



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

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

Volume 39, Issue 1

## Commander's News Jan-Feb 2023

Happy New Year

When I received the email notification from Sharon that the newsletter deadline was fast approaching, my mind raced and questioned, was it that time again already? Talking with the Adjutant, he said the same thing. The email was from Sharon Mendenhall, our wonderful newsletter editor. Sharon has made the newsletter available for online reading. If you have not seen the online version in color, let me tell you, you are missing out! Check it out at: [elkriverlegion112.com](http://elkriverlegion112.com). On the left hand side, scroll down to newsletters.

In remembrance of the year 2022, there have been so many accomplishments for Post 112. We identified early in the year that we do events and we do them well. Therefore, that has been our focus in 2022. The post has moved from one event to another, overlapping in some cases. Our dedicated volunteers make it happen. A huge thank you to each one. An alert to all members as the year ends, our dedicated volunteers show themselves to be tired. Many are approaching burn out, and that means a risk of losing the help that is needed to keep your post operating. We can always use volunteers at our events. Stop by and meet your family members.

And I would be remiss not to acknowledge and thank Lisa, Kelly and all the bartenders, our new cook Ed, who is doing great things along with the Guntzel brothers running orders to customers. It is this group who keep things running on a daily basis along with the behind the scenes cleaning staff.

I want to give another shout out to Larry Cassen & Bruce Schmidt for the wonderful job they have done with the grounds keeping at our Veteran Memorial on Hwy 10. It always looks nice and ready for Memorial Day.

In the closing of 2022, a huge thank you and salute to each Honor Guard member. After our funeral detail on 12/22, the squad will have performed 33 funerals, including one at Ft Snelling, Honors at 11 Cemeteries for Memorial Day, 11 Veteran Day Ceremonies, led 3 parades with colors, 10 color presentations. These are performed in all increments of weather, and our squad stands fast every time!

If you have not been in the post in the last few weeks, we have had some upgrades to end the year with. We have installed an up to date 16 camera security system. A generous donation of two 75" Smart TV's that were mounted Christmas week. The maintenance squad with Tom M, Keith Q, Vaughn S and G2 have installed another display case in the hallway. It really looks nice.

We have expanded our game room with 2 dartboard games, Big Buck Hunter & Golden T Golf. It is a safe environment for the kids & teens, so bring them along. We also have the coldest and freshest taps in town! Our burgers are freshly pattied and getting recognition. There will be a new menu after the first. Come enjoy Post112 and all it has to offer. It would be nice to see more of the membership stopping in for a visit and supporting your post.

And as the New Year arrives, we need to start looking into the future as to what will become of post 112. The "W" questions come to mind like who, what, when and where will Post112 be in 1, 3, 5 & 10 years. Everything is changing around us and we must be prepared to do what is in the best interest of Post 112.

It is with a humble heart that I give thanks for our blessings in 2022 at Post 112 as they couldn't have been done without the dedication of our selfless servants.

Greg Artman - Commander

## Adjutant's Corner

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and start thinking about volunteering for the Lenten Fish fry. It's coming faster than you think. For those of you that hate winter remember this, the days start getting longer on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December so consider that the start of spring. The Honor Guard did great at several School programs and Guardian Angels visits on and around Veterans Day and we had a good turnout for our Veterans supper on 13 Nov. The Legion Riders had a great showing for their first Sunday Breakfast, Bingo and Bloody Marys. People were waiting at the door. By the time you read this Breakfast with Santa on the 18<sup>th</sup> of Dec will be over. I hope you were on the nice list. November was a busy month for some of us with the departure of our cook as several people stepped up and filled in. Especially the Commander who should receive the golden spatula award for almost living in the kitchen until we hired our new cook. I don't know whether to be glad or sad that no one took me up on my offer to listen for our ad on BOB FM radio and I will buy you a drink.

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

Gregory Crow (G2)

Post Adjutant

## Post Service Office

The following is a *year-end total summary* of Post Service Officer duties performed since inauguration 2 June 2022 through 21 December 2022:

Prior to the Coved 19 lockdowns, Post 112 Leadership had hoped to conduct a "veteran's benefit review" as a public service to the surrounding communities. After the restrictions, during the summer of 2022, two planning meetings were conducted coordinating Sherburne County Veteran's Service Office Staff, state and local government officials, Federal veteran organizations, and other surrounding area volunteer veteran services organizations. On 29 September Post 112 conducted its first outreach to Sherburne and Benton Counties veterans and spouses and provided a complete Veteran Benefit Review to make certain each veteran received the benefits for which they are eligible. 85 veterans and 20 additional spouses attended this all-day event. 35 veterans scheduled follow up visits with county representatives to proceed with claims and records updates. In addition to the Post 112 supporting members and the County Veteran Service Office; there were 11 Federal and local veteran volunteer service agencies assisting. 6<sup>th</sup> District Commander O'Bar was in attendance to support the mission to serve Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation within our community which is a primary pillar of the American Legion. Looking at the total numbers of veterans and spouses served, this was an event each and every member of Post 112 can rightly be proud of!

