

ing.”
 His skill at boxing allowed him to pick the site of his next school. “I picked Hutchinson, Kansas, because it was closest to my girlfriend in Mankato. Everybody told me that all they’ve got there is wind.”

The trainees at Hutchinson were flying the Boeing Stearman Model 75, or NS2, a bi-plane that was a common trainer during the war. The wind was a real challenge in landing a plane. “I was laughing at another student because he came down the airstrip with one wing dragging. But the next time I landed, I was also dragging a wing. When I stopped, I jumped out and looked at it very closely. I didn’t want to get kicked out for a damaged wing.”

Nordgren did well and finally made it to Pensacola, Florida, for his final schooling. “On my way there, we stopped in New Orleans, and I thought I’d get a commercial shave. I really didn’t understand how southerners felt about northerners, but when I was done with my shave I was bleeding all over, like a stuck pig. That’s how I looked when I showed up in Pensacola to report.”

At Pensacola, he flew the Voltee Valiant, usually called the Voltee Vibrator by the pilots, and the SNJ, the Navy’s equivalent of the most-used trainer in the war, the AT-6.

Training came to a conclusion at Barin Field, just north in Alabama. “They called it Bloody Barin because there were so many crashes. There were some French pilots coming through. They didn’t follow any of the rules about flying at a certain altitude or anything else. A lot of them just ran into each other.”

Nordgren didn’t set out to be a fighter pilot. “It was what the Navy needed at that time.” He was sent to Daytona Beach to learn to fly the Grumman F6F Hellcat, the Navy’s newest and best fighter in the latter half of the war.

By August, 1944, he was in Glenview Naval Air Station near Chicago to learn how to fly off carriers on Lake Michigan. Next stop was San Diego, and then up to Washington State to join his squadron, VF-50. Then it was on to Klamath Falls, Ore., for more training. Then back to California.

“I was beginning to wonder if I’d ever go to war.”

On June 13, 1945, the squadron embarked on the USS Cowpens, CVL-25. The “Mighty Moo,” an Independence-class light carrier, steamed for the Philippines, and along the way stopped by Wake Island, still held by the Japanese.

“They told us the Japs had held the place quite a long while, and they were pretty good at shooting at Navy planes. They told us to not let it be a casual experience. Apparently they wanted to burn down Wake Island if they could. It was not that serious a target.”

The carrier was built on the hull of a cruiser. “It would pitch and roll all the time. I did 100 career landings, and each one I did on the Cowpens was different. The signal officer had to be pretty sharp as well as the pilot.”

Once in the western Pacific, the Cowpens joined Task Force 58 under Admiral Halsey, and began to attack the mainland of Japan. By this time, the Japanese air power was just about wiped out.

“The Japanese would send a patrol plane out, and we’d try to shoot them down, which we usually did. I don’t know why they kept sending those patrols, they can’t have gotten many messages back.”

Nordgren never got a chance to shoot at an opposing aircraft, “although I shot up a lot of airplanes on the ground.” The Cowpens had 15 torpedo bombers and 25 fighters, and lost only three planes on that final cruise.

One of the worst incidents happened with a pilot came in for a landing with a full belly tank, a no-no in carrier procedure. “He hit the cable and the belly tank kept on going. When it hit the propeller it exploded. Two engineers from the bowels of the ship had just come up on deck to get some fresh air, and they were both killed.”

Another interesting experience was his first night landing. “The safety officer for our squadron forgot to drop his wheels, which meant the rest of us had to circle in the dark until his plane was hauled forward of the barrier.”

On July 25, which happened to be Nordgren’s father’s birthday, he joined the rest of the squadrons from the five carriers in the task force on a major attack on the Japanese mainland.

“There were over 200 aircraft and we were heading for Kure Harbor, which was the Pearl Harbor for the Japanese Navy.”

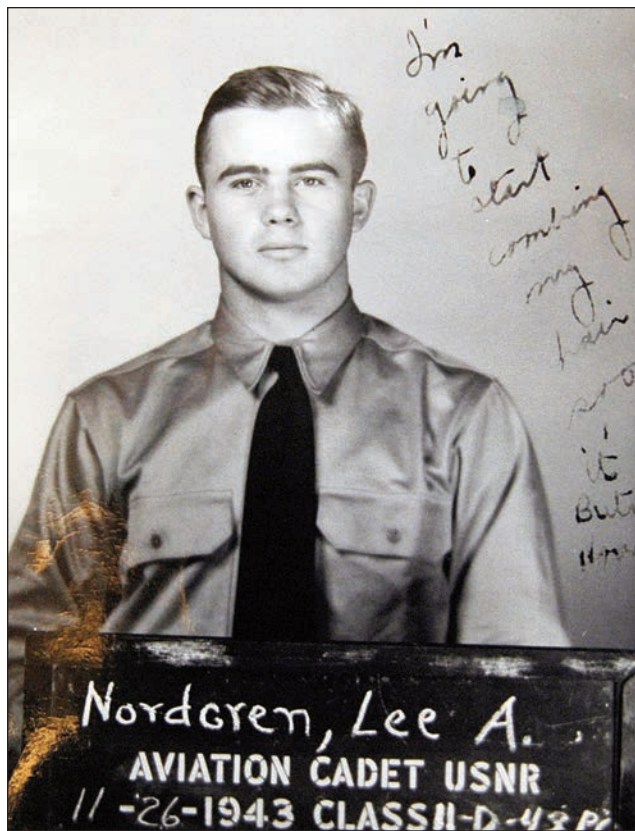
The trouble was the weather on all sides was closing in, causing the American planes to bunch up closer and closer until the entire operation was a disorganized mess. “If any Japanese fighters had gone in there, it would have been a turkey shoot.”

The Navy finally aborted the entire mission, but Nordgren was flying wing on another pilot, Lt. Charles Dodson. Dodson decided he wanted to do the mission anyway. “He was seeking a target of opportunity. He wanted to blow something up besides the water.

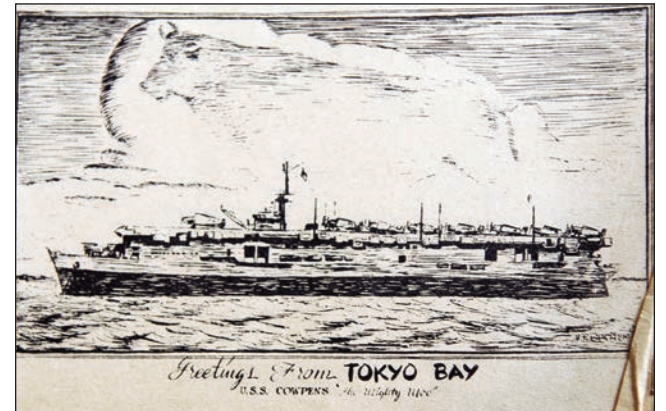
“And away we went into the bad weather. We had to stay very close so we wouldn’t lose each other, and flying that close is a hairy experience. We were on instruments in the clouds. There’s an ugly feeling when you’re in the clouds, and nothing seems right. You just have to trust the instruments.”



The USS Cowpens, the “Mighty Moo,” was named after a Revolutionary War battle, much like the Yorktown or the Lexington. It was built on the hull of a cruiser, thus the odd bow of the ship. Cowpens was the first carrier to enter Tokyo Bay at the end of the war with Japan.



