



THE AMERICAN LEGION

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January 2024

From the Commander Todd Waytashek, Commander

Happy New Year! May the new year of 2024 bring us all some much needed positive change.

The Christmas Party was a great success! We will be exploring other venues, as the club just isn't big enough for a substantial gathering, so stay tuned, and pencil in your attendance next year.

I want to thank everyone involved with putting together this newsletter. This proves we are stronger together than we are individually. Also, Note that I am now getting info from Morrison County VSO office as well, and will begin to add pertinent info here.

This is an election year. Many volunteers will be needed for election judges, greeters, ballot handing out, etc. If you have time, please consider helping make our elections run smoothly and fairly. If interested contact your local or county officials. Training is free. This would be a great place to demonstrate your commitment to many of the points in the Legion Constitution Preamble.

Vikings game tonight (12/31) at 7:30. If you don't already have plans, come socialize and celebrate with us!

Cmdr

Guest Speaker Series

The next speaker will be in February 2024.

IMPORTANT MEETING INFO

Club Committee Update: 6:15 p.m., BOD 6:30 p.m. – Very short, and ONLY when BOD action is required. Speakers follow. Regular meeting: 7:00 p.m., all at the Pine Country Bank. Auxiliary meetings 7:00 at the post.

JANUARY 2024 LEGION CALENDAR

- 01 New Years Eve. (Fly Flag) Vikings game @7:30
- 02 Club Committee 6:30 p.m. Rumors, back room.
- 03 Bingo, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the post.**
- 06 MEAT RAFFLE 7:00 p.m. at the post. Keys for cash follows.**
- 07 Sunday Viking Game, time still not announced
- 08 Legion meetings: 6:30 BOD - 7:00 Membership. All at the Pine Country Bank.**
- 08 Auxiliary meeting: 7:00 pm at the club.**
- 10 Bingo, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the post**
- 13 MEAT RAFFLE 7:00 p.m. at the post. Keys for cash follows.**
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day. (Fly Flag)
- 17 BINGO 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the post.** Operation Desert Storm begins. (1991)
- 20 MEAT RAFFLE 7:00 p.m. at the post. Keys for cash follows.**
- 21 Birth of the MODERN National Guard. (1903)
- 24 BINGO, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the post.**
- 27 MEAT RAFFLE 7:00 p.m. at the post. Keys for cash follows.**
- 30 Tet Offensive begins in South Vietnam. (1968)
- 31 BINGO 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the post.**

COLOR GUARD INFO

Jim Hovda, Color Guard Coordinator

A "heads up" for our annual training and appreciation dinner on Sunday, 18 February, 5:00 p.m. training, dinner 6:00 p.m. at the post.

I'M IN NEED OF YELLOW CG CHIPS. Come in and spend the ones you have.

Keep uniforms ready for unscheduled events.

Chaplains Report

Mark Soderholm, SAL Chaplain

Hello and Merry Christmas to everyone. This month we are blessed to have an article written by a very good friend and brother in the Lord. I hope you will be as blessed as I was.

Now is the time

Today's message is for anybody who feels like life without God is not working out, but they hesitate to come to God because they do not feel fit to do so. Perhaps you have wanted to come closer to God, but felt it would be better if you could fix your attitudes and behaviors so you could be more presentable to God. The problem with this approach is that you will probably never feel like you have made enough self-improvements, and you will continue to live your life without the comfort and joy that comes with having a relationship with God.

The reality is, with every person there is a lot that needs fixing. According to Romans 3:23, we "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," and this sin nature is so deeply woven into us that it is not possible to completely fix that by yourself through will power. People can achieve some degree of change, but the process of changing is slow, sometimes painful, and usually littered with setbacks. Eventually frustration can creep in, and when that happens there is the likelihood that you just give up.

This is why we need Jesus to act as Savior and Mediator between people and God the Father. It allows us to come before God in our current, broken condition so we can immediately obtain forgiveness for the things we have done wrong. Combined with repentance – an attitude change where we decide to turn away from our sinful ways – we can begin building a relationship with God. You do not need to wait for a day when you are in better condition to come to God. Luke 23:42-43 tells how a man was being crucified next to Jesus. By acknowledging Jesus' status as God, and expressing faith that Jesus could grant him eternal life, he was instantly accepted by Jesus with the words, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise." Mind you, this was a man that admitted he was guilty of a crime worthy of capital punishment.

