



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

Website: elkriverlegion112.com

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Commander's News July-August 2023

Greetings American Legion Family!

My hope is that this newsletter finds you healthy and safe this summer.

To begin with, I want to say thank you all for the confidence in re-electing myself and the officers for a second term.

- My priority is to continue to faithfully follow the **Four Pillars of the American Legion** - *Americanism, Security, Children & Youth and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation.*

When we started the New Year of 2023, the question I raised at membership meetings as well as in the newsletter too. There have been no suggestions thus far. The question is still out there; Where do you see Post 112 in 1 year, 3 years, 5 years and further? I am still asking members to share an idea about Post 112's future. Looking for ideas to help move forward financially, recruit younger members, and to **protect the assets** that we currently have.

Progress is knocking on the door regardless of what is presumed. The old saying is truer now than ever. Keep doing what you are doing, and you will continue to get what you get.

- We are working on some ideas to move Post 112 forward. The membership will need to be involved. We look to present a few ideas in the September membership meeting. Hopefully, we will have more than 15 members present.

Our volunteers and employees keep post 112 going with serving our patrons and our events. Recently the board voted to close on Mondays and close the kitchen except for Wednesdays and Thursdays. Wednesday will be a cook's choice for our bingo patrons, and Taco Thursdays through the window. The bar is closed on Mondays through Labor Day now.

We need volunteers to help with our events at any capacity. Upcoming events that volunteers are needed immediately are the county fair in our biergartens, parade and our 1st Annual Community Corn & Chop Feed at Post 112. The date is August 26. We will have many activities including live music, horseshoe tournaments, a dunk tank, bingo and much more.

- Volunteer sign-ups for the county fair are needed immediately. Please email Michele Smith at [msmith6519@gmail](mailto:msmith6519@gmail.com) or Lisa Ronneng at operations@elkriverlegion112.com

For God, Country and Veterans

Greg Artman, Commander Post 112

Adjutant

It's been a hard days night and I've been workin' like a dog. It's been a hard days night I should be sleepin' like a log. You can never go wrong quoting the Beatles. We've all been working like dogs since the last newsletter. The Veterans benefit day, The Walz and Legionville scholarships, Memorial Day, the many funerals we've served at, parking motorcycles at Rockwoods, the tractor Pull and Flag day. I'm sure I missed something. Somewhere in all that I managed to ride 4000 miles on my motorcycle to Arizona and back.

And we're not done yet. We have the fair to plan for and we need Volunteers to setup and staff. Lisa and Keith have done a tremendous job but we can't expect them to do it all. If you can help, see Lisa to find a time that works for you. Volunteers get a nice red t-shirt to wear that will make you the envy of all your friends. We are also sponsoring Glen Haugen's Demo Car at the Demo derby at the fair. Come cheer him on.

We can never thank our volunteers enough for all they do and would extend an invitation to all our members to come out and get involved. I recently sent in the annual report to the national headquarters listing our accomplishments. Although we do an incredible job, there were many projects we can't get to unless we can get some more people involved. 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

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Chaplain

The following is a 1 April to 17 June summary of Post Chaplain duties performed:

Personal Visits, Home, Assisted Living	154
Messaging, Text, Phone	95
Letters of Condolences	5
Chaplain Support AL Events, Spiritual Counseling	62

American Legion Chaplain's Calendar: Independence Day 4 JUL, Korean War Armistice 27 JUL, American Legion National Convention AUG

With the departure of the Spiritual Director at the Guardian Angels Assisted Living, Elk River, I've volunteered to perform Memorial Services for Vet and non-Vet residents who have passed every other month. The first Memorial Service is scheduled for 30 JUN for 7 passed residents, one of which is a Vet, to be celebrated.

Two Meet and Greets with Vets are scheduled on two separate Guardian Angels Campuses on 27 and 29 JUN. The purpose of the meetings is to establish the content and format of how best to provide spiritual support for each of the vet residents.