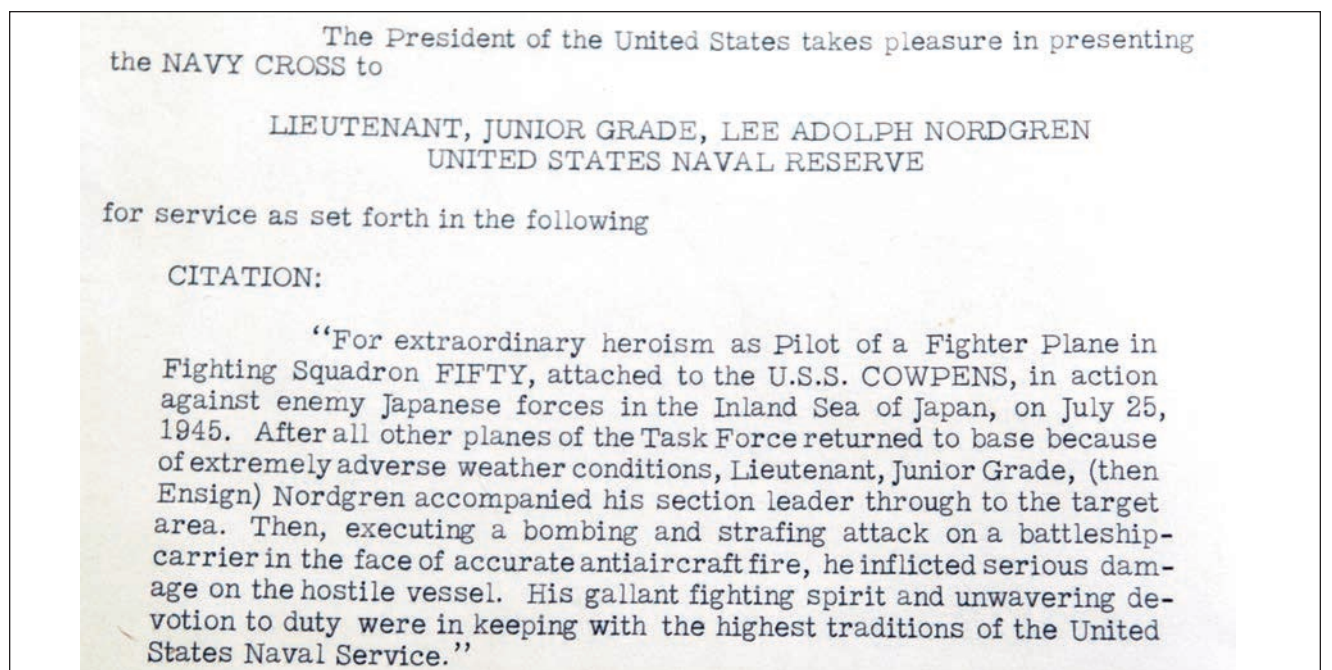
Nordgren had an official photo taken in November, 1943 when he was an aviation cadet. He wrote on the side of the photo that he was going to start combing his hair with Butch Wax.



A postcard was made up showing the Cowpens in Tokyo Bay.



Nordgren is shown with his cadet class at Mason City, Iowa, in 1943. He was third from the right in the front row.



The citation for Nordgren’s Navy Cross was signed by the secretary of the Navy John L. Sullivan.

“On the west side of the storm, we broke out of the clouds. I pulled out my plotting board map and looked, and I told Dodson we were at Kure Harbor. The Japanese anti-aircraft gunners didn’t bother us until we dumped our noses and headed in.”

Dodson radioed Nordgren and said, “We’ll spread out and attack. Two planes instead of 200.” The two pilots could see a very large ship anchored in the harbor. It was a Japanese battleship.

“As we went in, we were firing our machine guns. Now machine guns aren’t going to do much to a battleship, but that did keep the gun cameras rolling.”

The two dropped their bombs, and one landed on each side of the ship. “We didn’t get a direct hit, but I’m sure we did some damage.”

The battleship Ise was sunk three days later in another attack.

Dodson came out of the attack high and over a Japanese airfield where the anti-aircraft fire was even more intense. Nordgren took a different exit strategy where the firing was lighter, but that didn’t ease his mind.

“Our Hellcats had a device called a YE-ZB that would indicate to our carriers that when we came in we were friendlies. Otherwise, they’d blow you out of the sky. The trouble was, the YE-ZB on my plane wasn’t working. The only way I could return to the fleet was with Dodson.”

Dodson survived the heavy flak, though, and both pilots made it back to the Cowpens. “Obviously, we should have been killed and no one would have ever known what happened to us. As it was, when we got back to the Cowpens, everyone said, ‘Where the hell have you been?’ We landed hours after everybody else. Lt. Dodson said, ‘We attacked Kure Harbor.’ No one believed him until we showed them the film from my gun camera.”

They were each awarded a Navy Cross.

“Somebody said that it was the only time a Navy Cross was ever given out for disobeying orders.”

On Aug. 15, the squadron was on a mission to destroy a hydro-electric plant that supplied Tokyo. “On our way, they radioed us that the war was over, and we should dump our bombs in the water. I looked out and a bomb came down from a plane above me and just missed my wing.” That would have been a bad way to end the war.

The Cowpens was the first American carrier to enter Tokyo Harbor, and while steaming in the harbor the pilots flew missions over Japan trying to find the POW camps holding Americans.

The air wing established a base for the carrier’s planes at Yokosuka near Tokyo and the men from the Cowpens may have been the first Americans to set foot on Japan at the conclusion of the hostilities.

“I was the duty officer that first night in Japan. I slept in the Japanese admiral’s bed. I could look out the window and there was a big cave right there. I had this vision of a Japanese soldier coming out of that cave in a banzai attack. I slept with my pistol right beside me on the bed. It’s a good thing I didn’t have to use it or I probably would have shot my foot off.”

On Aug. 28, Nordgren and another Hellcat pilot landed at a grass airstrip near Niigata, Japan, on the northwest corner of the main island of Honshu. They were the advance team to let the American POWs at Camp 5-B know that help was on the way.

“We were the advance team for Commander Stassen. Bill Sutherland was my wingman. Nobody knew what was going to happen. I suppose the Navy thought it was better if they killed a couple of ensigns rather than a commander.”

Commander Harold Stassen, the former governor of Minnesota, had devised a plan to liberate the 35,000 or so American POWs in camps all over Japan, and he personally went to many of the camps to make the plan work.

“We landed and the people gathered around our planes. I had those little four-packs of cigarettes with me and I started handing them out. The people said, ‘Oh, Chesterfields.’ They were happy.

“I had to try and make them understand that we needed transportation to the POW camp, and that was very difficult. We ended up riding on a water truck to the camp.

“What I saw there turned my stomach. The men were so emaciated. We stood up on a table and talked to them. I asked if they had any questions. The first thing they wanted to know about was baseball. Imagine all that time in Japanese camps – some of those guys had been prisoners for four years – and the first thing you want to know about is baseball. I didn’t know a blame thing about baseball, and I turned and said, ‘Bill, you’re going to have to help out here.’ So, Bill got up and told them everything about that baseball season and they ate it up.”

The two pilots went back to their planes that night because they were concerned about the safety of the aircraft. The two atomic bombs had been dropped about three weeks earlier, and there was some ill feeling in Japan about Americans. “We slept in the cockpits.”

The next day, Nordgren went back to the camp but came down with a severe throat infection. It was also the day that Stassen arrived at the camp, and made arrangements for the prisoners to be transported to Tokyo on Japanese trains.

