

# Minneapolis/Richfield Post 435 American Legion News

6501 Portland Avenue South, Richfield, MN 55423 (612) 866-3647 www.mnlegion435.org richfieldamericanlegion@comcast.net Jul/Aug/Sep 2014

## Commander's Column

Greetings, on behalf of the 2014-2015 Officers, and myself.

My name is Tom Eckhoff. I have been a member of Post 435 for 16 years. I have served on the Post 435 Executive Board for the past 5+ years. In that time I have been the Post Sargent at Arms, and most recently the First Vice Commander. I have also been a co-Sargent at Arms for the 5th District.

I am a US Army Combat Veteran of the Viet Nam War, 1968-1970, serving as a Paratrooper in A Company, 1st Battalion of the 505th Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division, and one year in Company N, (Ranger), 75th Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Having just been installed as Post Commander, my goals for the next year include enhancing communication, increasing member volunteer participation, recruiting younger membership, utilizing skill sets of our membership to help our Post face the many challenges of this coming year, openly, and in a good way. I believe we can ALL offer something, and together as a team, we can continue forward as a vibrant, successful entity.

I encourage everyone to come in and enjoy the fabulous new offerings from the kitchen, and the tremendous, exceptional variety of live musical entertainment, available every evening of the week.

"Ask not what your Legion can do for you, but what you can do for OUR Legion."

Thomas R. Eckhoff, Commander

## SAL Labor Day Steak Fry

Monday, September 1

2 - 6 p.m.

Steak, baked potato, corn on the cob,  
coleslaw, roll, coffee

\$9 in advance \$11 at the door

Kids: hamburger or hot dog, milk, corn  
on the cob, fries = \$5

## President's Column

As you are reading this newsletter we are in the middle of the shortest season in Minnesota known as summer. I hope everyone is enjoying all that summer has to offer.

My name is Jill Davis and I am your newly elected Auxiliary president. For those of you who may not know me, allow me to provide a brief introduction. I have been a member of the Richfield American Legion Auxiliary for 7 years. I served as Treasurer for 3 years and for the past couple of years I have been the unit Chaplain and Sargent at Arms. I volunteer at monthly Auxiliary omelet breakfasts and co-chair the bi-annual Craft and Bake sale sponsored by the Auxiliary. You may also see me helping the Sons of the American Legion with their fundraising events as well.

This year I was also the chairperson for the Poppy program. Each of you should have received a poppy and a letter with information about the Poppy program in the mail in early May. It is not too late to donate to this program. These donations support our veterans and their families. Every contribution, no matter how small, makes an impact to our veterans.

I would like to introduce the officers for 2014-2015: 1st Vice President - Patricia Swanson; 2nd Vice President - Carol Larson; Treasurer - Penny Becker; Executive Board - Joanne Davis and Sandi Klier. I look forward to working with them and all of our members this coming year.

The Auxiliary has an e-mail address and we plan to start sending out monthly e-mails to remind you about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and meetings at the Unit and District level. If you are interested in receiving these e-mails please send an e-mail to: [aux.richfieldamericanlegion@comcast.net](mailto:aux.richfieldamericanlegion@comcast.net) indicating you would like to receive the monthly e-mails. Also, please use this e-mail to communicate with the Auxiliary. The e-mail address will be checked on a weekly basis.

Other ways to find out about what is going on at your American Legion Unit: read this newsletter, come to Unit meetings (our next general membership meeting is Sept. 30th), Facebook, e-mails and the post website which is: <http://mnlegion435.org/>.

If you have ideas about fundraising or ways to improve the American Legion Auxiliary, I am willing to listen and discuss all ideas with an open mind. I work full time, but will do my best to meet the needs of Unit 435. I look forward to working with as many of you as possible over the coming year.

God Bless America, Our Troops and Our Veterans!!

Jill Davis

Unit 435 President

## Post 435 Gun Club

By Chairman Michael Kielty

May general membership meeting was held on May 13, 2014 at 7:30pm. The meeting was attended by about 25 members and 8 of the nine board members.

