



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

Website: elkriverlegion112.com Phone: 763-441-3150

Volume 40 Issue 2

Commander's News March-April 2024

Greetings Legion Family,

It has been a busy time for all of us at the Post the last several months. We have fixed many things to keep the post operating. I am so proud of everyone involved. Thank you!!

The mid-winter conference was very informative. It is nice to see all the friends we have made from all the other Posts.

I would like to thank our staff for working so hard serving our veterans and patrons. Good job you guys!!!

We have lost many friends of the American Legion. One person I knew pretty well was Bob Hackenmueller. I (we) will miss you friend.

At you service,

Vaughn Smith, Commander

1st Vice Commander

A hearty hello to the Post #112 family!

I find it hard to believe that we are already in our Lenten fish fry season. I was impressed with the first Friday fish/shrimp dinner. The number of volunteers was fantastic! Thanks to all who worked.

I was contemplating what's going on at the post and our future. I came to a feeling that our post is in great shape. Commander Vaughn is doing a great job, and his vision for our future looks very promising. The everyday functions of the post are in very capable hands. The building problems continue to be a challenge but they've been met by our outstanding staff, especially Second Vice Commander Keith and post manager Lisa.

The post executive group meets every 3rd Thursday and has been brainstorming many interesting ideas for not only fundraising, but also activities for our members to enjoy. The upcoming newsletters and Facebook page will highlight these ideas, so keep checking them.

I will close with: This is our post and it is successful with all of our members helping for the months and years to come. Thank you all,

Tom Kulkay, 1st Vice Commander

Adjutant

Hello Post 112 members and families, Auxiliary, Riders and SAL brothers,

I am Joe Lund, your Interim Adjutant.

A very appreciative welcome. I look forward to helping all improvements and philanthropy throughout Elk River. So far so good. As I write this our Riders BBB is kicking off. As a member for one year, I have recognized promotion of volunteerism, patriotism, entertainment and a diverse membership. There is evident pride in our Post. I just wanna thank all members and patrons for a chance to keep the doors open,

Speaking of doors open, it is always a blast here on Wednesday Night Bingo. Our first fish fry this season was an awesome feat and very successful. April 12, 2024 is the Riders and SAL smelt fry, which we are all so ready for literally. It is the 105th birthday of the American Legion.

There is a wonderful group of leadership here and we are dedicated to servicing all of you.

Joseph Lund, Your Interim Adjutant,

P.S. Thank you Greg Crow for all of your exhaustive hours as a past Adjutant. I mean it when I say your administrative skills will be sorely missed. But I'll try!

Chaplain

The following is an 18 DEC 2023 to 18 FEB 2024 summary of Post Chaplain duties performed:

Personal Visits, Home, Assisted Living 192

Messaging, Text, Phone 127

Letters of Condolences 5

Chaplain Support AL Events, Spiritual Counseling
72

American Legion Chaplain's Calendar: American Legion Birthday 15 MAR, Children and Youth Month, Holy Season APR

Continuing weekly and monthly vet visits and Sunday Worship services at the Wellstead Senior Care and Assisted Living Centers. Conducted first Communion Service post Covid. Also, continuing weekly and monthly vet visits to five local Guardian Angels Campuses. Currently assigned 85 total vets to visit at least monthly on four different Senior Care and Assisted Living Centers.

Distributed Christmas Greeting message and \$30.00 Cash gift to 85 resident veterans in Senior Care and Assisted Living. Thank you Post Auxiliary, Riders, and Members for making this gift available!! The positive responses of both staff and vet residents have been plentiful. Their numerous verbal and written acknowledgements of expressed gratefulness and appreciation have been abundant. A representative written note of appreciation from a vet reads, "To American Legion Post 112, As a veteran and a resident of Guardian Angels, I thank you for the Christmas Greeting plus the money gift of \$30.00. Remembering us vets is certainly appreciated!! Blessings in 2024"

Praying that all Post 112 members have a very blessed Easter!

Paul Deneson, Chaplain

Post Service Officer

The following is an 18 DEC 2023 to 18 FEB 2024 summary of Post Service Officer duties:

Messaging, Text, Phone 5

Personal Visit 2

Coordinated Vet request for benefit review 1

Coordinated Vet request for personal support 1*

*Special thanks to President Michele Smith and Auxiliary for taking the lead and continuing financial and personal support along with other veteran agencies for an Iraqi Vet making progress towards increasing self-independence.

