

Myrin James American Legion Post 443

Fall 2024 Issue

Membership Newsletter

Commander's Greetings

Mary Rono
Post 443 Commander

Hello Fellow Veterans:

Commander Mary Rono here. I joined the Ironton American Legion Post 443 about 3 years ago. I am still learning and am thankful for the support of the many great veterans in our organization. My military experience is 3 years active duty and the remainder of my time was in the National Guard and Army Reserve, retiring out in 2007.

My goal as commander is to continue assisting in the great work that past commanders and members have accomplished, through serving our community and helping fellow veterans.

Uniforms: I am asking that any members who is longer able to commit to the Color Guard for any reason, please return any uniform that you did not purchase on your own. Specifically the shirts/pants/belts/

jackets without your name. We are in need of the uniforms for new members. This will help keep the costs down for our legion members and for the Legion itself, so that we may have money for other Legion and Community needs. Your help with this would be greatly appreciated. Thank You,

Mary Rono Commander.

Great Work: Liz, our Legion Manager, has been working hard at a variety of projects to both maintain and improve the building along with the atmosphere of the Legion. If you have not been able to come and spend some time, the building looks great. New paint inside and out.

We are also grateful for the help from our veterans for many of these projects. Their volunteer assistance with projects have helped keep cost down in many areas.

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Post & SAL Meetings
6:30pm
3rd Monday of the Month



L-R: 2023-24 6th District Commander (Post 443 Service Officer) Anthony Koop, Don Imberi (Past Post Cmdr) and Post 443 Commander Mary Rono with our newly donated flag retirement barrel on Flag Day, June 14th, 2024 . Donated by Troy Schrock of LM Steel and Larry Rono.

2025 Membership Year updates & Membership Dinner

Anthony Koop
Membership Director

The membership year started July 1st, 2024. As of September 2nd, 2024 our Post Membership is at 92/145 (63.45%).

Thank you to all that have renewed this year. If you haven't yet, please do so as soon as you are able. Dues are currently at \$50. There is also a 3 year membership option. If you have

any questions, please reach out to me at 218-833-2117 (call/text) or anthony.koop@cbccrown.com.

I would like to invite you all to our Annual Membership Dinner. You must have paid your 2025 dues, or pay at the door. This is a free meal for all members of the American Legion Family. Spouses are welcome to attend at no cost. Friday, September 27th, Social 5pm, Dinner & Program 6pm.

Why is membership so important you may ask? There are a few, but important reasons why.

First, membership talks. When congress, both State and National, are looking to make laws that may affect Veterans and their families, The American Legion is right there working with our legislators to make sure it is an actual benefit for us.

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“Never Doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” – Maragret Mead

BE THE ONE

TO ASK VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING

TO LISTEN WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK

TO REACH OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING

AMERICAN LEGION

BETHEONE.ORG

Membership Matters! (Cont. from page 1)

We can do this because of the large number of members we have—it makes these elected officials think twice. It is strength in numbers that help protect our rights and get bills passed.

Great examples are the G.I. Bill, the Veteran’s Home Loan Program, The V.A Hospital System (still a work in progress indeed), and more recently the P.A.C.T. Act and Blue Water Act—just to name a few that your American Legion has been instrumental on getting

through.

Second, it is our 4 Pillars: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Americanism, Children & Youth, and National Security. *These are our programs that define us.* These programs are run by members, primarily at the Post level—Blue Caps as we are know. With out your membership, many of these programs would cease to exist. Some examples are: Legion Baseball/Softball, Oratorical Contests, Boys State, Legionville, Buddy Checks/Be The

One, Holiday parties for kids, Color/Honor Guard, Services for Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Flag Day, etc. None of these could exist without your membership.

Whether you simply pay you dues each year, stop in for a bite to eat or volunteer for a position or more—each of you matter in what we do each and every day. The American Legion Auxiliary has a great motto we can all be reminded of: “Service, not Self.”

Community Support: Helping each other

The Serbian Sisters have been supportive of the Legion/Community. They have a long history of their ancestors being involved with the vision of the Legion building becoming what it is today. Their ancestors hard work initiated what we know is the Legion building today. Some of the recent contributions to the Ironton Legion and community:

2013-14: The were instrumental in refurbishing and improving the picnic shelter at Grandpa’s Park. Recently may be in

need of further repairs.

