auxiliary, SAL and the Riders*) but there is always room for more. So if you are sitting at home bored with cabin fever, consider getting involved. A good place to start would be to attend our donuts with the Commanders on Saturday mornings at 8:30. It's a good way to meet people and see what's going on. Auxiliary members are welcome too.

Stop on by the post to say hello and sign the book.

Gregory Crow (G2)

Post Adjutant

Chaplain

The following is a summary of my January 2023 Chaplain's report end of month.

66 Personal visits to homes, Assisted Living, Hospital

55 Messaging: texts, phone, email

3 Letters of Condolences

17 Chaplain Support at American Legion Events (includes 4 Spiritual Counseling Services)

As a Volunteer Chaplain at the Guardian Angels Transitional Care Elk River, 3 additional veterans were added to the bi-monthly visitations for a total of 15. As Co-Pastor at the Wellstead Assisted Living Rogers, 9 veterans are visited on a weekly basis. Discussions are in progress with the Guardian Angels to develop a monthly Memorial Service for veterans and nonveterans who have recently passed.

Paul Deneson, Chaplain

Post Service Officer

I am preparing to identify date(s) for hosting the next County Veterans Benefit Review and preparatory meetings with veterans support organizations.

Paul Deneson, Post Service Officer

Auxiliary

Greetings to all,

I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and good spirits. Many have had a tough season and I want you to know our thoughts and prayers are with you.

If you do not regularly attend our meetings you may not be aware of all the great programs within the Auxiliary. Many of these programs you may already be a part of and we would like to hear about it. For example March is Community Service month. If you are involved with a project in the community that supports Americanism, Children and Youth or helping veterans in any capacity we want to hear from you. As an Auxiliary member you represent the American Legion. Examples would be Community Table, CAER, and Gifts Anonymous. There are a lot of great opportunities with this program. We can even use help writing cards to deployed military, veterans and members. That is an important and easy way to support and serve our community. It all matters and every bit is appreciated!

Another area that your voice and support is needed is on the legislative front. March 30th 2023 is "VETERANS DAY ON THE HILL" and some of us are planning to participate. If you would like to be a part of that, let me know. We have a big voice because of our numbers and there are important issues that we can email our representatives about. Go to the department website for details or emailShirley.a.frederick@gmail.com. She is the 6th District Auxiliary Chairman and is very knowledgeable.

Also if you have donated blood since April 1, 2022, would you please send the dates, location, and time spent donating to Roberta Takle at Rptakle@aol.com. Thank you.

Honoring and serving veterans every day.

Cathy Artman

Auxiliary Unit 112 President

Quilts for Veterans

In 2022, District 6 Past Presidents Parley presented a challenge to all Units in the District to make quilts for the new Veterans Homes under construction. With scheduled openings in the fall of 2023, the hope was to have quilts for the first 10-20 veterans entering the facilities. It is the hope that this will be an ongoing project to provide all the veteran residents a quilt.

I approached my friend, Barb who is a quilter, to get some information on how to make a quilt. Upon hearing the “why” I was asking questions, she volunteered to make some for us. Shortly thereafter, she called to say her quilt group “Quilt Divas” was very interested in also contributing quilts for veterans. I shared this information at a meeting and it was well received. Our own member, Laurie Tonsager is making a quilt and Roberta Takle’s friend, Phyllis is donating four. Quilt Divas have 5 totally completed, have 7 completed tops to be quilted and more in the works.

“Serving our Veterans” is one of our Auxiliary missions. Unit 112 members accepted the challenge and stepped out to our community where we found tremendous respect and support for veterans as well.

If there are quilters reading this and would like to contribute to this worthy project, the quilts need to measure 70” x 90”, be washable and in colors of red, white and blue. They can be quilted or hand tied. The “Quilt Unveiling” will be at the May 4th meeting at which time all the quilters will join us to share their work. Please call Sharon Mendenhall with questions, 763-441-7800.

The quilts will be delivered to the District Convention in June and then delivered to the Veterans Home in Bemidji.

Sharon Mendenhall
Unit Secretary

SAL 2023

Hello fellow SAL brothers,

Can you believe that it is March already? As I am writing this the sky is blue and the sun is shining. We can feel spring around the corner. We have been discussing the SAL with others in the post about what is the mission of the SAL. We all come to the common denominator of its founding. We are here to support the American Legion Family. This means supporting the members, the post activities and events and helping support the post with the four pillars. The best example is how we support the Lenten Fish Fry. A couple of us also serve on the Honor Guard squad and are members of the Riders. We volunteer for the pancake breakfast with them as well.

