

## The Minnesota American Legion and Auxiliary

## Legionnaire



Volume 97, Number 10

For God and Country

October 2015

## Fall Conference will be a family affair at Breezy Point Resort

Emphasis will be on the American Legion Family at this year's Fall Conference, slated for Oct. 23-24 at Breezy Point Resort near Pequot Lakes.

The entire conference will be a joint endeavor with Auxiliary, Legion and Sons of the American Legion joining in the Minnesota Ballroom at the resort.

Most of the items on the agenda will have both Legion and Auxiliary speakers.

The conference will open at 8 a.m. Friday and there will be presentations on National Security, Legislation, Armed Forces Service Center, the Creative Arts program, Legionville and much more.

Charles Schmidt, candidate for National Commander of The American Legion, will speak in the morning as will Judy Twete, Northwestern Division Vice president.

The session is slated to adjourn that day at 3:30 p.m. and the annual meeting of the American Legion Family Hospital Association will be held at that time in the same room.

The Grand March, featuring the leadership of the American Legion Family, will be held from 6-7 p.m.

The joint session will continue at 8 a.m. Saturday morning and will adjourn at noon.

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## Four new red hats represent Minnesota



**NATIONAL LEADERSHIP** -- It was not quite Mount Rushmore, but Minnesota's four new national leaders posed for a photo in Baltimore just after the close of the national convention. From left: Marland Ronning, new National Executive Committeeman, National Vice Commander Al Davis, Alternate NECman Bill Barbknecht, and National Historian Jim Copher.

## Legion Day at Gophers

The Annual Minnesota American Legion Family Day at the Gophers will be held at the October 31 game vs. Michigan on Oct. 17.

Cost per ticket will be \$50, \$10 off the regular price. This is a premium game, featuring the battle for the Little Brown Jug.

Game time will be 7 p.m. at TCF Bank Stadium on the University of Minnesota campus.

To order tickets or get more information, please contact Steve Walter at the Gopher ticket office at 612-626-1592, or go to mnlegion.org to order electronically.

## Minnesotans take on Nat'l leadership jobs

The national convention at Baltimore saw the elevation of four Minnesotans to national leadership positions.

Al Davis of Princeton was elected National Vice Commander, representing the Midwest Region.

Davis was nominated for the position by his wife, Tess, in one of the highlights of the convention.

Jim Copher of Mound was elected National Historian of The American Legion for a one-year term.

And Marland Ronning of Maple Grove and Bill Barbknecht of Battle Lake assumed their positions as National Executive Committeeman and Alternate NECman, respectively. Both were elected to two-year terms at the

recent Minnesota convention in Redwood Falls.

In addition, Dennis Henkemeyer of Bagley was elected National Vice Commander of the Sons of the American Legion, and will wear that organization's gold hat for the coming year.

It is the first time Minnesota has had four red hats, symbolic of the national leadership team, since Dan Ludwig was National Commander and Tom Schottenbauer was National Sergeant at Arms, joining the two NECmen, in 1995-96.

Ronning is moving up from the Alternate NEC spot,

Continued on Page 2

## New Legionville Training Center dedicated

The new \$519,000 Training Center at Legionville was dedicated in September during the annual Camp-O-Ree outing.

The center has been under construction for two years, and replaces the historic old barn building which was torn down for safety reasons three years ago.

The ceremony began inside the center and featured a history of the Safety Patrol Camp by Adjutant Randy Tesdahl. Each of the four Department Commanders -- Chuck Kruger, Don Pankake, Mike Ash and Peggy Moon -- who served during the project, spoke to a large audience.

Sgt. Neil Dickerson of the Minnesota State Patrol and

Mark Peterson of the Minnesota and Iowa AAA, also spoke. Both organizations are partners with the Legion in running the camp which serves about 800 grade schoolers each summer teaching them safety patrol techniques and other safety techniques while also providing a full-service camp.

The ceremony moved outside for the official ribbon cutting.

The training center features a large, gymnasium-sized room in addition to training rooms, bathroom facilities, offices, a nurse's office, a catering kitchen, and a welcome foyer at the front of the building.