Post 435 Gun Club was founded in the 1960s and is currently at its 2nd location (approximately 30 miles south of the Post off I35 and Rice Co. 3). The club has endured these many years through tough political climates, economic booms and recessions and the various problems any organization faces. We currently stand with 446 members who are by law members of the Legion, SAL or Auxiliary. Our board features a full complement of officers.

The Recreation officer and the Assistant Executive officer positions were up for election. Tom Steele, the reigning Recreation officer for several years was planning to retire, while Steve Dedon, a first term as Assistant Executive officer, was seeking another 3 year term. Jim Myrah was nominated for Recreation officer position. Myrah and Dedon were elected by white ballot. Gun club welcomes Jim Myrah to the board and thanks Tom Steele for years of dedicated service.

The range is in pretty good condition after a successful workday on May 31st. Bad weather aside, the place is beautiful, especially after the long tough winter. Members are shooting rifles and handguns every day out there..... weather notwithstanding.

The trap fields are open Wednesdays and Thursdays and the skeet field is open Wednesdays. We have Civilian Marksmanship on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The ranges are open to members and their guests from 8am - sundown seven days a week with some exceptions. Please check the website <http://www.post435gunclub.org/> for details on hours or becoming a member.

The next 2014 Firearm Safety Class begins on July 28th. Registration for this class begins June 29. Classes are taught Mondays and Thursdays for 3 weeks plus an all-day field day at the range on Saturday August 16th. All classes plus a Monday (Aug.18) final exam are held at the Post Auditorium and limited to 50 students. Students passing this class qualify for Minnesota DNR Hunter Safety Certification.

The Gun Club meetings are always the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30pm in the Turner room. Upcoming meetings will be held on July 8th, August 12th and September 9th.



## American Legion Riders

Greetings from Post 435 American Legion Riders (ALR). The riding season is here and we are preparing for some fun rides, fundraising, and the Legacy Scholarship Run.

First off, we meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 in the Executive Meeting room. Anyone interested in finding out more information about us is welcome to come attend.

The MN ALR Legacy Scholarship Run kick-off party will be held at Post 435 on July 31st. There will be food, run registration, and presentation of donations. If you want to make a donation to the American Legion Legacy Scholarship, please contact us. Donations should be made out to the American Legion Foundation, Fund 84. Since this kick-off party is being held on Thursday, come down for BARGO and the Del Counts providing live music that night.

The 5th Annual MN ALR Legacy Run then will start on August 1st from the Minneapolis Veterans Home and will ride through southern Minnesota the first weekend, ending Sunday August 3rd in Faribault. The second weekend kicks off in Little Falls on Friday, August 8th and will conclude on Sunday August 10th in Coon Rapids. Feel free to ride with us for an hour, a day, a weekend, or both weekends. It is a blast. All stops and routes are subject to change, and more information can be found at [www.MNLegacyRun.org](http://www.MNLegacyRun.org).

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Ron Lund on the keyboard

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## Mpls/Richfield American Legion Post 435

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Lounge specials all day. Music by Rockin' Woody.	Lounge specials. Bargo 5-7pm. <b>BLUE MONDAY</b> with Willie Murphy. Rib special!	Lunch 11am-1:45pm. Taco special! <b>MUSIC</b> by Paul Metsa & Willie Walker. Happy hour 9pm-12am.	Lunch 11am-1:45pm. Karaoke 8:30pm. Happy hour 9pm-12am.	Lunch 11am-1:45pm. Dinner 4:30-7:30pm. Dining Room Specials. Bargo 5-7pm. <b>MUSIC</b> by Del Counts. Happy hour 9pm-12am.	Lunch 11am-1:45pm. Meat raffle 4:30-6:30pm. Dinner 5-8:30pm.	Lounge specials 8am-2pm. Meat raffle 3-5pm. Dinner 5-8:30pm.
		1	2	3	<b>4TH OF JULY</b> 4 Music outside by Crossfire, 2-8pm. Music inside by Legends 8:30-12:30.	5  LEGENDS
		6 VAMC Hospital Visitation, 2pm.	7	8 CMP mtg 6:30pm. Gun Club gen'l membership mtg 7:30pm. Gun Club mtg 7:30 pm	9 A.L.R. mtg 7pm.	10
13	14	15 Gun Owners Rally 5-10pm	16	17	18  BRIAN NAUGHTON BAND	19  BRIAN NAUGHTON BAND
20	21 SAL mtg 7:30	22 P&F mtg 6pm. Exec Board mtg 7pm.	23	24	25  WILDFIRE	26  WILDFIRE
27	28 Firearm Safety Class.	29 Post mtg 7pm.	30	31 ALR Legacy Scholarship Run Kickoff. Firearm Safety Class.		

