



# American Legion Davis-Darrow-Meyer Post 112

## Elk River, Minnesota

Website: [elkriverlegion112.com](http://elkriverlegion112.com)

Volume 38, Issue 6

### Commander's News

### November-December 2022

Greetings Post 112 Family,

After an amazing weekend with our churches men's retreat in Eldora, IA. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice CDR Smith and I along with 147 other men enjoyed the accommodations of Pine Lake Camp. Vaughn and I discussed how the comradery of so many men sharing the same bond is clearly what made it the most amazing. We compared it to how it also felt while enlisted in the services. We also thought it must have been what the founders felt 103 years ago when the American Legion and Post 112 were founded.

In the last newsletter, my article closed in saying that my goal and commitment is to remain guided by the Four Pillars of the American Legion.

The Four Pillars of the American Legion are:

1. Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitation
2. National Security
3. Children & Youth
4. Americanism

Then after I read our Post Chaplains monthly report. Paul's report really inspired me to mention why staying true to the Four Pillars is so important.

The Veterans Benefit Review (Pillar1) held on September 29th was a real success. Looking at the numbers of Veterans and Spouses that were served is something that each and every member of Post 112 can be proud of. Not only did the event serve 85 veterans and 20 spouses, but there was also a noticeable bonding between the guests attending, the 11 agencies and the Post 112 participants.

The 6<sup>th</sup> District CDR O'Bar attended and was extremely impressed with the success, but mostly the mission and cause. We all agreed that the mission was accomplished, and that we served the veterans within our community, and that is a primary pillar of the American Legion.

I want to personally thank Tom & Sharon Mendenhall, Vaughn & Michele Smith, Greg Crow, Paul Deneson and Cathy Artman for making this a success.

I also want to thank Bruce Price and his team at the Sherburne/Benton County VSO, Veterans Benefit Administration, VA Unemployment Dept., VA Caregivers, The St Cloud Stand Down, St Cloud Outreach Clinics, Agent Orange/Blue Water Navy Claims, and the Magnus Veterans Foundation.

This is just the start of Post 112's Outreach program. We now have a committed core of agencies that really want to help our veterans with real boots on the ground assistance. And to think this started with a meeting in Koehler Hall.

Our post has done several things this year that are identified by the Four Pillars. We have sponsored scholarships to Legion Ville Camp. The Honor Guard presented a music scholarship. Also, the Honor Guard has done funerals, parades and presenting of the colors this year. There are four veterans' day ceremonies scheduled. (Children & Youth, Americanism)

We are also working on structuring some National activities in the next few months.

A big congratulations to Mike Beyer, Kelly Henchen, and team for hosting a very successful Golf Tournament. You make running an event committee easy. (You know what that means) Thank you all for a job well done!

Another big Thank You goes out to our SAL CDR Glenn Haugen. Each year Glenn cultivates, plants, grows, and harvests his sweet corn field to sell out front of the post. He then donates all of the proceeds to Post 112 each year. This year Glenn split the donations between the Aux, SAL and Honor Guard. The Auxiliary graciously donated their portion to the Honor Guard. We are extremely grateful for everything you do for Post 112 Glenn!

A reminder to all. We will be having our annual Veterans' Day dinner on Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup> with social hour at 5:00 and dinner served at 6:00.

In a recent conversation with Adjutant Crow, we were discussing the Honor Guard. G2 agreed that having an active Honor Guard is the most important thing a Legion Post can do in the community. The Honor Guard is always looking for more members. We are busier than ever and need to build the ranks. The Honor Guard's comradery and bonding is what the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice and I discussed earlier.

In closing, Vaughn and I finished our discussion with, just imagine what Post 112 would be like if every member of all the units would embrace the Four Pillars and get involved for the bonding and comradery like the very beginning. We have so many opportunities and ideas within our post, but it takes a grass roots movement of volunteers. It takes teamwork and dedication to your post. Isn't that what has kept Post 112 thriving through the good times as well as the turbulent times?

