



January – March 2025 Newsletter

American Legion
Richard Dingle Post 98
328 Broadway Avenue
Saint Paul Park, MN 55071
651-459-8016

Upcoming Weekly Events

Bingo every Tuesday @ 6:30pm

Meat Raffles every Friday @ 5:30pm

Upcoming Events:

Auxiliary Chili Contest – January 26, Noon – 3pm

3rd District Oratorical Contest – February 1, 9:00am

SAL Bus Tour – February 22, 11:00am

3rd District Membership Drive – March 1, 8:00am

Post 98 Fish Fry – March 7 – April 18, 4:00pm – 7pm

As always, keep your eye on the website, Facebook for updates for more information on upcoming events!

If you need any additional information regarding the upcoming events, meetings, or Legion activities. please visit our website at

www.richarddinglepost98.com

Commander's Call

Dear Members, Staff and 328 Grill,

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season filled with joy and relaxation. As we are transitioning into the new year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on our recent achievements and share some updates.

Firstly, I want to express my gratitude for your continued dedication and hard work by our members, staff and the Executive Board. Your efforts have been instrumental in our success, and I am confident that we will continue to achieve great things together.

Looking ahead, the next few months appear to be relatively calm, providing us with an excellent opportunity to focus on strategic planning for 2025 and beyond. This period of tranquility is a perfect time to recharge and prepare for the exciting challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

As we move forward, let's keep in mind this motivational quote by Winston Churchill: **“Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts.”**

As always, please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need support. Let's make the most of this time and continue to strive for excellence.

Wishing you all the best for the upcoming months.

Warm regards,

Craig Kittelson
Commander

Adjutant's Notes

We are currently sitting at 75.0% with a paid membership of 300.

As a reminder, the General Membership meetings start at 6:00pm.

Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

Mike Solei
Post 98 Adjutant

If you have a change in contact information, please reach out to the Post Adjutant, Auxiliary Treasurer or S.A.L. Adjutant and he/she will get your information updated. This is important as we are trying to keep our postal costs to a minimum. Last newsletter mailing we had \$15 in returned newsletters.

Taps – Covering since previous newsletter.

Wallace Sapp Sr., Ronald “Ogre” Ulrigg

Legion Meeting Dates

Monday, January 20 @ 6pm

Monday, February 17 @ 6pm

Monday, March 17 @ 6pm

Monday, April 21 @ 6pm

Membership Year 2025

Legion dues are \$50.

Service Officer

Happy New Year to all!

As we look to a new year, I want to extend some special messages of gratitude to a few people.... First off, Mik and crew of the 328 Grill, we really appreciate the donation of both time and money to support meals and events for our veterans on Veterans Day and throughout the year. To Tinucci's - year after year they provide delicious food to our veteran community at numerous events throughout the year- your efforts do not go unnoticed.

Our Toys for Tots event was a great success - a huge shout-out to the SALs (Greg and crew) your efforts have made such a difference in the lives of the kids we support. Thank you to all who donated time and toys to this effort. This year we were able to donate over

10 large bags of toys as well as \$300 in cash to the local Toy of Tots effort. We hope to increase our donation each and every year moving forward.

Looking forward, we have the District Oratorical on February 1st. We will need numerous volunteers for this event, please look for the sign-up sheet to be posted in early January.

Mid-February we will be hosting another informational event with both our local CVSO Michael Buchan and Amy Thompson from KoK Funeral homes, along with a rep from the Fort Snelling Cemetery. Information about pre-planning, funeral and burial benefits for veterans and their families. Please look for flyers, Facebook and website posts with details.

As I stated in the last newsletter, I would like to start holding Buddy Check events in support of the Legion's "Be The One" initiative. I am looking for volunteers who want to assist in reaching out to our members and checking in. Please contact me via email, AL98SO@outlook.com if you are interested in being a part of this effort. I will be contacting all in late January to start planning the dates and times for the coming year.

To all, a happy and peaceful year!

