

Minneapolis/Richfield Post 435 American Legion News

6501 Portland Avenue South, Richfield, MN 55423 (612) 866-3647 www.mnlegion435.org richfieldamericanlegion@comcast.net June/July 2012

Commander's Column



Fellow Legionnaires, Post employees, Auxiliary, SAL members and guests; this is my final column as Commander of Minneapolis/Richfield Post 435. I've enjoyed getting to know each of you over the last three years. I appreciate the hard work and dedication that everybody has shown.

As I prepare to leave office, I would just like to make one final appeal to those of you out there who do not or rarely participate in the club programs and activities: **Begin getting involved!** This is your club just as much as it is anybody else's club. Over the last several years that I have been on the Executive Committee and as Commander, our membership has dropped from over 2,200 to just over 1,750. That's a decrease of just over 20%. If the rate at which we continue to lose members remains steady, we at be at less than 200 members in just 10 years.

Minneapolis/Richfield Post 435 has been around for almost 90 years. In order to continue, we need to attract the Lebanon, Grenada, Gulf War, and the veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

The mission of the Post is the four pillars of the American Legion:

- Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation
- National Security
- Americanism
- Children and Youth

We are about helping veterans and our community through local programs, Post fund raisers, and volunteering our time. One of the reasons I joined the Legion was to personally be involved in giving back to the community. Volunteerism at our Post is quite low considering the number of members we have. I would like to see this increase. This is how we as an organization give back to the community and veterans. It is about *service*.

We also need to begin to slow or reverse the trend in decreased membership over the last several years. Attracting the 25-45 age group of veterans is key to our survival. Handing out free one-year memberships or inviting people for an open house isn't going to work. We need to radically change our infrastructure and how we communicate in order to attract these veterans. Other veterans groups have a big advantage in that they have embraced newer technologies in order to get these veterans involved. This will be the challenge moving forward.

For God and Country

Craig A. Deneen

NOTES

BARGO
Monday and
Thursday nights!
5-7pm

District Convention
June 1-2
Holiday Inn

Flag Day
Thursday, June 14

Father's Day
Sunday, June 17

Installation of
Officers
June 21
6:00 p.m.

President's Column



This being my last article, I would like to introduce you to our new officers. Joy DeLong will be your new President; Patricia Swanson, First Vice President; and Becky LeFebvre, Second Vice President. I want to thank everyone for their support for the last two years and hope that you continue to support our new officers

We had a great year of accomplishments with our programs—our Christmas Baskets for the deployed families, support to the Veterans Home, to the Minneapolis VAMC, and our Richfield Nursing Home. We are sending five girls to Girls State. These are just a few things we did.

Our Omelet Breakfasts went well and started to grow. I hope they will continue growing this October when they start again on the third Sunday. This year we did something new. Along with the Fort Snelling Lions we held a Craft Fair and Bake Sale that went great. It went so well that we are planning to have one in the fall on October 28th.

Our District Convention will be on June 1-2 at the Holiday Inn on 94th and 35W. Friday night at 7:00 there will be a Memorial Service and then hospitality. We start our meeting at 9:00 on Saturday morning.

The Installation of new officers will be held on June 21, 2012, beginning at 6:00. Please come and give support to your new officers.

Thanks again to all. May God always walk with you and yours. God Bless America.

Penny Becker, President

PLEASE JOIN US ON
Wednesday, July 4th
for our annual
INDEPENDENCE DAY
celebration!

NOON – 8 p.m.
Food, live music,
fireworks, and
festivity!



Gambling Note

To all of you who responded to the Post fund raising activities in 2011, a heartfelt thank you! Funds raised from these events allowed the Post, Auxiliary, S.A.L. and Gambling to provide over \$46,000 for charitable donations including veterans, youth and the community. This also allowed the Post to qualify for real estate tax relief for 2012.

Fund raisers included:

Omelet breakfasts – Auxiliary, S.A.L. & volunteers
Meat raffles – Auxiliary Gambling & volunteers
Burger Nites – Post volunteers
4th of July food booths – S.A.L. & volunteers
Poppy Program – Auxiliary
Gambling (pull tabs) – an ongoing fund raiser
Individual donations for deployed families at Christmas

The American Legion is dedicated in part to providing for veterans, our youth and the community. Without your help, Post #435 could not fulfill these obligations.

Thank you again.

