



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

Website: elkriverlegion112.com

Volume 39, Issue 5

Commander's News Sept - Oct 2023

Hello American Legion Family of Post 112!

My hope is that everyone is doing well.

On 8/9/23, accompanied by Adjutant Crow, Aux President Smith, Chaplain Denesen and 2nd Vice Quammen, we presented The Bank of Elk River with final payment to our mortgage which was years early.

My article this month has some great and bad to it and I want to inform the Legion Family of what has been accomplished and is currently happening.

The first thing to report is that your Legion Post is financially sound.

When you think about it during Covid we were not sure how we would end up. I can remember working on every fish fry during Covid with some very resolute volunteers. We reopened and pushed forward. In a Post Covid world we have been moving forward as an American Legion.

Here are some of our accomplishments:

- *We paid off the mortgage early.
- *We paid off the rest of the last parking lot loan.
- *We added about \$30K to our Building Fund
- *We have refurbished the post
- *We just finished the roof
- *We finished the entry way
- *We have an abundant parking lot fund with generous donors on board by the end of the year
- *We are doing well in comparison to many businesses around us. We have endured Covid, an aggressive police department who handed out DWI's like candy to which has mostly emptied the bar, and Construction that has been going on for 2 years so far. Not to mention an economy that has lowered most people's extra money to spend.
- *Our Honor Guard is highly visible and regularly active.
- *Our wonderful Auxiliary came from Convention with 2 Awards and 9 Certificates of Merit
- *We are back on the map as a successful post.
- * First and foremost, we have an actual accountant that keeps us straight as far as finances, taxes, compliance, and all the new regulations. **Jennifer has installed the necessary checks and balances needed with so much cash flow.** There are some more that should install. These checks and balances that Jennifer helped to implement are quite common and necessary in every business. Letting go of this is a grave mistake.
- *We installed a new POS system with more checks and balances and does not cost us anything.

*The new POS system with its C/C fee system. It averaged over \$1000 a month and now averages under \$500 a month. That saves the post approximately \$6000/year.

*We made personnel changes at the beginning of the year due to drawer shortages. As of the month end July, the drawers were only short \$206 compared to almost \$3000 in July 2022. That is what the checks and balances are doing in your post.

*We have decreased the monthly expenses by \$3000/mo.

*We now have a new cook who is an Iraq War Veteran set to start after Labor Day.

* One great accomplishment is a bridge that is being built currently with the VFW Post 5518. We extended a prosperous branch to them, and it has been reported that they have said they are excited about it.

* We are blessed to have a VERY active Chaplain and PSO. Chaplain Paul is doing mazing work in our community. He is doing God's work. **All I can say is THANK YOU JESUS. AMEN!**

* Something we have done is to bring God back to the Legion. **As the Preamble states, For GOD and country.** It means what it says, and it does not say for the bar or the kitchen.

* We follow the **FOUR PILLARS of the AMERICAN LEGIONS FOUNDING.** We are an American Legion first.

Many thanks to our fellow members that have served relentlessly with us for the betterment of Post 112. In confidence of the accomplishments, it is my sincere hope the Post continues to flourish and gain the community's support under new leadership as I have resigned as Post Commander and Honor Guard of the Davis-Darrow-Meyer American Legion Post 112.

For God, Country and our VETERANS

Greg Artman, Past Commander

On behalf of all the officers and members of Post 112, I would like to thank Greg Artman for all of his hard work, dedication and the many hours he has sacrificed to make sure Post 112 was successful and pointing in the right direction. Greg gave us his best expertise and of his time in the past few years. I am grateful for his passion and service for the betterment of our American Legion Post. It is now up to us to keep the momentum going.

Vaughn Smith

Interim Commander

Adjutant

Bad to the bone. That's what I heard George Thorogood sing on my birthday in Walker, MN. It should be the motto of Post 112 because many of us are around 70 like George is and still "Bad to the Bone". We survived the fair parade and storm at the fair. I thought the roof was going to blow off. Many other vendors were blown away. But it cleared up and the Honor Guard helped with opening ceremonies at the Demo Derby. Glen Haugen's Demo Car had a minor setback at our fair but rallied to take 3rd at the Anoka Co fair. Thanks again for all those who volunteered with the fair.

The Honor Guard has been and will continue to be busy with funerals, parades and upcoming sporting 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.

It was great to be able to pay off the mortgage and parking lot loans and also get the roof fixed. Part of the roof project involved repainting the front hallway. Our Membership for 2024 is underway and we already have over 100 renewals. If you haven't renewed please do so. 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 by the post to say hello and sign the book.

