

# Minneapolis/Richfield Post 435 American Legion News

6501 Portland Avenue South, Richfield, MN 55423 (612) 866-3647 www.mnlegion435.org richfieldamericanlegion@comcast.net May/June 2015

## Commander's Column

Hello again!

I would like to thank the membership, and especially the members of the Executive Committee, for the continued support they have shown in helping OUR Post through some challenges these past several months. It is good to see "Men of Good Character"—all volunteers—stand up to do "good things."

Thank You to the Auxiliary, SAL, and ALR for ALL they have done, and ALL they are doing for OUR Post each and every month.

Recently, members of the Executive Committee have had the great pleasure of presenting substantial donations to multiple charity programs. An activity previously performed and enjoyed on a regular monthly basis. All the money the Post has currently been giving, is tremendously appreciated. (see photos)

Memorial Day is fast approaching. This year, as in past years, Post 435 will hold a service at Mt Calvary Cemetery at 10:00, followed at 12:00 by a flag lowering and raising ceremony with a rifle salute at Post 435. There will be a light lunch for members and their families after the flag raising.

Recently, a former trusted employee of the Charitable Gambling operation plead guilty to seven counts of theft. Now we can move forward.

Remember OUR obligation to Community, State, and Nation.

Remember, the true voice of our membership

can be heard only by active participation in Post meetings. These challenges, WE face together, ALL of us, as members of this Post. Every member has his or her role to play, and working together, our Post will be able to meet our full potential and successfully serve our community.

Our Post desperately needs to include the next generation of eligible veterans into our midst if we can have any hope to exist in the world of today, let alone tomorrow, and into the future.

"Time keeps on slippin,... into the future". (Steve Miller)

Thomas R. Eckhoff, Commader 2014-2015



## President's Column

Greetings to all members:

I regret to inform everyone that effective Monday April 20th I resigned as President of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 435.

I wish to thank everyone who volunteered for events this past year and all of the support I received over the last 10 months.

Jill Davis

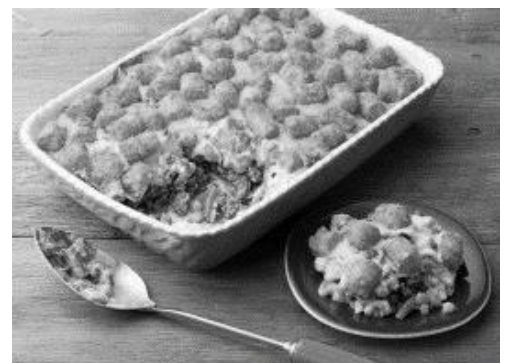
## Thank you!!!

To everyone who donated books the books sale or donated baked items to the bake sale. Finally a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who visited the Craft Fair. Your patronage was truly appreciated by our vendors.

A special shout out to John Gallas who donated many books in memory of his wife (auxiliary member), Jan Gallas.

## Hotdish Dinner Fundraiser

Hosted by  
American Legion Riders  
Wednesday, May 6  
5-7 p.m.



## X-Men Jr. Rifle Team

As this Air Rifle season draws to a close, we sadly say goodbye to 2 seniors. Thomas Kostuch has been shooting with us for 6 years and is one of our top Sporter members. Sam Ewert has been with us for 10 years and has always excelled. They will both be missed. We wish them all the best as they start college next year.

Sam, along with his sister, Elizabeth Ewert, have advanced to shooting in the Precision category and have both qualified to compete in the 2015 National Junior Olympics in late April. This prestigious match is held at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. Another X-Men shooter, Grace Taschuk, qualified in both Women's Precision Air Rifle and Small Bore. Congrats to these athletes for their high achievement. We anxiously await their results.

Grace also qualified in the Army marksmanship unit (formerly National Guard) state match to compete in their Air Rifle National Championship, but is unable to attend as it overlaps with the J.O. Championship. It looks like Grace will also be invited to represent Post 435 at The American Legion 2015 National Championship in August, an honor she earned as one of the top 15 shooters in the country in the Legion National Postal Match.

Other highlights this season include: Josie Johnson winning silver and 1st year shooter, Elizabeth Carson, bronze in 3P Sporter Air Rifle in the NRA Sectionals where Grace Taschuk, Sam Ewert, and Elizabeth Ewert finished 2nd, 3rd & 4th respectively in 3P Precision. Josie also won gold in standing Sporter while Grace took gold and Sam bronze in standing Precision. The X-Men Sporter team won gold in both 3P and standing.

I wish I had time to list all the achievements of X-Men this season. There's plenty of bragging to do. Let me simply say, the Post 435 Air Rifle program has a noted presence in the state and nationally, as well. I have been very pleased with the progress of several of our newer shooters. Next year looks bright!