My two challenges to every one of you reading this, regardless of why you are not active, put it behind you. Come check out YOUR active Post. Come enjoy the comradery and fun while supporting the mission. We are always laughing and enjoying each other's company. Isn't that why you joined the post to begin with?

For God, Country, and Our Veterans

Greg Artman

Post 112 Commander

PS: All members should know they can reach out to me personally if they have any questions, complaints or to get caught up on what is really happening at Post 112. Hearsay and rumors do nothing for the cause.

Email: [commander@elkriverlegion112.com](mailto:commander@elkriverlegion112.com)

Phone: 763-276-5513

**GET OUT AND VOTE NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>**

## Adjutant's Corner

Fall is here and the colors are reaching their peak as I write this. By the time you read it could be quite different. I believe this was the fastest summer ever. We went from our Memorial Day program to Honor Guard duty at Rogers football games in a blink. The Honor Guard has some School programs setup for Veterans Day the 11<sup>th</sup> and we are planning a Veterans supper on 13 Nov. Watch for news about the Legion Riders starting their Sunday Breakfasts again. Listen to BOB FM radio for our ads and specials. I will buy a drink for any Member who can tell me the day and time they heard the ad.

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

Gregory Crow (G2)

Post Adjutant

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander

Hello to all my friends and comrades at Post 112. As we have all experienced, winter is upon us! We have been busy with the end of summer activities and putting all the toys away

It's time for the inside projects. One of them coming up is a face lift for the Post entry. A new display case for memorabilia from recent US military action is in the works. We will be taking before and after pictures.

I would like to recognize a member who has been doing a wonderful job, our Post Chaplain and Service Officer, Paul Deneson. He is committed to service not self. When seeing him, please thank him for a job well done.

Stay safe and warm.

At your service,

Vaughn Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander

## Post Service Officer

On September 29, 2022 Post 112 conducted its first outreach to Sherburne and Benton Counties veterans and spouses and provided a veteran benefit review. The goal was to make sure that veterans are receiving every benefit they are eligible for. Agencies on site included: the Sherburne County Veterans Services Office, Veterans Benefits Administration, VA Unemployment Department, VA Caregiver Support, VA Health Care Systems, MN. Department of Veterans Affairs, the St. Cloud Stand Down, St. Cloud Outreach Clinics, Agent Orange and Blue Water Navy Claims and MAGNUS.

Post 112 participants included: Greg and Cathy Artman, Tom and Sharon Mendenhall, Vaughn and Michele Smith, Greg Crow and Paul Deneson. In addition, 6<sup>th</sup> District Commander, Karen O'Bar, hosted a "Meet and Greet" table in support of the event.

According to Zack Johnson, Sherburne County Deputy Veterans Service Officer, 85 veterans attended the benefits review with 20 spouses, 35 veterans scheduled follow up visits with county representatives to proceed with claims and records updates within two weeks following and 10 new veterans registered with the county.

In addition, two veterans transferred their membership to Post 112 and one veteran insisted upon paying his next year annual American Legion Dues before departing!

The agencies involved universally proclaimed this veteran's benefit event was "one of the most successful of its kind!" Thanks to all of Post 112 membership, "getting the word out" and contributing to the success of the event.

Paul Deneson, Post Service Officer

## **Post Chaplain**

The following is a summary of Chaplain duties performed for August and September:

- 38 Personal Visits to residence, hospital or assisted living
- 56 Messaging Contacts, phone, text or cards
- 7 Letters of Condolences
- 8 Provided Service escorts, spiritual counseling, chaplain duties at American Legion Events
- 6 Celebration of Life with Post Honor Guard

Program established and now conducting weekly visitation with 12 veterans at the Wellstead Assisted Living, Rogers, MN. Scheduled an October meeting with the Activities Director, Guardian Angels Senior Services, Elk River, seeking similar visitation accommodations as the Wellstead.