# July 2014

### American Legion Riders

Post 435 ALR will be running the Cub food wagon as a fund raiser on Friday Sept 12th through Sunday September 13th. All tips will go to the American Legion Legacy Scholarship. Come join us and have a brat for the kids.

But wait, what is the American Legion Legacy Scholarship, you ask? Well, the Scholarship was put in place to help any child that has lost a serving parent since 9-11 to have no out-of-pocket expenses towards any secondary education they may choose. Each year we have done this run, we have increased our fundraising goals, and surpassed them. This year is no different. We are using the following motto "55 for 5." Our goal is to raise \$55,000 for this year's 5th annual MN ALR Legacy Scholarship run. Can you help us surpass that goal?

If you have any questions or are interested in learning more about us, please feel free to stop by a meeting or contact us through the Post.

Thank you.  
Shawn Davis  
Director, Post 435 ALR

## Mpls/Richfield American Legion Post 435

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Lounge specials all day. Music by Rockin' Woody.	Lounge specials. Bargo 5-7pm. <b>BLUE MONDAY</b> with Willie Murphy. Rib special!	Lunch 11:00am-1:45pm. Taco special! <b>MUSIC</b> by Paul Metsa & Willie Walker. Happy hour 9pm-12am.	Lunch 11:00am-1:45pm. Karaoke 8:30pm. Happy hour 9pm-12am.	Lunch 11:00am-1:45pm. Dinner 4:30-7:30pm. Dining Room Specials. Bargo 5-7pm. <b>MUSIC</b> by Tom Hunter. Happy hour 9pm-12am.	Lunch 11:00am-1:45pm. Meat raffle 4:30-6:30pm. Dinner 5-8:30pm.	Lounge specials 8am-2pm. Meat raffle 3-5pm. Dinner 5-8:30pm.	
<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">August 2014</h1>						1 ALR Legacy Run begins.  SUITE A	2   SUITE A
3 VAMC hospital visitation, 2pm.	4 Firearm Safety Class.	5	6	7 Firearm Safety Class.	8 ROADHOUSE	9 ROADHOUSE	
10	11 Firearm Safety Class.	12 CMP mtg 6:30pm. Gun Club gen'l membership mtg 7:30pm.	13 A.L.R. mtg 7pm.	14 Firearm Safety Class.	15 SUGARTREE	16 SUGARTREE	
17 NO OMELET BREAKFAST	18 SAL mtg 7:30	19 Gun Owners Rally 5-10pm. P&F mtg 6pm. Exec Board mtg 7pm.	20	21	22 CROSSFIRE	23 CROSSFIRE	
24	25	26 Post mtg 7pm.	27	28	29 CITY LIGHTS	30 CITY LIGHTS	
31	1 Labor Day <b>SAL Steak Fry, 2-6pm.</b>	2	3	4	5 TAMARAK	6 TAMARAK	
7 Hospital Visitation, 2pm.	8	9 CMP mtg 6:30pm. Gun Club gen'l membership mtg 7:30pm.	10 A.L.R. mtg 7pm.	11	12 BRIAN NAUGHTON ALR @ the Cub food wagon!	13 BRIAN NAUGHTON	
14	15 SAL mtg 7:30pm	16 Gun Owners Rally 5-10pm. P&F mtg 6pm. Exec Board mtg 7pm.	17	18	19 WILDFIRE	20 WILDFIRE	
21	22	23 Post mtg 7pm.	24	25	26 ROADHOUSE	27 ROADHOUSE	
28	29	30	<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">September 2014</h1>				