“The camp doctor said I should go on the train too because I was so sick. I slept in the camp that night. I was



Nordgren and other pilots pose in front of a F4U Corsair at the Naval Air Station in Minneapolis. Nordgren stayed in the Navy Reserve for 27 years and retired as a commander.



On July 25, 1945, the Navy canceled a 200-plane attack on Kure Harbor in Japan because of foul weather. Lieutenant Charles Dodson, who was the section leader, pressed on despite the orders, and Nordgren, his wingman, went with him. Both earned the Navy Cross for their attack on a Japanese battleship.

tormented by the bugs in the camp. I couldn’t stand it for one night, and those guys had been there for months.”

Nordgren declined the train offer, and instead, despite his illness, flew his plane back to Yokosuka Naval Base, and then took a boat out to the Cowpens. “I was in the sick-bay for three or four days.”

With his Navy Cross giving him enough points to get out early, Nordgren took advantage of an offer to go home on a transport ship, the General Sturgis. “I was the only guy on the ship who didn’t get seasick. But on the way home I got in a bridge game with three Army guys, and they took me for \$200. I realized later they were in cahoots.”

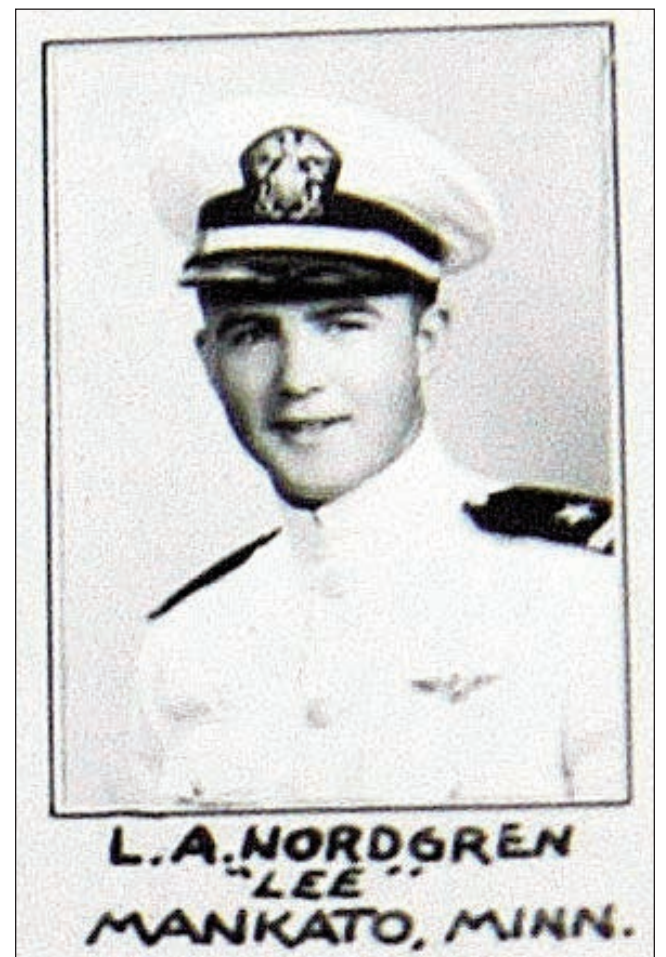
Nordgren was home by October, 1945. He had been elevated to lieutenant junior grade, and he decided, after his discharge, to stay in the Navy Reserves. He remained in the reserves for 27 years and finally retired as a commander.

He never regretted his choice of joining the Navy, and scoffed if anyone thought it was particularly dangerous. “Going into the woods with a fixed bayonet is what’s really crazy. It’s a lot more dangerous.”

Once, when he was on a two-week summer assignment to Bemidji, one of his peers came in and told him that they had arranged for him to engage in a dogfight the next day with two P-51s from the Minnesota Air National Guard.

“I said, ‘Oh, thanks a lot.’ Everybody figured I’d get my can whipped. I was flying a beat up old Hellcat, while they were flying these beautiful, sleek P-51 Mustangs.

Nordgren took them on one at a time, and beat them



Nordgren trained with VF-33 in Daytona Beach, Florida, on how to fly the Navy’s major fighter at that time, the Hellcat.

both.

“The commanding officer for our group, a lieutenant commander, came up to me later and said, ‘I’m sending you back to Minneapolis. You know it’s a violation to do inter-service dogfights. You’re going to lose your commission and your pay.’

“But the chief petty officer of the group went and talked to the other enlisted men, and came back to the CO and said, ‘If Lt. Nordgren goes back to Minneapolis, we decided we’re all going back. This is the first time in a long time that we’ve been proud of the U.S. Navy.’”

The CO relented and instead Nordgren was assigned to do tower duty for the rest of his time in Bemidji. When he got back to Minneapolis, he was greeted by the base’s commander. “He shook my hand, and said he’d heard of what I done. He said, ‘If you ever do it again I’ll have your ass.’”

To earn a living over those years, Nordgren went back to the photo business, eventually taking over for his father. He greatly expanded the business and started selling cameras in Mankato. He finally sold the business in 1995.

He married his high school sweetheart, Donna, and they had five children, three girls and two boys. He played tennis until he was 80, and he is the longest standing member of the Mankato Kiwanis Club. He joined in 1950.

He and Donna live in an apartment in Mankato, the same town they grew up in.

District Commanders

FIRST DISTRICT

**Myron Ehrich
Commander**



Greetings from the Big Red First. The National Convention is in the books now. Camp-O-Ree at Legionville had another great year. This was my first time that I was able to attend. I had a very good time with all the other Districts. Harvest Rally was on Saturday as well. October will be busy as we have the Fall Conference at Mahanomen on the 24th and the 25th. And we can't forget about Halloween for the little ones. Let's all hope for good weather for the night of tricks and treats. I wish to thank Kellogg Post 546 for having me to their Watermelon Day activities on Sunday August 7th. I had a good time talking with everyone. I will close for now. Let's keep our service men and women in our prayers so that they will come home to us. God Bless America.

SECOND DISTRICT

**Jennifer Kafka
Commander**



As I've said before my goals as your 2nd District Commander this year are to improve the visibility of The American Legion throughout our district and increase our numbers through personal contact with members and former members of the active and reserve forces. This will take hard work and enthusiasm at every level. We have the best opportunity that we have enjoyed in years but to recruit the veterans we must have to remain relevant in our communities, state, and nation. The younger generation volunteered to serve. We must help them to understand how they can continue to serve America as members of our organization. Each Post in 2nd District is unique in its character, facilities, size and history. This can present challenges as well as opportunities for growing your membership. I will not tell you that "one size fits all." Your uniqueness can also be a source of strength. You have all done this before. Use what worked and discard what didn't. Utilize your contacts outside the Legion to get your story out. If you haven't already done so, ask one of your younger members (Legion, Auxilliary, or Sons of AL) to get your organization on Facebook and keep the site active with stories and pictures of your activities. If you have a Legion Riders group in your area, help them organize a ride that starts, ends, or visits your facility. And, of course, ask... the best that could happen is you get a new member and family member. For God and Country.