In addition, three referrals were made for medical equipment to the Sherburne County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) and a vet service support organization. One veteran with PTSD issues was referred to a private veteran support agency.

Paul Deneson,

Post Service Officer

# Post Chaplain

The following is a *year-end total summary* of Post Chaplain duties performed since inauguration 2 June 2022 through 21 December 2022:

- 179 Personal visits to residence, home, or assisted living
- 205 Messaging, emails, texts, cards, phone calls
- 14 Letters of Condolences
- 72 Chaplain support for American Legion events, escorts, and other spiritual services
- 39 Celebration of Life events with the Honor Guard

In July The Wellstead Assisted Living Centers, Rogers, MN authorized Chaplain Visits (weekly) to 12 staff and resident veterans. Also, provided Chaplain and Honor Guard duties for veterans and families at the Wellstead Veterans Day Appreciation Breakfast celebrated 13 November.

In November The Guardian Angels Assisted Living Centers, Elk River, MN completed vetting as the Voluntary Chaplain to the Transition Care Facility and authorized to visit (weekly) 13 staff and resident veterans.

Paul Deneson, Chaplain

# Riders

January 15<sup>th</sup> will be the first breakfast of the New Year with a tropical or “Summer in January” theme. February 19<sup>th</sup> will be Breakfast, Bingo and Bloody Marys.

The BBB in November was successful with nearly 100 bingo cards sold for the games. Our Breakfast with Santa was another success with over 120 meals served and lots of children. There was mostly excitement but with some apprehension for the children. One high schooler took a photo with Santa to have a comparison photo with the same Santa from when she was much younger. If you see Big John, thank him for his service to the post portraying Santa.

For Christmas, the Riders donated Walmart gift cards to three Veteran families associated with the Spark 2 Hope Organization next door to the legion. This organization provides services for special needs children and adolescents.

All of our motorcycles are neatly tucked away with battery tenders in our garages. I think Greg Crow has the honor of being the last to ride the first week of December.

We are planning our future rides when the snow melts during our weekly visits to are legions for lunch on Wednesdays.

Todd Jagodzinski, ALR Director



## Desert Storm/Afghanistan Display Case

What used to be a coat check window in the entry has now been remodeled for the new display case. The crew of Keith, Vaughn, Tom and Greg will soon have it completed and ready for displays. Anyone having items from Desert Storm or Afghanistan who would like to loan them for display can bring them to the post. Greg Crow is coordinating the collection of items and can be reached at: [sgtcrow56@gmail.com](mailto:sgtcrow56@gmail.com) for questions.

## Auxiliary

Happy New Year to all,

I am writing this article with Christmas fast approaching and with the winter wonderland outside I am definitely in the spirit. As I review all of the past years accomplishments I am left feeling truly grateful and honored for being a part of unit 112. We are blessed with an amazing membership. The willingness to serve our veterans and community and each other leaves me with a faith in humanity that can be hard to find these days. We are a diverse membership with many talents and backgrounds; we should all be proud of how well everyone gets along and works together. I consider it a gift to have gotten to know and serve with you all. We should all feel good about the people we have helped and the community we have embraced. It isn't always the outreach to others but also being there for each other. The fellowship, support and friendships that hold us together are what keep us moving forward. I am looking forward to what the new year brings serving alongside all of you. Stay warm, safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Cathy Artman,

Unit 112 Auxiliary President

## Membership

Michele Smith reports there are 25 Auxiliary members who need to pay their dues and Bill Stevenson reports there are 62 members needing to renew.

**A great New Year's resolution would be to pay up and feel good about achieving your resolution!**

Dues can be paid online or sending a check to the post at 525 Railroad Drive, Elk River MN 55330.

If you are at the post you can pay with check, cash or credit/debit card.