Having a relationship with God will bring about hope and peace the likes of which you will not find anywhere else. Life will always have some frustration built into it, but with the aid of God's grace and mercy, frustration will not hold the same power over you that it formerly did. You will still have hard work ahead of you, but with God's assistance, you will find yourself doing things you would currently think are not possible. God never fails to finish what He starts, so give Him reason to begin a good work in you today.

We are all broken, having a sin nature that is as much a part of us as DNA. Solo attempts to make ourselves presentable to God by willing ourselves to think better thoughts and engage in better behaviors will only result in frustration, which then leads to giving up. You can only have peace and joy with God by coming to Him as you are,

repenting, and allowing Him to be in all aspects of your life. Hesitate no more; there is no better time to come to God than right now. May you come to know the amazing transformative power that Jesus brings into peoples' lives every day.

by Dave Frost

Electronic bingo is back every Wednesday 7:00 p.m. at the post.

Morrison County VSO

The Veterans Office will help you with the following:

- Fully Developed Claims (Building evidence, suggestions, and submissions)
- Supplemental Claims for previously denied claims if the veteran has new evidence
- Higher Level Review Claims if you are not happy with the VA response to your Claim
- **Dental and Optical Vouchers** (Income based)
- **Special Needs Grant** (Income based, and assets are considered in the State of MN Approval, once in a lifetime opportunity per veteran)
- Survivors Pension
- Pension
- Homeless Veterans needs
- **Travel vouchers** (30% and higher) and submission assistance
- Education updates for veterans and Dependents
- VA Enrollment for healthcare (Eligible Active Duty Veterans and dates of service must qualify)
- Aid and Attendance (Service connected & medically qualified veterans)
- Homebound (Service connected & medically qualified veterans)
- 100% (Chapter 35 Education Benefits, State Park pass, Hunting, Fishing, and DMV benefits New benefit as of 1/1/2024- 2 vehicles and one Driver's License at no cost to the 100% service-connected Veteran.

Upcoming Events:

Jan 18, 2024 Military Veterans Resource Fair, Morrison County Government Center

April

Month of the Military Child (Purple it up)

April 17, 2024

Veterans on the Hill

April 18, 2024

Military Retirement Seminar, Camp Ripley 0800-1200

October 2024

Military Retirement Seminar, Camp Ripley 0800 – 1200

Your Post Bulletin Board

Has many items of interest. Of note, across the top are a bunch of business cards. These are Legion members who have a business. Consider their business as worthy.

Service Officer Report

Harvey Meehl, Post Service Officer

I would like to wish all members of the of the Legion Family a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. I would like to thank all the people that put on the Legion Christmas party, it was a fun time had by all! The food was great, and no one went away hungry. I was very proud to receive my 50 membership plaque with 3 others. Now is the time while all is fresh in our minds to see how we can even do better next year, if not we will forget to many things.

This is one of the happiest times of the year, but, sometimes it is the saddest time for our Legion comrades. I know everyone has a phone and texts, but there is nothing like a visit or a phone call. It's too late after someone has died or taken there life .

We have been getting information people have not been getting their newsletters. The Commander and I are going to set up a task force to get every member a newsletter if possible. We would also love to hear about some positive things going on in your life. We would love to have you come to the monthly meeting. This information will be in the newsletter.

As your Legion Service Officer it would be great to see new members join our Legion. If there is someone who might be in the area or even where they would be happy here would want to join please let me know. To keep our Legion strong, we need members! I know they are out there, we just need to tell them how our legion helps the community and help with any problems they might have.

I'm very proud of all the things that improved our Legion this year, our new Officers have been coming up with great ideas to help our members, the club is under new management, Cheryl finally got her freedom back, haha. We also updated the Club, new members with new ideas on the board. Now we are going to work the best we can for our membership. God has blessed so much, if can help in anyway please let me know, I can listen well! And anyone who knows me will tell you I will give you my best! I listen for free. Have a Great 2024.