We are planning our monthly SAL meeting for March 25th with lunch being served at 1:00PM in Koehler Hall. Our meeting will follow from 2-4PM. We are urging all members to attend and help plan our squad's future. Keep your eye out for the invite card in the mail. RSVP to Commander Glen Haugen at 612-369-4405 or Adjutant Mike Leistico at 612-840-4638 by March 10, 2023. Please include your full name in your text.

In closing, our hope is you all are safe and well.

Glen Haugen
SAL Commander

Meetings

3-2 Post and Auxiliary Membership 7:00

3-9 Riders 6:00 pm

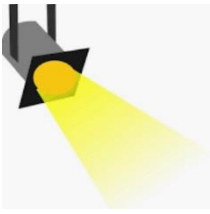
3-16 Executive Board 7:00 pm

3-25 SAL 1:00 PM

4-6 Post and Auxiliary Membership 7:00

4-13 Riders 6:00 pm

4-20 Executive Board 7:00 pm



Veteran Spotlight



Jerome (Jerry) Takle is farm kid born in Walnut Grove, MN and went to school in Westbrook, MN. He would not confirm if he knew anyone from “The Little House on the Prairie”. His wife Roberta grew up near Windom, MN and they met at area 4-H events. After graduating high school in 1957 he went to the School of Mines in Rapid City, SD for Electrical Engineering and was in ROTC graduating in 1964. He was then commissioned into the Army as an engineer officer and went to Ft. Belvoir for branch training. He and Roberta were married in 1962. Jerry learned he was to be stationed in Germany. They planned to spend a few years stationed there dancing the polka at Oktoberfest, building bridges over the Rhine River and whatever else the 11th Engineer group was assigned to do. That all changed when the army needed Engineer Officers in Viet Nam. So Roberta went back home and Jerry went to Viet Nam in 1966 with the 1st Engineer Group. They cleared mine field and roads and built Bailey Bridges. He returned home in 1968 and was in the Army reserve for a few years.

He then started a career as an electrical engineer for Rural Cooperative Electric Association in Elk River and joined the American Legion. When he joined Post 112 there were still 13 WWI veteran members. He has had many positions with the Legion. He was the post commander in 1973, the adjutant from 1983-2013, and in the Honor Guard. In those days the adjutant was also the membership guy and did the newsletter too. At the time there were over 500 members in the post. He has also been the Adjutant and Finance Officer at the District. And he has been the County Council Adjutant for 30 years.

He recalls events like Sunday brat feeds, County Council social gatherings, Memorial Day celebrations and the start of the Honor Guard in 1986 or 87. There were around 30 Members of the newly formed Honor Guard divided into 4 squads. Ed Norell was the post commander, Bill Dollansky was the honor Guard Director and Tony Belanger was the Sgt. in charge of drill and ceremonies.

Roberta was busy too. She graduated with a math degree from Hamline, worked for a credit union, the high school, was on the school board and was active in her church as well as the legion auxiliary while raising 2 kids.

How do we begin to thank people who have done so much for so long?

Jerry says he would like to echo what Lloyd Ricker past Department Commander said at a recent County Council meeting, “We need to get some new people involved that have a passion for the American Legion to carry on our work”.

We’re glad to have them with us.

Gregory Crow, Adjutant

BINGO
6:30 Wednesdays
MEAT RAFFLE
Fridays and Sundays @ 5:00

MEMBERSHIP
Welcome to 2 transfers to the Post
Dennis Derichs
Justin Torguson

TRIBUTE TO THE HONOR GUARD

It was a cold and blustery day, December 22, 2023, at the Dayton Cemetery.

Cemetery Manager, Steve Bebeau, was on hand and took photos of the Honor Guard. He sent them along with the following note:

“Just want to say thank you for coming out and thank you for your service. Hope these photos will help to show people the service and honor you provide.”