THIRD DISTRICT

**Duane Anderson
Commander**



Greetings from the Thundering Third. The most rewarding activity for me since last month, of course, was attending the 96th National American Legion Convention in Charlotte North Carolina. As all the commanders had the same experience, I won't go into much detail as to activities attended, etc. as they are covered by several different Legion publications. I will however, express what a great and rewarding experience it provided for my wife Jane and myself. One of these is being able to see all the positive things The American Legion is able to accomplish over the last year and the many years preceding this event. The good that is accomplished by our organization for veterans, children, veteran's families and communities is truly impressive to see and experience. This organization is truly a great one and we should all be proud to be a part of it. To see and hear the youth, business people and company owners that we recognize as being good for our country, makes one think that we still have a lot of positives here at home and it is truly a great place to live. I have started to visit some of the posts in my district as time is allowing. Membership dinners and district rallies are starting to take up more time. Until next month, Embrace Change/Maintain Mission.

FOURTH DISTRICT

**Dan Williams
Commander**



Greetings from the "Fabulous Fourth." Outstanding National Convention, Past Department Commander Mike Ash. Reminder: This year, Shop, Ship and Share will be held at Maplewood Mall Friday, November 21st, 12 Noon until 5:00 PM and Saturday, November 22nd 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM. Shop, Ship and Share is the event where and when we send gifts to Minnesota troops who are deployed. We hope to see you there and thank you for your support. To help now, with postage, you may send a donation to: Fourth District Headquarters, North St. Paul Post 39, 2678 East 7th Avenue, North St. Paul, MN 55109. Our 2014-2015 4th District team: 1st Base (Area 1) Larry Johns, 2nd Base (Area 2) Darrin Ewing, 3rd Base (Area 3) Randy Bastyr, Pitching (Membership) Mickey Ostrum, Short-Stop (Chaplain) Carl Renalls, Catching (Adjutant) Mike Ash, Right Field (Finance Officer) Robin Picray, Center Field (Judge Advocate) Roger Ball, Left Field (Historian) Teresa Ash, Lead-off Batter (Sergeant At Arms) John Grams, Batting Second (Past Commander) Carroll "Bird" Partridge, Batting Third (President) Joan Strack and Designated Hitter (SONS) Lawrence Dean. These are our first-string players. You will meet more key players as the year unfolds. Okay Fabulous Fourth, let's win the pennant and the title for 2014 - 2015.

FIFTH DISTRICT

**Wayne Glanton
Commander**



Membership is what we are about, greetings from the 5th District. The first month as being District Commander has been busy. I was unable to attend the National Convention due to my wife being sick. Bob Johnson our past Commander did attend and had a sick spell while there and was given the best care possible and is now home and is in good health. Dan Dowidat was our Chaplain for 30 years at the VA Hospital passed away. I must give credit to the Minnesota Legion Riders and their scholarship fund that provides College tuition to children who have lost a soldier in the arm services. The 5th District was invited to march in St. Helen Parade. We gave out wrap candy and also small flags were given to the kids. As Commander I rode in a 1956 Ford, which had been completely restored like new. They also had a carnival in the parking lot for the kids. It was really nice to see all of the baseball coverage in the Legionnaire. We are looking forward to going to Shooting Star Resort in October.

SIXTH DISTRICT

**Carl Moon
Commander**



I hope that everyone who had the opportunity to attend the Harvest Rally at Legionville had a wonderful time. The weather was picture perfect and the food was great. But the main question begs to be asked: Why did the chicken want to cross the road? The answer: He did not want to get hit by the Home Run ball hit by the 6th District in Membership Turn-In. As I stated in my last article, I told you so. Keep up the pressure on trying to beat us, as Jim and I are looking forward to your challenges. Congratulations to Department Membership Director Logan and Commander Peggy for coaching us into First Place Nationally. As Peggy has told me, It is a team effort, and what a line-up we have this year. I have already started receiving donations to my project, Legionville, and I am hoping we can raise at least \$10,000 towards getting this project completed. I have decided that any monies the District receives in membership awards this year will be donated to my project. So please keep those donations coming in and again, thank you. As I travel around our District, I am blown away by what our posts do for their communities and for our fellow veterans. This is what the Legion is all about and what we should be promoting when we ask veterans to join. Don't forget, Be proud and be loud and just ask a veteran to join. Our second Executive Board will be on Sunday October 19th at the Long Prairie Legion. Luncheon at noon and meeting to follow. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Conference, October 23-25 at the Shooting Star Casino, in Mahanomen. Everybody keep up the great work and let's help keep Minnesota # 1.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

**Victor Gades
Commander**



Greetings from the 7th District. Time sure flies. It just seems like yesterday that we were attending the Fall rally at Legionville. It is good to see the progress being made on the new building. Fall Conference is approaching. There is still time to make plans to attend. It would be great to have every post be represented. So many items are covered at each conference. Your attendance allows you to weigh in on matters that affect you and The American Legion. Staying home won't help fellow veterans or future veterans. "Thank You" to all members that have renewed their memberships. "Thank You" to all adjutants and membership directors for getting transmittals submitted to Department. Keep up the good work. Let's not forget to make plans for your Post activities on Veterans Day. It may seem a long way off, but it will be here faster than you anticipate. Do not forget those who have given up time or their lives to allow us the freedoms that we now enjoy. God bless our Nation and keep our troops healthy and safe.

NINTH DISTRICT

**Thomas Norgaard Sr.
Commander**



Greetings to all the 9th District Legionnaires. I just got home from our Membership Rally in Oslo. To say the least, it was very disappointing. The District Representatives were myself, Jasen Hruza and Eric Wilkens. The Oslo Legion had 5 members. The District ladies had 5 people while the Oslo ladies numbered 8. The Legion turned in 53 memberships and the Auxiliary turned in 353. I have a few duties left in September and October has the 6 & 9 Rally on the 4th at Cross Lake, a membership supper at Moorhead and the Department Fall Conference the 24th & 25th at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen. This is the best and closest chance for anyone to learn more about the Legion and its programs. I would like to talk a little about my Commander's Project this year. The Vietnam Veterans at the Fergus Falls Veterans Home would like to get a Pool Table at the Home. The cost is about 7 to 9 thousand dollars. I would like to get \$2,500 in donations from the posts in the district. Also, if every post would 'pass the hat' once or twice at your better attended functions and ask everyone to chip in \$1 or more, this project could get finished in a year. The Fergus Falls VFW is having a raffle and expects to raise \$2,000.00 for the Project. Until next month, God bless our Troops, our Veterans and this wonderful land we call home, the United States of America.

TENTH DISTRICT

**Tom Sanders
Commander**



Greetings American Legion Family. Here we are into another month already and the fun never seems to stop. Legionville was a huge success last month. The 10th District served over 110 campers at the Camp-o-ree Pigoast. I do not have a total, but the 10th District will be giving the Department Commander a nice donation check for Legionville, at the Fall Conference, in Mahanomen. I want to thank all of you involved putting on the roast. It takes a lot of volunteers to do this, and special thanks to Tom Allen for bringing up the tent for the rally, and his roaster for the Pigoast. Tom has done this for the last unteen years and worked his behind off, caps off to you. The 10th District has a combined Project with the Auxilliary, the Squadron, Jr. Auxilliary and American Legion Riders. Our Project is "Helping Paws". Trained Canines are put with Veterans that need special help with Post Traumatic Stress. This has been going on for many years and I feel this is a very deserving project. We accept any donations from the American Legion Family or anyone that wants to help our cause. As always I wish to thank the 10th District Membership Team for keeping us on track. We are doing well so far with Membership, but, we could always be doing better. You "Blue Cappers," keep up what you are doing. It works. Until next month, For God and Country.