The fourth Veterans Benefit Review and Spouses Event is scheduled for 9 May 2024, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at Post 112. Invitations to Veteran Support Agencies and Volunteer Veteran Organizations have been sent. Interestingly, the number of vet spouses attending has steadily been increasing with each benefit review event. Apparently, there is a definite need to improve vet spouses' knowledge of potential benefits for which they might be eligible. So, be sure to include reaching out to vet spouses along with your vet neighbors and friends to attend this next benefit review event. An Auxiliary member, Betty Robinson, whose husband had not registered with the county prior to his death, was able to receive benefits by contacting the county following his death. All are encouraged to attend the Benefit Review to learn what benefits are available.

Paul Deneson, Post Service Officer

Auxiliary

Hello Auxiliary,

Hope everyone is well. January has been a breath of fresh air with a not too crazy busy Auxiliary. We did have a Mid-Winter Conference in

Aitken, where you learn about the programs and fresh ideas of how to help with the programs. February 3rd we had our Soup and Chili fundraiser. This went very well...note to self-double the amount of soup as we sold out of most of them. Thank you all that helped and came to partake in the goodies. All your support is wonderful.

Veterans & Spouses Benefit

Review

May 9, 2024

9:00am to 4:00pm

By the time you get this newsletter we will have started the fish fries. Come and enjoy some fish, shrimp and of course the hot fudge sundaes! Rebecca is working hard on Girls and Boys state and it is also report time for the district and department. We would like to hear from you if you have any suggestions or ideas for administering our programs. Stay well and thank you for being a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112.

Michele Smith, Unit 112 President

Riders

Hello from Legion Riders of Post 112. As you read this we are in the middle of the weirdest Winter I have seen in my 62 years. Seeing motorcycles in January and February on a regular basis is just plain odd.

The Riders January breakfast with the Legion Baseball Team was another success serving well over 140 meals and raising money for the team to travel south for their own spring practice. All of the parents and players were busy greeting, cooking and serving the guests. The team is thinking about making this an annual fundraising event. The team also had their own successful Bingo on a Sunday afternoon.

The Riders and SAL are hosting a Smelt and Shrimp Fry on April 12th. This event is one of new traditions we hope to see every year. The Post had a Smelt Fry a decade or more in the past and was well attended.

The Riders and SAL had another Breakfast and Bingo on February 18th. As always these breakfasts raise money for the distressed veterans and their families in the Elk River area.

The Riders are looking forward to participating in a fundraising ride for the Magnus facility in Dayton in May, an Annual ride for the Zimmerman Legion on June 2nd, participating in the Sand Dunes Bike Rodeo at Bailey Rays Roadhouse on June 8th and a possible trip to Legionville in May to assist with spring cleanup.

Todd Jagodzinski, Riders Director

The Elk River Baseball team is sponsored by Post 112. Nineteen Varsity and Junior players along with 3 coaches will attend spring training March 25-29, 2024 at Baseball City in St. Petersburg, Florida. During the 5 days, the players will have access to the training facilities and play games with teams from throughout the United States.

Fund raising efforts for this trip are handled by the Elk River Baseball Dugout Club. Anyone wishing to contribute funds may do so by mailing a contribution to Elk River Dugout Club, P.O. Box 625, Elk River, MN 55330.



Auxiliary 1st Vice President

Hello everyone and Happy Easter!

Our membership is cruising along with a goal of 137. We currently have 6 juniors and 109 senior members for a total 116 paid so far this year. If you haven't renewed your membership please consider doing so.

I would also like to thank everyone who helped with the soup and chili on February 3rd and also to those who assisted with the fish fry preparation Friday morning and helped on Friday evening February 16th. If you are available any Friday morning through March 29th, and would like to lend a hand, be at the legion around 8:30. Great conversations and a fun time.

Have a great day.

Diane Telfer, Auxiliary 1st Vice President

Membership

Post New Members:

Timothy Dunlap
James Hallgren
Michael Hangaard
Donald Leshovsky – Transfer-in

Taps:

Russ Anderson
Bob Hackenmueller
Joseph Quast

Multi-Year Membership Now Available For Post Members

The multi-year membership is now live on the national website for our members who have paid and are current in their 2024 membership dues. This means those members who paid their 2024 dues prior to December 4, 2023 are now eligible to purchase a multi-year membership at today's dues rate. When a multi-year membership is purchased, your membership will be paid up for the next three years; 2025-2026-2027 membership years. Here is the link to purchase a multi-year membership; www.legion.org/renew. The multi-year membership can only be purchased on the national website or through an active MyLegion.org account. We anticipate this program is going to be extremely popular due to the annual membership dues increase effective July 1, 2024. For our members who are still to renew their 2024 dues, the opportunity to purchase a multi-year membership is still available and has not changed.