Finally, we are enjoying our new ORION electronic scoring system thanks to the financial assistance from Post 435 Gun Club, CMP Club, SAL, and a windfall from the gambling fund. This will also allow us to do some much needed equipment repairs and upgrades.

Thank you for your support!

Coach Tim Cagney

## Flag artist kicks off national tour at Legion post

*Excerpt from an article Published on The American Legion*

*(<http://www.legion.org>)*

*By Ken Olson – March 5, 2015*

Flag muralist Scott LoBaido attempts to touch up his mural in the snow after finishing his first flag mural at American Legion Post 202 in Fayetteville, NC. *Photo by Abbi O'Leary.*

...Legion and VFW posts are his canvas because "they house the most important people in the world," he says.

Follow Scott's 50-state tour on the Web <http://www.scottlobaido.com> or on Twitter <https://twitter.com/ScottLoBaido>.



## Post 435 Officers

**Commander**

Tom Eckhoff

**1st Vice Commander**

John Gallas

**2nd Vice Commander**

Bob Newcome

**Adjutant**

Craig Deneen

**Finance Officer**

Jim Munson

**Immediate Past Commander**

Merv Becker

**Chaplain**

Mark Wright

**Service Officer**

**Sgt.-At-Arms**

Jerry Martin

**Post Membership**

Jerry Martin

**Club Manager**

John Wortman

## Unit 435 Officers

**President**

**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**

Patricia Swanson

**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

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## **Statement from the Commander**

The Richfield American Legion Post 435 has a long tradition of charitable giving and service to our community. Our Post is proud to support Veteran's and Community Charities.

The Minnesota Gambling Control Board revoked our Gambling License for one year in May of 2014, after the discovery of a very large amount of money missing from the Charitable Gambling account. The loss we have suffered is tremendous. The missing money should have gone to charities helping veterans and our community.

The State requirements for Post 435 to apply for a gambling license before the year 2024, are stringent and very clear. The Gambling Control Board required us to reimburse the missing \$200,000.00 into the Gambling account, and then distribute all the funds to charities. This process has been extremely painful, time consuming, and tremendously difficult to manage and implement.

We have worked closely with the good people at the Gambling Control Board, cooperating fully with all their requirements, nearing completion by distributing the money, thus closing this chapter of our Post's history.

We will be allowed to apply for a Gambling License when our obligations are complete, and begin a new chapter of charitable giving in support of veterans and our community.

The former, longtime trusted bookkeeper of Charitable Gambling recently plead guilty to seven felony counts of theft by swindle. Thus explaining what happened to the missing money, and finally allowing us to move forward.

We have made great strides forward this year, and I am proud, excited, and looking forward to being part of this new chapter of Post 435.

Thomas Eckhoff

# Lounge Specials

**Twins, NASCAR TV Specials**  
20 oz. tap \$3.00

**Saturdays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
**Sundays, open-2 p.m.**

Phillips Bloody Mary's or Screwdrivers \$3.00



## Dining Room Lunch Specials

**Tues. – Wed. – Thurs.** Miller Hi-Life tap,  
Heileman's Old Style cans, Rail Martini's,  
Manhattans, Gimlets



## 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. BLUE MONDAY with Willie Murphy. Rib special!	Lunch 11am-2pm. Taco special! MUSIC by Paul Metsa & Willie Walker. Happy hour 9pm-12am. TOOZDAY BOOZDAY.	Lunch 11am-2pm. Karaoke 8:30pm. Happy hour 9pm-12am.	Lunch 11am-2pm. Dinner 5-8pm. Dining Room Specials. Bargo 5-7pm. MUSIC by the Del Counts. Happy hour 9pm-12am.	Lunch 11am-2pm. Dinner 5-8pm.	Lounge specials 8am-2pm. Dinner 5-8pm.
				Bargo 5-7pm.	1 TAMARAK	2 TAMARAK
3	4 Bargo 5-7pm.	5	6 ALR Hotdish Feed, 5pm.	7 Bargo 5-7pm.	8 SECOND GENERATION	9 SECOND GENERATION
10 MOTHER'S DAY VAMC hospital visitation, 2pm.	11 Bargo 5-7pm.	12 Bingo @ Vets Home 7pm. CMP mtg 6:30pm. Gun Club mtg 7:30pm.	13 ALR mtg, 7pm.	14 Bargo 5-7pm.	15 POPPY DAY DOWN THE ROAD	16 DOWN THE ROAD
17	18 Bargo 5-7pm. SAL mtg 7:30	19 P&F mtg 6pm. Exec Board mtg 7pm.	20	21 Bargo 5-7pm.	22 LEGENDS	23 LEGENDS
24	25 MEMORIAL DAY Bargo 5-7pm.	26 Post mtg 7pm. Aux gen'l membership mtg 7pm.	27	28	29 CITY LIGHTS	30 CITY LIGHTS
31			May 2015			

### Members of the Sons of The American Legion

**WE NEED YOU!**

This organization runs on volunteers, and to keep the organization active, volunteers are needed to hold office to run the operations of the squadron. If no volunteers step up to the plate, we run the risk of shutting down.