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**Gordy Fisher flew nearly every American aircraft in World War II including taking a P-51 Mustang under the Eiffel Tower on VE day in 1945.**



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**LEGIONVILLE TRAINING CENTER DEDICATED** -- Scissors snipped the official ribbon as the Legionville Training Center was dedicated in September during the Camp-O-Ree. From left: Sgt. Neil Dickerson, State Patrol; Mark Peterson, Minnesota AAA; Wayne Gilbertson, Legionville President; Gene Olsword, SAL Commander; Bryce Soltis, Auxiliary Honorary Junior President; Sandy Fredrickson, Auxiliary President; Jim Kellogg, Legion Commander; and Past Department Commanders Don Pankake, Peggy Moon, Mike Ash and Chuck Kruger.

## New facility planned for VA campus

Plans are underway to construct a new 100-unit housing facility for veterans on the grounds of the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.

The facility would be built on land to the east of the hospital near Buildings 9 and 10. It will be another step in trying to deal with veterans homelessness in Minnesota.

A public notice has been posted on the project to get input from the community on the project. The development site is in a wooded area between the hospital and Highway 55. There are two historic sites in the general area of the proposed project.

It will be located on three acres of land, and it will be adjacent to the light rail station.

The affordable housing facility would have VA endorsement, but would be built by a private company. Whatever company is chosen will be required to finance, design, develop, maintain and operate the new facility.

If the process goes well, a spring ground-breaking is contemplated.

On Oct. 2, another affordable housing project for veterans will be dedicated at Fort Snelling.

## Training Center

Continued from Page 1

The new paver stones, with the names of donors to the project, were installed in time for the dedication.

Dickerson said that the track record for school safety patrol in Minnesota was very good, in part because of the training received at Legionville. "These kids go back to their schools and are the lead instructors for the other kids."

Past Department Commander Pankake noted that when he picked Legionville as his commander's project, people told him it was a "sinking ship."

"But we were dedicated to the cause, and the fruits of that dedication are before you today."

Past Commander Ash said that Legionville and the great things it does are still the best kept secret in the Minnesota American Legion.

During Past Commander Moon's term, a major storm caused Legionville to shut down for a week. Just after that, at the state convention, over \$50,000 was raised for repairs at the camp.

"When we all work together, we are one hell of a team."

Commander Kellogg said the new training center was a "legacy for future generations. Our job is to keep it alive and promote it."



**SCHOOL SAFETY PLAQUE** -- Mark Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist for the Minnesota and Iowa AAA accepted the George Kaisersatt School Safety Patrol Distinguished Service Award from the Department of Minnesota. The AAA donated \$50,000 toward Legionville this year. School Safety Patrol Chairman Jim Blakesley presented the plaque at Camp-O-Ree.



**FINAL INSTRUCTIONS** -- Newly elected National Commander Dale Barnett of Georgia, right, is told his responsibilities by Past National Commander David Rehbein of Iowa. Donna Barnett looks on.

## National Convention

Continued from Page 1

replacing the retiring Ray DeZurik of Breezy Point.

All will join Dale Barnett of Georgia who was elected National Commander for the coming year. Barnett is a former officer in the Army and high school teacher.

Barnett, from Douglasville, Georgia, is a graduate of West Point. He served as an infantry officer for 22 years, retiring in 1996 as a lieutenant colonel. He then taught social studies and coached basketball, baseball and cross country at Creekside High School.

Barnett is a native of Indiana. He was elected Department Commander of George in 2007-08, and has held many national positions. He and his wife, Donna, have