Listening Post

News from around the State



FALLDIN SCHOOL SUPPLIES -- Minneapolis Falldin Post 555 delivered school supplies to seven schools in September. From left to right at the Columbia Heights Academy Elementary School were Virgil Persing, Assistant Principal John Awscumb, Ray Eiden, Chuck Kirk, Donovan Ortel, Social Worker Melissa Sieblel, and Assistant Principal Rick Ostly.



OSSEO DONATION -- Osseo Post and Unit 172 donated \$5,000 to the Fisher House in Minneapolis. From left are Osseo members: Alternate NECman Marland Ronning, Department President Chris Ronning, and Gambling Manager Dick Kolb, and SAL Detachment Commander Dennis Henkemeyer. The Fisher House is Henkemeyer's project for the year.



CLAREMONT COMMANDER -- An open house and retirement party were held for Claremont Post 422 Commander Lloyd Wobbrock, 80. He has been commander since 1989.



CLEAR LAKE STAND -- Clear Lake Post 354 had a successful smoked chicken stand during Palmer Days in September.



MILLVILLE HONORS -- Dick Grobe presents Francis Appel with a certificate for 60 years membership with Millville Post 579.

Taps

Heckman, Rodney, 91, Marine Corps veteran of World War II, died Sept. 22, 2014. He was a past commander of the Second District, 1976-77. He served as Watonwan County Veterans Service Officer. He served on the drill team and was past commander of St. James Post 561.

Kammermeyer, Frank, 92, Army veteran of World War II, died Sept. 3, 2014. He served in Europe. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Van Gundy, E. Harold, 90, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 16, 2014. He served on the USS Bannon and was at Tokyo Bay when the treaty was signed. He was a member of Houston Post 423.

Gaustad, Alvin (Jimmy), 95, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 31, 2014. He was a member of Houston Post 423.

Sebring, Don Ordell, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 6, 2014. He served stateside as a counter-intelligence investigator. He was a member of Granite Falls Post 69.

Melby, Richard J., 69, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 3, 2014. He served in Thailand. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 117.

Sandquist, Alvin Leander, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 4, 2014. He was stationed in Korea and Japan. He was a member of Granite Falls Post 69.

Anderson, Eugene W., 90, Marine Corps veteran of World War II, died Sept. 2, 2014. He served in the South Pacific and Japan. He was a member of Post 1982.

Axford, Robert I., 82, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 30, 2014. He was a member of Windom Post 206.

Gasow, Morris Edward, 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 12, 2014. He was a member of Brownton Post 143.

Doucette, Howard, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 16, 2014. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Anderson, Marvin Earl, 88, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 5, 2014. He served on the hospital ship USS Relief. He was a member of Herman Post 378.

Michael Stevens, 90, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Sept. 12, 2014. He flew 50 combat missions in

a B-25 in Europe in World War II, earning a Distinguished Flying Cross and seven Air Medals. He and his crew set an around-the-world non-stop record, flying the equator in 47 hours and 19 minutes. He retired after 32 years in the Air Force as a colonel. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Wetzel, George P., 93, Marine Corps veteran of World War II, died Sept. 20, 2014. He fought at Iwo Jima, and witnessed the flag raising on Mt. Suribachi. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Loch, Clifford N., 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 15, 2014. He was a member of Eden Valley Post 381.

Gustner, Robert T. Jr., 89, Marine veteran of World War II, died Sept. 10, 2014. He fought on Iwo Jima, and saw both flag raisings on Mt. Suribachi. He was a member of Argyle Post 353.

Magner, Dale, 99, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 20, 2014. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 117.

Anderson, Robert J. "Rabs," 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 26, 2014. He served in Korea. He was a member of Rush City Post 93.

Enlund, Robert J., 81, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 20, 2014. He was a member of Deerwood Post 557.

Morgan, Roger J., 68, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 30, 2014. He served on the USS Boston. He was a member of Winona Post 9.

Shemon, Larry Lee, 70, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War and Army veteran of Desert Storm, died Aug. 30, 2014. He served as a SEAL in Vietnam, and later joined the Army Reserves. He was called up and served overseas. He was a member of McGregor Post 23.

Nosan, Vladimir Merco, 97, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 24, 2014. He served with the 95th Infantry Division in Europe and earned a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. He was a member of Chisholm Post 247.

Tindell, Evelyn M., 93, a WAC veteran of World War II, died Aug. 31, 2014. She was a radio operator and served in England. She was a member of Zimmerman Post 560.

Gaylord, Lloyd S., 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 1, 2014. He was a member of the Third Infantry Division. He fought in the battle at the Chosin Reservoir and badly froze his feet. He was a member of Blue Earth Post 89.

Lahr, Mathew W., 90, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Aug. 27, 2014. He was a member of Eden Valley Post 381.

Brandt, Edmund E., 86, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 9, 2014. He served in the Philippines and the Palawan Islands. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Armstrong, Earls, 96, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 26, 2014. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Kohlhoff, Harvey Leo, 90, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 9, 2014. He was a member of Elysian Post 311.

Obituary policy

Obituaries of members of the Legion Family will be published in the Minnesota Legionnaire in a monthly column under the heading "Taps."

Obituaries must be recent, within the last two months prior to the publication of the new edition of the Legionnaire. For example, the February edition would only contain obituaries from January and December.

While the obituaries are brief, the Legionnaire does seek certain information for our readers:

1. Complete name of deceased.
 2. Age at death.
 3. Branch of service and war or wars the veteran served in.
 4. Exact date of death.
 5. Additional information about the veteran's service background including unit, type of service, place of service, medals, etc.
 6. The post, unit or squadron the deceased belonged to.
 7. Additional information about Legion service including officer posts held.
- The Legionnaire reserves the right to edit all obituaries for style and brevity.

World War II Round Table at Fort Snelling

The British and Canadian landings on Sword, Juno and Gold

Americans have focused much attention through the years in movies and books about the U.S. part of World War II's Normandy Invasion — the landings at Omaha and Utah beaches.

The British and Canadian invasions at Sword, Juno and Gold beaches — and the drive inland — have not received as much scrutiny.

Canadian military historian John Nelson Rickard told the September meeting of the World War II Round Table at Fort Snelling about those landings and the eventual breakout. Later, an American bomber pilot told of his experiences on D-Day.

Rickard began by trying to explain Field Marshal Montgomery's strategy for the British and Canadians in the invasion. "You have to understand that Britain had taken some terrible defeats early in the war. They were kicked out of France and Norway, the Hood had been sunk, and there was the loss at Tobruk. Montgomery said that the nation could have no more defeats. You have to keep that in mind if his movements seemed slow."

The Canadians landed on Juno Beach on June 6, 1944, between two British armies on Sword and Gold beaches. The British Airborne had been dropped inland earlier that day and secured Pegasus Bridge and other key positions designed to keep the Germans from bringing up reinforcements.

The 3rd Canadian Division landed in two brigade groups and secured the beach after some tough fighting. The 9th Brigade landed later in the morning and began the drive inland.

"The Canadians were given one of the most difficult assignments in the invasion. They had the best ground for a breakout, but the Germans had the best ground for a counter-attack."

The Canadians ran smack into the experienced 21st Panzer Division.

An advantage the Canadians had was that they managed to land over 200 artillery pieces. "But all the forward observation officers got killed early on, and so for 24 hours there was no artillery support."

