



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

Website: elkriverlegion112.com Phone: 763-441-3150
FB: Elk River American Legion Family Volume 40 Issue 6

Commander's News November-December 2024

Greetings to all our loyal followers! I'd like to start this newsletter with a very heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers, employees and members. Your efforts have made all of our fundraisers successful. These activities include the Lenten Fish Frys, the Memorial Day program, the tractor pull and beer garden at the County Fair, the golf tournament, our first Ribfest, and anything else I've forgotten (Whew!). How impressive is all that? We couldn't have done it without those folks who planned and worked on the events and those who attended and financially supported them. The post Honor Guard, under Vaughn Smith's leadership, has been busy with military funeral honors and the football games in Rogers and Elk River. The Riders have also represented our post at various activities including many fundraisers. The SAL has really increased their membership numbers and have helped out in all of the programs I mentioned. The Auxiliary, under President Michelle Smith, has done so much for our post. Please plan to attend their Craft/Bake Sale on October 26th. Thanks to Sharon Mendenhall, our newsletter editor, who does a fantastic job. Our membership director, Bill Stevenson, has helped get our membership numbers way up. Great job!

Keith Quamman, our maintenance professional, "puts out fires" and keeps the post running—many thanks! I want everyone to mark their calendars for Sunday November 10th, which will be our Veteran's Day dinner. The dinner will be catered by Pizza Ranch. This is a free dinner for our members. Please join us!

The Honor Guard will again visit various elementary and middle schools on Veteran's Day. Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas to all.

Tom Kulkay, Commander

1st Vice Commander

Hello Legion Family and Friends,

The Legion Post has been a very busy place. In case you missed it, our RibFest was pretty successful. It was a new event for us, and it turned out very well. It was a lot of fun even with the wind blowing down our fence more than once. Thanks to everyone involved. We are definitely planning for next year.

The Honor Guard has been very busy with the High School football games and many other events. Veterans Day is coming very soon, and our Honor Guard has a very busy schedule with many grade schools in the area and visitations to a handful of assisted living homes. A Big Thank You goes out to our Post Champlain Paul Deneson for organizing the visits. We are so very grateful to have you as a member and a friend.

We have a vacancy that needs to be filled. Our Adjutant position is open to anyone who would step up. We are here to help.

Vaughn Smith
1st Vice Commander

Legion Riders

Hello again from Post 112 Legion Riders, Many of the Riders had long trips on two wheels this summer. My wife Jeannie and I were able to ride many miles with friends in Northwest Arkansas and Southern Missouri. Gary Streteski with his wife and another couple rode 4,000 miles on a trip to the Southwest United States. A few members also attended the annual Sturgis Rally in August. This year's warm weather has provided a few more days for riding. The Riders have added three new members, and a former member has returned to our Post.

The Rider's and SAL's largest event was the successful Ribfest held on October 5th. We had nine Legion sponsored teams including two from our Post. Thank you to all the members who attended the event and those that helped with prep before the event and the cleanup afterwards. The day of the event was a twelve-hour day for most of the crew. A special thank you to our Operations Manager, Lisa and the rest of the crew for making the day flow without worries. Another thank you goes out to Lisa's sister and Jen from the Zimmerman Legion. Kay and Jen have run the Zimmerman Post Ribfest for many years and provided the guidance we needed to be successful. The raffle of the adult beverage wagon, the half pot events and the ticket sales for the ribs were successful. One of the half pot winners donated his winnings back to the Post. It looks like we will be adding this event to the annual calendar. Proceeds from these events allow the Riders and the other Post groups to provide gifts to Veterans living in the area assisted living and nursing home facilities.

Four Riders Breakfasts have been placed on the calendar. November 17th will be a Breakfast, Bingo, and Bloody Marys (BB&B). December 15th will be Breakfast with Santa. January 19th, 2025, will be a fundraising breakfast for the Legion baseball team for their every other year spring training. February 16th will be another BB&B.

Ride Safe,
Todd Jagodzinski
Legion Riders Director

Auxiliary

Hello, Fellow Auxiliary Members, Activities have been really ramping up and I am trying to squeeze in time to bake for the bake sale on the 26th of October. We just helped with the RibFest that the Post, SAL, and Riders put on the 5th of October. Rachel Whiteoak had a small crew selling sloppy joes. So, thank you to Rachel, Carol Heath, Jane Schleusner and Junior member Emery. It was delicious.

We also are in need of help with our programs and ideas. We will continue to do what we always do but hoping to freshen the ideas up a bit. It takes a village and some creative ideas.

I am thankful for all our Auxiliary members, as you all have great talents, and we just hope you don't keep them to yourself. An idea is never a dumb idea, it just might need to be tweaked. I have a lot of those ideas, right Sharon. If you need anything just let me know. I will try to do my best to help to lend a hand. We do have Junior Auxiliary members that we could ask to help if that is what you need.

If you are looking to some have fun on Halloween, come to the Post for Trunk & Treat from 4:30-6:30pm. It was lots of fun last year seeing all the kids in costume. Elk River's Women of Today will be joining us too.

And last but certainly not least, on December 6, 2024, we will host our annual Christmas bake sale from 4:00 to whenever the goodies are sold out!

Michele 😊

Unit 112 President
763-300-6061 is my cell
Msmith6519@gmail.com

Auxiliary Membership

The Auxiliary membership is currently at 56% for 2025.

Condolences to the families of Karen Walz and Shirley Stuttgen who both passed away on October 10, 2024.