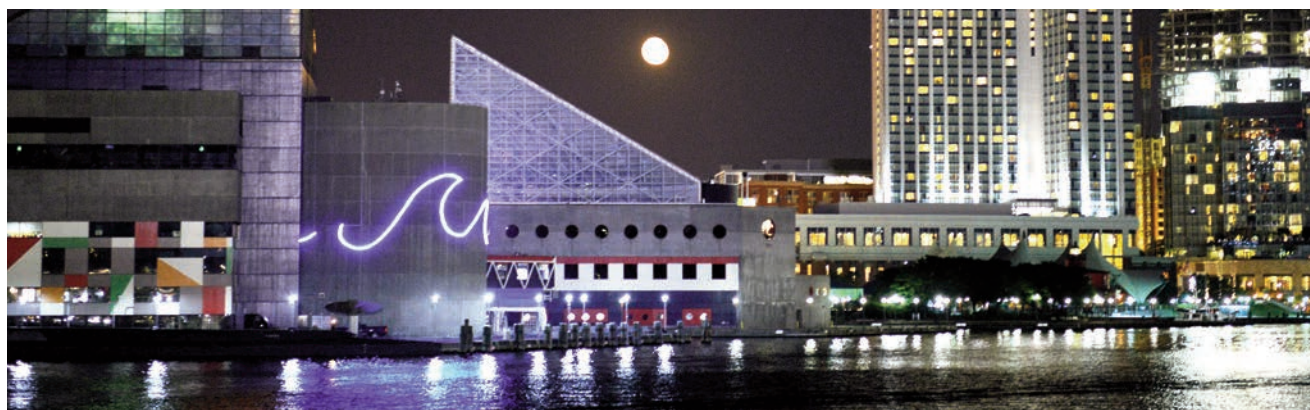
five children and four grandchildren.

The 97th National Convention was held at the Baltimore Convention Center. The Minnesota delegation stayed at the Holiday Inn Inner Harbor Hotel.

Past Department Commander Peggy Moon was the delegation chair, and turned over the gavel ceremonially to Department Commander Jim Kellogg of Taopi at the close of the Minnesota caucus at the convention.

Again, Minnesota massed colors for the national parade. Ferdie Haberman of Brewster marched in his 50th national convention and carried the American flag.

Next year's convention will be in Cincinnati, Ohio.



**CRUISE BOAT** -- Baltimore Harbor was awash with lights and the full moon as seen from the cruise boat.

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# Endorsements

## Debra Norman endorsed for Department Chaplain for 2016-17

The Charles Borak American Legion Post 45 in New Prague has endorsed Debra Norman for 2016-2017 Department Chaplain.

She served in the United States Air Force at the end of the Vietnam era (1973-77), and served in the Minnesota Air National Guard until she was medically retired in 1989, as a Master Sergeant.

Norman has been a member of the New Prague Post for 9 years. At the Post level she was the Adjutant from 2011-

2014. On the District Level she served as the Chaplain from 2014 to present. She also served as the District Chairman of the Americanism Committee from 2013-2015. On the Department level she was the 2014-2015 Associate Chairman for the Department Oratorical Contest and currently is the 2015-2016 Chairman for the Department Oratorical Contest.

She recently retired from the Veterans Health Administration after a 34 year career in various agencies

within the Federal government. Her last position was as the National Recruitment and Marketing Consultant for the VA Midwest Health Care Network.

## Fall Conference will be a family affair

The conference will be hosted by Pequot Lakes Post and Unit 49.

Prior to the conference on Thursday night, the Legion will have a Department Executive Committee meeting at the post at 7:30 p.m. The Auxiliary will have its executive committee meeting at 1 p.m. Thursday in the Governor's Room.

The Auxiliary will have a series of workshops on Thursday night beginning at 7 p.m. including Form 990, social media, strategic planning and history.

There will be a gambling seminar at 2 p.m. on Thursday in the Minnesota Ballroom.

Pequot Lakes Post will be providing shuttle service during the conference between the resort and the post home. On Thursday night at the post, there will be karaoke, and on Friday night there will be a dance band and a dance.

The post will have a dinner from 5-8 on Thursday, and soup and sandwich will be available from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday.

Registration will be at the post on Thursday and at the resort on the other days.

There will be a silent auction on Friday.

Veterans from the Creative Arts Festival will perform on Friday at 1 p.m.

### Official Pre-Registration

Mail to:  
Legion Post 49 Fall Conference Comm.  
P.O. Box 452  
Pequot Lakes, MN 56472

A registration fee of \$15 for each person attending is required, with the exception of Junior SAL and Junior Auxiliary members. Please copy and send a separate form for each person. Make checks payable to **Post 49 Fall Conference Fund**.