December Membership

Jim Wolf - Membership

We have about 119 members paid up so far in the legion and 33 in the SAL.

Dues are still \$40.00 for the legion and \$15.00 for the S.A.L. But it looks like they will go up in 2024.

If you get a renewal notice and think you have already paid, give me a call to check. Sometimes membership dues end up in the wrong file, and don't get credited for a while.

We do not have any new members to report, but some of you have not yet sent in your dues or renewed online for the 2024 membership year. Try not to let your card expire at the end of December.

Auxiliary News

Tammy Kilman, Auxiliary Commander

Hello all,

We had another great turnout for the membership dinner in December. As usual, the prime rib and chicken from The Creamery were delicious, along with salad and desserts. Big thanks to Mark Larson and Sandy Rojas for the great service! It was great to visit with members that we don't see regularly. Exchanging gifts, and door prizes are always a highlight as well. Sorry, there were no pink socks this year hahaha! We also have just a short meeting at this event so there is not too much to report from the Auxiliary this month. We did address a request for a donation to Rice Elementary and passed it. Along with the Main body, The S.A.L., and the Knights of Columbus we contributed a large amount in Coborn's gift cards to help out 20 families during the holidays. Personally it's a great feeling to give to people who struggle sometimes just to feed their families!

As I write this, it is almost Christmas. It sure isn't looking like it will be a white Christmas. Today on the weather they said so far this is the second warmest winter in Minnesota. I think snow is pretty, but I'm okay with the warmer temperatures!!

Please stay warm and safe as the weather turns, and as always, our meetings are at 7 p.m. at the club. Our next meeting will be on January 8th, 2024.

I hope you all enjoy a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!!

Take Care and God Bless!

SAL NEWS

Randy Morris, SAL Commander

Well, the holidays are behind us. I hope everyone had a very enjoyable holidays. That being said I would like to thank the following groups. The Woman's Auxiliary, The Rice legion, The Rice knights of Columbus, The DAV and the S.A.L for the donations. We were able to bring a little more joy to 20 families at the Rice elementary school. We provided \$100.00 gift certificates to each family from Coborn's.

The S.A.L. will continue to do this next year but I will be looking to add some more groups to the mix.

The S.A.L. is looking for more ideas for fundraising in the next coming year. If you have any ideas, please let me know.

Have a great month and I am looking forward to the ideas

Bowling Update

Rich Vonderhaar and Patti Vonderhaar

Hi everyone! We have finished week 14 out of 22 weeks. Jack Holmberg holds the mens high average with a 209 Tammy Kilman holds the women's high average with a 180. Don and Beth Nelson are in first place. Jack Holmberg and Rich Vonderhaar are in 2nd. Tom and Tammy Kilman are in 3rd place.

We will be starting bowling tournaments twice a month on Sundays in January. We will draw for partners with a 5.00 entry fee. More information to follow. That's all for now.

THE FISHING STRINGER & TACKLE BOX

Darlene Hiscock AKA Ms. Tackle box

Ms. Tacklebox is temporarily out of commission. Most of you know she recently had a fall and broke a bone in her arm. She is recovering and reports are she is in great spirits! I fully expect she will be back next month. The following is provided through Jim Hovda's visit with Darlene. Editor

Well here goes. I'm the temporary author. Ms. Tackle Box fell and broke her arm and is residing at the Good Shepherd Nursing Home, not in a fish house on a lake. Right or left?

Mark Soderholm fishing on Lake of The Woods caught a 22-inch walleye. Nothing from the Segler clan. Nothing from the Little Rock Lake bunch. With five inches of ice, quality is questionable... No houses on the lake for several days. Soderholm has not gone through the ice this year. Yes, he has been out on LRL.

PLEASE, FISH AND HUNT SAFE WITH A FRIEND. STAY OFF THIN ICE!

IMPORTANT POINTS OF CONTACT:

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LEADERSHIP

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CLUB Manager

Leah Stock

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Veteran Crisis Line 988 option 1

NEWSLETTER

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