



SILVER STAR JOURNAL

Silver Star American Legion Post 428
Waite Park, Minnesota

February 2025 - March 2025

2024 – 2025 OFFICERS

AMERICAN LEGION

Commander Joe Cordie
1st Vice Cmdr Jerry Zabinski
2nd Vice Cmdr Dave Gammell
Adjutant Tom Fernlund
Finance Officer Ray Theis
Service Officer Wes Thompson
Chaplain Rev. Henry Koopman
Sgt At Arms Ken Bauer
Historian Sherry Mertens
Past Cmdr Dennis Schiffler
Exec Comm Open
Dennis Schiffler
Veronica Fernlund
Julius Atkinson
Bill Jones

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

President Karen Foss
1st Vice Pres Mary Curtis
2nd Vice Pres Sue Young
Secretary Marsha Bible
Treasurer Joyce Kirchner
Chaplain Dorothy Scherer
Historian Patty Pflipsen
Parliamentarian Marsha Bible
Sgt At Arms Jean Hector
Exec Comm Alice Kremer
Dorothy Scherer
Past President Jan Curtis

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander Michael Fernlund
1st Vice Cmdr Tom Fernlund
2nd Vice Cmdr Open
Adj/Finance Doug Bible
Chaplain Open
Historian Open
Sgt At Arms Open



Commander's Corner

Greetings.

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well and the New Year has been off to a Great Start.

While many of you have been dealing with some crazy Minnesota weather, I have been down in Florida these past few days. I will be leaving on Friday and heading back to Minnesota. The weather down here has been just as crazy. Lots and lots of rain with weather down to the 40's. In fact northern Florida had 8to10 inches of snow. They have No equipment to take care of it.

New for 2025 - Sponsor a NEW (veteran) member to our post. We have several current members that have stepped up and said that they would be willing to sponsor a new member for our post. By sponsoring a new member you are willing to pay their first-year dues of \$50.

There is some misinformation out there that it cost \$300 or more to join The American Legion and become a member to join, which is NOT true. All it costs is to pay the \$50 membership fee.

In return for sponsoring a new member your name will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card to the Maverick Steak House in Waite Park.

The benefits for being a member of The American Legion are MANY - when you are a member and applying for VA benefits the Legion plays a big part if a question may come up questioning your eligibility. They step up and support you. Speaking from personal experience, I have had them step up twice when my eligibility was in question, and it ended up being a positive thing.

The Legion sponsors three Scouting youth groups. Pack 20, Troops 20 and 1020. I'm proud to say that some of the leaders are veterans and members of our post. They are both seeing growth in numbers.

Look for some new and exciting things happening this summer with these units and the Legion, More information to follow in future newsletters.

As we continue on in 2025 remember to spend time with family. They are in our lives for a short time, and no one knows how long that will be.

Until the next newsletter may your travels in life be safe and the roads be smooth.

Respectfully,

Joe Cordie
Commander, Waite Park Legion Silver Star Post 428

NOTE: Legion & SAL meetings are the 1st Thursday of each Month – SAL & Legion Exec Meeting at 6:00 pm – Legion Regular Meeting 7:00 pm



Adjutant's Notes

Membership Update as of January 2025 – Post 428 has 363 paid 2025 memberships which is 83.45%. We need 72 members to renew or join to reach 100%. Check with your friends and neighbors to see if they have renewed or want to become a member of our American Legion Family.

Reminder - MN State American Legion Bowling Tournament is Mar. 29, 2025 to Apr. 27, 2025 and will be held at Sundance Lanes in Dayton, MN. If you want to participate contact Wes Thompson or Post 428 phone (see below). Wait Park teams are scheduled to bowl Apr. 26 & 27, 2025.

GET INVOLVED - New Post officer elections are held May 1, 2025. If you want to be part of the Post decision making and future of Waite Park American Legion Post 428, contact us about getting involved.

LEARN MORE About The American Legion – A self-paced online BASIC TRAINING program is available online at register.legion.org/alei. Check it out!

BE THE ONE – **ASK** Veterans in your life how they are doing – **LISTEN** when a veteran needs to talk – **REACH OUT** when a veteran is struggling.

BUDDY CHECK WEEK MARCH 9-15, 2025 – Reach out to veterans in our community – many need help or just a person to talk to.

VETERANS CRISIS LINE
DIAL 988 then Press (1)

RENEW MEMBERSHIP:
Online – mylegion.org
Post Phone – (320) 252-7880
Attend Post Meeting/ Mail to Waite Park Post 428
PO Box 421 - Waite Park, MN 56387

IMPORTANT RESOURCE to learn about
Veteran and Veteran Family Benefits:

Corey Vaske – Stearns County Veterans Service
Officer: (320) 656-6176 or email
cory.vaske@co.stearns.mn.us
**Your 1st stop before applying to the VA!

Tom Fernlund
Post Adjutant



Commander's Message

BUDDY CHECK WEEK MARCH 9-15, 2025 – SAL, Auxiliary, Jr Auxiliary can help by reaching out to veterans, family and friends in our community – many need help or just a person to talk to.

Reminder - 2025 American Legion FAMILY State Bowling Tournament – Waite Park teams are scheduled to bowl Apr. 26 & 27, 2025. – contact Wes Thompson if you plan to bowl or want to enter a team – 2025 membership card is required for participating.

