

AMERICAN LEGION

RICHARD DINGLE LEGION POST 98 July – September 2025 Newsletter



Upcoming Weekly Events

Bingo has been suspended until September 9.

Meat Raffles every Friday @ 5pm

Upcoming Events:

Rib Fest / Rummage Sale / Bands – July 26, 9:30am – 7pm

Post Family Picnic – July 27, 11am – 3pm

Past Commanders Dinner – September 18, 5pm

Heritage Days – August 15 - 17

Post 98 Annual Booya – September 6, 11:00am until gone

Post 98 Food Truck – September 20, 11:00am – 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



Message From The Commander

Dear Legion Family,

I want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for your continued support of Post 98. Over the past 11 months, we have made great strides in improving our post, strengthening our programs, and fostering the sense of camaraderie that makes the American Legion so special. Your dedication and involvement are the heartbeat of this organization, and I'm honored to serve as your Commander for a second term.

Post Updates & Improvements

We've been working hard at improving the Post's facilities to ensure a welcoming and comfortable environment for all. Some of the key updates completed this quarter include:

- **New Carpet Installation (May 2025):** A long-overdue refresh that enhances the look and feel of our space.
- **Roof Repairs (May 2025):** Essential work to ensure the integrity of our building for years to come.
- **Electrical Updates (May 2025):** Several needed improvements have been made to modernize our

electrical systems, ensuring safety and reliability for the Post.

Leadership Transitions & Recognition

I'd like to take a moment to express my deepest congratulations to my wife Stefanie on her election as Auxiliary President! I know she will lead with passion and purpose. And congratulations to all the current and new Auxiliary board members, Legion Executive Board, and SAL Board.

I also want to recognize Gregg Wilwirt for becoming the 3rd District SAL Commander—a well-earned leadership role that will help strengthen the Sons of the American Legion. Additionally, congratulations to Kirby and Tom on their new positions as 3rd District Vice Commanders.

Furthermore, congratulations to Jeorgia Appel-Cluckey and Lynn Duffy on their appointments to the Auxiliary 3rd District. Their leadership and commitment to the mission of the Auxiliary will surely make a meaningful impact.

If you have ideas, concerns, or simply want to share your thoughts, my door is always open. I look forward to another great year serving Post 98!

For God and Country,
Craig Kittelson
Commander

Post Adjutant

Membership

We are pleased to inform you that our current membership stands at 93.7%, with a total of 372 paid members. Please be reminded that the dues for the upcoming year will be \$50.00, and the new membership period will commence on July 1st.

Attend the General Membership Meeting for a chance to have your yearly membership dues paid by the Post. PUFL, Honorary, and BOGO members are not eligible. If your name is drawn and you are present, we will cover next year's membership. If absent, your name goes back into the drawing for next month's meeting. Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday each month.

Volunteer Opportunities

Post 98's success depends on active membership, participation and volunteerism. If you would like a summary of ways to participate and volunteer, which will make an impact in the lives of veterans, their families and our community. American Legion Post 98 can share the many ways Legionnaires are making a difference in our community.

Hope everyone had a wonderful spring, hope to see you all at the Post Picnic in July!

Mike Solei
Post 98 Adjutant



Taps – Covering since previous newsletter.

Eldon Weber, 77 yrs, passed April 15, 2025, served in the US Navy in Vietnam era, Post member for 5 continuous years

Dale Mitsch, 79 yrs, passed May 2, 2025, served in the US Navy in Vietnam era, Post member for 14 continuous years

Steven Pariseau, 77 yrs, passed May 4, 2025, served in the US Marines in Vietnam era, Post member for 22 continuous years

Memorial Day

I'd like to extend gratitude for the exemplary service of our Post Honor Guard, along with the support from Post, Auxiliary, SAL, Riders, and Combat Veterans on Memorial Day. Throughout the day, we honored our fallen veterans, visiting 10 locations and paying tribute to 1,223 veterans this year.

Post 98 Honor Guard

We are actively seeking new members to join the Post 98 Honor Guard. If you are interested or require further information,

please contact the Post and leave a message for John Wright, our Honor Guard Coordinator.

