



American Legion Davis-Darrow-Meyer Post 112

Elk River, Minnesota

Website: elkriverlegion112.com

Volume 38, Issue 4

Commander's News

September-October 2022

Hello Legion Family,

It seems like we were just leaving to honor our fallen on Memorial Day and now Labor Day is shadowing our doorsteps. Our Post has been extremely busy all summer and a big thank you to our dedicated volunteers is in order. Thank you for your servitude.

Commander and Koehler Halls have been bustling with business. Cathy is catering the events with Carol and Rick assisting. There have been so many compliments and referrals. Thank you all for living in the spirit of Service not Self.

If you were wondering what the ruckus was at 525 Railroad Dr. on Sunday, 8/7/22, it was a huge birthday bash going on at the post for Mr. Bob Koehler. Virginia wanted it to be big, so that is what she planned, a big 90th birthday bash. Our wonderful Auxiliary served a delicious meal of many favorites, quite sure nobody left hungry. This was one fun party!

The post will be reopening on Mondays starting on September 12th.

It is with a saddened heart to share the loss of some real treasures of Post 112. We lost two WW2 veterans and one Vietnam Veteran. Mr. Bud Adams, Mr. Dan Anderson and Mr. Jim Holt. All three were selfless servants to the Post and the Elk River Community. They will be deeply missed by all. My sincere appreciation goes out to our Chaplain Paul Deneson. Since assuming the role, he has been busy. He did visit these three as well as many more. Thank you, Paul, for all that you do. Post 112 is truly blessed to have you!

Attention: ALL MEMBERS! - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

We are hosting a Sherburne County Veterans Benefit event here at your post on September 29, 2022 from 9:00AM –6:00PM. This event is for ALL Veterans of Sherburne County. Our members and spouses should be the first in line. The main goal is to make sure you are receiving every benefit that you are eligible for, including your spouse. Please bring your DD214. If you do not have one, then be here to have one ordered.

Attending 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.

In closing Legion Family, as your Commander, my goal is for our post to remain guided by the Four Pillars of the American Legion.

For God, Country, and our Veterans

Commander Greg Artman (G1)



Adjutants Corner

Well the end of summer is in sight and it seemed to go by fast. So I thought I would try to recap some of the things we did. The Honor Guard was busy presenting the colors at ball games, Rogers graduation ceremony, ERX races, parades, the Flag Day ceremony at ERX, as well as many funeral Honors.

I was with the riders on several benefit rides, escorted two different traveling monuments as well as some spur of the moment lunch rides to nearby Legion posts. Then we had our booths at the tractor pull and the fair. I'm always nervous that enough people will volunteer but the members always come through. I told the commander we should take a little breather and he said we've only just begun.

We are starting a new project to get a better understanding of all the programs available to veterans to better serve their needs. And lastly we said good bye to several of our members who have gone on to the Post Everlasting. It seems to mean much more to us when doing an Honor Guard ceremony for our own members.

Greg Crow (G2)

Adjutant

Post Service Officer

Coordinated and scheduled the first Outreach Program Development Meeting on July 5th. Participants included: Commander Greg Artman, Auxiliary President Cathy Artman, Adjutant Greg Crow, 1st Vice Vaughn Smith, Chaplain/PSO Paul Deneson and Sherburne County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) Bruce Price. Commander Artman drafted the agenda and led the discussion which included potential goals, visions, and components to inform Post and County area veterans of their military benefits. Topics discussed included: focus on a "one stop shop" for vets and families such as benefit screenings and "standdown events", identify Post and County resources; identify other area vet organizations to be contacted; and integrate a faith-based approach with included programs and services.

First meeting outcome: CVSO and Post 112 to share existing resources, begin to invite business, community, faith-based and political organizations into planning process. Scheduled second meeting August 8th.

Paul Deneson

Post Service Officer

Post Chaplain

The following is a summary of Chaplain duties performed for June and July 2022:

- 19 Personal visitations to residence
- 33 messaging contacts (phone, text, email, cards, etc.)
- 6 letters of condolences
- 2 Provided service (pallbearer, escorts, etc.)