VETERANS DAY ON THE HILL 2023

WHEN:
MARCH 30TH, 2023

DAV of MN Presents:
Free Veterans and Supporters Lunch

**Doors Open @ 10:00AM FOR COFFEE
LUNCH @ 11:00AM**

(One Block from Capitol at 600 Cedar Street, St. Paul)

Veterans March to the Rally @ 12:40

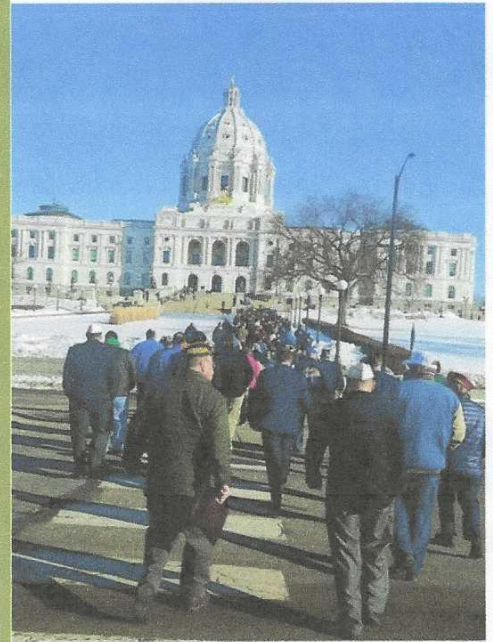
(Short Walk from Armory to State Veterans Service Building
20 West 12th St, St. Paul)

CTF, UVLC, and MACVSO Present:
Rally in the Rotunda 1:00-2:00pm



**ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT-
TRENT@DAVMN.ORG:**

**NO MEMBERSHIP IN
ANY ORGANIZATION
REQUIRED.
ALL SUPPORTERS ARE
WELCOME!**



Topics Include:

PASSING A CLEAN
VETERANS OMNIBUS
BILL

ENSURING SURVIVING
SPOUSES HAVE ACCESS
TO PROPERTY TAX
RELIEF

FIXING THE POST 9/11
SERVICE BONUS TO
INCLUDE ALL CURRENT
RESIDENT VETERANS

INCREASE THE
AMOUNT FOR THE
PROPERTY TAX VALUE
EXCLUSION



DAV OF MINNESOTA
**BENEFITS
PROTECTION**





Transformation of the old coat closet has been completed and now honors veterans from Desert Storm and Afghanistan.

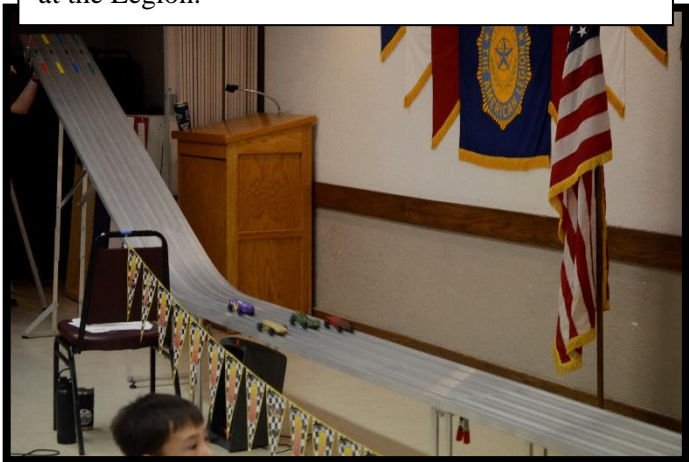
“Summer in January” Rider’s breakfast had help from SAL and Auxiliary in addition to lots of future Legion members!



Bill Hadley celebrated his 96th Birthday on January 22nd.



The Boy Scouts held their annual Soap Box Derby at the Legion.





Diane Telfer, Darlene Salitros, Laurie Tonsager and Brenda Breyen were busy cutting pies in preparation of the January 8th soup and chili lunch. This fundraiser by the Auxiliary is always a popular and well attended event.



Unit President Cathy Artman, serves as the District 6 Chairperson for National Security. She presented her report at the Mid-Winter Conference in Ironton, MN. Waiting for lunch to be served were Vaughn Smith, Cathy, Michele Smith and Greg Artman. Other Elk River members in attendance were Jerry and Roberta Takle, Sheryl Hookom and Sharon Mendenhall.



A quilt being donated by the Quilt Divas for the Bemidji Veterans Home.



At the February meeting, to promote the upcoming Poppy month, members each received seed, soil and planting instructions to grow their own poppies. Looking forward to many lovely blooming plants at the May meeting!