



American Legion Davis-Darrow-Meyer Post 112

Elk River, Minnesota

2021, Volume 37, Issue 2

Commander's News

May and June 2021

To all of the Post #112 family:

I hope this newsletter will inform you of what's been going on at the post. The darn pandemic is still affecting all of us to one extreme or the other, however some signs are showing "the light at the end of the tunnel".

The dinner we had last month was well attended, as were the membership meetings the last two months. The April membership meeting highlighted the nominations for executive officers to serve 2021-2022. The nominations will continue at the May meeting. The executive offices are all up for grabs. The current officers holding the following positions chose not to run again: 2nd Vice Commander, 1st Vice Commander, chaplain, financial officer and Sgt. at Arms. Please consider "throwing your hat into the ring" to fill these very important positions. I would like to thank Bernard Richter for his work as Second Vice Commander for these last several years, Bob Hackenmueller for all the years he has served the membership, Chip Martin for his service as chaplain, Jim Holt as our financial officer, and last but not least, Bill Stevenson for 15 years of service as our Sgt. at Arms. I have accepted the nomination for post commander. I welcome any and all to the May membership meeting. The Board of Directors (bar board) will accept nominations at the June membership meeting.

The Memorial Day Program will be held on Monday, May 31. I reserved the downtown River Park. Hopefully it won't rain! The Honor Guard will visit the area cemeteries as in the past, with the same schedule as in the past.

I would like to acknowledge all the efforts of so many volunteers for their labors these past few months. The Friday fish fries went well beyond our predictions. Thank you everyone!

The post will have some new improvements throughout the facility that I'm sure you will like—more info to come!

We are tossing around the possibility of having a summer picnic with the VFW-any thoughts?

In closing, please keep the first Thursday of the month at 7PM open to attend the post membership meetings. After all, it's your post. We need input and suggestions from you, our members.

Thank you.

For God and country,

Tom Kulkay, Post #112 Commander

1ST Vice Commander

Greeting to all! Spring is here, bringing bright promise for the coming year.

Our Lenten Fish Fry was a great success, thanks to all of the great volunteers from our Legion family pitching in to “git er done”!

We are making progress toward “normal” and looking to keep moving forward. This will require everyone’s cooperation.

Take special note of upcoming events – especially Tractor Pull and County Fair and volunteer opportunities. All help is welcome, there is a place for everyone. Check for sign-ups or contact us to be include.

Bob Hackenmueller

1st Vice Commander, Post #112



Legion Riders

We are starting a Cruise-in Breakfast. Come show off your antique, classic, muscle car or motorcycle starting May 16th. This will be an on-going event throughout this summer. The breakfasts are the 3rd Sunday of each month. We look forward to seeing all the sweet rides!

Our first motorcycle ride will be April 10th.

Rubber side down.

Dawn Olsen, ALR Director

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Unit 112 Auxiliary News

Celebrating 100 Years 1921-2021

“Service not Self”

Greetings Unit Sisters and Friends,

Here we are with a new Spring and a brighter outlook than a year ago! We are busily completing Annual Reports of our activities and donations from April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021. It certainly was a “different” year from our usual projects and fundraisers. We will hope things are getting back on track now.

At the **Legion Birthday Dinner** about 58 dinners were served. For some it was their first outing in a year. Our next big event is **Poppy Day on Friday, May 14th**. That day you will see our DECA students out in the morning collecting donations and Auxiliary and Post members in the afternoon doing the same. You will find an envelope in this newsletter to mail in a donation, if you can.

We are forming a planning committee for the **Elk River Unit 112 Auxiliary 100th Anniversary** celebration and will be collecting information and items relating to our history. We want to have a program during the September Membership Dinner, and maybe an event or two before that. You will be hearing more about that this summer.

(Auxiliary Continued)

If you have anything you are interested in loaning us, or any stories or remembrances you or your family would like to share for this special 100th Anniversary recognition, please call Ramona Doeblner at 763-442-8009 or Roberta Takle 763-441-1440.

Finally, this is my last newsletter as Unit 112's Auxiliary President. Cathy Artman is the President-elect for 2021-2022 and I'm sure you'll give her the same support and kindness you have shown me these past 10 years. I wish her all the best! It's been an honor and my privilege to serve our veterans and their families, and I look forward to continuing to do so! I have so appreciated all the wonderful, dedicated members and volunteers who make up Our Elk River American Legion Family. I cherished each and every one of you! Thanks so much! All my best!

God Bless our Veterans and God bless the USA.

Kristina Dahlin, President Unit 112

Honor Guard

Your Honor Guard squad has been very busy since the last newsletter was printed. We have performed six funeral ceremonies, most on some very cold winter days to which we are extremely grateful for our winter uniforms.

Our Honor Guard squad members also helped greeting and seating patrons, as well as clearing tables during the Friday night Lenten Fish Fry's. The squad also assisted with the prep work on Friday mornings.

