



Post Talk

North Branch Post #85

January 2024

Membership Meeting: Jan 9th @ 7:00PM

Auxiliary Meeting: ***Does not Meet this month***

SAL Meeting: Jan 16th @ 7:00PM

Legion Riders Meeting: Jan 4th @ 7:00PM

Coffee Talk with the CVSO: Jan 16th @ 9:00AM

Mike Johnson, Gambling Manager:

12/2022 - 12/2023 Charitable Contributions

\$173,621.06

As 2023 comes to a close, American Legion Post 85 – North Branch would like to give a huge THANK YOU to all of our members and customers for your support. Below is a list of

the different organizations and causes that we were able to support in 2023. We look forward to a successful 2024 and continuing to be able to support the community as much as we can.

- North Branch Beautification Association (Veteran's Memorial and Flower

Baskets)

- Minnesota American Legion Foundation – Department Commander's

Project, Fund for Hospitalized Veterans, and the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

- Wishes & More
- Minnesota Military Family Foundation
- Veterans on the Lake Resort
- Veteran Organization utilities, real estate taxes, and capital assets.
- Scholarships – 5 awarded to local graduating seniors.
- Wings of Mercy
- Color Guard – Funeral services for veterans and local special events.
- Gift Cards – Gas/Groceries for veterans in need.
- North Branch High School Senior All Night Party
- Rush City High School Senior All Night Party.
- Let's Go Fishing
- National Fire Safety Council – Local child fire safety education program.
- Viking Girls Homerun Club – North Branch High School girls' softball booster club.
- 23rd Veteran
- Minnesota EMS Charity Riders
- North Branch High School JROTC.
- Support the Troops MN
- Chisago County Board on Aging – Tables Around Town
- Trinity Lutheran Church – Viking Vittles

- National Child Safety Council – Local child safety and drug education program.
- North Branch American Legion Baseball Team
- Heart of Milbank – Birthplace of American Legion Baseball
- Chisago Lakes High School marching band.
- St. Francis High School marching band.
- Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band
- Paralyzed Veterans of America
- American Cancer Society – Relay for Life
- Minnesota DARE
- North Branch Area Education Foundation
- Time on the Water
- Veteran's Campground on Big Marine Lake
- The Memorial Day Foundation
- Minnesota Military & Veteran's Museum
- Northern Star Scouting
- Wreaths for the Fallen
- North Branch High School Adaptive Bowling Team
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Invisible Wounds Project
- MN Correctional Facility Red Wing – Christmas gifts for juvenile residents.

On top of these monetary contributions, American Legion Post 85 – North Branch donated the use of our facilities for

meetings/events throughout the year to the following groups:

- Boy Scouts of America
- Girl Scouts of America
- North Branch Fire Department
- Chisago County Veterans Services
- North Branch Special Olympics
- Minnesota Deer Hunters Association
- Several local youth sports organizations
- North Branch Lions

- VFW Post 6424 – North Branch
- North Branch Chamber of Commerce

We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and has Happy New Year!

Randy Koivisto, Sgt at Arms:

During the holidays, along with our VFW partners, we paid a visit to member and WWII vet, Tom Warnke, who is a resident at the Encore senior facility in North Branch. Photo attached.

We recently erected the sign on the site of the Veterans Memorial in the city park. Attached photo is of Joe Scaramell and myself. After a few weeks off for the holidays, our committee will be back at it in January to finish the final preparation for the marketing phase of the project. All permissions from the city have been completed, so marketing and building remain. It would be very much appreciated if we could gather some volunteers to help with the marketing portion of the project. Contact me to sign up. rkoi@midco.net 612-718-5609 Our next Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7th, from 9-3. Our last drive collected over 30 units of blood. They, like everybody else, is short staffed but the crew hustled and took good care of the donors with no complaints being heard. Go to Redcross.org to sign up.

Our Honor Guard was extremely busy in 2023. In the almost 20 years of being on the Honor Guard, we would normally on average perform honors at a half dozen or so funerals. We did 14 this year, with 6 of them being our members. The Vietnam generation is starting to make their final stand. We have a funeral scheduled in early January for one of our members that was active in the organization. Duane Bengtson's helping hand will certainly be missed. Raise a glass.

Our February monthly meeting will also be our awards night and dinner. We will be joined by all departments in our post for a joint session.

Randy



Ron Rollins, Adjutant:

Happy New Year!!

2024 will be a year of change. With so many unknowns as to what the legislature will be doing to gaming, how are leadership will change this year and with the changes that will take place in each of our lives next near may look totally different or be just slightly different. In either case, I'm excited to be a part of it. I hope you are too.

One change at the Legion will be our food menu at Bingo beginning this month.

Different staff will be participating in making different meal each week. The first Bingo session in January will be handled by Legionnaires. It will be fun to see what kind of different meals will be for sale during the Bingo sessions. Bar pizza will still be available. The Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders will all be looking for assistance serving and menu ideas for these sessions.

Another change this year will be that the Post Talk will only be coming out every other month this year. This can be changed at any time.

I am still looking for an Adjutant to work with the next Commander or at least an "Adjutant Trainee" that will be able to assist me when I make my move to Texas later this month or early February. This is by far the most important job in the Post. You would have the most knowledge of the American Legion and yet still behind the

scenes. You would learn some of the things that need to be done to keep things running smoothly and have knowledge of events around the District and Department and keep our members informed. I am hoping to be able to do most of it remotely, but may still need some help occasionally. Please contact me if you are interested.

Another tough decision will be the dues increase. A \$5.00 dues increase was approved by the membership at the December membership meeting FROM \$40.00 TO \$45.00.

I apologize for not being at this meeting, but I mentioned in our November meeting that our dues needed to be raised as National raised theirs \$5.00 and Department raised theirs \$3.00. We need to raise our dues still or we could potentially be paying at least \$3.00 per member ($\$3.00 \times 240 \text{ members} = \720.00) that would otherwise reduce our donations to other organizations. This needs to be discussed and approved by the membership at this January meeting so, *PLEASE ATTEND TO BE HEARD.*

Many members have not paid 2024 dues as of yet. ***Want to avoid the increase- Pay them now.***

Upcoming events:

- Jan 13th -10th District Midwinter Conference- Anoka Post 102
- Feb 3rd -Department Sweetheart Rally- Forest Lake Post 225
- Feb 10th -10th District Sweetheart Rally (SAL Sponsored)- Princeton Post.
- April 6th -Membership Rally (ALR Sponsored)- TBD
- June 1st -10 District Convention-TBD

Please let me know if I missed anything.

***“Remember,
YOU Are the Legion”***

Ron Rollins, Adjutant
Post #85
North Branch, Mn.