Registration after Oct. 9 will be \$20.

Post # \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ SAL # \_\_\_\_\_

District # \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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If additional pre-registrations accompany this request, this form should be photocopied. The fee must be enclosed for each person (except juniors).

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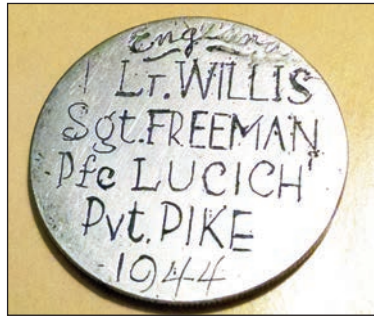
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## Do you know these people?

A reader sent in a photo of a World War II souvenir with four names inscribed on it. The object is a 1923 silver dollar, with one side polished smooth. At top on the smooth side is the word "England" and the four names follow: Lt. Willis, Sgt. Freeman, Pfc Lucich, Pvt. Pike and the date -- 1944.

The listing of an officer and three enlisted men could mean the group is a pilot and an air crew (possibly also a ground crew) of some kind. The coin ended up in Minnesota, which may mean there's a state connection. If you have any information, please contact Al Zdon at [azdon@mnlegion.org](mailto:azdon@mnlegion.org) or 651-291-1800.



## State media win seven NALPA awards



Department Vice Commander Don Amundson picked up awards for Department Website, second place, Lucas Johnson -- Webmaster, and for third place, Department Facebook, Lisa Ghylin -- Administrator.



Ken Meyer, editor of the Sixth District Legion Family Newsletter, won second place for district publications. Delegation Chair Peggy Moon helped present the award.



Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl won awards for Videos from Facebook, second place, and Guest Editorial, third place. NALPA President Michael Moses presented the awards.



Communications Director Al Zdon won a second place for Editorial Writing and second place for Photography for the *Minnesota Legionnaire*.

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## COMMANDER'S COLUMN

By Jim Kellogg



Fellow Legion Members:

It has been a busy September. First I would like to thank all who attended the Camp-O-Ree. It was a very successful event. A special thanks to those who cooked, cut trees, and helped work so hard to make it a success. You made it happen. We now have enough deer stands open to make the Disabled Deer Hunt possible.

I attended the state CVSO conference. It was a real learning experience for me. These are the people we all rely on for help with VA matters. They are a very dedicated and focused group. We are fortunate to have the staff we have. Tom and Jeremy are very respected and did an excellent presentation. They made the Legion look good.

I hope all of you take time to attend one of our three Membership enrichment meetings. They are being held regionally to make them more easily accessible for you. These sessions are not just for Officers. We have some interesting material being covered and are for the entire Legion Family.

Most of our Department committees have met and planned their year. I hope the same has been done at your

## Sons of The American Legion

By Gene Olsword



It appears fall is really starting to set in right here in Minnesota as I drive for the different events around the state. I've noticed how the fields are changing and getting ready to be harvested in the upcoming weeks. Our neighboring farmers are getting their combines ready for a very busy month of October in their fields. With this, comes much cooler temperatures especially in the evenings and less daylight hours.

Camp-O-Ree this last month at Legionville was spectacular and well attended. If you were not at the rally, you really missed out. Madame President Sandie was in her usual rare form not knowing what she was going to do next. To say the least, she is full of surprises as she was when she was Department Membership for the Auxiliary. We Commanders were given a set of measuring spoons to see how we measure up for this year and the membership directors were given a dog on a stick so they can walk their dogs. I must say, this is going to be a fun year.

A big Thank You needs to go out to Dave Vulcan and his SAL crew for the two great breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday mornings along with the Saturday night dinner at the Camp-O-Ree. I heard many great comments so Dave, Job Well Done. I also want to thank Commander Jim and his First District crew for the Steak dinner and to the Sixth District for the meals they provided. If anyone walked away from any of these meals, it was their own fault. Every meal was in abundance and very TASTY. Thanks to everyone for their help.