Craig Deneen, Post Commander
Jim Nowell, Gambling Manager
Cindy Cierzan, Auxiliary Gambling Manager
Penny Becker, Auxiliary President
Roger Wysong, Post Manager
Jim Hanchett, S.A.L. Commander

Toastmasters

Good news for Richfield Legion Toastmasters. We have four new members since I made our first appeal to you two months ago. These four new members are strong and will be a wonderful asset to the club as well as gaining their own personal strength.

We have also had several visitors that are interested. We have asked that they attend at least two meetings to see if becoming a member is what they need. Visiting us gives them a chance to see how we interact and devote time to help them gain self confidence, and develop their speaking skills.

Visitors are always welcome. We meet at the Richfield Legion club located at 65th and Portland Avenue South every Thursday evening at 6:30. The club usually has a dinner special available, should you desire to have dinner at 6:00 before the meeting. If you have any questions, please call me at (612) 869-0264 or leave a message.

Dee Fiedler, DTM/CL

Post 435 Officers

Commander

Craig Deneen

1st Vice Commander

Jerry Martin

2nd Vice Commander

John Gallas

Adjutant

Dennis DeLong

Finance Officer

Merv Becker

Immediate Past Commander

Craig Deneen

Chaplain

Rev. Don Swanson

Service Officer

TBD

Sgt.-At-Arms

Tom Eckhoff

Club Manager

Roger Wysong

Unit 435 Officers

President

Penny Becker

1st Vice President

Patricia Swanson

2nd Vice President

Becky LeFebvre

Sgt-At-Arms

TBA

Secretary

Joy DeLong

Treasurer

Jill Davis

Executive Board

Joy DeLong

LaVon Whalen

Jr. Past President

Annette Bray

Chaplain / Memorial

Jill Davis

Gambling Manager

Cindy Cierzen

Membership Chairman

Patricia Swanson

Membership Secretary

Joy DeLong

SAL 435 Officers

Commander – James Hanchett

Direct all questions
or comments to Post 435
during business hours at
(612) 866-3647

Two Juniors Represent Post 435 Gun Club at 2012 National Junior Olympic Rifle Championships

In April Minnesota sent five junior shooters to the National Junior Olympic Rifle Championships held at the US. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Among the five were two members of Post 435 Gun Club's CMP Junior program—Elizabeth Ewert and Patrick Sunderman.

Elizabeth represented Minnesota in the Junior Women's Air Rifle Championship where female shooters shoot 8 targets from the standing position over the course of two days for a total possible 800 points. Elizabeth shot a 752, placing her 6th in the J3 age category and 64th overall.

Patrick represented the State in both Junior Men's Air Rifle and Smallbore Rifle competitions. In Air Rifle the Junior Men shoot 12 targets from the standing position over the course of two days for a possible 1200 points. Patrick posted an 1174 for 3rd place, securing a spot in the final shoot-off, to which only the top 8 competitors advance. In the final, Patrick shot a score of 98.9 giving him a total of 1272.9 and 4th overall out of 101 competitors in the event.



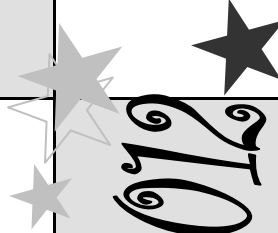

In Junior Men's Smallbore, Patrick was the only Minnesotan who qualified for the event, which consists of shooting from the Prone, Standing and Kneeling positions. Patrick overcame unexpected adversity when he found the bolt of his Feinwerkbau .22 rifle had been broken during the flight to Colorado and in turn rendering his rifle useless for the competition. Luckily, Patrick had a bolt shipped overnight next day from another local junior shooter. Patrick posted a score of 1176 out of 1200 in the Prone competition giving him a 12th place finish in his J1 age category, and 15th overall of 61 total competitors.

In Junior Men's 3-position competition Patrick posted a 2305 out of a possible 2400, placing him 5th in his age category, and 5th overall, again securing a spot in the final shoot-off of the top 8 competitors. In the 3-Position final Patrick scored a 91.6 for a total of 2396.6 holding his 5th place overall for the competition.

