



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

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Volume 40 Issue 1

Commander's News January-February 2024

Hello to all of our members at American Legion Post 112.

I probably shouldn't talk about the weather because no one wants to hear me complaining. So, I will talk about the positive things happening at the Post. After much hard work and money, the plumbing issues have been taken care of. I would like to thank our Great Staff and the volunteers that stepped up to make sure we were able to serve our customers. We have a wonderful Team that works together for the good of Post 112. I think it really shows when I see the parking lot full. Thanks to everyone. Don't forget to attend the membership meetings. That's the best time to voice your concerns and ideas. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Very Grateful,
Vaughn Smith, Commander

1st Vice Commander

Greetings to the American Post 112 family! I hope everyone is doing well. The weather has been GREAT! I vote for this global warming! The only drawback is the lack of ice and snow for the fishers and skiers.

I attended the Legion Riders' Santa Breakfast. It had, as always, good food and conversations.

I would like to give a "Well done!" shout out to Greg Crow for all his efforts as the Post adjutant and Honor Guard leader.

There has been much talk concerning a smelt fry in our future. This is being investigated and we'll let everyone know what the outcome will be. The Lenten fish fry is coming up very soon. We are preparing to serve the best fish/shrimp dinners in the state.

As 2023 becomes history I want to thank all of you who help us by your attendance at all of our dinners and activities. An especial thanks to all of our great volunteers.

Happy New Year 2024 to all!

Tom Kulkay, 1st Vice Commander

Adjutant

As I write this I am saying goodbye to a visit from Covid. Always a fun time-not!

It's been a very busy and challenging time since the last newsletter. In the kitchen our cook Paul is doing a good job and decided to stay a little longer and we have Rick who is a longtime kitchen veteran and is helping out when he can. We also are arranging to add Gilbert another great guy to the staff. I particularly love this since Keith, Mike and I won't have to cook. We still need help in the catering department so if you know anyone looking for a part-time job, send them in to talk it over with Lisa. Lisa also came up with a plan that uses the High School baseball players as food runners and its working great.

The first riders Breakfast of the year (Bloody Marys, Bingo and Breakfast) went great with people waiting to get in. Kelly sold out of the fixings for her special Bloody Marys. I think we are in the midst of a Bingo craze. The Wednesday night \$1000 coverall went out twice.

I want to thank all the people that helped with the Spaghetti dinner we had to support the Jodi Walz scholarship. It didn't turn out quite like we planned but we all learned something from it and we did

make a little money for the cause. Special thanks to Carol, our spaghetti sauce queen. She is always willing to pitch in and get things done in the kitchen. And usually talks husband Denny into it too.

Our Maintenance supervisor Keith continues to get a grip on our never-ending repairs and upgrades. He has a whole new set of plans for the basement. If you like projects, look him up. It's usually good for a drink and pizza lunch to help.

I need to thank all the members of The Honor Guard for everything they have done, funerals, sporting events and all the 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 260 renewals. If you haven't renewed yet please do. We need about 50 more to reach our goal. 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

PS: Happy Holidays to everyone, I hope you weren't on the naughty list!

Riders

Happy New Year from the Legion Riders of Post 112. Some of us were hoping to use our snowmobiles a little more but the weather has not cooperated. The Riders and SAL have had two successful breakfasts since the last Newsletter. The November Breakfast with Bingo had payouts on all of the games of over \$80. We sold over 150 breakfasts and the bar sales were very good. One of the games was a four corner and was won after only five numbers.

There will be another Breakfast, Bingo and Bloody Marys event on February 18th, 2024.

The December Breakfast with Santa and Bake sale

was also a hit with another 100 meals served.

Goodie bags and stuffed animals that were donated were also given out to the younger believers. There were a lot of smiles and laughter while the kids, and some adults consulted with Santa about Christmas.