Post 98 Officers 2025-2026

Commander: Craig Kittelson
1st Vice Commander: Gabe Timp
2nd Vice Commander: Nick Morrison
3rd Vice Commander: Daniel Berberich
Finance Officer: Joe Kocak
Chaplain: John Dingle
Sergeant-at-Arms: Rick Kullman
Sergeant-at-Arms: Randall Schill
Historian: Diana Berberich

Appointed

Service Officer: Danielle Horan
Adjutant: Mike Solei

Legion Meeting Dates

Monday, July 21 @ 6pm
Monday, August 18 @ 6pm
Monday, September 15 @ 6pm
Monday, October 20 @ 6pm

Membership Year 2025 / 2026

Legion dues are \$50.

Post Service Officer

Thank you all, the whole family came together to ensure we had another successful Memorial Day celebration. It is the one day of the year we make sure to speak the names of those who served, those we've lost, those we miss. I look

forward to the rest of our summer - hope to see everyone at the Legion Picnic.

As a Legion, we continue to think of ways to support and engage with our members and our community. Please look for opportunities to participate, volunteer or share your ideas.

Despite the chaos and upheaval, we are seeing at a national level, know that your earned benefits are still safe and I will continue to encourage you to access them. Please reach out to me or our County Veterans Service Officers (info on the bulletin board).

As always - feel free to reach out to me directly at AL98SO@outlook.com.

Dani Horan
Post Service Officer

Post Chaplain

Greetings to all. Thank you for your confidence in voting for me in this position. This is a new endeavor for me and will welcome any suggestions or advice you may have.

John Dingle
Post 98 Chaplain



Auxiliary President

Hello, Auxiliary members & Legion family!

I am honored to serve again as your Auxiliary President for the upcoming year! My goal is to foster a new excitement among our current members and to grow our unit's membership, camaraderie, and involvement. Let's focus the year on FAMILY (enriching collaboration between all branches of our Legion Family) and FUN!!!

Congratulations to this year's elected & appointed Unit 98 Officers: Sarah Wilwert (1st Vice), Teresa Kullman (2nd Vice), Penny Duff (Sgt at Arms), Terri Wright (Treasurer), Sharon Langness (Secretary), Marilyn Witzel & Barb Koch (Chaplains), Tonya Forge (Historian), Lynn Dingle (Exec Board), Sue Schill (Exec Board), and Jeorgia Appel-Cluckey (Exec Board). Also, Congratulations to the following 3rd District Committee Chairs: Lynn Duffy (Junior Auxiliary) and Jeorgia Appel-Cluckey (Membership). Thank you also to Theresa Koran & Ashton Wright who will be leading our Junior Auxiliary whose newly elected leaders are Mae Wright (President), Alaina Wright (1st Vice), Charlotte Wright (Treasurer), Evelyn Koran (Secretary), and Adalyn Wright (Sgt at Arms).

Please plan to attend our July kick-off meeting 7/7 @ 6:30 p.m.!!! Topics to cover include: "Battle of the Racks" & Rummage Sale 7/26, Heritage Days, Unit 98 Clothing, Volunteer Opportunities, Budget & By-Laws planning, and goals for this year! I look forward to getting to know all of you better and I welcome any ideas you have! Your support in making a fresh start for 2025-2026 is greatly appreciated!!

Regards,

Stefanie Kittelson
President

ALA Unit #98 Officer's 2025-2026

President: Stephanie Kittelson
1st Vice: Sarah Wilwert
2nd Vice: Theresa Kullman
Secretary: Sharon Langness
Treasurer: Terri Wright
Sgt At Arms: Penny Duff
Historian: Tonya Forge
Chaplain: Marilyn Witzel
Auxiliary Executive Board: Past
President Jeorgia Cluckey, Sue Schill
and Lynn Dingle.

Auxiliary Meeting Dates

Monday, July 7 @ 6:30pm
Monday, August 4 @ 6:30pm
Monday, September 1 @ 6:30pm
Monday, October 6 @ 6:30pm

Membership Year 2026
Auxiliary dues are \$39
Jr. Auxiliary dues are \$10

Jr. Auxiliary Meeting Dates

Sunday, April 6 @ 6pm

Sunday, May 4 @ 6pm

Sunday, June 1 @ 6pm

Sunday, July 6 @ 6pm

SONS OF THE

AMERICAN
LEGION

S.A.L. Commander

Greetings Members,

The Sons of the American Legion have had a busy start of the year so far this year. We helped Mik German of 328 Grill with celebrating his 4th year at the Legion. I would like to thank Mik for all you have done for our Legion and working with the Sons over the last year. The Sons had run the beer garden for the legion and wow what a turn out.