Dani Horan

Chaplain

A new Year
A New Beginning

Hope everybody had a great Christmas. Happy New Year everybody. Hope it is a new beginning for all of you, the Legion Members and Family. You may make a new resolution. I do not, I don't even stay up until midnight. However, every year I do pray and hope for a good new year and for whatever that may bring. A happy home and family life, forget the bad things or bad memories of the past year but learn from them. And have a positive outlook for what may come in the new year. Be optimistic in the new year that things may just work out if you give it a chance. Be grateful for the little things that give your life more meaning and satisfaction.

Dear God, as I step into this new chapter, release the burdens of the past and embrace the possibilities of tomorrow. Fill your hearts with hope and optimism, allowing us to see the good in every situation. Have the strength to face challenges with a positive outlook and

the wisdom to make good choices. Thank you for this fresh start, and for the opportunity to create a life filled with joy and purpose. Amen.

Scott Hanneman
Past Post 98 Chaplain

Auxiliary News

I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe holiday season and looking forward to the new year.

Jeorgia Appel-Cluckey
Auxiliary President

Auxiliary Meeting Dates

Monday, January 6 @ 6:30pm
Monday, February 3 @ 6:30pm
Monday, March 3 @ 6:30pm
Monday, April 7 @ 6:30pm

Membership Year 2025
Auxiliary dues are \$35
Jr. Auxiliary dues are \$10

Jr. Auxiliary News

Happy New Year Everyone!

Once again, our Juniors have been busy. We wish to thank everyone for your continued support of their project in collecting school supplies for the two elementary schools in St. Paul Park. Our first delivery has been made! They wish to continue collections for delivery in March. There always seems to be a shortage prior to the end of the school year.

We would also like to welcome two new Juniors. The Polos girls will be joining our group starting in January. Welcome aboard girls. Everyone is excited to have you participating in our group. Do you know any Juniors who might be interested in our program? Please encourage them to join. The girls are fun, energetic and willing to help wherever they can.

The next projects for the Juniors are to finish updating the corsages. Hoping to get some of them to attend the family gathering scheduled in March. It would be a great opportunity to sell the products to raise funds for the schools.

Let us not forget about our Honorary Junior President Evelyn's projects. A special thank you from Evelyn to everyone who has been supporting her in collecting oral hygiene products for veterans. These products are handed out at the Free Dental Clinics for Veterans put together by District President Tamara Thayer. 80 care packages for Veterans have been made thus far.

Watch for information on Department Conference in April. That's it for now.

Lynn Duffy
Junior Chairman

Jr. Auxiliary Meeting Dates

Sunday, January 5 @ 6pm
Sunday, February 2 @ 6pm
Sunday, March 2 @ 6pm
Sunday, April 6 @ 6pm

S.A.L. News

Hello, all SAL members,

We have had a lot of good times the last few months with Strawberry fest, Heritage days, the Booya and most recently the Toys for Tots fundraiser. I want to thank all of you for your support over this past year and making our mission become reality by working on

the parade floats, helping the post with the annual booya, all the set up and tar downs for events, and so much more.

Without all of you we would not be who we are today. Looking back, we have had a lot of ups and downs but yet we still strive to be the best we can be and thanks to all of you will are killing it.

We have a few upcoming events that are making things even more exciting. On Dec. 30th our squad turns 46 years old. WOW! We will be celebrating our birthday on Dec 23rd at our meeting. So please come join your fellow members for food, cake and drinks. Also, by popular demand we have booked the bus tour for 2025. The bus tour will be on Feb 22nd. And then we have the annual post Fish Fry in March. Signup sheets will be available sometime in February.

With everything that we have achieved over the past year the 3rd District Legion Commander has recognized all we have achieved, and I am excited to say that we have been chosen to host the 3rd District Spring rally right here at our home post on March 1st, 2025. Planning is already on the way.

