



# The 2<sup>nd</sup> District American Legion Family Newsletter

## September, 2019

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### **Legion Commander:**

Brad Pagel

Email: [bppagel@gmail.com](mailto:bppagel@gmail.com)

### **Auxiliary President:**

Robin Olson

Email: [rrde72@gmail.com](mailto:rrde72@gmail.com)

### **Honorary Junior President:**

Anastasia Donnelly

### **\*\* Newsletter News \*\***

The newsletter email is

[district2mnlegionfamilynews@gmail.com](mailto:district2mnlegionfamilynews@gmail.com)

Please submit all articles/pictures/posters etc. you wish to have published in the newsletter before the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the prior month.

To help the District cut down on expenses and time it takes with the mailings of the newsletter, it was decided at convention time to go all electronic for the newsletter. Please encourage someone from each Post, Unit, Squadron and Chapter to receive the newsletter via email and print it out for their meetings. It will also be available on the district website at [www.mnlegion2nndistrict.com](http://www.mnlegion2nndistrict.com) on the newsletter page. Brad Pagel is still doing the newsletter, but if someone is more than willing to take it over and do it each month that would be great and awesome too.

### **Upcoming Events**

Sept 7 Dept Harvest Rally Legionville

### **SAL Commander:**

Russell Lietzke

Email: [rjlietzke@gmail.com](mailto:rjlietzke@gmail.com)

### **ALR Director:**

Kris Schneeberg

Email: [kaschneeberg@gmail.com](mailto:kaschneeberg@gmail.com)

Oct 1 Luverne Vets Home Fun Day 9am

Oct 19 District Rally - Halloween Costumes - Auxiliary in charge New Ulm MN 3pm

Oct 25-26 Dept Fall Conference Mahnomon MN

Nov 23 District Rally/Training Workshop Lake Crystal MN

Dec 7 Dept Pearl Harbor Rally Rosetown

Dec 14 or 15 District Christmas Party TBD

Jan 10-11 District Mid-winter Conference Sleepy Eye MN

Feb 8 Dept Sweetheart Rally

Feb 29 District Rally Slayton

May 9 District testimonials

June 5-6 District Convention TBD

## **2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander Column**



2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander Brad Pagel

I would like to take this time to talk about membership, You know how the saying goes that it takes act of congress to make any progress in this country. That is just what happened a few weeks ago at the end of July by the President signing the Legion Act. The dates of eligibility has been determined now to be for anyone who has served since December 7, 1941. Think about that for a minute. Think about how many veterans are in your community that have now become eligible that have previously fell in the gaps. Think about the entire American Legion family and how many are now eligible to join the entire family, with the passage of this legislation. Think about how your post/ unit/squadron can grow and serve in your communities. We can double our membership if we get out there and do a little public relations work and promote ourselves. If it were not for the members of the American Legion Family, where would our veterans be at today? Where would our youth be at today? While promoting membership into the family, a good place to start is with our 4 pillars, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.

### **Chaplain Notes**

God bless our troops and keep them safe. God bless America. God bless everyone.  
Chaplain Denny

### **Auxiliary President News**

Hope u all had a great labor day weekend and we made it home safe from convention. It was a great time learned alot of new stuff. They passed it so the spouse of a female veteran can now join the Auxiliary. And they also opened up the dates for veterans to join so we should be able to get our membership built back up so let's start recruiting some new members.

I have sent some pictures of us all dressed up so look for them. And also some pics of the new National Commander James "Bill" Oxford and National President Nicole Clapp along with the National Commander of the Sons of the American legion Clint Bolt.

Would also like to tell you about how exciting it was to be part of the legacy turn in for the American Legion Riders. We turned in \$175,000 this year which makes us the first state to hit 1 million dollars. I also included a photo of most of the Minnesota Legion Riders with the National Commander Brett Reistad and Department

Commander Darrel Redepenning and Department president Jean Walker and SAL Commander Shawn Davis Department Riders Director Chuck Stone.

Well hope to see some of you at fall harvest. So until next news letter I am signing off

2nd District President

Robin Olson

[rrde72@gmail.com](mailto:rrde72@gmail.com)

507-525-3790

### **American Legion Riders**

The American Legion State Legacy Run has started, the first weekend there has been over 60,000 dollars turned in, putting Minnesota over the threshold of 1 Million Dollars turned in to the Legacy Scholarship program. Minnesota is the FIRST and ONLY state to reach this milestone. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WHO HAVE MADE THIS POSSIBLE!! WE HAVE THE BRAGGING RIGHTS!!