Gregory Crow (G2), Post Adjutant

1st Vice Commander

Hello everyone,

I hope all of you are well and have enjoyed the summer. However, summer is just too short for me. Michele and I have participated in a few charity rides this year. We enjoy seeing others that we recognize from rides we have attended in the past. We love riding when it benefits our veterans,

Our **Membership Dinner** is coming up on September 17th. Hope to see you there.

The third **Veterans Benefit Review** is scheduled for Thursday, September 28th, from 9:00am to 6:00pm. If you have not already attended a review, I strongly encourage you to do so. With the many benefit changes that have occurred it is well worth your time to check them out with the experts who will be on hand.

At your service,
Vaughn Smith, 1st Vice

Chaplain

The following is a 17 June to 20 August summary of Post Chaplain duties performed:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Personal Visits, Home, Assisted Living | 124 |
| Messaging, Text, Phone | 85 |
| Letters of Condolences | 7 |
| Chaplain Support AL Events, Spiritual Counseling | 60 |

American Legion Chaplain's Calendar: VJ Day 2 SEP, Labor Day 24 SEP, Constitution Day 17 SEP, POW/MIA Day 20 SEP, Department Chaplain's Conference, Columbus Day 9 OCT

Conducted the first post Covid Memorial Service for Guardian Angels residents and staff who had passed during the past 100 days. 17 residents including 1 vet lives were celebrated on 30 JUN with approximately 40-50 family and friends in attendance. Next scheduled Memorial Service is 25 AUG.

Two Meet and Greets with 12 vets were conducted on two separate Guardian Angels Campuses on 27 and 29 JUN. The purpose of the meetings was to establish the content and format of how best to provide spiritual support for each of the vet residents. Plans are to develop at least one vet spiritual devotional group next OCT-DEC quarter.

Veteran visitations at the Wellstead Assisted Living in Rogers were suspended for three weeks ending 6 AUG due to a Covid outbreak. Fortunately, no vets' deaths to report and worship and vet visitations have resumed.

Paul Deneson, Champlain

Post Service Officer

The following is a 17 June to 20 August summary of Post Service Officer duties performed:

| | |
|---|----|
| Messaging, Text, Phone | 21 |
| Personal Visits | 4 |
| Coordinated Vet requests for benefit review to CVSO | 2 |
| Coordinated Vets request for non-VA services | 2 |

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



Post 112 was the first stop for the Clearwater Riders on their ride for Homeless Veterans, August 5th. Lunch was served and a \$500 donation was presented to Cyle Pauman by Commander Artman and Adjutant Crow.

Veteran Benefit Review for Veterans & Spouses of Sherburne & Benton Counties

Why: The main goal is to make sure you are receiving every benefit that you are eligible for, including your spouse.

When: September 28, 2023 from 9:00AM –6:00PM. This event is for ALL Veterans of Sherburne and Benton Counties.

Items to bring: Please bring your DD214. If you do not have one, then be here to have one ordered.

Agencies: Sherburne County Veteran Service Office, Veteran Benefits Administration, VA Health Care Systems, MPLS & ST Cloud Outreach, Eligibility, MN Dept. of Veterans Affairs, The ST Cloud Stand Down, DAV, and Agent Orange & Blue Water Navy Claims Representative

Where: American Legion Post 112, Elk River, MN • <http://elkriverlegion112.com>

Auxiliary President

Welcome Auxiliary Members,

I hope you had a wonderful summer and I'm looking forward to seeing all of you real soon.

I have been thinking of ways to get our membership up and to help our veterans and community. Also trying to come up with some fund raising ideas that will enable us to continue supporting out veterans and community. Your ideas are always welcome at our meetings or by sending them via email.

The Craft and Bake Sale is coming up on October 28th. The homemade goodies are always a big hit and usually sell out before days end. Invite family or friends over to your kitchen to help make some tasty items for the bake sale.

Children & Youth is an ALA Program that we want to focus in on. If you know of a group or a fun activity to do with a group please share your ideas.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Smith, ALA President, Unit 112

Auxiliary 1st vice President

Greetings,

It will be good to get back to our meetings on Thursday, September 7th at 7:00 m. It has been a busy and fun summer.

Just a reminder to bring donations of school supplies to the meeting. These will be delivered to CAER for mid-year replenishments to students.

With the upcoming Craft and Bake Sale in October will be in need of volunteers. I will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting with specific tasks that will need to be done. Please lend a hand with setting up on Friday evening, manning the sales table on Saturday or baking up some goodies.

If you have not already done so, please renew your membership and keep a look out for new members.