**Post 435 Officers****Commander**

Tom Eckhoff

**1st Vice Commander**

John Gallas

**2nd Vice Commander****Adjutant**

Craig Deneen

**Finance Officer**

Jim Munson

**Immediate Past Commander**

Merv Becker

**Chaplain**

Jim Munson

**Service Officer**

Jim Munson

**Sgt.-At-Arms**

Jerry Martin

**Post Membership**

Jerry Martin

**Club Manager**

John Wortman

**Unit 435 Officers****President**

Jill Davis

**1st Vice President**

Patricia Swanson

**2nd Vice President**

Carol Larson

**Sgt-At-Arms****Secretary**

Carol Larson

**Treasurer**

Penny Becker

**Executive Board**

JoAnn Davis

Sandy Klier

**Jr. Past President****Chaplain / Memorial****Membership Chairman**

Patricia Swanson

**SAL 435 Officers****Commander**

Nils Hudyma

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

**Greetings from Squad 435 Sons of the American Legion!**

The Detachment of Minnesota Sons of the American Legion State convention will be held on Friday June 27th and Saturday June 28th at the Legionville School Patrol Camp in Brainerd. This is a great weekend of fun camping, socializing and leaning more about the Sons of the American Legion. If you have interest in learning more, please contact us.

I wanted to let everyone know that the squad will be running the 4th of July food booth at the post. Volunteers are needed. Sign-ups will be posted, but feel free to talk to one of the officers if you would like to help. It is a fun event and a major fundraiser for us, that helps us make donations to the Minneapolis Veterans home, Legionville/School Safety Patrol Camp, The Child Welfare Association, The National Emergency Fund, The American Legion Hospital Association and many others.

We also have our Labor Day Steak Dinner on Monday September 1st. We will be serving from 2 until 6. Come out and help us with the fundraiser to support the charities previously mentioned.

We meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:30 in the Executive Meeting room. Feel free to stop in and find out more about us, the activities we do, or the charities we support.

Thank you for your support.

Nils Hudyma

Commander

Squad 435, Sons of the American Legion

**Toastmasters**

Richfield Legion Toastmasters has held their election of officers for the new term. Our installation of the new officers, by Area Governor Annette Peterson, was June 12th. Pat Rottach, a member of the Richfield Legion, is our new President. I will remain as club mentor, which means a more leisurely pace for me. Another Richfield Legion member, John Caldwell, has been named Richfield Legion Toastmaster of the year. We were honored to have Commander Merv Becker present John with his well-earned pin. We also were fortunate to have Sun Current coverage.

We meet every Thursday at the Legion Club at 6:00 p.m. Our normal meetings last about one to one and a half hours. Visitors are always welcome. We are a strong group willing to help wherever and whenever we can.

Dee Fiedler, DTM/CL Past President, Richfield Legion Toastmasters #232

foxygrams1@gmail.com



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**Sundays, open - 2 p.m.**  
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Miller Hi-Life tap,  
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Rail Martini's, Manhattans, Gimlets

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POST 435



The Executive Committee meets at 7 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 p.m. at the Post. All members are encouraged to attend.

UNIT 435



The Executive Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. prior to the General Membership meeting on the last Tuesday of the month at 7 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.

### Manager's Message

Hello everybody, what a winter followed by a spring that was just as miserable.

I want to thank everybody who came in and looked at the fireplace and other improvements. Many of you made a point to find me and tell me what you thought, and all of it was good.

I can say we did add one more new item to the kitchen and that is Chef Jermaine Rayford; he started June 1st. He will be working on a new menu as soon as he figures out our kitchen. I kind of baptized him by fire when he first started. I had a lot of banquets scheduled, but this did not faze him or his staff, and everything was covered like he had been here 10 years. Please make it a point to come in, try his cooking and introduce yourself.

John Wortman

### Gift Card Exchange

The brown or orange Richfield American Legion gift cards are now obsolete. We have new gift cards and would like to swap your old card for a new one. Stop by the office anytime during business hours.  
 Thank you.

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 Emailed to Cindy Busse, Editor at cindybusse55@gmail.com. CUTOFF IS THE 5TH OF THE FOLLOWING MONTHS: MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER.

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 American Legion Post 435  
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 Richfield, MN 55423

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