Our January 21, 2024 breakfast will be a fundraising collaboration with the Elk River Legion Baseball Team. The Team will be raising funds for a spring training event in warmer weather while it is still cold in Minnesota to prepare for the upcoming season. Some of the players have already been raising funds as our food runners on busy food nights. Rumor has it that the athletes are having fun while working at the Post. It has been a pleasure to work with the Athletes and meet with their parents.

These breakfasts have made it possible to send money to an area family that has lost their veteran Father in an accident and provide gift cards to the veterans in the area assisted living facilities.

Some Post members might have heard another rumor about a possible Smelt Fry in Late Spring. For some of us Post members this brings fond memories of catching and eating smelt in years past. Other Post members quickly go Ewwee and can't believe why we would attempt this event.

The Riders will be dreaming about our past and future warmer weather rides while helping with the upcoming Lent Fish Fries and other upcoming events. See you at the next breakfasts.

Todd Jagodzinski, Riders Director

651-775-3311

SAL

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all SAL members and Riders for everything you do at Post 112. A special thanks to the ladies of the Auxiliary and Riders who somehow keep us guys on task. We will schedule a planning meeting in the near future to discuss a possible smelt fry. Looking for lots of experienced volunteers to help pull this off. Wishing everyone at Post 112 a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Glen Haugen, SAL Commander

Chaplain

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

Personal Visits, Home, Assisted Living
187

Messaging, Text, Phone
95

Letters of Condolences
4

Chaplain Support AL Events, Spiritual Counseling
69

American Legion Chaplain's Calendar: New Year's 1 JAN, Vietnam Ceasefire 27 JAN, Americanism Month, Four Chaplains Sunday (1st Sunday), Presidents Day (3rd MON)

The main focus these past two months involved planning, coordinating, and recognizing Veterans Day events. 85 Veterans in Senior Care and Assisted Living were recognized with a US Flag Lapel Pin, personally constructed Note of Appreciation by the Girl Scouts, Certificate of Appreciation, a Personal Hand Salute, and most had a Post 112 Honor Guard presence. 14 Veterans Day Honor Guard Community and Post events were conducted over a seven-day period. Thank you and well-done Honor Guard!!

Continuing weekly and monthly vet visits and Sunday Worship services at the Wellstead Assisted Living Centers. Nine Wellstead Diamond Crest Campus vets were added to monthly visitations in November. Continuing weekly and monthly vet visits to five local Guardian Angels Campuses. 21 Guardian Angels Riverview Campus vets were added to monthly visitations in December. Going into next year, will have 85 total vets to visit at least monthly on four different and Independent Senior and Assisted Living Centers.

Wishing all Post 112 members a very blessed Christmas and New Year!!

Paul Deneson, Chaplain

Post Service Officer

The following is an 18 OCT to 18 DEC 23 summary of Post Service Officer duties performed:

Messaging, Text, Phone 11

Personal Visits 4

Coordinated Vet request for benefit review 3

Coordinated Vet request for personal support 1*

*Special thanks to President Michele Smith and Auxiliary for support and taking the main effort.

The fourth Veterans Benefit Review and Spouses event is in the planning process. Dates and times to be announced shortly after the first of the New Year. It's not too soon to notify Vets, Vet spouses, and Vet neighbors there will be a Spring Event before summer schedules commence.

Paul Deneson, Post Service Officer

Auxiliary

Greetings and Merry Christmas to you all.

Veterans Day went well. We had our local DECA students help us with serving and cleanup which is great to see young people help our community. These young adults are so wonderful.

The Auxiliary has been busy with preparing for the Holiday bake sale which was very successful. You can always count on wonderful baked goods from the Auxiliary whether it be at the October sale or in December. Thanks to all who baked, worked, and purchased at the sale. We also had an impromptu sundae sale at the spaghetti dinner which went well.

We are still in need of participants for Boys and Girls State. Students having completed their junior year of high school are eligible.

We have also helped an Iraq Army Veteran who is going through hard times. In conjunction with Beyond the Yellow Ribbon we were able to provide assistance. Several members have also reached out with assistance of food and blessed her with Christmas gifts.