As far as membership goes, the Detachment met Nationals' target goal of 10%. Detachment, however, topped that 10%. Job Well Done. Our next target date is October 24th when we need to be at 35% in Detachment. There is no doubt in my mind we will be above this percentage due to the results I am seeing so far. With Fall Conference coming up on October 23-24 at Pequot Lakes, we have the time to get as much renewals collected from our current members plus new members. I would like to see a large turn-in at Fall Conference. Don't hold membership but send into Misty even if it's only one.

Fall Conference this year will be different from those in the past. For the first time ever, we (Legion, Auxiliary and SAL) will be having a joint session. We are very optimistic this will run smoothly and much can be learned by each by doing it this way. As in the past though, this is a learning conference so I would like to see every squadron send at least one member so they can go back to their squadrons and share what they have learned. This is also a good time to stock up on any materials your squadrons may need. Please check your Legionnaire for September for lodging information and get your reservations sent in. Fall Conference is being hosted this year by the Pequot Lakes post with most meetings at Breezy Point Lodge. A fun time

home post. We can't have a good year without a good start. As your post's events take place, please take time to make a note of them. This will make filling out your consolidated post report much easier at year's end. We all have great memories but some times they are shorter than others.

Our Department Fall Conference is fast approaching. This year it will be a joint conference with the Auxiliary. We will be sharing information on our programs. I hope you will be able to attend. We have an action packed informative program ready for you.

At the National Convention, a national dues increase was passed, and along with that came some District increases also. These increases reflect the increase cost of operations. When you look at all of the programs we have that cover your entire Family, I am surprised that our dues are not much larger. We not only have programs for our own Family members, we reach out to assist all veterans with every thing from health care to education in all our communities. We are the leading advocate for veterans rights. Every day our staff members are at work to ensure all veterans are treated justly and fairly and receive the benefits they all fought for. So when a small increase in dues comes look at it as an investment to ensure that our comrades past, present and future can be treated as good or better than we have. We as veterans are less than 2% of the population of this country. We need to stay united and maintain membership to be successful. Membership in our American Legion is a privilege that we have earned and needs to be maintained and made to grow. You can make that happen.

Harvest season is here. Schools are in session. Hunting season is in full swing. Please take a moment to stop and enjoy our beautiful fall season. Too often we take for granted this time of year as it seems to rush by. With all of this increased activity, safety is all important. I hope you all have a safe and bountiful Harvest season and a happy Halloween. May God bless.

will be had by all so plan on joining in on the learning sessions and fun.

Keep all our Armed Forces in your prayers for their safety and safe return home. Be Safe in your travels and God Bless You All.



**NEW VICE COMMANDER** -- Past Detachment Commander Dennis Henkemeyer was sworn in as a National Vice Commander of the Sons of the American Legion at the national convention in Baltimore.

## American Legion Riders



The Fourth District ALR post chapters are growing, and we are always looking for more new members. There are two chapters, Arcade-Phalen Post 577, and North St. Paul Post 39 in the 4th District. We are getting ready to start preparing for our annual Minnesota Veterans Home Ice Fishing Tournament. It will be on Saturday, Feb. 6, at the Veterans Rest Camp on Big Marine Lake. We have been getting the veterans out of the homes for the day and having lots of fun. The money from this event get used for several Veterans programs and help the camp grow. There will be more information when it is all gathered. There are several large sponsors again this year who contribute to this event: Joe's Sporting Goods, Clam, Cabela's, Coates RV, SuperMoms Bakery.

Ride safe, and enjoy the last few months of our riding season.

**Bob Leslie,**  
President, Post 577 ALR  
4th District Rep

## Chaplain's Corner

By Richard Wog



In my last letter I said that I had a story I wanted to share. Please take the time to read it because it is a great story with a great ending. The title of it is "Take My Son."

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art. When the Vietnam War broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father grieved deeply for his only son.

About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a package in his hands. He said, "Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day. He was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly. He often talked about you and your love for art."

The young man held out his package. "I know this isn't much, I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this." The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture. "Oh, no sir," he said. "I could never repay what your son did for me. It is a gift."

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. The first portrait he showed was the one of his son before he showed any other of his great works of art. The man died a few months later. There was an auction of his paintings and many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collection. On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. "We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid?"

