



## American Legion Davis-Darrow-Meyer Post 112 Elk River, Minnesota

Website: [elkriverlegion112.com](http://elkriverlegion112.com) Phone: 763-441-3150  
FB: Elk River American Legion Family Volume 41 Issue 1

### Commander's News January – February 2025

Greetings to all my friends at Post #112!  
I am writing this from my rehab bed. I had knee replacement surgery on Dec. 2 so am now home after 4 days in the hospital. I had been putting off this surgery as I was a little apprehensive about what could go wrong, but as of now all is going better than the doctor has planned. It is a long period before pain free, and normal activities, though. All is going well, however, as our Executive Board is keeping us running smoothly.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy 2025.  
Thank you.

For God and country,  
Tom Kulkay

Update: Since writing his article, Tom has experienced some setbacks. There is nothing better than cards and letters to help cheer him up. Send them to 19005 151<sup>st</sup> St NW, Elk River, MN 55330

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander

Hello Legion Family and Friends,  
I hope everyone is well and happy.  
Congratulations to the Elk River Football players and leadership for their big win!! We are very proud of all the young men who worked together as a team and did their job with respect. Good job Gentlemen.

Thank you to Greg Crow for stepping up and taking the position of adjutant. Please let him know how much you appreciate him.

The Riders have started their breakfasts every third Sunday of the month. The first one was in November which was a BB&B (Breakfast, Bingo, and Bloody Marys). December 15<sup>th</sup> is breakfast with Santa and January 19<sup>th</sup> is the next one. I have to say that I'm glad the election is over. I would like to thank our staff for all of the hard work that they do and for the respect that they have for our Veterans.  
Praying for a very Merry Christmas to all of you.

At your service,  
Vaughn Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander

### Adjutant

Recycling is a very popular concept nowadays, so I guess it makes sense that I have been recycled as the adjutant. I was never really that far away. The first riders Breakfast of the year (Bloody Marys, Bingo, and Breakfast) went alright but we're thinking of some changes to make it better like moving the time to more of a brunch.

Our Maintenance supervisor Keith continues to get a grip on our never-ending repairs and upgrades. If you like projects, look him up. It's usually good for a drink and pizza lunch to help.

I need to thank all the members of The Honor Guard for everything they have done, funerals, sporting events and all the Veterans Day events. The Honor Guard is always looking for a few good Men [and Women] to fill our ranks so if you might be interested let us know. It's a very rewarding experience and doesn't take as much time as you think.

Our Membership for 2025 is underway and we are almost to 260 renewals. If you haven't renewed it yet, please do. We need about 50 more to reach our goal. It's our members that keep us strong. As always, a good place to learn how to get involved would be to come to our donuts with the

Commander on Saturday mornings at 8:30. It's a good way to meet people and see what's going on. We wish Commander Tom all the best as he recovers from his recent knee surgery.

Stop on by the post to say hello and sign the book.

Gregory Crow (G2)  
Post Adjutant

## Auxiliary

The Auxiliary has been very busy with multiple fundraisers that enable us to support our veterans. The Craft & Bake Sale in October and the Holiday bake sale in December were very successful. Thank you to the many members and shoppers who helped make it a success.

Other activities were the Veterans Day Dinner, and volunteering at the St. Cloud VA helping veterans with their Christmas shopping. Now the focus is on the Essay Contest and Girls and Boys State events. Thank you everyone who has helped with all of those things. I love doing these projects with all you wonderful people.

We are trying to boost up our membership utilizing Face Book. Please send a picture of yourself along with when and why you joined the Auxiliary, what member of your family is/was a veteran and what you enjoy most about being a member. Please mail or email this info to Sharon Mendenhall % of the Legion at 525 Railroad Drive, Elk River, MN 55330 or to [sammenden@comcast.net](mailto:sammenden@comcast.net).

In addition to attracting new members, we are also working to create awareness of the Auxiliary and location by offering art classes that will be held at the Post. These are scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup> and February 2<sup>nd</sup>. See details on the American Legion Family Face Book page or contact Sharon Mendenhall at 763-441-7800.

Merry Christmas to you all and Happy New Year.

Michele Smith  
President ALA Unit 112

## Auxiliary Membership

We currently have 127 people on our membership roster with 71% paid. Dues for 2025 are \$40.00 and

are due by January 31, 2025. If you know of anyone who has a veteran in the family who might be interested in joining, please let me know and I can send them the forms. My cell # is 702-235-8741 text or email at [dianetelfer491@gmail.com](mailto:dianetelfer491@gmail.com)

Diane Telfer, Membership Chair

## Post Chaplain

The following is an 18 OCT to 15 DEC 2024 summary of Post Chaplain duties performed:  
Personal Visits, Home, Assisted Living 180

Messaging, Text, Phone 89

Letters of Condolences 1

Chaplain Support AL Events, Spiritual Counseling  
70

American Legion Chaplain's Calendar: New Years  
1 JAN, Vietnam Ceasefire 27 JAN, Americanism  
Month FEB, Four Chaplains Sunday (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)  
FEB, Presidents Day (3<sup>rd</sup> MON) FEB