SAL DETACHMENT SPRING CONFERENCE – March 14-15, 2025 at Rochester Post 446. This is a great time to learn about SAL programs in our state and Districts.

SAL DETACHMENT CONVENTION – June 27-28, 2025, Morris Post 29.

SAL Squadron 428 Election of Officers scheduled for May 1, 2025. Participation greatly needed to be a part of the decision making and activities of our squadron. GET INVOLVED!

If you haven't paid your SAL dues yet, they are now considered delinquent. Pay your dues now. Pay dues at the February meeting or send \$15.00 payment made out to SAL Squadron 428 to:

Douglas Bible
5602 West Oakes Drive
St. Cloud, MN 56303

For God and Country
Michael Fernlund
Squadron SAL Commander



President's Message

Greetings,

Well Mother Nature has made 2025 differently than most of us would have liked.

Clarification – Regular meetings are scheduled for: February 10 and March 10 at the Scout Building located at 307 15th Avenue North, Waite Park. The Executive Committee meets at 6:00 p.m. and the regular meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

If you have any questions – call or text me 320-241-0682.

At the February meeting we will be collecting small toys and activities to put into bags being packed for the Armed Forces Service Center at the Minneapolis airport. These bags will be given to children of military members who visit the center while they are traveling with their parent(s). We are starting to work on our

Annual Reports. Reports include volunteer hours from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. If any members have volunteer hours for helping at a school, or helping a

neighbor (nonrelative), please get this information to us.

The American Legion Auxiliary has 7 different Scholarships that are available for direct descendants of veterans/post members and/or American Legion Auxiliary members who are wishing to further their education. The scholarships require at least 3 years of consecutive membership. Check them out at our Department website – www.mnala.org/scholarships. Deadline for all scholarships is March 1, 2025.

March is the birthday month of The American Legion. "Happy Birthday".

The Auxiliary Unit in Waite Park was chartered on March 7, 1950. That makes our Unit 75 years in service. We still have 1 Charter member - Ruth Zellner. We have other members who have many continuous years of membership, also. Think of all the things that have been done for our Veterans, children and community by the American Legion Auxiliary. Yes, it is harder to do without a place to call our own but we are still going strong. A building is nice but that is not what makes the organization. Thank you to everyone for everything you have done and given us in the past 75 years. Now on to 100 years!!

For God and Country,
Karen Foss
Unit President

Auxiliary meetings are the 2nd Monday of each Month at the Boy Scout Building – 307 15th Avenue North – Waite Park.

***Exec Meeting at 6:00 pm
Regular Meeting 6:30 pm***

DATES TO REMEMBER (continued)

June 6-7 6th District Convention – Brainerd Post 255
June 8-14 Boys State – St John's University
Girls State – Bethel University
July 9-12 Dept Convention – Willmar, MN

Silver Star Post 428

American Legion

PO Box 421

Waite Park, MN 56387-0421



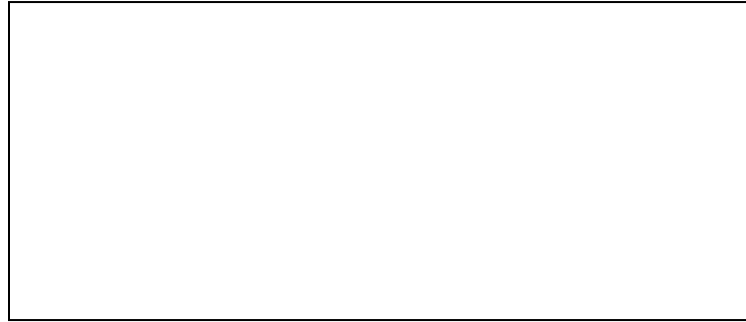
Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 7
Waite Park, MN

Phone: 320-252-7880

Email: silverstarpost428@gmail.com

www.waiteparklegion428.com

Return Service Requested



We Need Your Help!

Thank you for keeping our records up to date and letting us know your preferences in receiving this newsletter by email or by US mail. We'd appreciate if you could also know if any of the below apply to you:

- If you are a snowbird and want to give us seasonal addresses with start & stop dates
- If you have a change of physical address or email address
- If you have dropped your landline and have a cell phone number
- If this newsletter is going to a member who is deceased

Email your info to: marsha.bible@gmail.com or tavfern@gmail.com and mark the subject as **Post 428.**

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Feb 2 Four Chaplains Sunday
Feb 6 Legion Exec Board Meeting 6 PM
SAL Squadron Meeting 6 PM
Post Meeting 6:30 PM – **Moose Lodge**
- Feb 8 Dept. Sweetheart Rally – Royalton Post 137
Feb 8 6th District Oratorical Competition –
Nisswa Post 627
- Mar 6 Legion Exec Board Meeting 6 PM
SAL Squadron Meeting 6 PM
Post Meeting 6:30 PM – **Moose Lodge**
- Mar 8 Dept Appreciation Rally & Exec Board
Chanhassen Post 580
- Mar 15 **THE AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY**
Mar 14-15 SAL Spring Conference – Rochester Post 446
Mar 24-28 National American Legion Commander
Tour of Minnesota
- April 24-27 MN Legion College – Camp Ripley
April 26-27 MN Dept Bowling Tournament –
Sundance Lanes – Dayton, MN