There was silence. Then a voice in the back of the room shouted, "We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one." But the auctioneer persisted. "Will someone bid for this painting?" Another voice, "We didn't come to see this painting, we came to see the Van Gogh's and Rembrandts. Get on with the real bids." But still the auctioneer persisted, "The son. The son. Who'll take the son?"

Finally a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the longtime gardener of the man and his son. "I'll give \$10 for the painting." Being a poor man it was all he could afford. "We have \$10, who will bid \$20?" Another voice, "Give it to him, show us the masters." They didn't want the picture of the son, they wanted the worthy investments for their collections. The auctioneer said, "I'm sorry the auction is over. I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal the stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned and whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate. The man who took the son gets everything."

God gave his Son over 2,000 years ago to die on the cross, much like the auctioneer. His message today is, "The Son. The Son. Who'll take the Son?" because you see, whoever takes the son gets everything. John 3:16 - For God so loved the world he gave His only begotten Son. Whosoever believeth shall have eternal life.

Now that's love.

## The Minnesota Legionnaire

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Al Zdon, Editor

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# What's Happening

## Family Hospital Association

The American Legion Family Hospital Association will hold its annual meeting at the Fall Conference at the Breezy Point Resort. It will be held Friday, Oct. 23, at 3:30 p.m. or at the conclusion of the Fall Conference agenda for that day.

The meeting will be held in the Minnesota Ballroom.

Board members whose terms expire this year are President Marie Goede and Jim Kellogg.

## National Convention switch

The National American Legion has announced that the National convention locations for 2017 and 2020 have flipped. The 2017 convention will now be held in Reno, Nevada, and the 2020 convention will be in Louisville, Kentucky. The Louisville convention center is undergoing remodeling and will not be ready for next year. The 2016 Convention will still be Cincinnati, Ohio. The 2018 and 2019 conventions will be in Minneapolis and Indianapolis.

## Free Admission

The Minnesota Military History Museum at Camp Ripley will have free admission for Minnesota Legion and Auxiliary members traveling to the Fall Conference. The museum will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. The museum wants to express its thanks to the Legion and Auxiliary members. This past year, posts and auxiliaries donated \$3,400 to the museum.

## Oratorical Contest

Posts are urged to conduct their Oratorical Contests and to make contact with local high schools to encourage students to participate. At the post level, the contest usually consists of a student giving a prepared oration on an element of the U.S. Constitution. Notes can be used.

The district competitions are held in January. Students will do their oration plus be assigned a topic. No notes may be used. For more information, contact Chairman Deb Norman at d54bnorman@hotmail.com.

## Snowmobile Ride

The 8th annual Veteran's Appreciation Ride will be held Saturday, Jan. 9, 2015 at Hutchinson. Veterans are welcome

to enjoy a day snowmobiling including one night's lodging and meals. Veterans can bring their own sled, or there will be snowmobiles, clothing and helmets available. All those participating must pre-register at 866-811-7669, email mnveteransride@gmail.com or through its website: mnvet-snowmobileride.org. The event is sponsored by the MnUSA and MSEAF.

## Willmar Veterans Day

All veterans in the Willmar area are invited to the Annual Veteran's Day Dinner at the post home. It will feature locally-grown turkey and wild game. It will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 11. For more information, call 320-235-0342, Dennis.

## Apple Valley Sale

Apple Valley Auxiliary will have its craft fair and bake sale on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 9-4 at the post, 14521 Grenada Drive. New vendors will be on hand. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call 651-423-2493.

## Historical Society

The Minnesota Historical Society will have a program on Nov. 10, in conjunction with Veterans' Day, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on "War, Disability and the American Veteran." It will be held in the 3M Auditorium at the Minnesota History Center.

The featured speaker will John M. Kinder, a professor at the University of Minnesota, who will discuss how American attitudes toward disabled veterans has changed since World War I. Later, there will be panel discussions featuring Vietnam veterans and disability, and Iraq/Afghanistan veterans and disability.

The Minnesota Historical Society is also offering two field trips this fall. There will be one to the World War I Museum in Kansas City, Nov. 13-15 and one to the Springfield/Lincoln Museum on Oct. 16-18. For more information, go to mnhs.org and go to their events calendar.