We also have been busy with the ALR's 1st annual Fun Run by helping them hand out the cards at five legions, setting up the band, running the beer garden and taking down the event that evening.

So, a very busy start to the year those far. We just finished our election for the year 2025-2026, and I would like to thank you

all again for re-electing me as your commander. We did have a change in Adjutant this up-coming year. I am sad to say that James Swing has stepped down for personal reasons. James has been a top player in the SAL's by getting out your email reminders, working with me and the Squad planning events and so much more. As we all know, we sign up as a member, but we end up as family. James, I wish you nothing but the best in your future and I think I can say from all of us you will be very missed. I want to thank you for all you have done, and we will not let you down.

UP COMING EVENTS

Battle of the Racks is coming soon, July 26th. As you know we have been selling raffle tickets for the four-wheeler. Please have your packets turned into Commander Gregg by no later than July 18th.

We are seeking volunteers for many roles for this event. Keep in mind you can bring your family to help as while. A sign-up sheet will be up near the hall door in the upcoming weeks.

We have many other events going on for the rest of the year to help the post so please take the time to join us at our monthly meeting to bring your ideas.

Thank you all again for a great last year and thank you Legion Family for all you do.

Until next time.

Gregg Wilwert
S.A.L Commander

Squadron 98 Officers 2025-2026

Commander: Gregg Wilwert
1st Vice Commander: William Hoyt
2nd Vice Commander: Jon Ravity
Finance: John R Wright Jr.
Chaplain: Tom Koch
Sergeant-at-Arms: Kirby Olesen
Jr Sergeant-at-Arms: John M Wright Jr
Adjutant: Jon Ravity
Historian: Jesse Knoll
Membership: Jon Ravity

S.A.L. Meeting Dates

Monday, July 28 @ 6pm
Monday, August 25 @ 6pm
Monday, September 22 @ 6pm
Monday, October 27 @ 6pm

Membership Year 2026
S.A.L. dues are \$25

The logo for American Legion Riders features a stylized American flag with three horizontal stripes above the word "AMERICAN" in a serif font. Below "AMERICAN" is the word "LEGION" in a larger, bold, sans-serif font. A horizontal line separates "LEGION" from the word "RIDERS" below it, which is also in a bold, sans-serif font.

Legion Riders

Hello Legion Family,

This past June 7th, the Riders hosted our 1st annual Fun Run which was a huge success. 34 Riders visited 5 American Legions and Afton Leather in 6 hours returning to an after party hosted by The Smokin Whiskey Band. Thank you to all the Family members for your support!

Our membership is growing! We are now at 27 members! I couldn't be prouder and more excited as we continue to participate in our Community and outreach to the Hastings Veteran's Home.

If you are interested in becoming a Legion Rider, you can reach out to any current member or call the Legion, and they will point you in the right direction!

On a safety note, Lane splitting and Lane filtering become legal in Minnesota on July 1st. Share the road and watch out for motorcycles.

All the Best,
Ironman
Riders Director

Rider Officers - 2024 / 2025

Director - Jim Sanderson
Asst Director - Gabe Timp
Secretary - Marie Timp
Treasurer - Jean Flaherty
Sgt at Arms - Scott Flaherty
Historian - Gregg Wilwert
Road Captain - David Riegle
Chaplain - Matt Heffro

Riders Meeting Dates

Sunday, July 13 @ 5pm
Sunday, August 10 @ 5pm
Sunday, September 14 @ 5pm
Sunday, October 12 @ 5pm

Membership Year 2026
Riders dues are \$10

Gambling Manager

As a reminder Bingo is taking the summer off and will return on Tuesday, September 9th at 6:30 and the meat raffle continues Fridays at 5:00. Pull tabs and e-tabs are available during normal business hours.

As always thank you for your patronage and big thanks to the Gambling employees!! Without you we can't make this happen!

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.

Here are some of the details of where the dollars go:

Paid State Taxes and Fees - \$130,279.06
Total Lawful Purpose Expenses including below - \$ 111,500.96
Donations to 501(c)(3) - \$ 11,460.00
Military Recognition - \$9,293.35
Veterans Meals - \$1,772.14
Youth - \$15,781.45
Fed Taxes - \$9,424.27
Real Estate Taxes - \$9,901.00
Utilities - \$36,189.67
Building Repair and Maintenance - \$16,879.08

Thank you all,

Mike Solei
Gambling Manager

General Manager

When I am writing this Summer has come back with a vengeance.... well for a few days anyway.