Rickard said the first day turned into an 'amazing race.' "How fast could we build up to push forward? How fast could the Germans build up to block us?" There was real concern that D-Day could turn into a stalemate similar to the landings at Anzio and Salerno.

Montgomery's strategy was fairly simple, Rickard said. It was to engage the German forces and continue to engage them so that the Americans could break out from the landing zones, head into France, and eventually pivot around the British and Canadians and drive toward Germany.

Rickard described the series of objectives and operations the British and Canadians had as they slowly pushed forward.

A big problem for the Canadians, he said, was that very few of their top officers had any combat experience. Major General Rodney Keller was in charge, but his decisions were questioned by others. "He was just at the point of being relieved when he was wounded by a bomb."

The bomb was dropped accidentally on the Canadian position by the United States bombers.

The British had two extremely seasoned and veteran units, the Desert Rats and the Highlanders, but both seemed to exhibit combat fatigue as the invasion proceeded.

The first major objective was the large city of Caen, and some historians have said it was supposed to be taken on the first day of the invasion in order to secure critical airfields just south of the city. Rickard disagrees. "Monty didn't really plan to take Caen the first day, and Monty didn't give a rat's you-know-what about those airfields." Instead, the fight for Caen went on for two months.

"Monty began to question those experienced divisions he brought back for the invasion."

Much of the action centered on Hill 112, and "it was a vicious, violent on-going battle." The 43rd Wessex Division had 7,000 casualties in 12 days.



Canadian soldiers land at Juno Beach on the outskirts of the town of Bernieres.

A huge bomber attack on Caen still did not dislodge the Germans from their positions, "but it did kill a lot of civilians. And the rubble in the northern suburbs made it difficult to pass through."

Montgomery never abandoned his plan to keep the enemy engaged. "He wanted to draw the Germans to us and give the U.S. a chance to move ahead." It was estimated that seven of Germany's ten armored divisions in France were engaged at Caen. That left the U.S. an opportunity, and Operation Cobra, begun at the end of July, was the major breakthrough that the Allies had planned on since the June 6 landings.

The Canadians still had a lot left to accomplish, though. They were assigned to move down the Falaise Road toward the city of Falaise. Operation Totalize was launched in mid-August. "It was an all-out effort. Every cook and bottle washer was involved. Everywhere they looked they were facing SS Panzer troops. One of the weaknesses of Keller's strategy was never bringing enough fire power to the objective."

But the Canadians pushed ahead, and by Aug. 21, the Falaise gap was closed as the Canadians and a Polish army closed with the U.S. Forces. A large part of the German Army was trapped, but many succeeded in retreating.

By Aug. 25, the liberation of Paris was complete, and by Aug. 30, the Allies controlled everything west of the Seine.

"The battle of Normandy was a matter of geometry," Rickard said. "The Allies had to get all the armies lined up abreast. They were finally able to do that."

The Canadians and British have been criticized by some for their slow gains in the summer of 1944, but Rickard said the two main objectives were accomplished. The Anglo forces engaged the bulk of the German defenses, allowing the U.S. to swing around and break out.

And it was all done on time. "We reached the Seine on D-Day plus 82. The plan was to get there on D-Day plus 90. So we got to where we were supposed to be before we were supposed to be there."

□□□□□□

Dick Brown served in the 584th Bomb Squadron of the 394th Bomb Group in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He was a pilot of a twin-engined B-26 bomber.

Brown said low level bombing had worked well in the South Pacific, but when the B-26's tried it in Europe, it didn't. "We sent bombers in at 300 feet over Holland, and they were all shot down. Then we didn't know what to do with them."

It was decided to try high level bombing. "Our formations were of six ships, with three above and three below. We would come in at 12,000 feet."

Brown, who flew 66 missions from March through September of 1944, said much effort was put into knocking out bridges. "But I'm afraid when we got into the middle of some cities, we killed a number of civilians."

"I flew my 33rd mission on D-Day. At midnight, the

weather was bad with a very low ceiling. We weren't told it was D-Day, but then we saw the C-47s pulling the gliders. I knew that must have been the day."

Brown noted that all the Allied aircraft that day were painted with alternating black and white stripes. It protected them from friendly fire.

"We left at 5 a.m. and went in at 11,000 feet and bombed Utah Beach. We hit the gun emplacements. I only saw one German fighter that day, and we only lost one of our 54 planes that day."

"We were supposed to drop our bombs by 6:25 and we dropped them at 6:24, just inside the window. I couldn't help but think about the soldiers below who were just beginning to land. 'You'll be digging foxholes in the sand, and I'll be back in England having my second breakfast.'"

He said the B-26s on all the missions flew in extremely tight formation. "We had a lot of guns pointing outward that way to discourage the Germans. We flew about 20 feet apart. We had some pretty close calls."

At St. Lo, the lead bomber opened his bomb bay doors, and one bomb accidentally fell off the rack and was dropped. "That was the signal for all of us to drop our bombs, and we did. We killed about 150 Americans."

"The next day, the American ground forces shot down three of our planes. Then the generals got together and said that was enough of that."

The original way for the bombers to avoid the anti-aircraft fire was to change course every 20 seconds because it took the German gunners longer than that to track the planes and aim their guns. "But our bombing wasn't very accurate and so the brass decided we should stay on course for one minute before we dropped. Then we started losing planes."

Brown said he had the nose blown off his plane twice, and he nearly lost his bombardier on one occasion. "He just pulled his head back and the whole nose came off the airplane."

On another mission his plane came back to England with over 100 holes caused by flak. "They told me to take a day off while they fixed the holes."

Brown had a high regard for the B-26 Marauders. "Another time, I had part of a wing blown off and I was still able to drive it home."

The pilots wore a flak suit, and Brown said that part of it was a lead apron. "But everyone knows that flak comes up, so what good is an apron? So I sat on it. On one mission the flak came through the plane and hit that apron I was sitting on. If it hadn't been there, I'd be talking in a really high voice."



JOHN NELSON RICKARD



DICK BROWN


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The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 15-1

President Chris Ronning

October 2014

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

Department Headquarters, Veterans Service Building, St. Paul, MN 55155 651-224-7634

The President's Column

By
Chris Ronning



The National Convention has come and gone and each year our national leadership is passed on to some very knowledgeable ladies. This is one of my favorite events and Minnesota is always very well represented.

I was invited by the ladies from the Barnesville Unit for a luncheon. Several Auxiliary members from other Units were also present. Then off to Legionville for a little fun and our first Department Rally. We had a great turn out and membership turn in. After residing in the Presidents cabin for a few days I think it will be hard to stay in the dorm next year.

Since then I have attended a Town Hall meeting at St. Cloud VA, attended the VA&R meeting held in Buffalo, Early bird dinners, Brain Science meeting, Legionville meeting and Past Presidents luncheon in Waite Park.

One of the dinners was held in Lewisville, what a great turn out for such a small town. We had a little entertainment by a Unit member that was 90 years old and played a couple of songs on the piano for us - I don't think she missed a key.

My calendar is filling up very fast and Marland and I will be traveling quite a bit. I am so excited to meet many of the Unit members throughout our great state.

Now it is time to get ready for our Fall Conference and buckle down. There is a lot of preparation to do and our Staff in the office are working hard to make it another successful Conference. This Conference is open to all members and as our Department Chairmen give their reports on their programs you will be able to ask questions, go home with new ideas and meet other Unit members. Each Unit member and Unit is unique in their own way and by sharing new ideas it might just rejuvenate other Units. This Conference is not just a learning experience, it is also a fun time. We all need a little laughter in our lives and Saturday morning is just the right time to do that as we again have our membership pay outs. Membership Chairman Judy Ackerman will make sure that everyone goes home with a smile. There will be memories and lots of knowledge to take home to your Unit members and maybe we will get more members to come to our Conferences and Convention.