Membership dues for 2025 have gone up to \$25 for the year. National would like all upcoming years to be renewed by December 31st. So, if you have not yet renewed your membership for 2025, please do so before the end of this year so we can maintain our membership numbers for 2025.

So, as you all can see the Sons of the American Legion Squad 98 is going strong with helping our post, the community and most importantly our veterans. So please come to the meetings and join your fellow members in our mission.

Thank you all again for another exciting year,

Gregg Wilwert
S.A.L Commander

S.A.L. Meeting Dates

Monday, January 27 @ 6pm

Monday, February 24 @ 6pm

Monday, March 24 @ 6pm

Monday, April 28 @ 6pm

Membership Year 2025

S.A.L. dues are \$25

Legion Riders

The Post 98 Legion Riders is now in full swing participating in Several Local and Post events.

Our Current membership is 20 and we are accepting applications to continue to grow the Chapter.

June 7, 2025, we are hosting the American Legion Rider 98 Aces and Eights Motorcycle Poker Run, look for more information in the next newsletter and calendar.

Our meetings are every second Sunday at 5:00pm.

Jim Sanderson
Riders Director

Riders Meeting Dates

Sunday, January 12 @ 5pm
Sunday, February 9 @ 5pm
Sunday, March 9 @ 5pm
Sunday, April 13 @ 5pm

Membership Year 2025
Riders dues are \$10

Gambling Manager

We're having another good year for charitable gambling, once again thank you to all my employees, it could not have been done without them.

Here are some of the details of last quarter:

Total Gross - \$4,642,878.00

Net Profit - \$570,301.00

Lawful Purpose Expenditures (donations) - \$8,340.00, here's some of the organizations that we donated to:

Special Needs Christmas Party
Park Boys Basketball
Meals On Wheels
Friends in Need Food Shelf
Veteran Day Meals
SoWashCo CARES Education Foundation
VRP - Veterans Resilience Project
Washington County Historical Society
Park Wolfpack Wrestling
Basic Needs
AL Foundation-Fund 77 - Boys State
Minnesota Military Family Foundation
AL Foundation-Fund 32 - Cmdr's Project
CG Middle School Autism Program
Wood-N-Hearts
3rd Dist. Oratorical
Park High School Choirs

MN Department of Revenue - \$30,232.00

We are still looking for a Post Member that would like to take over the position of Gambling Manager. If you are interested or have questions, please reach out to me or the Commander.

Thank you all,

Mike Solei
Gambling Manager

Bar Manager

Happy New Year!!!! Where did 2024 go? We hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy Start of 2025!!

Football season is almost over and who (besides me) would have thought we would be 11-2 at the time I am writing this!!! Let's hope the season continues to go in the right direction straight to the Super Bowl!!!! SKOL!!!

As your General Manager, (with the support of the executive board) I have 2 Assistant Managers in place; Georgia helps with managing the bar, while Amy will help with the wait staff and food runners. With these two on board I believe that you will have an amazing team that I believe will continue to do what is for the good of the Legion.

This time of year, it is harder to get outside and do things because it is cold, snowing or we are just too comfy cozy sitting at home. The holiday season can be tough on so many people for many reasons, so please call or text someone you might not have seen in a while to say hi!!!! We see a lot of the same people on a daily/weekly basis, but there are times when we ask each other "hey have you seen so and so", this is what family does, you might not always get along, but family makes sure we are at least ok! Remember to smile when at the Legion, your smile can go a long way, and you might not even realize that your smile was what someone needed when not having a good day!

YIKES Fish Fry will start in March, planning on a band or two during these cold months, comedy show on 2nd Thursday of the Month through May, March 17th St Patrick's Day, we will have Corned Beef and Cabbage, 328 Grill Anniversary Burger Bash Saturday April 12th. We continue to have meat raffles on Friday and Bingo on Tuesdays. Make sure you stop in to check out our drink and beer specials for the month. Starting soon, if you as a Legionnaire come in for Lunch (11 - 2) Monday - Friday we will take \$2.00 off your lunch as a thank you for your service!