By the time you read this newsletter, the Craft and Bake Sale will be over. I want to thank all the bakers, the volunteers who helped set up and worked the day as well as all the shoppers. You all made for another successful event and your support meant a lot to me.

Diane Telfer, Membership Chair

Membership Dinner

Seventy members attended the annual membership dinner on September 8, 2024, and all enjoyed a wonderful meal.

The highlight of the evening was hearing from this year's Girl and Boy State attendees. The Elk River High School students, Madison Herman and Finley Mortenson attended Girls State, June 9-15, 2024, at Bethel in Arden Hills. Kennan Stoll attended St. John's University in Colleagueville the same week. These programs are fully funded by the American Legion Family. The weeklong programs give students the opportunity to participate in the operation of local, county and state government.

Activities included are caucusing, campaigning, debating, voting, and participating in elections.

Additionally, these programs aim to develop leadership skills, foster fellowship, and encourage creative expression.

Madison, Finley, and Kennan all expressed their enthusiasm for the weeklong sessions and shared the highlights they each experienced. They all felt it was an extremely rewarding experience.



Finley Mortenson, Kennan Stoll and Madison Herman

Post Chaplain

The following is an 18 AUG 2024 to 20 OCT summary of Post Chaplain duties performed: Personal Visits, Home, Assisted Living 191

Messaging, Text, Phone 141

Letters of Condolences 2

Chaplain Support AL Events, Spiritual Counseling 78

American Legion Chaplain's Calendar:

Election Day 5 NOV, Veterans Day 11 NOV, American Education Week TBA, Family Week of 24 NOV, Thanksgiving 28 NOV, Pearl Harbor Day 7 DEC, Hanukkah 25 DEC, Christmas 25 DEC, and Kwanzaa 26 DEC-1 JAN

Continuing weekly and monthly Vet visits and Sunday Worship services including communion at the Wellstead Senior Care and Assisted Living Centers.

Also, continuing weekly and monthly Vet visits to five local Guardian Angels Campuses. Currently assigned 80 total Vets to visit monthly at four different Care and Assisted Living Centers.

Continuing hospice spiritual services with two families.

Started monthly Vet visits to Guardian Angels Riverview Landing Campus OCT. Coordinating Vets Day 2024 activities with the Honor Guard, Public Schools, Guardian Angels, and Wellstead Assisted Living and Senior Care Campuses.

Reminder, Veterans Appreciation Dinner, and Post Everlasting Ceremony beginning 1700 (Dinner 1800) 10 NOV, at Post 112.

Paul Deneson, Chaplain

Membership Dinner

Post Service Officer

The following is an 18 AUG to 20 OCT summary of Post Service Officer duties performed:

Personal Visits 11

Messaging, Text, Phone 15

Coordinated Vet request for service assistance 2

Coordinated Vet request for personal support 1*

*Special thanks to Vaughn Smith for assisting with the unpacking and moving of a Vet to Elk River in conjunction with The Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, Elk River.

Paul Deneson, Post Service Officer



At the Membership Dinner Jerry Takle and Diane Telfer signed up members for 2025.

VETERANS DINNER

Sunday, November 10, 2024

Social 5:00 pm

Dinner 6:00 pm

**Please sign up at the Post or
call 763-441-3150.**

To add your name to the list.

**Chicken dinner with
Auxiliary members delicious
sides and desserts!**



Commander Kulkay welcomed everyone.



John Salk paid tribute to Charlie Finck.

November Meeting and Events Calendar

11-7 Post, SAL & Auxiliary Meeting 7:00pm
11-10 Veteran's Day Dinner 5:00/6:00 pm
11-14 Riders Meeting 7:00 pm
11-15 Music by: Benjamin Raye 7:00-10:00 pm
11-17 Riders BBB Breakfast 8:00 am
11-21 Executive Board Meeting 7:00 pm
11-23 Girl Scouts Kids Sale 11:00 am- 3:00 pm
11-24 Community Table 4:00 – 6:00 pm
11-27 Night before Thanksgiving
TV tip Board & Meat Raffle Ham & Turkeys
Music by Michael Olson 7:00-10:00 pm
11-28 Closed HAPPY THANKSGIVING
11-29 Music by Jindo DJ

Meat Raffle Friday & Sunday 5:00 pm

Bingo every Wednesday 6:30 pm

**Horse Race the 1st Thursday of the Month
at 6pm**

December Meeting Calendar

12-5 Post, SAL & Auxiliary Meeting 7:00
12-6 Auxiliary Bake Sale 4:00 – Sold Out
12-12 Riders Meeting 7:00 pm
12-15 Breakfast with Santa 8:00 am
12-19 Executive Board Meeting 7:00 pm
12-24 Christmas Eve
12-25 Closed - Merry Christmas
12-31 New Year's Eve

SCENES FROM RIBFEST







**FOURTH PLACE
ELK RIVER AMERICAN LEGION**

Elk River American Legion – Minnesota Legions Rib Cook-Off – PLACES

IN THE CASE OF A TIE, THE HIGHEST SCORE FOR APPEARANCE WAS THE DECIDING FACTOR, IF STILL A TIE, TASTE WAS USED SECOND, FOLLOWED BY TENDERNESS.

Team Name	Points	Place
Anoka Post #102	59	9
Big Lake Post #147	64	7
Eagles Club #3264	67	5
Elk River Post #112	70	4
Elk River SAL & Riders #112	63	8
Hastings Post #47	74	2
Le Center Post #108	78	1
Zimmerman Post #560	65	6
Zimmerman Riders #560	70	3



**EIGHTH PLACE
ELK RIVER SAL & RIDERS
POST #112**