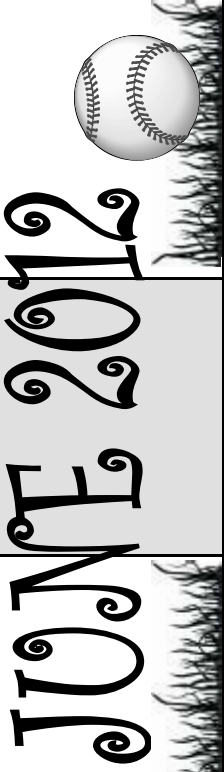
Complete results of all the matches can be found on the USA Shooting website
<http://www.usashooting.com/>

(continued on pg. 6)

Minneapolis/Richfield American Legion Post 435

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
1 Lounge specials all day.	2 Lounge specials. Bargo 5-7pm. 	3 Luncheon hours 11:00am -1:45pm.	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY. Outside Vicious Fish, inside d.b.Cooper. 	5 Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Dinner hours 4:30-7:30pm. Dining Room Specials. Bargo 5-7pm.	6 Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Meat raffle 5-7pm. Dinner hours 5-8:30pm. d.b.COOPER	7 Lounge specials 8am-2pm. Meat raffle 2-4pm. Dining hours 5-8:30pm. d.b.COOPER		
8 Lounge specials all day.	9 Lounge specials. Bargo 5-7pm.	10 Luncheon hours 11:00am -1:45pm. Gun Club 7:30pm.	11 Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Burger Bash 5-7pm. ALR mtg 7pm. Karaoke 8:30pm.	12 Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Dinner hours 4:30-7:30pm. Dining Room Specials. Bargo 5-7pm.	13 Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Dinner hours 5-8:30pm. Meat Raffle 5-7pm. CROSSFIRE	14 Lounge specials 8am-2pm. Dining hours 5-8:30pm. Meat Raffle 2-4pm. CROSSFIRE		
15 Lounge specials all day.	16 Lounge specials. Bargo 5-7pm. SAL mtg 7:30pm.	17 Luncheon hours 11:00am -1:45pm.	18 Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Karaoke 8:30pm.	19 Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Dinner hours 4:30-7:30pm. Dining Room Specials. Bargo 5-7pm.	20 Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Dinner hours 5-8:30pm. Meat Raffle 5-7pm. HIT N RUN	21 Lounge specials 8am-2pm. Dining hours 5-8:30pm. Meat Raffle 2-4pm. HIT N RUN		
22 Lounge specials all day.	23 Lounge specials. Bargo 5-7pm.	24 Luncheon hours 11:00am -1:45pm. P&F mtg 6 pm. Exec. Brd 7 pm.	25 Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Burger Bash 5-7pm. Karaoke 8:30pm.	26 Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Dinner hours 4:30-7:30pm. Dining Room Specials. Bargo 5-7pm.	27 Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Dinner hours 5-8:30pm. Meat Raffle 5-7pm. HIP BONE	28 Lounge specials 8am-2pm. Dining hours 5-8:30pm. Meat Raffle 2-4pm. HIP BONE		
29 Lounge specials all day.	30 Lounge specials. Bargo 5-7pm.	31 Luncheon hours 11:00am -1:45pm. Post mtg 7pm.	 JULY, 2012 				Dining Room Hours Lunch Tues-Fri 11:00 - 1:45 Dinner Thu 4:30 - 7:30 Fri & Sat 5:00 - 8:30	