SMELT FRY

April 12, 2024

4:30pm-7:00pm

Hosted by the Riders and SAL

Open to the public

105th Birthday of the American Legion

Birthday Dinner will be held March 10, 2024

At the Post

Social hour 5:00 pm - Dinner at 6:00

Calendar

3-1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Fish Fry – 5:00-7:00 pm
3-7 Post and Auxiliary Membership mtg. – 7:00 pm
3-10 Birthday Dinner –Social 5:00- Dinner 6:00 pm
3-14 Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner 5:00 pm
3-14 Riders and SAL meeting - 6:00 pm
3-21 Executive Board Meeting -7:00 pm

4-4 Post and Auxiliary Membership Mtg. – 7:00 pm
4-11 Riders and Sal Meeting – 6:00 pm
4-12 Smelt Fry – 4:30-7:00 pm
4-18 Executive Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

Entertainment

3-1 Music by Michael Sherwood 7:00 pm
3-8 Music by Terry Dubois 7:00 pm
3-14 Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner – 5:00 pm
3-15 Music by Scott Fraser – 7:00 pm
3-16 Elk River All Night Grad Party Bingo Fundraiser – 6:00-8:00 pm
3-22 Music by Soulful Sounder – 7:00 pm
3-24 Community Table – 4:30-6:30 pm

4-5 Music by Sain Trio – 7:00 pm
4-12 Music by Terry Dubois - 7:00 pm
4-19 Music by Soulful Sounder – 7:00 pm
4-26 Music by Whiskey and Water – 7:00 pm
4-28 Community Table – 4:30-6:30 pm

Bingo every Wednesday at 6:30 pm
Meat Raffle Fridays and Sundays at 5:00 pm
Horse Races 1st Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm



VETERANS SPOTLIGHT

By Raphael Mc kraljic

My parents left the former Yugoslavia in May of 1945 as communists were taking over the country. They met and married in a displaced persons camp in Spittal, Austria on January 20th, 1948. I was born precisely nine months later October 20th, 1948.

In June of 1949 the three of us traveled from southern Austria by train to northern Germany, Bremerhaven, where we boarded The US troop ship USS Marine Jumper and sailed to New York City -- Ellis Island. After being approved for entry to the United States we traveled by train from New York City through Chicago and Minneapolis to Elk River MN where we were greeted By Wally Mattock who upon learning that we did not speak English called Father Joseph Trobec. As a parishioner of Saint Andrews, he knew that Fr. Trobec was multilingual. The pastor was born and grew up in the same area as my mother and they were distantly related by blood and marriage. Our sponsor who had guaranteed our family a place to stay and my father work at the recently closed Elk River Box Factory.

After a short stay at the rectory, we were housed by the Moos family in Nowthen for a few months prior to renting one of the units in a triplex situated where the department of motor vehicles is now. In April of 1952 we purchased a house precisely 2 blocks east the DMV where my youngest brother presently resides.

After arriving in the US our parent's added six children to our family; one on every even numbered year from 1950 until 1960.

As I spoke only Slovenian, my parents enrolled me in kindergarten at Saint Andrews elementary school at the age of 4 in hopes that I learn the English language which is commonly spoken.

A significant event in my life was catching the polio virus in June following my kindergarten year as being a patient at Sister Kenney with only English speakers for six weeks advanced my knowledge of the English considerably.

After completing elementary school, I spent two years at Crosier Catholic seminary in Onamia Minnesota. I completed my high school education at Elk River high school where I played football, basketball and ran the 100-yard and 220-yard dashes. I worked at Anderson bakery and Joe's Superette during my senior year.

Five weeks after high school graduation I joined the US army on July 18th, 1966. I had basic training at Fort Leonard Wood then spent nine months in electronic school in Fort Monmouth NJ just outside New York City followed by a 2-year stint at a microwave radio site on a hill above the castle in Heidelberg Germany.

A second significant event in my life, after joining the service, was the loss of our father who died of a heart attack at work in January of 1967.

Immediately upon returning to the United States in July of 1969 I joined the American Legion and have been a member since.

Joe Pallansch offered me a job at UPA shortly after my return to the US and I worked there for six months prior to attending college with assistance from the GI Bill per my plan. I continued to work at UPA summers and autumns until I completed my studies at St. Cloud State College and received my engineering degree. I also worked week ends at Joe's Superette to assist with the family expenses.

Upon graduating in June of 1974. I made my first trip south of the Mason Dixon line with a fellow graduate followed by a six-week trip to the former Yugoslavia with my mother to visit family she had not seen for 30 years, and I had never met.

After returning from Europe, I entered the air pollution control as a field engineer for a Louisville KY company and worked for two years after which I took early retirement for two and a half years at age 28. I traveled around Europe visiting relatives, living in France, hitchhiking through much of eastern Communist Europe; finally returning to the US. I continued to work in the air pollution control field for a Pittsburgh company for 15 years working in many states and foreign countries including Brazil, India, Korea, and Columbia. After the Pittsburgh Company included me in a large "reduction of force", I found work with a Baltimore company where I worked for a decade before the company declared bankruptcy. Having lost two jobs through no fault of my own, I decided to become an independent contractor thereby being hired and fired on my own recognizance.