Received permission and provided names of staff and resident veterans at the Wellstead Assisted Living Center, Rogers, MN for periodic individual visitations. Seeking similar accommodations at Guardian Angels Assisted Living in Elk River, but decision delayed due to a current Covid shutdown.

Chaplain's Calendar:

- National Convention in Milwaukee, WI August 26 to September 1.
- V Japan Day 2 September
- Labor Day 5 September
- Citizenship/Constitution Day 17 September
- POW/MIA Day 20 September
- Columbus Day 10 October

Membership

Both Bill and Michele want to remind everyone it is membership renewal time. Paying on-line is very convenient but checks are welcomed too. If you are at the Post you can pay there with check, cash or credit/debit card.

Bill reported that the SAL membership cards have not been sent to Legions yet. Also the renewal statement for the Legion renewals all have the **inaccurate statement that reads "Membership Since 2022"**

Welcome to Post 112's new members:

Post: Kyle Olson and Nicholas Ostrom

Transfers: Dennis Czech and Robert Moe

MEMBERSHIP DINNER

The annual Membership Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, September 18, 2022. Social hour at 5:00 p.m. with dinner served at 6:00. You can count on a delicious meal served by the Auxiliary followed by an array of wonderful homemade desserts.

Auxiliary

Hello members,

September 1st is right around the corner and time to meet again @ 7:00 pm. I am looking forward to seeing all of you.

If you have purchased school supplies for CAER please bring them to this meeting. Also if you know of a family that could use school supplies, Heather at CAER, said they are looking for more families to help this year. Let's get the word out.

We will be hosting the membership dinner on September 18th. Social hour is at 5, with dinner served at 6. We will be making the main course and the rest is Auxiliary potluck so bring a dish to share. Everyone is invited and we are hoping for a big turn out!

On the first of October we will be hosting the past Presidents Parley. We are excited to have the new Department President Mary Kuperus joining us. If you are a past Auxiliary President we would be honored if you would join us. It is a luncheon with social hour at 11 and lunch at noon.

Also in October is our fabulous and much anticipated Craft fair and bake sale! I am already planning what I am going to bake. If you know anyone that is interested in a table space they can contact Nettie Hackenmueller at nettiehack@gmail.com. The date for that event is October 22nd and is a 1-day event.

September is suicide prevention and awareness month. On September 10th at 8 pm let's light a candle near a window in memory of those lost to suicide. We all know the numbers are too high in the veteran community-22 a day. I will be saying a prayer for those left behind as well.

September 11th is the national day of service and remembrance. Let's inspire unity and plan acts of kindness and service in our community.

Supporting those who serve and have served,

Cathy Artman, Auxiliary President

Department Convention

1st Vice President, Michele Smith and member, Sheryl Hookom, represented Auxiliary Unit 112 at the convention July 14-16, 2022 in Willmar Minnesota.

Michele served on the Rules Committee.

On behalf of Unit 112 Michele accepted the *President's Award of Excellence* for Education and the *Ruth Hutton Plaque* for Public Relations.



The Auxiliary presented a \$1200 check to Magnus Veterans Foundation on July 27, 2022. The donation will sponsor 2 veterans for a year to the services provided by Magnus House. Jay Calhoun, Executive Director accepted the donation from Sharon Mendenhall, Auxiliary Secretary and Cathy Artman, Auxiliary President.



The funds were made available from the many generous poppy donations received from Legion Members and from the Elk River Community.

Auxiliary President, Cathy Artman and First Vice President, Michele Smith presented a donation of \$1000 to the Elk River Beyond the Yellow Ribbon (ERBTYR) Chair, Donita Grell on July 21, 2022. The ERBTYR, as in all cases, will invest the funds to help an at-need Elk River area military person/family (current or veteran).



FIDGET BLANKET PROJECT

A fidget blanket is a lap size quilt that provides sensory and tactile stimulation for restless hands. The St. Cloud VA's Adult Daycare Program can use 20-25 blankets for dementia patients. If you are interested, we are looking for you. In addition to sewers and designers, donations of fabric, buttons, zippers and doodads of any kind are welcome. Pinterest is a good source for "how-to" information and ideas. The blanket size is approximately 18" x 20".