### **Mark the Dates**

Adrian SAL pancake breakfast last Sunday every month. 9-1

Bricelyn Post SAL steak fry 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday every month.

Keister Post steak fry 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday every month.

Madelia Steak Fry 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday every month 5-730pm

Pipestone SAL Omelet Breakfast 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday every month  
September-April 9am-1230pm

Any post events please send them in to get in newsletters.

### **BASEBALL REPORT**

Our American Legion Baseball season is over, and it sure seems that it went fast!

At the Division 2 Sr. Legion State Tournament in Ely, Luverne finished 6th. They lost to Caledonia 5-3, defeated Ely 4-1, and lost to BOLD 11-5. The champion was Dilworth Glyndon-Felton.

In Division 2 Jr. Legion at St. Charles, Luverne lost to St. Charles 4-3, beat Morris 12-1, and defeated Holy Family 4-3 to finish 5th. Winning the championship was Aitken.

The 16-team Division 1 Sr. Legion State Tournament was hosted by Cold Spring. New Ulm Gold defeated Cold Spring 10-0, and then bested the St. Cloud Chutes 4-1. They lost to the eventual runner-up Edina 5-3, and then lost to Buffalo 5-1, finishing tied for 5th. Excelsior emerged as the champion.

In the Division 1 Jr. Legion State Tournament in Bloomington, New Ulm Jr. Gold beat Bloomington Blue 4-3, and then Eden Prairie 8-3. They lost to eventual champion Hopkins 4-3, and then to Excelsior 4-2, finishing in 3rd place. Congratulations to both the Luverne and New Ulm programs for their excellent seasons. Also, a big thank you to Bert Marth for being my representative at the Division 2 Sr. Legion Sub-state Tournament, and to Jon Schomacker and Barry Shelton and all the volunteers in Luverne as they hosted both the Division 2 Sub-state Tournaments over a 9-day period.  
Vern Kitzberger  
2nd District Baseball Director

**ATTENTION: ALL VETERANS  
GREAT NEWS:**

President Trump signed into law the LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service). The new Law changes The American Legion's eligibility dates to now be open to all those who served during WWI and all veterans



**MANKATO LORENTZ UNIT 11 member awarded  
Department Scholarship**

since Dec 7th 1941 with at least one day of honorable federal service. Minnesota's own Past National Commander Dan Ludwig, from Red Wing Post 54, was witness to and was a leading influence in getting this historic piece of bipartisan legislation passed. We welcome with open arms ALL of our fellow Veterans along with their families to be a part of The American Legion family!  
The LEGION Act now opens up The American Legion's eligibility to approximately 6 million veterans which previously had not been eligible. It opens the eligibility for membership in The American Legion to anyone who had 1 day of federal active duty and has been honorably discharged or are still serving since December 7, 1941.  
The existing American Legion membership applications are in the process of being updated but can still be used. It is recommended that prospective Legionnaires and recruiters write 'LEGION Act' in the eligibility date section of American Legion membership applications if they fall outside the previous war eras. The larger pool of veterans now eligible for The American Legion will also open their family members to eligibility in the Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary as well.  
Please contact your local post for application and further information.

Katlyn Jaeger, a member of Mankato American Legion Auxiliary Lorentz Unit #11 has been awarded a \$1000 Past Presidents Parley Healthcare Scholarship from the Department of Minnesota. Katlyn lives in Janesville and will be attending her 2nd year at Marquette University in Milwaukee majoring in Nursing with a minor in Spanish.

A Leadership Workshop will be held on Sept. 21st, starting at 9 a.m., at the Walnut Grove American Legion. Hosted by the Walnut Grove American Legion Auxiliary. Please inform Gloria Doubler at [jgdoub@redred.com](mailto:jgdoub@redred.com) or Jeannette Mertens at [jmertens3868@gmail.com](mailto:jmertens3868@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. A head count would be appreciated by Sept. 16th.