*Please keep past Commander and Honor Guard member, Ron Walz, in your prayers as he recovers.*

## **Riders**

It appears the weather has caught up with the rides limiting the hours we can ride. There will still be a couple days of riding left but as soon as the sun gets a little low in the sky we need to start heading home.

The Riders participated in Memorial rides and fundraiser rides related to veterans and their families this summer. Standing to recite the Pledge and singing the National Anthem always brings goose bumps to my skin and tears to my eyes.

The Riders will be having a Bingo, Bloody Mary and Breakfast on November 20<sup>th</sup> and our annual "Breakfast with Santa" on December 18<sup>th</sup>. These breakfasts are a great opportunity for gathering with family and friends while providing resources to assist veterans and their families in need. The Riders will also be assisting with the funding for a new digital video surveillance system for the Post.

We are grateful for the support from the Post members and the Community. Remember to always look twice in traffic for motorcycles and cars. Especially when the sun appears to be hanging lower in the sky. Stay warm and keep the rubber on the road.

Todd Jagodzinski, ALR Director

## **Membership**

Hello everyone. The Auxiliary is moving forward with electronic remittance of members' dues to the State. Usually what happens is you send me the dues, I fill out a form and mail it to the state department. Now I can just click your name on the database and pay the dues. Totally awesome and we saved a tree! Thank you to all our members.

The district and state also have a friendly competition to see who can make their 100% membership first. Can I please request that you send your renewals in as soon as possible? (Can you tell that I am a little competitive?!)

Invite your family and friends to join. It starts with a question-do you have a veteran in your life or had one? Let that person know they can join. I will be happy to mail them an application or you can download it from the web site. Let me know if you have any questions: [msith6519@gmail.com](mailto:msith6519@gmail.com)

Thank you for being a member.

Michele Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice/Membership Chair

## **Auxiliary**

Greetings members,

September 18<sup>th</sup> we hosted the membership dinner. The food was delicious and lots of members renewed their memberships. We had been gifted some beautiful handcrafted trucks which we put out for auction and raised 300 dollars! Thank you.

October started with us hosting the Past President's Parley which was a great success. We were honored to have the new Department President, Mary Kuperus, join us. We had a nice time and a very successful silent auction. Thank you all that helped with that event. You all did a fabulous job!

November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veteran's Day and we will be hosting the dinner for our Veterans on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup>. We would like to see a big turnout and bring a friend who is a veteran. We always love to see new faces.

November 14-18 is American Education Week for 2022. It's time to celebrate the achievements of the public schools in America and honor the work of people making a difference in education.

I would like to give you some history behind American Education Week and how it fits with the Auxiliary.

In 1921 the American Legion and the National Education Association co-sponsored the first celebration to seek ways to generate public support for education after discovering that 25 percent of the country's World War I draftees were illiterate and 9 percent were physically unfit.

Since the first celebration several other organizations have become co-sponsors including the American Legion Auxiliary. Our unit will be presenting baskets of handouts for teachers to reward students with. The Legion Family will send thank you cards to each of the middle schools and Elk River High School.

Honoring those who serve and those that have served,

Cathy Artman, Unit 112 Auxiliary President

## Welcome New Members

**Post:** Danny Butler, Thomas Lucas (Transfer in), Azombi Rene

**Auxiliary:** Launa Erickson, Nicole Smith, Sarah Artman, Kinsley Richter,  
Mary McDevitt-Kraljic (past member/president rejoined)

**SAL:** Tim Hiller

### Newsletter Delivery Change

Beginning with the January/February 2023 newsletter, anyone wishing to receive it **online and in color** instead of via USPS may do so.

To arrange this option coordination between the membership chairs and the newsletter editor is required. This will ensure your name being removed from the USPS mailing list and your email added to the digital mailing list. Contact either the membership chairs or editor to set this option up.