The main focus these past two months involved planning, coordinating, and recognizing Veterans Day events. 89 Veterans in Senior Care and Assisted Living (Guardian Angels 5 Campuses, Bee Hive 1 Campus, Wellstead 2 Campuses, and Centra Care 1 Campus) recognized with a Veteran Lapel Pin, personal, Note of Appreciation by the Post 112 Auxiliary, a Certificate of Military Service Appreciation, a Personal Hand Salute, and two Campuses had a Post 112 Honor Guard with the Colors presented. There were 14 Veterans Day Honor Guard representations, including full ceremonies at five schools, a Veterans Community Support Agency, and at Post events that were conducted over a four-day period. Thank you and well-done Honor Guard and Auxiliary!! 14 Veterans Day public Invocations and Benedictions were given.

Continuing weekly and monthly vet visits and Sunday Worship services at the Wellstead Assisted Living Centers. Continuing weekly and monthly vet visits to five local Guardian Angels Campuses. Nine Vet visits at the Elk River Bee Hive Campus vets

were added to monthly visitations Beginning in JAN, 25. Going into next year, will have 89 total vets to visit at least monthly at four different Independent Senior and Assisted Living Centers. I want to personally as well as your Post 112 Chaplain, thank you, the Post 112 Members and Auxiliary for your encouragement and for your continuous, faithful support in fulfilling the requirements of my office. We did it together! I could not have done it without you! Wishing all Post 112 members a very blessed Christmas and New Year!!

Paul Deneson, Chaplain

### **Post Service Officer**

The following is an 18 OCT to 15 DEC 24 summary of Post Service Officer duties performed:

Messaging, Text, Phone	4
Coordinated Vet request for benefit review	1
Coordinated Vet request for personal support	1

Paul Deneson, Post Service Officer

### **Boys and Girls State Programs**

Boys and Girls State Programs sponsored by the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary are among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. These participatory programs in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government. They learn about the political process by electing officials for all levels of government and actively running a mock government. Some of the activities included are legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, and recreational programs.

These week-long programs are funded by the Legion Post or Auxiliary and are held at area college campuses in June. Students who have completed their junior year of high school are eligible to attend. Now is the time to start discussions with children, grandchildren, and other young people with above average scholastic standing, leadership qualities, interest in government, high moral character, and a U.S. citizen. Past participants have offered many compliments and high praise for their experiences.

For more information contact Michele Smith at [msmith6519@gmail.com](mailto:msmith6519@gmail.com) or 763-300-6061.

## **SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

We are in the midst of the Holidays, so it may seem an untimely subject, but all too soon there will be many young people graduating from high school. The American Legion and Auxiliary have many scholarships available to members, descendants of veterans and military personnel. March is the deadline month for most of these, so now is the time to start researching the options.

###The **Auxiliary “Past Presidents Parley Health Care Scholarship”** was established to assist needy and deserving students or adults to commence or further their education in any phase of the health care field including the entire medical, nursing and dental support fields such as registered nurses, nursing assistant, licensed practical nurse, X-ray or other technician, dieticians, physical or other therapist, dental hygienist or dental assistant, etc. The Scholarship is a one-year scholarship for \$1000.00. Applicant must be a member of an Auxiliary Unit in Minnesota for a minimum of three (3) years. Applications must be received by March 15, 2025. For more information contact Sharon Mendenhall (763-441-7800 or [sammenden@comcast.net](mailto:sammenden@comcast.net)) for a copy of the rules and an application form.

###The **Children of Warriors National Presidents Scholarship** is \$5000 for descendants of veterans who served in the Armed Forces after December 7, 1941. Applicants must be in their senior year of high school, complete 50 hours of community service and apply online. Deadline is March 1 at 11:59 PM Eastern time.

###The **Samsung American Legion Scholarship** is for students in their junior or senior year of high school who attend an America Legion Boys State or American Legion Girls State program. Applicants must be direct descendants of a wartime U.S. military veteran. Contact Michele Smith ([msmith9519@gmail.com](mailto:msmith9519@gmail.com) or 763-300-6061) for information on Boys and Girls State Events. These are just three of the many scholarships available.

To learn more, go online to **American Legion Scholarships and American Legion Auxiliary Scholarships. Also feel free to contact any member of Elk River Post 112 for assistance. If that individual can’t answer the question, they will gladly refer it to a Post member who can assist.**

## January Schedule

01/01	<b>Closed – Happy New Year!</b>	
01/02	Post and Auxiliary Meetings	7pm
01/04	Coffee & Donuts with the commander	8:30am
01/09	Legion Riders Meeting	7pm
01/11	Coffee & Donuts with the Commander	8:30am
01/13	Cribbage League Begins	6pm
01/16	Executive Board Meeting	7pm
01/17	Music by: Deb Barrett	7-10pm
01/18	Coffee with the Commander	8:30am
01/19	Riders Breakfast	9-11:30am
01/25	Coffee & Donuts with the commander	8:30am
01/25	Auxiliary Art Class	9-12pm
01/26	Community Table	4-6pm
01/31	DJ	7-10pm