Paul Deneson

Chaplain

Fellow Legionnaires,

I wish to thank all of you for your prayers and support during this medical episode ordeal I was going through. A special thank you to our Chaplain, Paul Deneson. He would call or visit me at least once a week. This was instrumental in my recovery process.

One more thing...I apologize for being so late in thanking the Honor Guard for setting up the Annual SFC Jodi Walz Scholarship in his honor.

Ron Walz

Post Service Officer

The following is a 1 April to 17 June 23 summary of Post Service Officer duties performed:

Messaging, Text, Phone	41	
Personal Visits		10
Coordinated Post 112 Vet request for contact info	1	
Coordinated request for legal points of contact with CVSO	1	
Coordinated Post 112 Vet request for benefit audit with 2 county	1	CVSO's
Completed 2 nd Veterans Benefit Review with spouses for Anoka, Wright, Benton, and Sherburne Counties on 11 May 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Note:		
Reviews conducted	91	
Follow-up Reviews to be conducted with Sherburne County CVSO	17	
Follow-up Reviews to be conducted Wright County CVSO	14	
VA and Vet Support Agencies attended	10	
Post 112 Membership additions	2	

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

The 3rd Veterans Benefit Review with spouses for Anoka, Wright, Benton, and Sherburne Counties is scheduled 28 SEP 23 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Coordination, notices, invites, and advertising are going out to the VA agencies, Vet support organizations, and the Public as of this printing and will continue to the date of the event. As a reminder, *Post 112 Members it's not too early to start inviting your fellow Vet relatives, neighbors, and friends to this event.*

Paul Deneson,
Post Service Officer

6th District Convention

The convention was held in Brainerd on June 3, 2023.

District 6 Auxiliary members donated quilts that will be delivered to the three new Veterans homes opening this year in Preston, Bemidji and Montevideo.

Auxiliary Unit 112 was happy to deliver 30 quilts made by members and our quilting community.

Auxiliary Unit 112 was awarded Citations for Americanism, Leadership, Education, Legislation, National Security, Past Presidents Parley, Poppy and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. Community Service and History earned Honorable Mention recognition.

Hats off to Unit 112 members!

Sheryl Hookom was nominated to be on the District Nominating Committee for 2024-2025.



Representing Elk River at the Convention were:
Standing: Jerry Takle, Roberta Takle, Vaughn Smith, Michele Smith, Sharon Mendenhall.
Seated: Rachael Whiteoak, Sheryl Hookom

Auxiliary

Happy summer to you all,

I hope this newsletter finds you all doing great and enjoying the sunshine!

As you know we had a beautiful day for the Memorial Day parade. I am so proud of every one of our Honor Guard members. We had a pretty good turn out and I thank everyone of who participated to make it a success! I am so grateful for the job they do Honoring the flag on Flag Day as well. Thank you to all that came out for that as well. Our incoming President Michele Smith did an awesome job starting the fires for the retirement ceremony, go Michele!

As I turn the gavel over to Michele I just want to say thank you to each and every one of you for your continued support and dedication to our veterans and unit 112. Michele will do an amazing job and we will all continue to work as a team together to do the things that matter for our veterans and active military and our community. It is no small thing that we do our best to honor and support our veterans and soldiers and their families. We should all be proud of that.

I look forward to seeing you all at the County Fair. It will be a lot of fun! Remember to join us and ride in the parade with us.

God bless and protect our Nation,

Cathy Artman, Auxiliary President

1st Vice President

We are off for the summer until September 7th for our next meeting. At that time I will step in as President along with these officers; 1st Vice President, Diane Telfer; 2nd Vice President, Carol Heath; Treasurer, Laurie Tonsager; Chaplain, Mary Murphy; Sergeant at Arms, Elysia Littlefield; Parliamentarian, Rebecca Pratt; Secretary, Sharon Mendenhall and Executive Committee, Past President Cathy Artman, Angela Nies and Brenda Breyen.

