

BENTON-SHERBURNE

County Council

Location: **Big Lake**

Time: **7:30 pm**

Date: **Monday, 20 July 2026**

Topics: Department Convention

District website - <https://mn6thdistrict.org/>

Sick Call: Jerry Takle, Allan Kuiper

Next Meeting: Foley – 21 September 2026

Clear Lake – 16 November 2026 (Palmer House)

Becker – 18 January 2027

Zimmerman – 21 March 2027 **

Elk River – 17 May 2027

Big Lake - 19 July 2027

2026-2027 Officers

Commander: Bill Hannay (612-325-2455)

Vice Commander: John Riebel (763-275-0256)

Chaplain: Rev Walter Eads Jr (Walter.eads@gmail.com)

Finance: Richard Wingard 763-238-3073

Sgt-at-Arms: Ken Johnstone (320-371-1559)

Adjutant: open

Activities:

Becker:

Big Lake:

Clear Lake:

Elk River:

Foley:

Rice:

Sauk Rapids:

Zimmerman:

Cmdr Hannay called the regular 20 July 2026 meeting of the Benton-Sherburne County Council at Big Lake at 7:33 pm with 18 present

Minutes of the 18 May 2026 were posted. Finance report - \$1219.08. Dues are due. \$20.00. (Clear Lake & Big Lake have paid)

Roll call of Posts: Becker-6, Big Lake-5, Clear Lake-3, Elk River-2, Foley-0, Rice-0, Sauk Rapids-1, Zimmerman-2.

Roll call of officers: Cmdr Hannay-p, V. Cmdr Riebel-a, Finance Wingard-p, Chaplain Eads-p, S @ A Johnstone-p, Adj (Open) Acting Michele p

Special Guest: Frank Grittner Sub Commander 9th and 6th District ? (will be going to Indianapolis to find out where is going) and Wendy Grittner -Dept Membership Chair 2026-2027. [Pam Krill – New Dept Commander her projects are Fund 85 and Bravo, Zulu House (Sober Living program with PTSD & Substance abuse)], Walter Earns (BL) District Chaplain, Dave Anderson District SAL Sergeant of Arms (Becker), Shelly Alger-Peyton (CL) District Poppy Chair, Michele Smith (ER) District Chaplain.

Frank and Wendy Commander/President's project was ATV and Safety Equipment was able to buy 4 youth and 2 were donated by 2 posts. Two more ATV would be nice to have, the HWY Patrol and DNR is who does the training at Legionville.

Becker Commander received a certificate from NTL for 100% membership before Dec 31st

Wendy would thank for all the donations for her August workshop – she is using the Survivor Theme.

Dave Anderson stated that the Department convention was not well attended. The Becker Post will host the District SAL Convention 2027.

A discussion of the disagreement with the Legion and the VFW regarding a bill. We all need to read the bill and voice our concerns to our Representative. (regarding tinnitus and sleep apnea service connected but no disability check going forward). The Veterans on the Hill is good, but we need to do more. Still fighting for property tax reduction. NTL Guard and reserve are now accepted in the State Cemeteries.

Becker: Freedom Days \$9,000, Post garage sales wrapping up early \$6,000, it is good will offering from the community, the left over is open to the community and they call in Veteran Organization to pick thru what they want. Color Guard request go thru Commander. SAL – Chris, June Freedom days \$2,789 food: **Upcoming Events:** Sept 12th 2.2Miles Ruck March and 26th a Pig Feed.

Big Lake: We conducted colors for Big Lake Baseball kickoff, 9-Legion Baseball games, Spud Fest parade, Big Lake music in the park, Carefree July 4th parade and joined with other sixth District Legions for the Sherburne County Fair Parade, also our Chaplain marched in the Monticello Parade, Memorial Day Services 200 people attended. We attended Jim Bruns Celebration of life.

We retired approx. 100 flags at our Annual Flag Day Retirement

Help Legionnaire with MS putting skirting and rocks around the buildings to keep out the critters.