## February Schedule

02/01	Auxiliary Soup Lunch	11:30-2:00pm
02/01	Coffee & Donuts with the Commander	8:30am
01/01	Auxiliary Art Class	1-4pm
02/06	Post and Auxiliary Meetings	7pm
02/06	Lifeline Screening	8am-5:30pm
02/08	Coffee & Donuts with the Commander	8:30am
02/13	Legion Riders Meeting	7pm
02/14	Music by: Michael Sherwood	7-10pm
02/15	Coffee with the Commander	8:30am
02/16	Riders Bingo, Breakfast & Bloody Marys	9-11:30am
02/20	Executive Board Meeting	7:pm
02/22	Coffee & Donuts with the Commander	8:30am
02/23	Community Table	4-6pm

**MEAT RAFFLE EVERY FRIDAY &  
SUNDAY 5 PM**

**BINGO EVERY WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM**

**HORSE RACES THE 1<sup>ST</sup> THURSDAY  
OF EVERY MONTH**

## SOUP AND CHILI LUNCH

**Elk River Legion Auxiliary  
Fundraiser**

**Saturday, February 1, 2025  
11:30- 2:00 pm**

**Stay tuned to Face Book  
and watch for flyers for the  
menu.**

## AUXILIARY ESSAY CONTEST

Auxiliary Unit 112 is once again  
excited about introducing the  
new essay topic.

**“What does America the  
Beautiful mean to me?”**  
(regarding veterans and our military)

In addition to recognition at  
Department and Division levels,  
locally each student submitting  
an essay will receive a certificate  
of participation. One student, in  
each of the six categories, whose  
essay is forwarded to the  
Department will receive \$50.00  
from Unit 112.

**Essays must be received by  
February 28, 2025  
Mail or hand deliver to Elk  
River American Legion  
Auxiliary Unit 112  
525 Railroad Drive  
Elk River MN 55330**



## Remembering our Veterans at Christmas time

With the help of our ever-busy Chaplain, Paul Deneson, the Legion Riders, and Auxiliary Unit 112 gifted 89 veterans living in senior care, assisted living facilities and nursing homes with a monetary gift from the American Legion Family. We are ever thankful for the contributions they have made to preserve and safeguard our freedom.  
God Bless them All.

## Legion Riders

I am typing this on the morning after our annual Riders Breakfast with Santa and Christmas bake sale. This event has become one of my favorites. The dining halls were full of Post members, nonmembers and excited children of all ages sharing their wishes with Santa. All were sharing a cup of coffee or hot chocolate with a good meal.

Many of the groups stayed long after their breakfast was gone, and the children had told Santa what they would like to see under the tree this year. Smiles were seen at every table with an abundance of laughter throughout the halls.

The membership of the Riders take pride in the planning and work that we do for every breakfast we offer to the members and community. We start every breakfast by planning our breakfast at our monthly meetings. On the day of breakfast, we begin arriving at about 0630 to set up the tables and chairs, starting the coffee and lighting the pilot lights for the ovens and deep fryers. After the first sips of coffee, we begin setting out the many utensils and equipment to create the safe production of the meal.

If I told you this was always a smooth process many of you that have worked on other events would chuckle. There are always questions about where the heck did, we put something the last time we used it or why don't we have hot water today or why doesn't this roaster or outlet work. Almost all of the time we work out any problems. We enjoy seeing the many regulars that support our missions.

This Christmas season the Auxiliary, and the Riders are providing funding to the Veterans in the Elk River area nursing and care facilities. We began doing this last year through Chaplain Paul and his many visits to the facilities. The vets appreciated having a little money for haircuts and personal items.

The next two breakfasts on January 19th and February 16th could be a little different with a starting time of 9 AM and the Bingo starting at 10. We hope this later start time for the Bingo will make it easier to attend on a Sunday morning.

The Riders and SAL will be working with the Legion Baseball team and their families for a breakfast fundraiser on January 19th. As always check out the notices on Facebook for details.

So far it appears to be more normal Winter so our motorcycle riding will probably have to wait until March or April. Till then see you at the Post and snuggle with loved ones in front of a fire often.

Riders Director, Todd Jagodzinski.



The Honor Guard was kept busy with presenting colors at Rogers and Elk River football games this fall. Veterans Day activities kept them busy over a 4-day period. Otsego Elementary students came out on a cold blustery day to observe the ceremony.



Guardian Angels On the Lake was the scene of a ceremony honoring veterans. Chaplain Paul Deneson led the program with Vaughn Smith, Greg Crow and Bill Stevenson assisting.





DECA students from Elk River High School were on hand to serve the dinner for the Veterans Day dinner that was enjoyed by 70+ Post members. John Salk and Greg Crow presented the colors.



Breakfast with Santa is always a busy time for the old Gent. But he was able to get some breaks in between visiting with all the children. And there was no end to the vast array of goodies for those last-minute parties.

