



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

Website: elkriverlegion112.com

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Commander's News November-December 2023

Hello to all the members of Post 112 and to all our Post 112 employees as well,
I appreciate all of you for your hard work and dedication to making sure that our Legion Post succeeds.
Thank you very much.

I would like to give a **BIG THANK YOU** to Keith Quammen for taking very good care of the building and grounds. He is at the Post pretty much every day doing what needs to be done. Please let him know that he is doing a fantastic JOB!!!

The front entry is looking good. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way. Criticism doesn't count.
I hope to see all of you at the Veteran's Day Dinner on November 12th. The Riders and SAL will be having breakfasts starting the 3rd Sunday in November. Please show your support to the Riders and Sal. It's always a good time with good food.

Vaughn Smith, Commander

1st Vice Commander

Greetings to my family members of Post 112!

It has been a long time since I've been the first vice of the post. I was asked by the Executive Board to assume the position and I said I'd be honored.

The main duty of the first vice is to help the commander with any problems that come up and to offer any ideas for a solution. Commander Vaughn is, in my opinion, doing a very good job in his new task, but he needs all of us to help him out, as this is the duty of all post members.

I want to keep this short so I will end on this note: Please maintain a positive attitude—no rumors or negativity, as this only damages our post. If you have any issues or problems with our policies, please bring them up to any officer at the post, Auxiliary, SAL or Riders.

Thank you,

Tom Kulkay, 1st Vice Commander

Adjutant

I was told the other day of an idea an old timer had. He said "If we could get all the members to come in once a week and bring a friend it would make a big difference in the Post's bottom line." I would say even once a month would be great.

It's been a very busy and challenging time since the last newsletter. We continue to adjust to the new chain of command. We are still finding places where information needs to be updated. If you come across something that needs to be updated please let us know.

Congratulations to Lisa and Carol who recently graduated from the course to certify them to run the kitchen. And our new cook Paul is doing a good job. And we have Rick, who is a longtime kitchen veteran, helping out when he can. We still need help in the catering department and we need some food runners so if you know anyone looking for a part-time job send them in to talk it over with Lisa.

We had a great time at the recent Veterans review and hope we helped some veterans get what they need. We need to thank Chaplain Paul and all the others that made that possible. I was recently at the St Cloud Stand down and they will provide us with food boxes for any veterans that might need one. So if you know of someone let us know.

The new sidewalk should be done shortly. There is only one East entrance now so be careful when you come and go in that direction. Our Maintenance supervisor Keith continues to get a grip on our never-ending repairs and upgrades. We recently had to replace a refrigeration unit in our main walk in cooler and our crack staff did a great job of handling the situation as always.

The Honor Guard has been and will continue to be busy with funerals, sporting events and the upcoming Veterans Day events. The Honor Guard is always looking for a few good Men [and Women] to fill our ranks so if you might be interested let us know. It's a very rewarding experience and doesn't take as much time as you think.

Our Membership for 2024 is underway and we are almost to 200 renewals. If you haven't renewed yet please do. It's our members that keep us strong.

As always a good place to learn how to get involved would be to come to 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.

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

Gregory Crow (G2), Post Adjutant



Post 112 Fellow Legionnaires,

I want to express my personal appreciation for you unwavering, consistent support for me as your elected Post Chaplain and Post Service Officer. As a result of Post 112's nomination, On 29 JUL 2023, I was honored as one of four finalists for the *Elk River Volunteer of the Year Award* during a public town event. I was subsequently selected as the *September Elk River Volunteer of the Month* during the City Council Meeting 18 SEP 2023.

I consider this recognition to be not only personal but a joint award with Post 112. As I expressed in my remarks to the City Council, "I want to thank American Legion Post 112 here in Elk River for their support and encouragement in my outreach to vets and assisted living populations. As a Gospel Minister of Jesus Christ, I want to thank the Lord for calling me to Elk River and this ministry."

Jointly, we have been and continue to be faithful co-laborers in doing the work of ministry and support to vets in our area fulfilling one of the

American Legion's Four Pillars, namely: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. This distinct honor belongs as much to you, Post 112 Legionnaires, as it does to me. Thank you!