In my travels I have crossed paths with our Department Commander Peggy Moon. You might have not noticed, but this lady always has a smile on her face and it is catching.

In October we celebrate Columbus Day and also the Statue of Liberty was dedicated on the 28th of October 1886. Since I have become an American Citizen she has always been THE LADY to me.

October is also Education month and Constitution and Bylaws month. You can find these documents in the Unit Mailing.

I hope to see many of you at the Conference and hope to get to talk to you for a few minutes. If you would like me to visit your Unit, let Secretary Sandie Deutsch know and I can put it on my calendar.

Keep our Service men and women in your prayers and let our government know just how important it is to us that they get the proper care and support they have earned to defend this country.

God bless.

Cory Schmidt, Blackduck, is 2014 Unit Member of Year

During the 2014 Department Convention held in Rochester this past July the prestigious Unit Member of the Year was awarded to Blackduck Unit 372 President Cory Schmidt by Department Past President Parley Chairman Marie Goede. The entry was submitted by members of the Blackduck Unit Past Presidents. Cory spends countless hours working on the Auxiliary Programs, running the Blackduck Unit and volunteering at everything that is put on by the Unit. The surprised look on her face showed us all how humbled she was. The entire Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary congratulates President Cory on her award.

2014 NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 94th annual National Convention came to its conclusion in Charlotte, North Carolina on Thursday, August 28, 2014, with the election and installation of our 2014-15 National officers. A total of 34 delegates were in attendance to carry on the business of the American Legion Auxiliary. Minnesota was represented by 34 delegates, 16 alternates and a number of guests.

Nancy Brown Park, National President, presided over the busy five days as the National Chairmen gave their reports, resolutions were considered and the newly elected officers were installed. Our congratulations to:

National President – Janet Jefford, Connecticut
National Vice President – Sharon Conatser, Illinois
National Chaplain – Karen Boehler, Colorado
National Historian – Lorraine “Rani” Gray, Vermont
National Vice President of the Northwestern Division – Lori Skallerud, Minnesota

National President Jefford has chosen as her theme: “Celebrating Faith, Family and Freedom.” We need to let our own members know what great things this organization does for veterans, children and our communities.

NATIONAL AWARDS

Minnesota proudly accepted the following National awards at our 2014 National Convention.

Americanism – Essay Contest winners:
Class III Carson Anderson, Unit 330 Hayfield District 1;
Class IV Claudina Williams, Unit 368 Backus District 6
Pass It On Membership Mission Award: Kathi Serocki, Unit 58 Browns Valley District 7
Education – NW Division - Department of Minnesota, Most Outstanding Overall Department Education Program - Department Chairman Louise Kleiboer.
Leadership- Distinguished Unit Award – (NW Division) – Department of Minnesota
Leadership Development Award – Joanne Joachim Unit 580 St. Bonifacius District 3
Legislation – NW Division – Most Outstanding Overall Department Legislative Program – Department Chairman Chris Ronning.
Membership – Milestone 1 (55%), Milestone 2 (70%), Milestone 3 (85) – Department of Minnesota
National Security – Military Support Award – Elsie Novotny, Shakopee Unit 2 District 3
Poppy – Poppy Poster Contest Class IV – Gemma Ivette

Fredrickson endorsed for 2015 President

Glenville American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 264, and the District 1 Executive Committee have endorsed Sandy Fredrickson for Department President for 2015-2016.

She is eligible through her husband, Dennis, a Vietnam veteran and her father, Arlington Hillman, deceased WWII veteran.

The Fredricksons have two sons and three grandsons, and a granddaughter.

She is employed as a RN, nurse case manager at

Mayo Clinic Health Systems, Albert Lea.

Fredrickson is a member of 1st Lutheran Church, Glenville where Sandy is the church council secretary.

She is a 34 year member of Glenville Unit and has served in almost every office and chairmanship. Fredrickson has also served in the chairs in District One serving as President 2002-2003. She serves as District treasurer this year.

She has been active at

Guitierrez, Winsted Unit 407 District 3

Public Relations – Unit Program Emphasis Award – Darlene Thell, Anoka Unit 102 District 10

Outstanding Public Relations Program Award – Judy Ackerman, Department Chairman

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation – Best Overall VA&R Program by a Unit Chairman: Cathy Newman, Anoka Unit 102 District 10

Field Service Volunteer Hours – (NW Division) Lynette Pavin, Anoka Unit 102, District 10

Home Service Volunteer Hours Award (SR) – (NW Division) Darlene Pavek, Pine City Unit 51 District 10

10,000 Hour Volunteer Award – Elaine Vogel, Avon Unit 326, District 6

20,000 Hour Volunteer Award – Mary Ann Davis, Lester Tjernlund Unit 451 District 4

Veterans Creative Arts Festival Award-Departments who have contributed \$5,000-\$14,999 to NVCAF Sept 1, 2013 – July 31, 2014-Department of Minnesota.

Congratulations to all of you for your outstanding accomplishments in the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

FALL CONFERENCE

The 82nd annual Fall Conference will be held October 23-25 at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen, hosted by the Bagley American Legion Family 16. All Auxiliary sessions will be held in Richwood Room in Shooting Star Casino. We hope that your Unit is planning on having representation at this educational event.

On Thursday, October 23, from 7:00 - 9:00 PM there will be workshops that will run consecutively. There will be a workshop on how to fill out Annual Reports and National Security will have a speaker on hand. Everyone is invited to attend. Plan your arrival so you can attend these most informative Thursday night presentations.

A reminder that all membership must be turned in by noon on Friday, October 24, to be counted in the membership counts. When you arrive at Fall Conference bring your membership directly to the Department Headquarters. We'll be ready and waiting. Let's make this a real successful rally.

If your Unit is not able to be represented at Fall Conference, be certain your Unit's membership is mailed so it arrives in the department office no later than Monday, October 20, so it can be counted in your totals. We have a long way to go.

NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Following are the National Appointments that National President Janet Jeffers made to serve with her this 2014/2015 Auxiliary year. Marie Goede was named the National Education Chairman, Kris Nelson was named National Chairman of Strategic Planning, Carol Barbknecht was named National Audit Chairman, Raleen Tolzmann was named Northwestern Division AEF Chairman, Shirley Frederick was named Northwestern Division National Security Chairman, Norma Tramm was named



SANDY FREDRICKSON

the Department level serving as Public Relations, Finance for five years, Membership Chairman 2010-2011, Field Service committee member, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chairman, and this year as Legislative Chairman. She has served on the credentials committee. She has attended many National Conventions and this year serves as 1st Vice-President for the Department of MN, American Legion Auxiliary.

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

Northwestern Division Legislation Chairman, Peggy Tesdahl was named Northwestern Division Education Chairman and Tamara Opland was named Northwestern Division Junior Activities Chairman. If you see any of these ladies please take a moment and congratulate them. This is a very large responsibility they have taken on along with their continued involvement with our own Department.

REMINDERS - FALL CONFERENCE

Don't forget the Poppy Contests at our Fall Conference. Any member, senior or junior, may enter these contests with as many entries as you want to make. See the first Unit mailing for complete particulars and rules. Entries must be at the Conference no later than 9:00 a.m. on Friday, October 24th for judging.