We had a full squad at the Legion birthday dinner in March where members with over 50 years of Legion membership were honored. We have two of our own squad members who are in that elite club. They are also past Commanders Vern Draxler and Jerry Takle both with 53 years of Legion membership. Congratulations to you and everyone that was honored that night. Wishing a happy birthday to the American Legion, 102 years and going strong.

It is exciting to report that the Honor Guard squad has grown the ranks to 16 uniformed participating members. It is an honor to introduce and welcome our newest squad member, SFC Greg Crow (US Army Retired). Greg transferred here in December from Post 206 in Windom, where he also served with their Honor Guard squad. Greg has also joined Post 112's Riders.

The squad will be holding their quarterly meeting on Saturday morning, April 24th at 10AM where we will be discussing upcoming events, including ceremony duties on May 1st at the Haven for Heroes in Anoka and our Memorial Day Cemetery services. Commander Kulkay has secured the Amphitheatre downtown for the closing ceremony. Stay tuned for more details.

The Honor Guard squad would like to express our sincere gratitude to Post 112 members for your continued support as it is an honor to serve you.

For God, Country and our Veterans,

Greg Artman, Honor Guard Commander



Veteran's Spotlight

Harold "Bud"

Adams worked in a law firm and a Western Auto store after graduating from high school in January



1942. But the moment he turned 18 he did

not hesitate to enlist in the US Army Air Corp. Bud's 3 year, 24 day military career started at Hamilton Field in San Francisco, CA where he was in processed and received minimal training. He was then on a commercial ship bound for the south pacific. There was a big push to get a lot of our men to the south Pacific fast!

He first found himself working in the administration, performing duties on the island of Caledonia. After the US Air Force was formed from separation of the US Army, his new duties put him in communication field where his job was to do the coding of the paperwork on each and every flight from the island they occupied. Bud was then assigned to Admiral Halsey's CommSoPAC Jungle Air Force unit starting on Espiritu Santo Island where the South Pacific campaign started.

After the Marines would take an island, the Seabees would construct runways and airbases for the Jungle Air Force unit to fly missions from. There were B24's and P38's constantly flying combat missions keeping Bud very occupied with his duties. The island hopping campaign put him on several islands including the Solomon Island Guadalcanal campaign, New Guinea and finally the Island of Malaita. It was on the island of Malaita where Bud had two life changing events.

The island roads were constructed of white coral. They sure looked nice but had two very dangerous qualities. They lit up at night in the moon light and were very slippery when raining.

Bud was awakened to an air raid siren one night and he made his way to a bunker foxhole. They were bombing everything along the shiny coral road. He made it to his foxhole in time, unfortunately, Bud raised his head above cover and a bomb exploded just outside of his bunker.

He received wounds to his head and face from shrapnel, rocks and dirt. It was through God's grace that his injuries were serious but not life threatening. Harold "Bud" Adams received a "Purple Heart" for the incident. Bud returned to his duty the very next day, bandaged and looking rough, but he never left his duty.

It wasn't long after that, while traveling back to his station riding in a jeep on the coral road in the rain, coming from the islands Navy mess hall he encountered the second event. The Jeep slid off of the road about 10 feet stopping up against a palm tree. After getting out, they realized the tree stopped them from careening over a cliff into an Army encampment of billeted unaware soldiers. He again acknowledged that God's grace had seen him through a narrowing escape. Bud returned home to Minnesota after 2 years and 11 months overseas as a Master Sergeant.

After returning home, Bud got a job working for a theatre company as movies theatres were sprouting up everywhere. The Pioneer Theatre Company assigned him to work in Iowa where he met his beautiful wife Vivian. After 7 years of managing theatres, the boss asked him to move to another town in Iowa to manage another theatre. There was no interest in moving again. When he returned to Minneapolis to discuss, the boss

was pretty adamant that he accept the position and make the move. He told Bud that the job market was really tough and he shouldn't risk his position.

While home in the cities, Bud was introduced to a gentleman through a friend that had a furniture operation northwest of the cities in a town called Elk River. Bud was full of ambition and 7 years of experience successfully marketing and running theatres when he met with the Dare family and was instantly hired. On his returning trip back to Iowa, he stopped and visited with his new ex-boss to give him notice. The boss was stunned, but Bud was returning home to Minnesota.

In 1952 Bud and his family settled in Elk River on 6th Street, where he still resides. He worked for the Dare family for 11 years before purchasing the furniture business from them. It grew in size to where he had to build a warehouse where eventually the whole operation moved to.

Bud Adams has been a member of the American Legion for 74 years total. When asked the reason for joining the Legion was, his quick reply was, "because of what they do for Veterans" period. He has always been very generous to post 112 throughout the years. His generosity is still mentioned today. Bud shared that he is very proud of Post 112 and Commander Tom Kulkay's leadership through the turbulent times of the past ten years. When asked what more could Post 112 do for him and other post members, his response was, "this right here, the physical contact and outreach."