**Welcome to our new members:**

Legion: Jason Scott, Dwane Stoll, Joseph Calandra, Ron Klinepier

SAL: David Sampson

## Entertainment

Friday 1-6 The Loons 7-11 pm

Friday 1-13 DJ-Jindo 7-11 pm

Friday 1-27 DJ-Jindo 7-11 pm

Friday 2-10 DJ-Jindo 7-11 pm

Friday 2-24 DJ Jindo 7-11 pm

## Meetings

1-5 Post and Auxiliary Membership 7:00

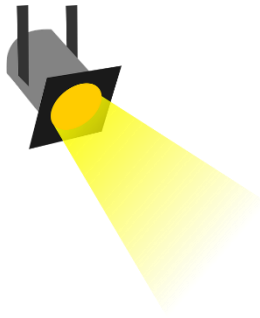
1-12 Riders 6:00 pm

1-19 Executive Board 7:00 pm

2-2 Post and Auxiliary Membership 7:00

2-9 Riders 6:00 pm

2-16 Executive Board 7:00 pm



## Veteran Spotlight



E. John Telfer Jr

John was born in Santa Barbara, CA in 1944 and was raised in upstate New York. After graduating high school he joined the U.S. Navy in 1962. He went to Basic training and A school for missile fire control Technician at the Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes. While attending a Navy school in San Diego 1965 he was asked to pick up a friend's sister at the train station. She was visiting from Wisconsin. It was his future wife Diane. They had to alter their wedding date because it conflicted with a Green Bay Packers game her dad didn't want to miss. Packer fans were dedicated even back then. They were apart more than together for several years while he was at sea going to places like Japan, the Philippines, and Viet Nam. He missed his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday because of the way they crossed the International Date Line. Somehow they skipped the whole day. He spent much of the time on the USS Dale, DLG 19, a 535ft Frigate. It was commissioned the day after President Kennedy's assassination. And may be the only US ship ever commissioned with the flag at half-staff. The ship has since been decommissioned and was scuttled to become part of a reef somewhere in the Atlantic. He recalled memorable times such as getting high lined from one ship to another to attend a school and riding out typhoons. He related the time his ship traded some playboy magazines with the Russian Navy for pieces of a [United States Navy Lockheed EC-121M Warning Star](#). It was on a [reconnaissance](#) mission and was shot down by a [North Korean MiG-21](#) aircraft over the [Sea of Japan](#). The plane crashed 90 nautical miles off the North Korean coast and all 31 Americans (30 sailors and 1 Marine) on board were killed, which constitutes the largest single loss of U.S. aircrew during the [Cold War](#) era.

After his discharge in 1969 he worked briefly for a company that worked on underwater cameras for oil rigs. They then moved to Wisconsin where he started his career in accounting with his father in law eventually becoming a CPA. Then he became a controller for the Oneida Indian tribes in Wisconsin as well as others.

Sometime during those years they had two sons and now have seven grandchildren.

Diane got a job offer to work in Accounting and Real estate in Las Vegas in 2001. John worked in real estate too. They lived there until 2020 when they moved to Elk River to become Volunteers at the American Legion post 112 and be closer to family. He and Diane have been involved with Fish fries, bake sales and the county Fair beer garden. And recently John showed his talent with a spatula making burgers while we were looking for a new cook.

We're glad to have them with us now.

Gregory Crow, Adjutant

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Soup & Chili Lunch

Elk River Legion Auxiliary Fundraiser

**Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**

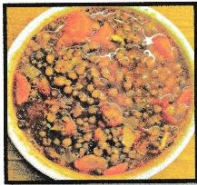
**Serving from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

**Cream of Potato with Bacon**

**Beef Barley Vegetable**

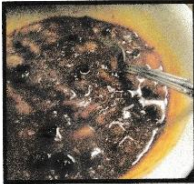
**Byerly's Wild Rice with Ham**

**Chili**

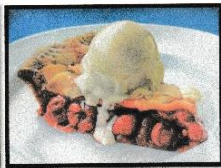


**Cup \$3.00**

**Bowl \$6.00**



**Pie \$5.00**



**Pie ala mode \$6.00**

**Dine In or Take Out**

## Had enough of winter?

**If you have changed your minds and are getting out of Minnesota until July let me know.**

**I can send your newsletter to your southern address or if you prefer I can email to it you. Or read it on the post website: [elkriverlegion112.com](http://elkriverlegion112.com).**

*(Just let me know your plans to save postage expense as the newsletters are not forwarded.)*

**Call me (Sharon Mendenhall)**

**at 763-441-7800 or email**

**[sammenden@comcast.com](mailto:sammenden@comcast.com)**

**with your USPS address or email address.**

**I will coordinate your info with the membership chairs, Bill and Michele.**

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Commander Artman welcomed Post members to the Veterans Day Dinner and gave a "State of the Post Address" following the meal.



Rebecca Pratt, Girls State Coordinator, introduced guest speaker Averil Schirmers. Averil was one of two girls who attended Girls State. Averil shared her experience and is working at her school to encourage other girls to attend Girls State. Following graduation she will be attending the Naval Academy.



Members of DECA served as wait staff for the dinner.

Veterans Day and the Auxiliary's 103<sup>rd</sup> Birthday were celebrated the same evening.



Adjutant Greg Crow administered the Everlasting Ceremony





Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup> found members of the Auxiliary and friends gathering to assemble fidget blankets for “Spark 2 Hope”. This is an organization located in Elk River that works with special needs children and adolescents.

At the December 1st meeting our guest speaker was Angela Nies from “Spark 2 Hope” who shared information about the organization. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Michele presented 33 fidget blankets to Angela for use with the children.



Auxiliary bake sales are always popular and well attended by the community and members. 2022 proved to again be very successful both at the Fall Craft and Bake Sale as well the Holiday sale. Believe some sales records were even exceeded!







Veterans Day, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> was a cold, blustery day for the Honor Guard and students at Parker Elementary as they prepared for the ceremony. It was heartwarming to see the enthusiasm displayed by the students as they sang and to observe the school's inclusion of Veterans Day in the curriculum.



The Honor Guard attended a dinner in their honor on December 11, 2022. From left to right: Vaughn Smith, Jerry Takle, Tom Kulkay, Vern Draxler, Bill Steveson, Mike Leistico, Paul Deneson, Charlie Finck, Keith Quammen, Greg Crow, John Salk, Glen Haugen. Commander Greg Artman