The Post and Auxiliary have many activities going on this summer that can use your help. First up will be the Sherburne County Fair July 20-24th. Volunteers are needed to check ID's, take money, pour beer or open White Claws/Mike Hard drinks and security. Time goes by fast and its fun working with other members. Riders for the float are in need as well.

I hope to see everyone this summer. Keep safe and cool!

Michele Smith,
1st Vice President and incoming President



Tom and I had the opportunity to meet this gentleman and his wife one Friday evening at the Post. He is a poet who resides in Ramsey. He shared this poem with us and gave permission to publish it in a newsletter. Hope you appreciate it as much we do.

Sharon Mendenhall

THANK YOU THOUGHTS

By Dale Anderson

Your country called.
You answered
To do what is right
And just is more
Acceptable to the Lord
Then sacrifice.
Proverbs 21:3
Thank you for your sacrifice.
Thank you for your service.

When going into service
we gave up our lives as we knew it
Some lost their lives literally.
We thank you for your part in
Preserving our freedom.
Thank you for your service.

We put in our time.
We fought.
Some died. Some were maimed.
Some will never be the same.
I salute you, who stood
Between heaven and hell
To make a difference
To defend our freedom
And our country.
Thank you for your service.

When it looked like you
Wouldn't make it through the night,
We thank the Lord for the miracle
That brought you home.
I thank you who brought back
Our freedom, our country.
Thank you for your service.

Some days little things
Remind us of the big things
That happened years ago
And brings a tear to the eye.
Thank you for your service.

VOLUNTEERING

By Sharon Mendenhall

Throughout this newsletter, you have read numerous requests for members to help out with different events.

An integral part to any successful organization is volunteerism. Volunteers need to believe in the mission and purpose of the organization, be willing to lend a hand and at the same time manage personal responsibilities of home, career, children, health concerns just to name a few. Perhaps there are personal differences in views and opinions how things should be done. These factors often are the reasons for not stepping up to help out.

Yes, there are those who give hours of their time but there are opportunities that only require a minimum amount of time and maybe a one-time only need. Not sure about what is involved ask for details, maybe children can be included. Don't want to do it alone, invite a friend along to help. Perhaps need to set aside differing views. Need a ride, reach out to another member.

There are many benefits to volunteering.

- It can be a great way to meet new people
- Provide a sense of achievement and purpose
- Help to become and feel part of the community
- Help feel better about yourself by improving self-esteem and confidence
- An opportunity to share your talents, learn new skills and create a better work-life balance
- Help to combat stress, loneliness, social isolation and depression

While typically a few members seem to do it all, an organization needs many hands for it to function at peak capacity. More hands help to lighten the load of a few.

Memorial Day

Motorcycle Fundraiser For Spark 2 Hope

Auxiliary member and Director of Spark 2 Hope, Angela Nies shared that a fund raising event will take place on Saturday July 22, 2023.

Spark 2 Hope is nonprofit and the backyard neighbor of the American Legion Post. Its mission is to provide a secure setting that is inclusive to children and adolescents with special needs. Auxiliary Unit 112 assembled and donated 25 fidget blankets to the organization in November of 2022. Spark 2 Hope provides a very important service to the Elk River Community.

Spark 2 Hope will partner with Elk River Harley Davidson on Saturday July 22nd for a Motorcycle Fundraiser Ride. Registration starts at 12:00 pm with \$15.00 per Rider and \$5.00 per passenger.

1:00-4:00 pm live music, free refreshments, great food, raffles plus door prizes. Questions may be directed to Angela Nies @763-587-3516.

Not a motorcycle rider but would like to make a donation, mail it to:

Spark 2 Hope, % Angela Nies, 555 Railroad Dr. Suite D, Elk River MN 55330



Legionville Scholarships presented May 19th to 4 Parker Elementary Students. (LtoR) Commander Greg Artman, President Cathy Artman, Kate, Josie, Elsa (Easton was absent), 1st Vice President Michele Smith and Adjutant Greg Crow.



Flag Day Prep with Boy Scouts



Rockin' Rodgers Parade



Flo Bubalo and Dilly Olesen ready to ride the float.