What does Summer mean to you?? Kids are out of school, and some of you are ready to send them back. Have you taken your vacation yet? Still planning one? Going on a fun trip, staying home, enjoying your cabin or camper???. Watching kids/grandkids play a sport or maybe relaxing on your deck having coffee or a cocktail or BBQing. Summer means so many things to so many. Spring was the season for New beginnings, new projects...did you finish your Spring projects, I know I did not, but I did ask for help, which is huge for me!!!

On June 14th, 2025, Flag Day, the Legion Family held an Unserviceable Flag Retirement Ceremony at Veterans Park. There were over 200 flags Retired! It was quite a ceremony! We plan to do this every Flag Day.

On June 21st, 2025, the Legion Family held the Installation Ceremony to install all the new officers in each family! It has been my pleasure the past year to work with all of the officers who really worked hard to turn the Legion into a family, like all families there were some disagreements, some hurt feelings but also so much joy and so much to be thankful for!! I am excited for the upcoming year as most of the same officers are returning and excited for the new ideas from the new officers starting this year.

During the summer we also have the Legion Family Picnic. Sunday July 27th. AT THE LEGION! Not only is this a day to renew your membership, but it is a day to check in with your Legion family and see how their summer is going!

Summer also means Heritage days August 14th- 17th! We will be kicking off with a Comedy show on Thursday, a band on Friday and of course ending Heritage days on Sunday with wrestling!! Stay tuned to our website and Facebook for MORE events happening at the Legion that weekend!

By the time you finish reading this it could be fall, as I have been told that sometimes I might ramble!!! I wish for everyone to take the rest of the summer and relax, enjoy the weather, call a friend and meet up. Go for a walk. Listen to some music and dance like nobody is watching. When you laugh, laugh hard it is so good for your soul! Summer is a time for warm breezes and maybe meeting new people and becoming friends!!! Summer is also the time to sit outside and look at the stars.... I have been blessed to have those friends who are like stars...you can't always see them, but you know they are there!!!!

Enjoy your summer. Enjoy your day. Enjoy your family and your friends! Enjoy Life!!!!

Have an amazing day and until we meet again.... smile!!!!

Colleen
General Manager

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

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
				40/8 Meeting 5:00pm	Happy Fourth	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Jr. Auxiliary Meeting 6:00pm	Auxiliary Meeting 6:30pm				Meat Raffle 5:00pm	Combat Vets Meeting 10:00am
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Legion Riders 5:00pm	Executive Meeting 6:00pm				Meat Raffle 5:00pm	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Red Cross Blood Drive 10:00am Legion Meeting 6:00pm	Red Cross Blood Drive 10:00am			Meat Raffle 5:00pm	Rib Fest / Rummage Sale / Bands 9:30am – 7pm
27	28	29	30	31		
Post Family Picnic 11am – 3pm Bar & Kitchen Closed	S.A.L. Meeting 6:00pm					

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Meat Raffle 5:00pm	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Jr. Auxiliary Meeting 6:00pm	Auxiliary Meeting 6:30pm			40/8 Meeting 5:00pm	Meat Raffle 5:00pm	Combat Vets Meeting 10:00am
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Legion Riders 5:00pm	Executive Meeting 6:00pm			Legions of Laughs 6:00pm	Meat Raffle 5:00pm Band in Parking Lot 6:00pm	Movie On the Patio 7:00pm
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Wrestling in Parking Lot 2:00pm	Legion Meeting 6:00pm				Meat Raffle 5:00pm	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	S.A.L. Meeting 6:00pm				Meat Raffle 5:00pm	
31						

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Auxiliary Meeting 6:30pm			40/8 Meeting 5:00pm	Booya Prep 8:00am Meat Raffle 5:00pm	Post 98 Annual Booya 11:00am until gone
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Jr. Auxiliary Meeting 6:00pm	Executive Meeting 6:00pm	Bingo 6:30pm			Meat Raffle 5:00pm	Combat Vets Meeting 10:00am
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Legion Riders 5:00pm	Legion Meeting 6:00pm	Bingo 6:30pm		Past Commanders Dinner 5pm	Meat Raffle 5:00pm	Post 98 Food Truck 11:00am – 7pm
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	S.A.L. Meeting 6:00pm	Bingo 6:30pm			Meat Raffle 5:00pm	
28	29	30				
		Bingo 6:30pm				