



Post Talk

North Branch Post #85

November 2023

Membership Meeting: Nov. 14th @ 7:00PM

Auxiliary Meeting: Nov. 14th @ 7:00PM

SAL Meeting: Nov 21st @ 7:00PM

Legion Riders Meeting: Nov. 2nd @ 7:00PM

Coffee Talk with the CVSO: Nov 21st @ 9:00AM

Michelle Still, Auxiliary President:

Our school supply drive was a huge success. We donated over \$300 of school supplies split between Phoenix Academy and Sunrise Elementary schools. They were very grateful for our donations. Thank you for your generous support to our community.

Veterans Day party's have been planned. The North Branch Auxiliary will be hosting a party at Encore Assisted Living on November 9th at 2:00 pm and at Ecumen Assisted Living on November 10th at 1:00 pm. Please join us as we honor our veterans in assisted living. Treats are provided.

Finally, check out Facebook for details regarding Santa Day on December 9th. This is our third annual event.

Mike Johnson, Gaming Manager:

Football numbers for all Vikings games are available in the bar/pulltab booth.

Our annual widow's weekend Designer Purse Bingo was a huge success. We thank all that came out.

Thank you for your support of the American Legion!

Charlie Hult, SAL Commander:

The SAL just finished up our Viking-Packer tailgate party. Thank you for all who attended. We had about 40 people that turned out into the hall.

- Veterans dinner November 11th. Free to all veterans and a guest. Ham will be on the menu and Happy Hour begins at 5PM and Dinner at 6PM.

Respectfully,
Charlie Hult, Commander

Camille Wentz, Legion Riders Director:

The Riders have been busy this fall! It goes without saying that we are cramming in last minute rides before the snow flies. The Executive Committee has also been working to clarify position descriptions and duties, along with updating our by-laws to better reflect our unique group.

Most exciting is the opportunities we have had to serve our local veterans. We have been helping two Veteran families in North Branch over the last two months. We helped one family in town with yard clean-up, tree trimming, new smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, running cables in the ceiling to get them off of the floor, a new door knob and some other miscellaneous tasks around their house. We will continue to support this family and hope to assist with additional issues they are facing. We will be sponsoring this family and have

identified another family to sponsor at Christmas. We have also connected these two families with other local resources and they have been able to get assistance from those resources. On the other side of town the Riders have been busy building a garden shed for a Veteran widow who's shed collapsed with the snow last year. Our own Riders and Lamberts donated materials for the project. Lamberts also gave us a discount on the remaining materials. Thanks to the donations and our skilled craftsmen in the group, we were able to build the shed for under \$300. I would like to thank the following Riders for jumping in and helping our Veterans: Kirk Laszcwski, Tom Greene, Tim Wentz, Kevin and Jenn Kiernan, Kevin Schieber, Randy Sprecher, Ed and Andrea Chromey, Rob and Becky Steele. Behind the scenes we have Ron Rollins who continues to be our mentor and advisor as we navigate new territory. Thanks Ron!

Christmas party planning is underway and we are set for December 2nd, with our Ecumen visit on December 3rd. We hope to bring a lot of cheer to folks this holiday season.

The Riders have already started planning for the 2024 Christmas in July Ride which will be held on Saturday, July 13, 2024. We would love your help! I would like to invite anyone with a vehicle and a driver's license to consider becoming a certified Road Guard. Road Guarding is a fun way to get involved and we could use more Road Guards for our Christmas in July Ride. Road Guards would be assigned intersections so it would be easy to help even if you weren't on the ride. As you know, vehicles are included in our annual ride and we would love to see more of you riding with us, and even helping Road Guard. Think of how amazing you would look in that neon vest, holding a stop sign!