It was a complete honor to have a chance to spend time with one of this nation's 'Greatest Generation.' American Legion Post 112 honors and salutes you Mr. Bud Adams! Thank you for your service to our country, our community and our post.

Greg Artman, Adjutant #####

Adjutants Corner-Communications

- ** Post Officer Election will be held at the next post meeting on May 6, 2021 at 7:00 pm**
- ** Stay tuned for the new Post 112 Outreach Program**
- ** 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. This would also result in cost savings to the post for printing and postage. If interested, please send a test email to: adjutant@elkriver112.com or post112newsletter@elkriverlegion.com**
- ** The post will be hosting the next County Council meeting on Monday, May 17th starting at 7:30 pm. All post members are welcome.**
- ** The 2021 6th District Conference is scheduled for June 4-5. If you are interested in attending reach out to the Commander or Jerry Takle for details. The registration form is available in the District 6 April newsletter at: mn6thdistrict.org**
- ** Don't forget about the "RECRUIT 3" membership contest by the National Commander. It runs through June 1, 2021. If you need a registration form, send me an email: adjutant@elkriver112.com**

Membership

Congratulations to the Post and Auxiliary for having met the 2021 membership goals.

Bill Stevenson, the Elk River Legion Membership Director, reports that membership numbers can fluctuate throughout the year. New members join, members transfer in to the post or transfer out, and members pass away.

He notes that having the Legion Riders, has attracted a number of new members and the SAL membership is also up. The post has 29 Paid Up For Life members, 20 members with more than 50 years, 5 with more than 60 years and one with more than 70 years of membership.

Bill took over his duties as Membership Director in March of 2020. His goal is to be the “go-to-guy” for membership questions or concerns and to get to know the 300 plus members. Even if you don’t have a problem, give him a call to get acquainted. He can be reached at 763-370-2955 or wsteven444@aol.com.

Michele Smith handles all the Auxiliary memberships and has been in her position since 2019. The Auxiliary’s membership is 123 which includes 7 junior members, who are 18 years of age or younger. Members are encouraged to introduce daughters, granddaughters and other youth to the Auxiliary.

Michele is always eager to help with questions and concerns with a smile on her face or in her voice. She can be reached at: msmith1659@gmail.com or post112outreach@elkriverlegion112.com or by phone, 763-300-6061.

Both Bill and Michele encourage members to renew online. This is the most efficient way and your membership cards are received more quickly.

District 6 Website

Staying up-to-date with happenings and news in District 6, is easy by logging onto: mn6thdistrict.org.

The menu provides easy access to a variety of topics, including the newsletter.

Menu Options

Monday’s Burger Night (5-8pm)

Tuesday’s Bar Menu (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 and can be ordered online through Froogle for pick up. Here is the URL for online ordering:

americanlegionelkriver.froogleonline.io/

Schedules

Bingo is Back on Wednesdays at 6:30

Bar board Meetings at 8:00 pm:

Thursday, May 13th

Thursday June 10th

Post and Auxiliary meetings at 7:00 pm:

Thursday, May 6th

Thursday, June 3rd

Volunteers Needed

We have been asked to host the beer garden for the FFA Alumni Tractor Pull (June 12th) And the Sherburne County Fair (July 15-18) at the Sherburne County Fairgrounds 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 will a volunteer sign up sheet at the bar or you may contact Tammy at the post if anyone is interested in helping at either or both of these events.

Veteran's Resources

* The **Veterans Service Center**, formerly located in Brooklyn Park, was moved to downtown Anoka in January 2021. The address is 700 E. Main St. Hours are 8:00-4:30 and the phone number is 763-503-2220.

* **Fisher House** provides free housing for family members of veterans hospitalized at the Minneapolis VA Hospital. David Mason is the manager and can be reached at: david.mason@vagov or 612-467-5602.

The Becker SAL is planning a Country Music Festival for August 21, 2021, to raise money for the Fisher House. The goal is \$10,000.

* The St. Cloud **Stand Down** organization assists male and female veterans with resources and merchandise free of charge. They provide food, clothing, footwear, job connections and housing information. For more information visit: stcloudstanddown.com or call 320-774-1892. Follow Stand Down on Face Book to learn about free haircuts, manicures and other special offers.

* **Sherburne County Veterans Services** located at 13880 Business Center Dr. NW, Elk River. Phone number is 763765-3100.

* **Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 Press 1** The Veterans Crisis Line is a free, confidential resource that's available to anyone, even if you're not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care. The caring, qualified responders at the Veterans Crisis Line are specially trained and experienced in helping veterans of all ages and circumstances.

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The 6th District Mid-Winter Conference was held in Nisswa, February 20th, 2021. Representing the Elk River Legion were Michele Smith, Roberta Takle, Cathy Artman, Sharon Mendenhall and Jerry Takle.

A huge thank you to the Legion Post and Auxiliary members for their generous donations to Haven for Heroes at the birthday dinner, March 21st.

6 boxes of cleaning and office supplies were delivered and well received by Director Ellen Ward and residents John and Dale.