The older I get and get closer to collecting Social Security or even retiring, the more I am truly realizing how important family is to me. I am lucky to say that I am blessed with an amazing family. When you become a grandparent whether it be the 1st time or the 8th time you sit back and realize you don't love your grandkids more, maybe spoil them because you can, but the love you have for them is truly an extension of the love you have for your children. It is like the Legion family. It has changed and grown since I have been here (2010), we have hired new people, some of the employees from years ago have come back, some will always be here. As the Legion family continues to grow like our own families, we need to realize that the love/loyalty we have is changing, it is getting better. Each generation has new ideas, new thoughts but the constant we all have is love, the Love of our families and the love of our American Legion. So, hold your family a little closer, forgive a little more and enjoy each day!

Have a wonderful Winter. Spring and new beginnings are right around the corner, but until then continue to smile, be kind, say please and thank you and never have regrets!!!
HUGS!!!!

Colleen
Your sometimes rambling General Manager

Kare11 Toys For Tots



Operational Items

As always, feel free to email either the Post or Adjutant at the following email addresses:

Post 98 Email Address

post98spp@gmail.com

Post 98 Adjutant Email Address

aladjutant98@outlook.com

Bar Hours

Sunday - Monday 11 am til 10 pm
Tuesday - Thursday 11 am til 11 pm
Friday - Saturday 11 am til 1 am

Gambling Booth Hours

Sunday - Monday 11 am til 9 pm
Tuesday - Thursday 11 am til 10 pm
Friday - Saturday 11 am til 12 am

328 Grill Hours

Monday - Saturday - 11am to 8pm
Sunday - 11am - 6pm

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 40/8 Meeting 5:00pm	3 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	4
5 Jr. Auxiliary Meeting 6:00pm	6 Auxiliary Meeting 6:30pm	7 Bingo 6:30pm	8	9	10 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	11 Combat Vets Meeting 10:00am
12 Legion Riders 5:00pm	13 Executive Meeting 6:00pm	14 Bingo 6:30pm	15	16	17 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	18
19	20 Legion Meeting 6:00pm	21 Bingo 6:30pm	22	23	24 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	25
26 Auxiliary Chili Contest Noon – 3pm	27 S.A.L. Meeting 6:00pm	28 Bingo 6:30pm	29	30	31 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 3rd District Oratorical Contest 9:00am
2 Jr. Auxiliary Meeting 6:00pm	3 Auxiliary Meeting 6:30pm	4 Bingo 6:30pm	5	6 40/8 Meeting 5:00pm	7 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	8 Combat Vets Meeting 10:00am
9 Legion Riders 5:00pm	10 Executive Meeting 6:00pm	11 Bingo 6:30pm	12	13	14 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	15
16	17 Legion Meeting 6:00pm	18 Bingo 6:30pm	19	20	21 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	22 Purple Heart Meeting 11:00am SAL Bus Tour 11:00am
23	24 S.A.L. Meeting 6:00pm	25 Bingo 6:30pm	26	27	28 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 3rd District Membership Drive 8:00am
2 Jr. Auxiliary Meeting 6:00pm	3 Auxiliary Meeting 6:30pm	4 Bingo 6:30pm	5	6 40/8 Meeting 5:00pm	7 Fish Fry 4 – 7pm Meat Raffle 5:30pm	8 Combat Vets Meeting 10:00am
9 Legion Riders 5:00pm	10 Executive Meeting 6:00pm	11 Bingo 6:30pm	12	13	14 Fish Fry 4 – 7pm Meat Raffle 5:30pm	15
16	17 Legion Meeting 6:00pm	18 Bingo 6:30pm	19	20	21 Fish Fry 4 – 7pm Meat Raffle 5:30pm	22 Purple Heart Meeting 11:00am
23	24 S.A.L. Meeting 6:00pm	25 Bingo 6:30pm	26	27	28 Fish Fry 4 – 7pm Meat Raffle 5:30pm	29
30	31					