**Attention Unit Presidents and Treasurers:**

As per 2nd District Standing Rules D:2.

a. District Dues: Units shall pay District Dues annually in the amount of \$1.75 per member, base upon their last year's total membership. The first billing of the District membership dues will be published in the September issue of the 2nd District American Legion Family Newsletter.

Checks should be made out to:

2nd District American Legion Auxiliary  
and mailed to:  
2nd District Treasurer  
Vida Bacon  
110 N Payne St  
New Ulm MN 56073

Ladies –

We have tried to reach some of you by phone and have reach a notice that the number is no longer in service. Please, if you have discontinued you 'land line' service and are only using a cell phone, be sure that we have your cell phone number. Membership chairmen and Unit Presidents especially.  
Thank you

**AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP**

**DISTRICT 2**

The new Auxiliary year has started with new energy and hope!

This year our theme will be "ALL UNIT MEMBERS ARE A GEM"

We are going to aim high this and reach 100% in membership.

As many of you have read about the "Legion Law" that was signed by President Trump, what it means to the Auxiliary is that now All Veterans that have been in the service since 1941 can join the Legion and that means that the Auxiliary can have new members from all those that can now join the Legion.

Want an extra \$50.00 for your unit – At the Harvest Rally on September 7 there will be a drawing for all those units that have reached 40% of membership by that date – Why not try for it.

As you get ready to collect membership here is what you need to collect and send in to Department – SENIORS - \$24.00 JUNIORS - \$6.00

The Department dues went up which went into effect this year. Department Dues are \$12.00 for Seniors and National Dues are \$12.00 for a total of \$24.00.

Department Junior dues are \$3.50 and National Dues are \$2.50 for a total of \$6.00. The District dues will remain the same as in past years \$1.75 per unit member, you will get a notice from the District Treasurer as to how much your unit owes.

Let's all of us a Gem of year with our units and aim high. Your District membership Team.  
Raleen Tolzmann – Membership Chairman  
Team members – Tricia Pagel, Jeannette Mertens, Vickie Lowrie, and Diane Strassburg

**2nd DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP 2018-2019**

Unit No.	Unit Name	DNO/Goal	# of Mem
32	Adrian	45	
276	Amboy	50	
576	Avoca	32	
309	Belview	60	
496	Bigelow	19	
89	Blue Earth	138	
464	Brewster	70	
165	Bricelyn	48	
329	Cambria	16	
529	Ceylon	60	
338	Chandler	26	
519	Clements	21	
244	Comfrey	36	
322	Currie	74	
486	Delavan	16	
632	Dovray	58	
386	Dundee	24	
617	Eagle Lake	156	
569	Easton	71	
42	Edgerton	59	
196	Ellsworth	20	
36	Fairmont	175	
318	Fulda	39	
616	Good Thunder	36	
365	Hanska	49	
478	Hardwick	35	
195	Hendricks	49	
224	Heron Lake	46	
399	Hills	23	
534	Holland	65	
130	Jackson	158	
133	Jasper	33	
401	Jeffers	34	
454	Kiester	39	
10	Lake Benton	70	
294	Lake Crystal	152	
285	Lake Wilson	141	
4	Lakefield	73	
41	Lamberton	119	
561	Lewisville	68	
636	Lismore	50	
467	Lucan	28	
123	Luverne	77	
19	Madelia	58	
269	Madison Lake	30	
11	Mankato	128	



274	Milroy	37
287	Minnesota Lake	92
132	New Ulm	207
522	Northrop	90
608	Okabena	80
6	Pipestone	84
38	Redwood Falls	73
582	Revere	17
461	Round Lake	95
506	Ruthton	38
286	Sanborn	49
356	Sherburn	40
614	Sioux Valley	15
64	Slayton	80
7	Sleepy Eye	46
257	Springfield	197
475	St. Clair	52
33	St. James	110
391	Storden	23
373	Trimont	46
115	Truman	47
306	Vesta	17
263	Wabasso	83
267	Walnut Grove	67
553	Welcome	58
210	Wells	243
206	Windom	100
82	Winnebago	29
5	Worthington	53
2	District Total	

AS OF WEEK 07/31/2019

## **LEGION MEMBERSHIP**

Greetings from the 2nd District Membership Director! Wishing each & every Post a successful & prosperous year! Thank you for helping us jump start this year's membership. I'm going start out by highlighting my vision & goals for this year!