Together,

Paul Deneson, Chaplain and Post Service Officer

Chaplain

The following is a 20 AUG to 17 OCT 2023 summary of Post Chaplain duties performed:

Personal Visits, Home, Assisted Living	175
Messaging, Text, Phone	98
Letters of Condolences	5
Chaplain Support AL Events, Spiritual Counseling	57

American Legion Chaplain's Calendar: Election Day 7 NOV, Veterans Day 11 NOV, Family Week of Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving 23 NOV, Pearl Harbor Day 7 DEC, Hanukkah 7-15 DEC, Christmas 25 DEC, Kwanzaa 26 DEC-1JAN

In addition to the current vet visitations at the Guardian Angels Assisted Living on the Evans Campus and Transition Care Facility, have started visitation with vets at the Guardian Angels by the Lake and Engel Haus Campuses. Total monthly Guardian Angels vets to visit 38

Conducted the second post covid period Guardian Angels Memorial Service for 13 staff and residents who passed during the previous 60 days

Continuing weekly vet visits and Sunday Worship services at the Wellstead Assisted Living Centers. During OCT 2023 began vet visits to the Diamond Crest Campus. Total regular Wellstead vets to visit 19

Paul Deneson, Chaplain

Post Service Officer

The following is a 20 AUG to 17 OCT 23 summary of Post Service Officer duties performed:

Messaging, Text, Phone	40
Personal Visits	10
Coordinated Post 112 Vet request for benefit info	3
Completed 3 rd Veterans Benefit Review with spouses for Anoka, Wright, Benton, and Sherburne Counties on 28 SEP 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Note:	
Reviews conducted with spouses	77
Follow-up Reviews to be conducted with Sherburne County CVSO	15
Follow-up Reviews to be conducted Wright County CVSO's et.al.	17
VA and Vet Support Agencies attended	12

Special thanks go to Smith's, Mendenhall's, G2, and the Auxiliary for providing lunch (I apologize if I forgot someone).

Paul Deneson, Post Service Officer

Auxiliary

The Auxiliary has been busy this fall with a variety of activities. The membership dinner September 17th went well even though only 21 members signed up and 60+ were served. Plans are now underway for the Veteran's Day Dinner on November 12th. If you plan to attend, sign up on the list at the Post or call the legion to add your name. President Smith and Roberta Takle attended the Past Presidents Luncheon was held in Cold Spring October 7, 2023. The Craft and Bake sale was held October 28th. President Smith and Sharon Mendenhall attended the Fall Conference in St. Cloud September 27-28, 2023.

Among the Auxiliary's numerous programs, this year's focus is on Children and Youth, Education and Americanism. The purpose of the national Americanism program is to promote patriotism and responsible citizenship. The work of the Americanism program is educationally based and divided into three phases: work with youth, with adults and work within the community.

The Unit started collecting schools supplies that were donated to CAER. Additional supplies were brought to the September meeting. The total value of supplies donated came to \$812.52. CAER distributed the supplies to kids in advance of school starting in September and will help to replenish supplies mid-year.

We kicked off the national essay contest with letters to each principal of District 728 schools, Spectrum schools, Girl Scouts and digitally to home schoolers. This year's theme is "What does freedom mean to me". The contest is open to grades 3-12 and special needs students. The top essay in each class will be sent on to the ALA Department of Minnesota. The Department forwards the top essays on to the Division where the top essay winners receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name is made to the Children of Warriors National President's Scholarship Fund. Locally, each student submitting an essay will receive a certificate of appreciation. The students whose essays are forwarded to the Department along with their parents and teachers, will be honored at a reception and receive \$50.00.

A meeting was held October 9, 2023 with Elk River/Zimmerman Girl Scout leaders to discuss ways to support events that aid the girls to earn badges. Several ideas were presented with one already completed for the Veterans' Day Dinner.

Our next meeting will be held November 2, 2023 at 7:00 pm. It would be great to see you there.

Michele Smith, Auxiliary President Unit 112

1st Vice President

2024 membership renewal is underway with the Unit's goal of 137. While we have 51 seniors and 2 juniors paid, we still have a ways to go. So please renew your membership as soon as possible either on line or in person at the Post.

I would like to give a warm welcome to new member Dolores "DeeDee" Tietz from Princeton, MN.

Hopefully, you all enjoyed the Craft and Bake Sale on October 28th.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Diane Telfer, 1st Vice President

Legion Riders

Hello from the Elk River Legion Riders,

Sadly another riding season is coming to end. Other sad news is that former Elk River Rider and Legion member Mark Richardson, passed away after a motorcycle accident. Mark's gentle nature and humor will be missed by all who knew him.

The Riders assisted with three different fund raising rides this summer. The first was for the Magnus campus in Dayton. The second was for the Combat Wounded Veterans out of the Forest Lake Legion. That ride had about 250 bikes. This ride begins with about 300 people reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and every year it brings tears to my eyes. For the third fund raising ride, we hosted a lunch for the Clearwater Legion Riders as they raised over \$30,000 for homeless vets.

Our Sunday breakfasts are returning on November 19th with the well-attended Breakfast, Bingo and Bloody Mary's. December 17th will be with Santa, January 21, 2024 will be a theme yet to be determined and another BB&B on February 18th.

The Legion Riders also assisted Rockwoods in Otsego with the parking during their very popular weekly Wednesday outdoor concerts. This was a large commitment for the small group of riders during the very warm summer. We are always looking for more members to participate in our wind therapy.