If you would like to participate, even if you are not a sewer or have donations, please contact Sharon Mendenhall @ 612-751-4069 or sammenden@comcast.net. Perhaps we can hold a "Blanket Bee".



September 12th the Post will reopen on Mondays

Post-9/11 Veteran Service Bonus Now Available

The 2022 Legislature passed and Governor Walz signed the first-ever Veterans Omnibus Bill that included funding for a service bonus payable to eligible Veterans who served from 9/11/01 to 8/30/21. The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) is honored to facilitate this program for eligible Veterans, currently serving service members or Veterans' beneficiaries.

WHEN: The application period began on July 7, 2022. The last day to apply is June 30, 2024, unless the funds have been exhausted before then.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE: Veterans, currently serving service members, Veterans' beneficiaries, or Veterans' guardians, conservators or legally appointed personal representatives. Veterans in Minnesota are defined under Minnesota statute 197.447. Visit the website for more details.

AMOUNT: There are three tiers of the Post-9/11 Veteran Service Bonus: \$600, \$1,200 and \$2,000. Visit the website for more details.

HOW TO APPLY: The online application is located at VetServiceBonus.mdva.mn.gov.

For more information or to apply, visit:
MinnesotaVeteran.org/ServiceBonus

For additional questions contact your local County Veterans Service Officer at
MACVSO.org or call LinkVet at **1-888-LinkVet**.





District 6
Past Presidents Parley
October 1, 2022
Hosted by the Elk River
Auxiliary Unit 112
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m

Guest Speaker
Department President Mary Kuperus

Silent Auction

11:00 – 12:00 Social Hour

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – Mary Kuperus

1:30 – Close out Silent Auction

RSVP: Sharon @ 763-441-7800 or sammenden@comcast.net

Meetings

9-1 Post and Auxiliary Membership
7:00 p.m.

9-8 Riders 6:00

9-17 SAL 10:00

10-6 Post and Auxiliary Membership
7:00 p.m.

10-13 Riders 6:00

10-15 SAL 10:00

Entertainment

Bingo 6:30 Wednesdays
Meat Raffle Fridays and Sundays
@ 5:00

Music 7:00-11:00 pm

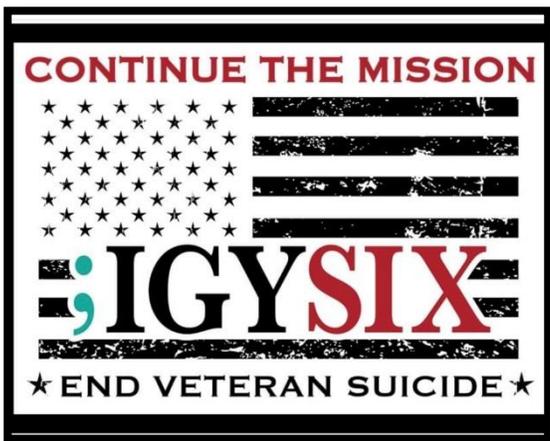
9-9 Joey Buckets

9-23 Scott Fraser

10-7 Tim Hadler

10-15 Terry DuBois

10-21 The Authorities



On July 9, 2022, American Legion Post 112 Riders participated in the 3rd Annual IGYSIX ride to end Veteran Suicide.



The Honor Guard led off the Sherburne County Fair Parade on July 16. Roberta Takle and Rebecca Pratt rode on the float as Riders Director, Todd Jagodzinski followed behind.



The success of the Legion's role in both the tractor pull and Sherburne County Fair is dependent on the many volunteers who willingly give of their time. Thank you!



On August 13th, the annual sweetcorn sale began. Thank you to Glen Haugen's generosity who raises the corn and donates it to the Legion. And thank you to SAL members TJ and Tyler Hill for managing the sales over the weekend.



**Happy Birthday
Commander Kohler**