Our Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman, Jean Horack will be holding a silent auction at the Conference to raise funds for this program. Items donated should be something you would want to receive as a gift yourself. Any member of the American Legion Family is invited to bring items. All items should be brought Thursday or early Friday morning. Bidding will be on Friday only. Bring your items and check them in upon your arrival. We are looking for "Theme Baskets" - they can be from individuals, Units or Districts. There will be a Cookie, jelly or jam sale also held at Fall Conference. Also there will be a "Celebration" Bell District Donation Wall for everyone. Jean urges everyone to be sure and bring CASH!!

2015 POPPY ORDERS

Orders for the 2015 Poppies are now being accepted. An order form will be in the next Unit mailing. Prices are: small Poppies - \$20.00 per 100 if ordering 500 or less; \$18.00 per 100 if you order 501 or more; large Poppies - \$18.00 a dozen; and the Poppy Window Display card at \$.50 each and shipping fees are listed on the order form. We will start shipping the poppies according to the dates you enter on your form. Orders have been coming in and we have already shipped some out!

2015 GIRLS STATE

As your Unit is planning its budget for this 2014-15 Auxiliary year, be certain to include the funds needed to send at least one girl to American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State. Give the young women in your community the opportunity to experience this week long learning of government and Americanism by doing. The registration fee of \$300.00 is due no later than March 31st. If your Unit can't afford the \$300.00 fee consider partnering with another Unit and splitting the fee. Remember that you can send in money to sponsor a girl even if you don't have one. We always have a list of girls who would like to attend but the Unit cannot afford it. Posts, Squadrons and other organizations can sponsor girls along with parents. Just have them send their money to your Unit.

Units may sponsor more than one girl from the same high school. Plan now to contact your schools and raise the necessary funds to provide this most educational experience to members of your high school Junior class. The dates for this year are June 7-12, 2015 at the University of St. Thomas.

"RENEW, RECRUIT, REJOIN"

Dues notices have been sent out by the National organization. Be certain to make that personal contact with your members, letting them know how important they are to your Unit and to the American Legion Auxiliary.

Share your enthusiasm and what your Unit does with your community. Ask others to join you. Use every member's skills to make for a successful membership campaign. Involve all your members in Unit activities. Remember, every member has her own special talents to bring to your Unit. She is important!

The first Department target was for every Unit to be at/above 25% of goal by September 6. Goal #1 is 55% by October 1. Goal #2 is 65% by noon on October 24 at Fall Conference.

VA HOSPITAL REP

At this time Mary Ann Davis, at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, is in needs of laundry bags and neck pillows. Please hold off on heart pillows at this time. She has an over abundance right now. She will send a note when she is ready for more. Also, please call her at 651-690-3272 before coming to the VA to bring items. She wants to be sure and have somebody there to help you out.

SECRETARY SANDIE'S NOTES

It has been a wild and crazy couple of months with two Conventions, Department and National, along with preparing for Department Fall Conference. You should have all received your membership notices by now. Everyone please get your dues paid early. We are way down on the totem pole and I would like to see us reach the top for President Chris. Remember to bring your items for the

Silent Auction, especially those wonderful baskets. My husband can't get away from work so I will be on the loose with my checkbook - those baskets are like an addiction to me. Always remember, the Department Office is here for you, if you need anything just call. Hope to see many of you at Fall Conference in Mahanomen.

Constitution and Bylaws new program

The Constitution & Bylaws program is new to our Department and its purpose is to inform and educate our members on the importance and power of properly written, reviewed and updated documents, policies and procedures at all levels of our organization.

I have asked all Districts to appoint a Constitution & Bylaws Chairman and am hoping that all units will also appoint a chairman for this program. Standing rules should be reviewed annually and updated when necessary. The following is a guide for your Unit or District to use when writing or updating their standing rules. Not every item will apply to every unit, and other items may be added to suit your unit; this is only a guideline for your use.

The (UNIT NAME AND NUMBER) of the _____ District, American Legion Auxiliary, hereby adopts the Unit Constitution & Bylaws as prescribed by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of _____.

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 10th Edition, in all questions not governed by articles of the National, Department and Unit Constitution & Bylaws, shall govern this unit.

State time (day and hour) of meeting, place of meeting and information on notification of meeting. Are you meeting all 12 months? If not, what months do you meet.

Dues - List your Senior, Junior, Gold Star Mothers, Life Members and others your unit may pay for.

Process for selecting Life Members.

Election -

When will election be held?

Secretary and/or Treasurer - elected or appointed?

A nominating committee - yes or no. If elected use Robert's Rules or Order

5. Election of delegates for department convention, fall conference, district convention. When and how selected.

6. Installation of officers. When, where, who is in charge.

7. Equipment - Rules for loaning, maintenance, etc.

8. Finances

Rent

Utilities

Working funds for officers, chairmen, Poppy purchases, Girls State, VA&R, etc.

Annual gifts for district president's visit, retiring officers, etc.

Flowers and/or gifts for illness, death, etc

Expenses for delegates to department convention, fall conference, district convention/meetings (Registration fee, mileage, per diem, etc.)

How bills are paid and who signs checks

Contest prizes - how much for poppy, essay contests, etc

Department and district mandatory funds

Arrangements for special dinners - funerals, etc

Annual donations to special programs or charities

Scholarship funds

9. The fiscal year of this unit/district will be _____

10. Audit - when and by whom

11. This paragraph should appear at the end of your Standing Rules: "These Standing Rules may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at any regularly scheduled meeting, or if notice has been given, by a majority vote." Standing Rules are usually adopted from time to time, as they are needed, in the form of resolutions.

12. The date of the unit meeting at which these Standing Rules were approved MUST be shown. ALSO - The signature of the unit Constitution & Bylaws chairman and unit president or unit secretary MUST appear on the bottom of the list.

Date Approved _____

Unit President or Unit Secretary

Unit Constitution & Bylaws Chairman



KAREN THYGESON

Focus on Education

October is the month that we focus on Education. The American Legion Auxiliary continues to support this program in many ways. 1. Our Scholarships make it possible for students to obtain an education beyond high school. Is this among your budget items? It does not have to be a lot of money even \$10 donated by over 300 units and individual donations will be significant. 2. Help within the schools by "Give 10 to Education" or your volunteer work in the local school. 3. Recognize those who work with our children to give them a quality education. American Education Week is November 17 - 21. Did you know that The American Legion was instrumental in the effort to raise public awareness of the importance of education? Read more in the October unit mailing.



NORMA TRAMM

Auxiliary Membership as of Sept. 16, 2014

District	9-16 Total	Percent	Goal
First	412	7.05	5,847
Second	694	12.19	5,693
Third	551	10.98	5,019
Fourth	94	10.80	840
Fifth	119	11.68	1,019
Sixth	910	12.87	7,072
Seventh	265	5.81	4,565
Eighth	229	11.83	1,935
Ninth	360	7.11	5,060
Tenth	740	12.29	6,022
Depart.	22	12.64	174
Total	4,396	10.16	43,276



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- Luggage handling on the ship

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March 5-21, 2015


Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Larry Alvey
- Roundtrip Delta flights from MSP to Los Angeles & return from Ft. Lauderdale to MSP
- All transfers to and from the airport, hotel and pier
- 1 pre-cruise night hotel at the Marriott in Los Angeles
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