We have a new Assistant Director, Kirk Laszcwski who comes with great ideas and passion for our Veterans. Dee Schroetter is our new Road Captain and comes with a wealth of backroad knowledge and safety practices. We also have a new Historian, Jenn Kiernan who is eager to work on our photos and growing list of activities, she always takes great photos! We are very fortunate to have Riders willing to

step into these roles and I am excited to see what we can accomplish together. I want to thank the previous Assistant Director/Road Captain, Andy Specht for all the work he did over the last two years to help grow this group. His wife, Sheri also helped a ton and served as our Secretary. I would also like to thank the previous Historian Rich Hagert for stepping into that role when we were in need.

Austin Doll, Legion Riders Membership Director:

Hello to all, my name is Austin Doll and I am the Membership Chairman for the Legion Riders. I am 22 years old and joined in early 2022.

Before I joined the riders I just thought that the Legion was just a bar, well I have come to find out that's not the case at all. The Legion has brought me many new friends and family that all have one common goal- *Supporting our veterans.*

I write this column to challenge all the TAL, SAL, AUX, and ALR; If you have children or grandchildren, entice them to join one of the legion organizations. And if they happen to ride a motorcycle, send them my way! It's a family that they have no idea is sitting here waiting for them.

Austin Doll ALR Membership Chairman

Ron Rollins, Adjutant:

- **Fall Conference:** This year the Fall Conference had a lot of good training for everyone. The North Branch Legion Riders received special mention from the Department Commander for Randy Sprecher's wife, Mary, held a Pampered Chef party as a fundraiser for Fund 85 (The Commander's project) and SAL Vice Commander Randy Sprecher presented a check to the Commander at the Legion Riders' meeting for over \$748. The Commander was impressed with their originality of this idea.
- **Congratulations again to SAL member, and NBALR Sgt at Arms, Kevin Kiernan for graduating from Minnesota Legion College.** It was good to hear at Fall Conference that several SAL members, and many of them were ALR members attended Legion College. There they learned more about the American Legion, how to run a meeting and parliamentary procedure, history, and the programs of the Legion. Since he has returned I have personally

seen a new excitement in his leadership abilities and eagerness to do more for veterans.

- My wife and I have made a decision to sell our house and move to the Conroe, Texas area to be closer to our grandchildren, who will be moving there between now and February. This leads me to search for a legion member to train for the position of Adjutant, even though I will remain a member of Post 85, I'm afraid it would be impossible for me to continue long distance with the informational mailings that are received from Department during the course of the year. I may be able to complete this year, but will need someone to fill in for a couple of months and get to know the duties necessary. I feel this is the most important job in our post. This person essentially runs the post and is the conduit between District, Department, Auxiliary, SAL, Riders and our Post. Please step up to fulfill this position.
- It has been brought to my attention by some members to have the *Post Talk* published bi-monthly or quarterly. This must be a membership decision and will be discussed at next month's meeting. If you have an opinion on this please attend next week's meeting.
- Info from Fall Conference: The Department Convention Corporation has entered in to a contract with the Wilmar Convention Center to be the host location for the Department Convention beginning in 2024-2029. This will be easier for planning of the Convention.
- Department Pearl Harbor Rally will be sponsored by the Department ALR Social hour at 11:00am, Lunch at Noon. Program to follow. You may register on the District or Department Facebook Pages. *A strong presence from all Riders are encouraged.*
<https://teamup.com/event/show/id/9Cz9389kJCQ5kAYjGmWksHNM3k4FB9>

Upcoming events:

- Nov 11th- Veterans Dinner(Free for veterans + 1)- North Branch
- Dec 9th Pearl Harbor Rally- Paynesville Post 271- Social hour 11am, meal 12pm, Program 1pm.
- Dec 7th- **Pearl Harbor Day**
- Dec 9th – Pearl Harbor Rally- Sponsored by Dept. ALR- Paynesville
- Dec 24th Christmas Eve- Legion is closing early.
- Dec 25th Christmas Day- Legion is CLOSED.
- Dec 31st- New Year's Eve.
- **2024**
- 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

***“Remember,
YOU Are the Legion”***

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