Bill 763-370-2955 or [wsteven444@aol.com](mailto:wsteven444@aol.com)

Michele [msmith6519@gmail.com](mailto:msmith6519@gmail.com)

Sharon 763-441-7800 [sammenden@comcast.net](mailto:sammenden@comcast.net)

### Snow Birds

It is that time of year to notify us of your winter address or email address to receive your newsletter while you are basking in the sunshine. Let us know when you plan to leave and return home. Contact:

Bill 763-370-2955 or [wsteven444@aol.com](mailto:wsteven444@aol.com)

Michele [msmith6519@gmail.com](mailto:msmith6519@gmail.com)

Sharon 763-441-7800 [sammenden@comcast.net](mailto:sammenden@comcast.net)

## ***VETERANS DAY DINNER***

*November 13, 5:00 pm*

Don't miss out.....

**The Annual Auxiliary Holiday Bake Sale**

**Friday December 9th in Kohler Hall**

**3:30 - 7:00 (unless we sell out sooner)**

## **Fidget Blanket Success**

Thanks to all the Auxiliary members and friends who worked on fidget blankets, 25 were delivered to the St. Cloud VA Adult Day Care Center on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Diane Telfer and Michele Smith presented them to VA representative Debra.



## **MEETINGS**

11-3 Post and Auxiliary Membership 7:00 pm

11-10 Riders 6:00 pm

11-17 Executive Board 7:00 pm

12-1 Post and Auxiliary Membership 7:00 pm

12-8 Riders 6:00 pm

12-15 Executive Board 7:00 pm

## **St Cloud Stand Down's**

### **"Guitar Heroes Program"**

Is in need of guitars for veterans. If you have one tucked away in a closet or know of someone who no longer needs theirs and are willing to donate it, please call:

**Stand Down @ 320-774-1892**

## **Another Fidget Blanket Bee**

**Monday, November 7, 2022**

**2:00-8:00 pm, Commanders Hall**

**for Spark 2 Hope**

**This is an organization located in Elk River whose mission is to provide a secure setting that is inclusive to children and adolescents of varying special needs. They would greatly appreciate receiving 25 Fidget blankets for their use.**

**If you can't make it to the "Bee" but can make blankets at home let us know. We welcome everyone's help for this worthy cause.**

**(Spark2hope.org)**

## **ENTERTAINMENT**

**Bingo 6:30 Wednesdays**

**Meat Raffle Fridays and  
Sundays @ 5:00**

**Music 7:00-11:00 pm**

**11-4 Scott Fraser**

**11-18 Sain Trio**

**12-2 Tail Spin**

**12-9 Terry DuBois**



September 20th, the Post hosted the Department Finance Committee meeting. Present were Director Carl Moon, Department Commander Jennifer Havlick, Comptroller Rachel Hill and Post 112 Adjutant Greg Crow.

In September the Auxiliary collected \$590 worth of school supplies to be distributed by CAER..



Commander Artman greeted attendees to the Membership Dinner held on September 18<sup>th</sup>. In addition to renewing memberships, members had the opportunity to bid on handcrafted wood vehicles. Bill Stevenson's brother-in-law donated the items that raised \$300 in a silent auction for the post.



Post 112 hosted the “Veteran Benefit Review” which was a huge success on September 29<sup>th</sup>. The joint effort with the Sherburne County Veterans Service Office and 9 other organizations resulted in 85 veterans and 20 spouses attending. District Commander Karen O’Bar was on hand to show support for the event.

Post members who participated were Greg & Cathy Artman, Vaughn & Michele Smith, Greg Crow, Paul Deneson and Tom Mendenhall.



Auxiliary Unit 112 hosted the annual “Past President Parley” on October 21<sup>st</sup>. This event honors members who have served as Unit Presidents. Guests came from Park Rapids, Melrose, Waite Park, Black Duck, Nisswa and Kimball. Auxiliary President, Cathy Artman welcomed Department President Mary Kuperus.



Mary, Rebecca, Aundrea and Lorraine were busy in the kitchen prepping the delicious salad luncheon.