Minneapolis/Richfield American Legion Post 435

SUNDAY		TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
Dining Room Hours Lunch Tues-Fri 11:00 - 1:45 Dinner Thu 4:30 - 7:30 Fri & Sat 5:00 - 8:30							
Lounge specials all day.	Lounge specials. Bargo 5-7pm.	Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm.	Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Karaoke 8:30pm.	Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Dinner hours 4:30-7:30pm. Dining Room Specials. Bargo 5-7pm.	Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Meat raffle 5-7pm. Dinner hours 5-8:30pm. SUB LEVEL 6	Lounge specials 8am-2pm. Meat raffle 2-4pm. Dining hours 5-8:30pm. SUB LEVEL 6	
Lounge specials all day.	Lounge specials. Bargo 5-7pm.	Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Gun club 7:30 pm.	Luncheon hours 11:00am -1:45pm. Burger Bash 5-7. ALR mtg 7pm. Karaoke 8:30pm.	FLAG DAY Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Dinner hours 4:30-7:30pm. Dining Room Specials. Bargo 5-7pm.	Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Meat raffle 5-7pm. Dinner hours 5-8:30pm. RODEHOUSE	Lounge specials 8am-2pm. Meat raffle 2-4pm. Dining hours 5-8:30pm. RODEHOUSE	
FATHER'S DAY Lounge specials all day.	Lounge specials. Bargo 5-7pm. SAL mtg 7:30pm.	Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. P&F mtg 6 pm. Exec Brd. mtg 7pm.	SUMMER BEGINS. Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Karaoke 8:30pm.	Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Dinner hours 4:30-7:30pm. Dining Room Specials. Bargo 5-7pm. Installation of officers.	Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Meat raffle 5-7pm. Dinner hours 5-8:30pm. CROSSTOWN	Lounge specials 8am-2pm. Meat raffle 2-4pm. Dining hours 5-8:30pm. CROSSTOWN	
Lounge specials all day.	Lounge specials. Bargo 5-7pm.	Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Post mtg 7pm.	Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Burger Bash 5-7. Karaoke 8:30pm.	Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Dinner hours 4:30-7:30pm. Dining Room Specials. Bargo 5-7pm.	Luncheon hours 11:00am-1:45pm. Meat raffle 5-7pm. Dinner hours 5-8:30pm. EXCELLENT DRIVERS	Lounge specials 8am-2pm. Meat raffle 2-4pm. Dining hours 5-8:30pm. EXCELLENT DRIVERS	

Rifle Championships, from pg. 2

All junior competitors have to qualify through previous competition, shooting a minimum qualification score to receive an invitation to compete at this prestigious event. All five Minnesota junior shooters showed exceptional skill, and tremendous dedication in the accomplishment of just qualifying for this competition. Please be sure to congratulate these fine junior shooters if you happen to have the opportunity to see one of them on a range during this upcoming summer shooting season.

Submitted by,
Mark Havlik
Post 435 CMP President

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POST 435



The Executive Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Commander's conference room on the Tuesday prior to the General Membership meeting. General membership meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Post. All members are encouraged to attend.

UNIT 435



The Executive Committee meets at 7 p.m. in the Auxiliary office on the Tuesday prior to the General Membership meeting.

General membership meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Post.

SAL 435



The Sons of the American Legion general membership meets on the third Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

AMERICAN LEGION NEWS is the official publication of The Minneapolis/Richfield American Legion Post 435, Department of Minnesota, 6501 Portland Avenue South, Richfield, MN 55423. Contents are edited and prepared by the editor and are not necessarily the views of the National or Department of Minnesota American Legion. News items and photos may be left at the Post or mailed to Cindy Busse, Editor at 4233 Nicollet Ave. #7, Minneapolis, MN 55409, or emailed to CBusse6797@aol.com. CUTOFF IS THE 5TH OF THE FOLLOWING MONTHS: JANUARY, MARCH, MAY, JULY, SEPTEMBER, NOVEMBER.

Manager's Notes

The Post installation of officers for 2012-13 will be held on June 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Congratulations to Commander-elect Merv Becker; Auxiliary President-elect Joy DeLong, and the other newly elected officers. I look forward to the opportunity to work with the new regime and at the same time, thank outgoing Commander Craig Deneen and outgoing Unit President Penny Becker for their contributions to the Post.

Thanks to all of you in advance for your continued support this summer of your Post lounge, dining room and "Li'l Vegas Room." We offer great food and drinks at real reasonable prices. Our Gambling operation has an excellent array of pull tabs and lottery tickets and scratch-offs for sale. Your support of the Club allows us to meet our commitment toward our veterans programs and our community.

Please join us on Wednesday, July 4th, for our annual Community Independence Day celebration. S.A.L. sponsored food booth goes from noon until 8 p.m. Outside beer booth hours are noon to 10 p.m. The band "Vicious Fish" will be providing entertainment outside from 1:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. The band d.b.Cooper will perform in the lounge from 8:30 to 12:30 a.m.

Reminder #1: NO CHECKS or BAR TABS accepted on the 4th of July. There is an ATM in the lobby for your convenience.

Reminder #2: You must have a valid picture I.D. to enter the Post. No exceptions!

Have a great summer! Hope to see you at the Post.

Roger Wysong, Manager

BURGER BASH Nights!

2nd & 4th Wednesdays

5 – 7 p.m.

**Burgers
 Fries
 Onion
 Rings**



ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

Please send to:
 Membership Chairman
 American Legion Post 435
 6501 Portland Ave. S.
 Richfield, MN 55423

Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____