Todd Jagodzinski, Legion Riders Director

Veteran's Day Dinner

November 12, 2023

Social Hour 5:00-6:00 pm

Dinner 6:00 pm

Please sign up at the Post or call

763-441-7800 to sign up.

Welcome New Members

July 1 through October 13, 2023

Legion

Brian Beeman	Reece Bertholf
Gerald Crandall	Rusty Hammett
Carter Petrick	Stephen Schmit
Corey Self	Ronnell Shaw
Richard Stanley	

SAL

Brad Botts	Patrick Carlson
Parker Carlson	Christopher Page
Will Schiminski	Robert Tietz

Auxiliary

Dolores Tietz

Boys and Girls State Programs

Boys and Girls State programs sponsored by the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary are among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. These are participatory programs in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government. They learn about the political process by electing officials for all levels of government and actively running a mock government. Some of the activities included are legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations and recreational programs.

These week-long programs are funded by the Legion Post or Auxiliary and are held at area college campuses in June. Students who have completed their junior year of high school are eligible to attend. The Post and Auxiliary work with local High Schools to identify interested students who can apply to attend.

If members of the Elk River American Legion have children, grandchildren or know of someone who might be interested, please contact Rebecca Pratt at rlpratt59@gmail.com or 320-339-9882 or Greg Crow at 612-616-6328.

Trunk or Treat

- A Trunk or Treat will be held at the Post Halloween evening, October 31st
- Dress up your trunk and yourself to pass out candy from 5:30-7:30 pm in the parking lot.
- 1919 Root beer will be provided along with all the fun.
- Contact Lisa Ronneng at the bar or 763-441-3150 to volunteer your trunk or to donate candy.

Entertainment

Friday 11-3 Soulful Sound 7:00pm
Friday 11-10 Terry Dubois 7:00 pm
Friday 11-17 Soulful Sound 7:00 pm
Wednesday 11-22 To be determined
Friday 12-1 Soulful Sound
Friday 12-8 T-Bone Rey Show 7:00 pm
Friday 12-15 Scott Fraser 7:00 pm
Friday 12-22 Soulful Sound 7:00 pm
Friday 12-29 Terry Dubois 7:00 pm
Bingo every Wednesday
Meat Raffle Friday and Sunday 5:00 pm
Wednesday 11-22 Meat Raffle at 5:00

Calendar

- 11-2 Post and Auxiliary Membership Mtg. 7:00 pm
- 11-9 Riders Meeting 6:00 pm
- 11-12 Veterans Day Dinner 5:00 pm
- 11-16 Executive Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- 11-19 BBB Breakfast 8:30-11:30
- 12-7 Post and Auxiliary Membership Mtg. 7:00 pm
- 12-8 Auxiliary Holiday Bake Sale
- 12-14 Riders Meeting 6:00 pm
- 12-17 Breakfast with Santa 8:30-11:30
- 12-21 Executive Board Meeting 7:00 pm

Holiday Schedule

- Closed 11-23 Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve 12-24: Last call at 4:30, Bar closes at 5:00. It will be customer appreciation day with food and drink specials.
- Closed 12-25 Christmas Day

I came across this poem on Facebook and felt the need to share it as we approach our Veterans Day.

It was an school assignment written by a 14-year for Remembrance Day which is a memorial day observed in Commonwealth member states since the end of the First World War in 1919 to honor armed forces members who have died in the line of duty. Remembrance Day is held on November 11th.

Sharon Mendenhall

One Thousand Men are Walking

By Joshua Dyer (aged 14)

One thousand men are walking
Walking side by side
Singing songs from home
The spirit as their guide

They walk toward the light milord,
they walk towards the sun
they smoke and laugh and smile together
no foes to outrun.

These men live on forever
in the hearts of those they saved
a nation truly grateful
for the path of peace they paved.

They march as friends and comrades
but they do not march for war
step close to salvation
a tranquil steady corps
the meadows lit with golden beams
a beacon for the brave
the emerald grass untrampled
a reward for what they gave.

They dream of those they left behind
and know they dream of them
forever in those poppy fields
where walks one thousand men.



The Honor Guard could be found any Friday evening presenting colors at either Elk River or Rogers's football games.



President Michele Smith along with Past President Roberta Takle attended the Past Presidents luncheon in Cold Spring.



Breakfast with the Mayor is always well attended with everyone enjoying coffee and rolls.



Membership Dinner



Ramona Doebler and Andrea Kring renewed their memberships with Bill Stevenson. In the meantime, Carol Heath was busy in the kitchen stirring up some gravy. Before dinner, Commander Smith welcomed everyone. Sixty some members enjoyed a wonderful roast beef dinner with delicious side dishes and desserts provided by the Auxiliary.