In April, we lost the member who was always ready to volunteer for this organization. Past Squadron Commander Michael "Whitey" McWhite passed away on April 14th after a sudden and unexpected illness. He can never be replaced as a volunteer, but we need to hold his memory in our thoughts as we realize that so much of the fundraising for veterans, their families, and our community, Whitey had a hand in. We need more like him. He can never be replaced, but our membership can become active and help move this squadron into the future and continue the good deeds we do.

A motion was made and passed at the general membership meeting, that as recognition, those who step up to the leadership of the squadron will receive a discounted membership at the time of their election to Squadron Commander until their time of passing into Squadron Everlasting. This will be effective with the 2016 Membership year.

So consider stepping up and volunteering to join the leadership of the squadron, and help continue the organization that Whitey worked so hard to make a difference in.

Squadron 435 Executive Board

## Mpls/Richfield American Legion Post 435

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Lounge specials all day. Music by Rockin' Woody.	Lounge specials 3-6pm. BLUE MONDAY with Willie Murphy. Rib special!	Lunch 11am-2pm. Taco special! MUSIC by Paul Metsa & Willie Walker. TOOZDAY BOOZDAY.	Lunch 11am-2pm. Karaoke 8:30pm. Happy hour 3-6pm. 9pm-12am.	Lunch 11am-2pm. Dinner 5-8pm. Dining Room Specials. MUSIC by the Del Counts. Happy hour 3-6pm, 9pm-12am.	Lunch 11am-2pm. Dinner 5-8pm.	Lounge specials 8am-2pm. Dinner 5-8pm.
	1 Bargo 5-7pm.	2	3	4 Bargo 5-7pm.	5  INSIDE STRAIGHT	6  INSIDE STRAIGHT
7	8 Bargo 5-7pm.	9 CMP mtg 6:30pm. Gun Club mtg 7:30pm.	10 A.L.R. mtg 7pm.	11 Bargo 5-7pm.	12  WAX TONES	13  WAX TONES
14  FLAG DAY The Amazing Hondo, 3pm.	15 Bargo 5-7pm. SAL mtg 7:30pm.	16	17	18 Bargo 5-7pm.	19  ROADHOUSE	20  ROADHOUSE
21  FATHER'S DAY	22 Bargo 5-7pm.	23 P&F mtg 6pm. Exec Board mtg 7pm.	24	25 Bargo 5-7pm.	26  WAY BACK WHENS	27  WAY BACK WHENS
28	29 Bargo 5-7pm.	30 Post mtg 7pm. Aux gen'l membership mtg, 7pm.	June 2015			

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Carol Larson 612-481-2148 [upward@wwdb.org](mailto:upward@wwdb.org)

### Greetings from Chapter 435 American Legion Riders!



The Department of Minnesota ALR Legacy Scholarship Run is scheduled to run the first two weekends in August this year. The route and stops are being worked on. I cannot stress enough what a fun ride this event is. You see so much of Minnesota, and you get to see the difference we (the American Legion Family) can make in people's lives and how our efforts to help others is appreciated. Come ride for an hour, a day, a weekend or both weekends. Be at one of our stops (once they are determined).

Our meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 in the Executive Meeting room in the office. Come on down, see about our fun rides, and see what we are about.

Shawn Davis  
Director, Post 435 American Legion Riders



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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.

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## Manager's Notes

John here, with a few items.

Post 435 saw one of the most successful Lenten seasons in years, with the Friday night fish fry leading the charge. A huge hustle by Chef Matt and the entire kitchen staff. Good job, everyone! To the bar staff who kept the alcohol flowing for all those customers, thanks for your hard work. And to everyone else who also stepped in to help seat customers, serve customers, clean tables, and keep it all going, our applause and gratitude.

We look forward to once again presenting "The Amazing Hondo" on Sunday, June 14th at 3 p.m. Attendees must be over 18 years of age. Tickets are \$12 and will be available soon.

The July 4th celebration is coming right up, and plans are in the works. Be on the lookout for more info.

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.

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CUTOFF IS THE 5TH OF THE FOLLOWING MONTHS: MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER.

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