I met Mary McDevitt, the love of my life, at a school board meeting and then saw her again in the Legion after an auxiliary meeting over which she presided as president. At the time I was working in Jamaica, so we dated for two years before I proposed during our first trip together to Slovenia at the chapel in my father's village of 10 houses IG. We each pulled the rope and rang the chapel bell to announce our engagement.

We married February 18th of 1995 and our twins, Malie, and Rafael, arrived June 12th of 1998. We temporarily sheltered in the house Mary owned kitty corner from the Dairy Queen before we built our new home on 45 acres purchased in the early 80s. We moved in in June 2002.

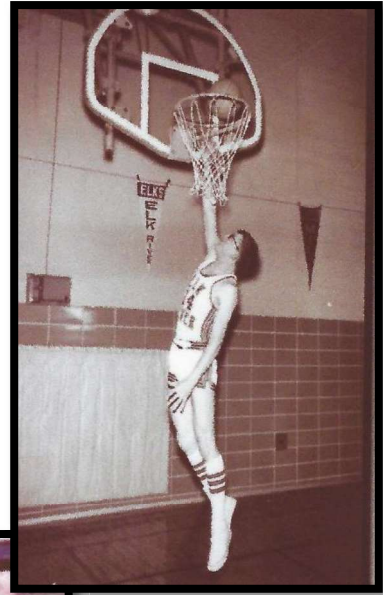
Over the years my work as a field engineer commissioning air pollution control projects has taken me to most of the most populous countries in the world including China, India, Indonesia, Romania and Russia. I have enjoyed the work and continue to work.

We have been fortunate as both Mary, a Speech Pathologist and I have science/math-based professions. Our professions are still in demand, and we continue to work into our 70s. I am working part-time while Mary is zooming her students around the country. As the flexibility of zooming allows Mary to work anywhere in the world where there is an internet connection, she has accompanied me on projects to Baltimore, Portland Oregon, and New Orleans in recent years. She even continued work during our holidays in Slovenia in February of 2023.

We are fortunate that we and our family has remained healthy. Our daughter Malie has completed her undergraduate degree in Speech Pathology at the University of Arizona and our son is studying to be an electrician at Dunwoody.

We will continue traveling as we drift from semi-retirement into retirement. We spent Christmas in Costa Rica with our children and are presently wintering in California and Arizona with a couple visit with our daughter.

In April my wife is to take me on a cruise from New York to Europe, 75 years after my mother brought me from Europe to New York.



Baseball team members preparing for a busy morning at the Riders Breakfast. Under the guidance of Todd Jagodzinski, player's parents served up a great breakfast.



VETERANS DAY ON THE HILL 2024

WHEN:
APRIL 17TH, 2024

DAV of MN Presents:
Free Veterans and Supporters Lunch

Doors Open @ 10:00AM FOR COFFEE
LUNCH @ 11:30AM

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

Veterans March to the Rally @ 1:00pm
(Short Walk from Armory to State Veterans Service Building
20 West 12th St, St. Paul)

CTF, UVLC, and MACVSO Present:
Rally in the Rotunda 1:15-2:00pm



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

INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF THE PROP TAX VALUE EXCLUSION

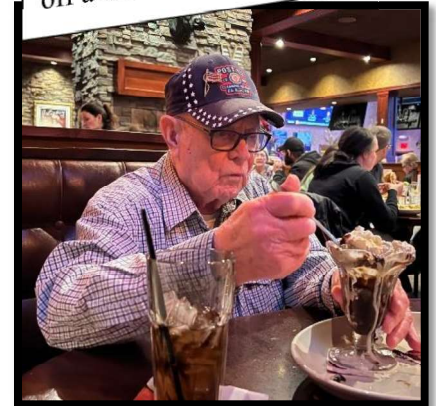
NEW THIS YEAR!!

A MINIBUS RUNNING FROM THE ARMORY TO THE HOUSE AND SENATE OFFICE BUILDINGS 10-1130.

MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENTS TO SEE YOUR LAWMAKERS!



Bill Hadley celebrated his 97th birthday by polishing off a brownie sundae!



At the first fish fry of 2024, the Auxiliary "Sundae" ladies, Rose, Ramona and Brenda were busy dishing up hot fudge sundaes and root beer floats.

Post 112 was represented at the Mid-Winter Conference in Aitkin, MN by Roberta and Jerry Takle and Michele and Vaughn Smith.