2013: The Serbian Sisters were involved with the dedication ceremony of the Munchy Perpich sign on the front of the Legion.

2021: They worked with K & M Signs, Oberg Fence and others on the restoration of the neon Legion Club sign.

History: Roland Moore, husband of Mayme Lubovich Moore, MIA/KIA in Korea, he managed the Legion back in the early years. Mayme was also

very active in the Auxiliary for many years. She chaired poppy sales, managed the rag drive, collected books for veterans in the veteran’s hospital, served veteran funeral meals and many other important services for the Legion community. Selfless service is what makes a community better, stronger and more cohesive.

Our Community needs more Mayme’s.

Service Officer’s Report (Anthony Koop, Service Officer)

The primary purpose of a Post Service Officer is to help Veterans in need by assisting them in obtaining necessary resources and help they need. Sometimes it is just an ear to listen, other times it is a financial hardship, and all too often it is a medical or mental health issue. Helping a fellow Veteran as a Service Officer is one of the most humble and meaningful positions in The American Legion, but I can assure you

that every member here can save someone. Be the One to Save One.

The Be the One initiative, now in its third year, is about listening, talking, and helping get resources to help fellow Veterans. If there is a mental health crisis, dial 811 and press 1 at the prompt. This is free and confidential. (Dial 911 in an emergency). Buddy Checks are

coming up in mid-November. This a week to call our fellow Veterans and check in on them. This doesn’t mean it is the only time of the year. Make a call, go out for coffee, stop by and check on your fellow Veterans. You never know how much it could mean to them.

“Changing Lives and Savings Lives.” – Past National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer 2023-24

Commander's Updates (Cont. from page 1)

Liz's list of Projects:

- The interior has been all repainted a two tone gray in each room.
- New Patriotic décor in each room.
- The exterior has been repainted with new signs. The back entrance has a new mural with soldiers saluting the American flag.
- The back Bingo hall ceiling has been replaced and new lighting has been installed in each room.
- The back storage room has been remodeled and a new A/C & heating unit keeps it at an ideal temperature.
- New truck was placed on the flag pole with locking cleat box
- A/C heating unit installed in July 2020
- A new patio was installed in 2022 with seating of 24.
- All bar stools had new seats replaced in 2022.
- New table and chairs in Bingo & dining room 2020.
- In 2021 Breakfast is now being served from 8 – 10:30 .
- New TV's were installed with Bingo equipment, along with new projector & screen for meetings.

-A new sound system was installed in 2022.

-A new ice machine in 2020

-A new roof was done on the lean-to over the kitchen & storage rooms.

Flag Burn Barrel: Larry Rono, with the help of Troy Schrock built a beautiful burn barrel for our use on Flag day. This past Flag day, June 14, we were able to burn old and worn American Flags in a very honorably way. Approximately 450 + flags were respectfully honored in about 35 – 40 minutes time.

Battle Field Cross: We are currently working on putting together a Battle Field Cross to honor our deceased Veterans. Curt S. Larry R, Dale C have taken lead on this project. The goal is to have it ready before any future need.

New storage building: The Legion has put up a storage unit on the property of Dale Carry, for the purpose of storing, securing and protecting the Legion equipment. The Flag burn barrel, trailer and other equipment that can not be stored at the Legion, now have a home. Tom Hallin donated

the concrete flooring and base for the steel shed to be secured on.

New Rifles: The American Legion has purchased 10 new rifles for our color guard. Tom Hallin took the lead on this and secured the purchase. The old rifles were in poor condition and no longer able to be

replaced or repaired to the needed effectiveness for Color Guard Ceremonies to honor our Veterans. Lou Dirks assisted in the secure transfer of these new rifles.

Final Thoughts: The American Legion members have been instrumental in assisting when and where needed to both save time and money in improving and maintaining many areas of the Legion.

As the new incoming commander and Don Imberi as the outgoing commander, our gratitude and appreciation to all Legion members who have given of their time and talent to make the needs of the Legion a priority. A great big Thank you to Liz who is on top of it all and works hard to keep the Legion working and functioning.