We attending an open house for Veterans and Saron Lunthna youth at Gateway Meadows Equine open house Gambling continues with Bingo, Meat raffles, E-Tabs and pull tabs

Upcoming Events: 10 Aug. Agent Orange Awareness Day Ceremony, 16 Aug. Take a Vet Fishing at Big Lake, 11 Sept. Patriot Day Flag Line on the 14/15 Bridge sunrise to noon

Auxiliary: 2026 Poppy Days were record-breaking year! 9 Auxiliary, 11 Post 147 members ad 1 volunteer donated 104.5 hours at ten Big Lake businesses collecting \$7,481.01 in donations. Members participated in the Memorial Day services at Big Lake Cemetery and hosted a community picnic catered by Style Catering. Big Lake Trap Shoot Team parents and members assisted with set-up. Held elections on 6-2-2026 with installation (and pizza!) at our July 7th membership meeting. We granted our 97-year-old senior member, Deli Stein, her wish to ride in a convertible for the Spud Fest Parade on June 27th. We took Deli to lunch at The Thirsty Bison following the parade and had fun trying our luck playing pull tabs sponsored by Post 147 charitable gambling. Seven Auxiliary members also marched in the annual July 4th Carefree County Club parage. 2027 Auxiliary membership drive is on-going and members renewing their memberships by our October 6th membership meeting are eligible for the early Bird drawing that reimburses the winner their \$43.00 annual dues. Treasurer, Gloria VandeBrake attended the 6th District Convention while Kathy was out of town for funerals and

represented Unit 147 at the Dept Convention. Gloria also contacted Big Lake Legion and Auxiliary about sponsoring an Agent Orange Awareness event. That date is scheduled in Big Lake for August 10th and a planning meeting to finalize details is set for July 19th.

Clear Lake: Great turn out for members and new members coming to the meetings, new protocols, new Sgt of Arms, flag retirement (have done this before), Had a ceremony for the 6 new members, July 4th Pontoon Ride Boat Parade and BBQ @ Shelly's house. Bud wore a Uncle Sam hat and waved at people. **Upcoming Events:** McDonalds sell Pork Chop and Brats Aug 6-8th give back to the city of Palmer. Sept 12th Palmer Days – parade, car show, Kemps ice cream, popcorn and 5K @8am. Auxiliary – 18 entries for the Boat Parade Poppy Day - \$80-90 in a jar at a gas station, Barb (Becker) and Mary Jo (CL) did 4 hours and it received \$80.00. Using the color books on the ala website. Also handed out stickers and candy.

Elk River: Memorial Day- 8 cemeteries, 2 memorials than marching to River Edge Parade. Flag day – 5 burn barrels. Completed the County Fair 3 beer gardens. Thank you to Becker color guard. Riders – several members showed up to an event won the traveling trophy. Had to go to Clear Water to get it back. It can be taken after 5 days as long as you have 3 people to take it. Gambling has been changed from Zimmerman Fire Department to the VFW 5518. Dual members to work together. **Auxiliary** – Twin Game with Koehler raising the flag, Car Show and Sock Hop Sept 19, Veteran Review Sept 24, Rib Fest 10-3.

Foley: none attended

Rice: none attended

Sauk Rapids: Participated programs – 2 parades, Brat Sales \$800ish profit. **Upcoming Events:** Aug 1st Color Guard at St Cloud Rocks baseball game, Auxiliary Brat Sale Aug 7th and 8th Coborn's will have a meal deal.

Zimmerman: Memorial Day – Wild West Days – Flag Day retired along with MN over 850 flags. The Post was closed for a week (first week of July) for repairs. New elevator should be done July 20-24th. Second amendment Bingo and Purse Bingo this fall

Additional Conversation: Dept Convention – Ad hoc District Lines – resolution 90% shot down. Need to come from a post not a committee. It will be relooked at 2030 after National Convention. Once the Ad hoc had completed their resolution the committee should be done.

Walter – Thank you for invitations for being at all events.

What happened – St Cloud 3 July 2026, Lake George celebration 6:00 pm Police Officers took care of the situation a flag flown upside down is a signal for distress.

Jerry Takle has stepped down from Adjutant, he has been doing it for 45 years.

Sick Call: Jerry Takle (ER), Allan Kuiper (ER), Jim Bruns (BL), Dewayne Peterson (Becker)
Funeral: Dewayne Peterson (Becker) 11:30 Orrock

**** Participation needs to happen in the County Council meeting in order to have the meetings at your Post.****

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Next Meeting - Foley – 21 September 2026 7:30 pm

Open
Adjutant
Michele Smith (Acting)

Bill Hannay
Commander