Diane Telfer

ALA Unit 112, 1st Vice President

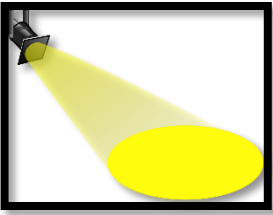
The Department Convention held in Redwood Falls, July 13-15, 2023 was attended by Auxiliary members, Sharon Mendenhall, ALA President Michele Smith, Roberta Takle and Sheryl Hookom. Representing the Post was Jerry Takle.



On behalf of ALA Unit 112, President Smith Accepted the Milo Blanchich Plaque for Children & Youth from Department President Mary Kuperus and C&Y Chairman Karla Otterness.

President Kuperus also awarded President Smith with the President's Award of Excellence in Education.

Certificates of Merit were awarded to Unit 112 in 9 other ALA Programs.



Auxiliary Spotlight

Marcy Schulze



President Smith and I had the pleasure of driving to Aitkin, Minnesota on August 14th to interview Marcy Schulze for this Auxiliary Spotlight.

She grew up on a farm in Perham, with her parents and two sisters. She attended a country school with 32 students. There were 6 kids in her class that went through 1st grade all the way to graduation. Following graduation she moved to Minneapolis staying with her sister. There was a drugstore in the neighborhood with a restaurant in need of a waitress. As Marcy had experience as a waitress in Perham, she was hired on and worked there for 3 years. That was where she met her husband, Weldon, better known as “Waddy”, in 1956. He served in the Army from 1950 to 1953.

They were married in 1958 and had three children. A son lives in Ely and a son and daughter are deceased. Marcy has 7 grandchildren and 13 grandchildren that often keep her company. After living in St. Paul, in 1964 they moved to a farm east of Elk River where they raised pigs until retirement in 1998. Today the Trout Brook housing development is located on the farm site. Big Pine Lake in Aitkin was the site of their cabin throughout the years and was where they built their retirement home. The home is located on the lake with lots of feeders for all the birds and squirrels to watch for entertainment. The number of hummingbirds at the feeders was somewhat of a distraction while talking with Marcy. This past spring a bear checked out all the feeders too.

Marcy joined the Auxiliary in 1968. Waddy had been active in the Post and was Commander from 1971 to 1972. She recalls he always had raffle tickets in his pockets to sell for some Legion event. Dinners, bake sales, smelt fries, and sausage dinners were some of the activities the Auxiliary was involved with. The Schulzes always donated a pig for the sausage dinner and Elk River Meats would do the processing. She also recalls a fish dinner where the Legionnaires caught lots of fish, brought them back to the Post and everyone pitched in to clean them for a fish dinner. Senior Dances every 3rd Thursday of the month were held at the legion from 1-4 pm with the Auxiliary serving lunch afterwards. Assisting the schools with the administration of hearing tests was another volunteer activity. Marcy made and decorated beautiful cakes for the Veterans Hospital and Legion Events.

When the topic of attending conventions came up, Marcy got a big smile on her face and shared the following story. She couldn't remember the year that the District Convention was held in Elk River. A Lund boat was being given away. Bill Dollansky hooked the boat up to his motorcycle with Marcy, Lois Lundemo, Margaret Tarnowski, Bev Norelle and Dorothy Uhl riding in the boat as he paraded it down the street.

In her spare time Marcy crochets afghans for all her family members, completes beautiful diamond dot pictures and tends to all her beautiful flowers.

Sharon Mendenhall
Unit 112 Secretary



These cakes were made for Membership Dinners. The one on the left reads Pres. Joyce and Comm. Vern.

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.

Halloween Bash at the Post

Saturday October 28

Costume Contest, Cash Prize

DJ/Jindo starting at 7:00

Meeting Schedule

9-7 Post & Auxiliary Membership 7:00pm

9-14 Riders 6:00 pm

9-21 Executive Board 7:00 pm

10-5 Post & Auxiliary Membership 7:00pm

10-12 Riders 6:00pm

10-19 Executive Board 7:00pm

Craft and Bake Sale

Saturday October 28th, 8:00am-4:00pm

Some new crafters are coming

Always wonderful baked goods, jams & jellies, snack foods and

Diamond City Breads

Don't Miss Out!!!

Don't forget

Membership Dinner September 17th

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

Benefit Review September 28th

9:00am-6:00pm

Starting September 11, 2023

Post reopens on Mondays at

3:00 p.m.



Members of the Executive Board met with Greg Gebhard at The Bank of Elk River to pay off the Post mortgage and parking lot loan. Present were: Paul Deneson, Greg Artman, Greg Gebhard, Greg Crow, Michele Smith and Keith Quammen



The Becker SAL Honor Guard joined Post 112's Honor Guard at the Sherburne County Fair Parade on July 15, 2023.