Charitable Gambling News (Anthony Koop, Gambling Manager)

With the 2023-24 Fiscal year behind us, it is a good time to look back and see where we spent our Charitable Gambling dollars on.

From July 1st, 2023 - June 30th, 2024 we spent over \$79,700 dollars in 'Lawful Purpose Donations'. This does not include the \$20,000 in scholarships donated from our Cedric L. Hughes Scholarship Trust, nor any donations from the general fund.

This brings us to over \$100,000 spent on our Veterans, Children, and Community!

If that doesn't make you feel

proud, I don't know what will.

Some examples of donations:

- Because of Brandon
- Erin's Wish
- American Legion Baseball
- Homeless & Wounded Warriors of MN
- Cuyuna Range Food Shelf
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- Salvation Army – Brainerd
- Cuyuna Iron Range Heritage Network
- The Shriner's Hospital
- Several Free Community Dinners/Meals
- Many Scholarships for our graduating seniors.
- Toys for Kids
- Red Cross
- C-I Teams, including: Wres-

ting, Baseball, Fishing, Spanish Trip, Dance Team, Weightlifting, and more.

- Alan Woods Benefit
- Lunch Bunch
- Hallet Library Reading Programs & the R.E.A.D. program.
- Many Veterans & families in need.
- And many more local and great programs.

There is also a downside: We paid \$188,714.28 in taxes to the state from Gambling. That is more than 2 times what we were able to donate from those funds. Contact your Minnesota Legislator today and ask for meaningful tax relief!!

**Early Bird
Membership
Dinner!
Friday,
September
27th.
Social 5pm
Dinner 6pm**

**“THE SOLDIER
ABOVE ALL
OTHERS
PRAYS FOR
PEACE. FOR IT
IS THE
SOLDIER WHO
MUST SUFFER
AND BEAR
THE DEEPEST
SCARS OF
WAR.” –
Douglas
MacArthur**

**Open Tuesday-Saturday
8am-8pm**

**Breakfast 8-10:30
Daily Lunch Specials
Tuesday Burger Night 11-8
Friday Night Dinners**

**Bingo Every Thursday
6:30pm**

**Meat Raffles
Tuesdays & Fridays at 5:30
Pull Tabs & E-Tabs
MN Ch. Gamb. Lic. # 00148**

www.irontonlegionpost443.org

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[https://www.facebook.com/
Irontonlegion443](https://www.facebook.com/Irontonlegion443)

The logo features the words "AMERICAN LEGION" in a large, bold, blue serif font. Above the word "AMERICAN" are three horizontal stripes, and below "LEGION" are three horizontal stripes. Below "AMERICAN LEGION" is a horizontal line, and under that line, the word "FAMILY" is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

From the Auxiliary

Greetings Ironton American Legion Family!!

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the Mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve, by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families.

Ironton American Legion Auxiliary has 51 members for 2024 and we are already open for the 2025 American Legion Auxiliary Membership Year.

Ironton American Legion Auxiliary participates in many programs and activities locally, as well as at the District, Department, and National levels.

How to become a member of the Ironton American Legion Auxiliary: American Legion Auxiliary Members receive their eligibility for this organization through a Veteran or Active Military Member. You may be a mother, daughter, sister, grandmother, granddaughter, or spouse of the veteran, or yourself if you are a female veteran.

Please attend our Membership Dinner and New Member Drive on Friday, September 27th at 5pm at the Ironton American Legion for a nice dinner program and for more information!!

For God and Country,
Erin Koop—President
Ironton American Legion Auxiliary
Unit #443

Sons of the American Legion

Tom Hallin
SAL Commander

Hello, my name Tom Hallin, and I am the Commander of the Sons of the American Legion here in Ironton. This will be my 3rd year as commander, and we have been making progress. We have been getting new members. Last year we were 60 of our goal of 51 (117.7%) in membership! We are working on getting members involved. One of the projects we are looking to

start is doing Sunday breakfasts in conjunction with the Auxiliary. We are always looking for a few volunteers to help—if only for a couple hours, a few times a year. We are also looking to do more activities, so if you can spare a few hours here and there, please join us and let's plan some exciting things! Meetings are currently the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30pm. We hope to see you there!

"Supporting our post, our community and most of all ---the veteran"



Mural designed & painted by Lounge Manager Liz Sanvig. (in progress)