We have a big hurdle to overcome, but with your help, it really can be achieved & it will truly benefit the District! Goals were set higher than in the past, but don't let that discourage you, it will be a plus if each & every Post transfers these members into their own prospective Post! These already members don't belong anywhere & don't have any communication with anyone other than paying their dues each year! National had added those, Direct Marketing Services (DMS) members into our goals. Let's contact them & welcome them into our Posts & Family! Every year I am asked why are you coming to me for one paid membership, an Officers list, & CPR Report. Let me clear this up!

All American Legion Membership begins July 1st of every year & ends June 30th. Not January 1st ending on December 31st! When packets are picked up at Department by District Commander & Membership, they

must be distributed asap to each & every post! National sends out first dues notices for the year. To insure each Post has received their packets the membership team is "required" to pick one membership from each Post, pick up their new Officer list for the year, & pick up their Consolidated Post Report (CPR) if they havent sent it in yet! They are NOT to hand over membership packets with out doing this. You may hear it called "Getting off goose egg!" Let me stress, this is critical! You all know we can't be successful if we have no officer list to call the Commanders, Adjutants, Membership, & Finance Officers when needed. CPR Reports are needed by the required date & shouldn't be an item to have to be dealt with! They give Posts credit for all the hard work you do! They benefit you & should be a chore. If needed start to complete them in phases, like every three months in pencil & tally at the end & send in!

The Legion Act was passed & many veterans out there can now become members. I don't know who they are, You do, so please ask them to join, or give them my number or your Posts Membership number to help strengthen your membership! Just think of all the potential for chairmanships & future Officers we could have!

Your Posts membership is not responsible for signing up new members & all retention of existing members! They are a very valuable asset to you! Help them, help you! everyone knows someone who could be a member! Most tell me, No One Asked!

To all of our Membership Team, "please send in renewals as soon as you have received them. It is vital for success & saving to have to send them extra notices from you, from National, & endless phone calls!

I am willing to help every Post sign up & use [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org) to help you with memberships, renewals & new! It's so much easier, faster, effortless, & saves time, money, & paperwork!

Can we please pay our dues now? I know that some posts have membership meals, that's great, maybe plan them for July or August & plan a summer picnic/membership/fun Legion Family Day! Could help SAL & Auxiliary by renewing all at once! Just an option to think about!

I have members come up to me & say that they just paid last year's membership, why are you asking for next year's? Can we change that stigma & renew starting July 1 or as soon as you can? I promise you that you will not be asked again, until July 1st of next year! It's that simple!

Lastly if any Post, Officers, or individuals want training of any kind, we could incorporate that into our future Rally's! Please contact District Commander or myself & our Team will set that up! Have a great September & I'll be happy to hear from you! Thank you for all you Do!

Randy R. Olson  
2nd District Membership

507-525-6532  
rrolson734@gmail.com

### **ORATORICAL CONTEST**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> District Oratorical Contest will be held on Jan 11 2020 at 1:00 pm, in conjunction with the Mid-Winter conference at the Sleepy Eye Post 7. Brad Pagel is the Oratorical Chair, contact him for this years packet.

Brad Pagel  
605-366-3025  
bppagel@gmail.com

### **CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS**

The District only has 38 posts that have turned in a CPR report to Department. That is 45.2% of 84 posts, this is very unsatisfactory news to the District. The posts that have not turned in their CRP only have until September 30 to do so, for the past year on what your post has done. The reports will be presented to the Department Americanism Committee organizational meeting in Oct at Fall Conference. This committee utilizes the Americanism portion of the CPR to determine the recipients of the annual District and Department Americanism awards.

### **Luverne Veterans Home**

Volunteers are needed for Tuesday October 1<sup>st</sup> fun day at the Vets Home. Starting at 9 am with blackjack followed by lunch at noon. Hamburgers, hot dogs, with salads.

Bingo at 2:30 pm

Come and have a good time.

VAVS Chair

Dennis Strassburg



**District Commander Brad Pagel  
District President Robin Olson**



**District President Robin Olson with  
husband Randy Olson District  
Membership Director**



**District Commander Brad Pagel with  
wife Tricia Pagel District 1<sup>st</sup> Vice  
President**



**Minnesota Delegation American Legion Riders**







**National Leadership for 2019-2020**