Lastly, we have a soup and chili lunch coming up on February 3, 2024 from 11:30 to 2:00.

Let us know if you need anything or someone to talk with. We try to help with your needs.

Michele Smith, Auxiliary President

1st Vice President

2024 membership renewal is underway with the Unit's goal of 137. We have reached 72% of our goal with 95 seniors and 3 juniors. We still have a ways to go. Please renew your membership as soon as possible either online or in person at the Post.

I would like to give a warm welcome to new members, Marcella Petruzzi and Jane Schleusner, both of Elk River.

I would also like to congratulate Vonnie Christensen and Shirley Gulbraa for over 40 years as Auxiliary members.

Wishing you all many blessings over the Holiday season and Happy New Year!

Diane Telfer, 1st Vice President

Calendar

- 1-4 Post and Auxiliary Membership Mtg. 7:00 pm
- 1-8 Cribbage Tournament begins 6:00 pm
- 1-11 Riders meeting 6:00 pm
- 1-18 Executive Board meeting 7:00 pm
- 1-21 Riders/Legion Baseball Breakfast 8:30-11:00 am
- 2-1 Post and Auxiliary Membership Mtg. 7:00 pm
- 2-3 Auxiliary Soup and Chili lunch 11:30-2:00
- 2-8 Riders Meeting 6:00 pm
- 2-15 Executive Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- 2-18 Riders BBB breakfast

Holiday Schedule

- 12-31 New Year's Eve Meat Raffle 5:00 pm
- 1-1 New Year's Day – Bar opens at noon

Welcome New Members

Post:

Annika Gattschalk
Sean Gattschalk
Steven Judson
Gary Stritesky

SAL

Caydon Schiminski
Christian Schiminski

Auxiliary

Marcella Petruzzi
Jane Schleusner

Entertainment

Friday evenings

1-5 – Whiskey & Water 7-11 pm
1-12 – Terry Dubois 7-11 pm
1-19 – Michael Sherwood 7-11pm
1-26 – Soulful Sounder 7-10 pm

2-2– TBD

2-9 – Terry BuBois 7-11 pm
2-16 - Scott Fraser 7-11 pm
2-23 - Soulful Sounder 7-10 pm

Horse Races are only the 1st Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm

Bingo every Wednesday at 6:30 pm

Special Recognition

Happy 95th Birthday to Irvin Primus
Congratulations for 40+ years of Auxiliary
Membership to
Vonnie Christensen
Shirley Gulbraa

Cribbage Tournament

8 weeks of play starting January 8 at 6:00 pm

Teams of 2

\$40.00 per team

Full payout

Sign up at the bar



It was a cold blustery evening for the Trunk or Treat event at the Legion. Glen Haugen and son picked up a hitch hiker on their way. Michele Smith enticed youngsters with her chocolate chip cookie costume.



The Honor Guard and Chaplain Paul Deneson conducted 14 Veterans Day events over a 7-day period honoring 85 veterans in Senior Care and Assisted Living. In addition they participated in 4 schools programs. Vaughn Smith, Paul Deneson and Greg Crow presented colors at a hockey tournament and received red carpet treatment.



It was a full house for the Riders BBB Breakfast, November 19th. The kitchen staff was kept busy serving breakfast. Commander Smith and Denny Heath were keeping up with dish washing. Bob Hackenmueller split a pot for a payout of \$37.00. (Photo courtesy of Nettie Hackenmueller)



The Auxiliary's annual holiday bake sale provided an array of delicious cookies, candy and breads for shoppers December 8th.



Judy Glenn, Sharon Mendenhall and Marilyn Kuiper participated with gift wrapping for residents at the St. Cloud VA.



Breakfast with Santa was once again a success. Santa arrived early with his sack full of treats. Lots of stuffed animals were gifted to children from a generous donor. And for those who hadn't completed their baking, there was many baked goods to choose from. Members of the Riders and SAL did a superb job of hosting guests and serving a great breakfast.