## LIT program

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust has made changes to the LegionCare program which provides accidental death

coverage to members. All Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members are now eligible. The coverage includes \$1,000 for accidental death. The coverage is free. In another change, once a member signs up for the coverage, it will be in force as long the member stays paid up. To enroll, go to TheLIT.com.

## Veterans Registry

The Minnesota Military Museum has a new website which includes a "veterans registry." The registry will be a statewide date base containing information on the military service of individual Minnesota veterans. The database will help collect stories of Minnesota veterans. Anyone can submit a story and pictures about any veteran from the Civil War until now.

Go to: [mnmilitarymuseum.org](http://mnmilitarymuseum.org) and click on veterans.

## Round Tables

The Veteran's Roundtable in Rochester will feature "The Typist, Witness to the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials with Larry Tillemans and David Klassen. The program will be on Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. at Autumn Ridge Church in Rochester.

The Fort Snelling World War II History Round Table will meet twice in October. The Oct. 8 meeting will be "Leaders of the Victory" with Jonathan Jordan. The Oct. 22 meeting will be "The beginning of the Seals" with Pat O'Donnell. The programs begin at 7 p.m. at the Fort Snelling Visitor Center with \$5 donations accepted.

The St. Croix Valley Civil War Roundtable will meet Oct. 26 at the Lowell Inn in Stillwater featuring "Thaddeus Lowe and the Aeronauts" with George Romano. Call 715-386-1268 for information or dinner reservations.

## StandDowns, Legal Clinics

StandDowns will be held at:

-- Marshall at 200 South A Street on Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 507-345-8258.

-- Mankato at the Mankato Armory on Nov. 10 from 9-3. Call 507-345-8258.

Legal clinics (call 651-200-4750) will be held at:

-- Preston on Oct. 28 at the County Building, 10-3.

-- New Ulm Community Center, Oct. 29, 9-2.

-- Minneapolis VAMC, Oct. 13, 9-2, Flag Atrium.

# Taps

**Wilson, Samuel D.**, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 16, 2015. He was a past post commander of Albert Lea Post 56. He was also a First District Commander 1978-79 and a Department Vice Commander 1980-81.

**Postier, Gerald R.**, 89, Army veteran of World War II, died Sept. 7, 2015. He was Third District Commander in 1990-91 and Department Vice Commander in 1993-94. He was active in Boys State. He was a past commander of Pine Island Post 184.

**Hanson, Orlis D.**, 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 2, 2015. He was stationed at Fort Knox. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 117.

**Wetterling, Daniel Eugene**, 72, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 6, 2015. He was a member of Wheaton Post 80.

**Lutroe, Roger Duane**, 76, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 30, 2015. He was a member of Rush City Post 93.

**Lantz, Bradford Baity**, 88, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 8, 2015. He served as a hospital sentry in Hawaii. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

**Hoyer, Harris "Tookie,"** 91, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 11, 2015. He was a member of Morris Post 29.

**Erickson, Elmer A.**, 92, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 28, 2015. He was a fireman second class. He was a member of Roseau Post 24.

**Vnuk, Leonard M.**, 66, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 10, 2015. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

**Radunz, Rolland H.**, 77, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 5, 2015. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

**Skaggs, Wayne V.**, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 13, 2015. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

**Ballard, James R.**, 73, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 14, 2015. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

**Bullert, Lester Emil**, 89, Merchant Marine veteran of World War II and Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 21, 2015. He was a member of Glencoe Post 95.

**Anderson, Bruce**, 66, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 10, 2015. He was a member of Gaylord Post 433.

**Peterson, Delano G.**, 71, Army veteran of the Vietnam

War, died Aug. 30, 2015. He was stationed in Germany with an Army postal unit. He was a member of Princeton Post 216.

**Anderson, Donald Wesley**, 82, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 14, 2015. He was a member of Paynesville Post 271.

**Craig, Robert J.**, 88, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 14, 2015. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

**Robbins, Joseph Donald**, 81, Navy veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, died Sept. 6, 2015. He served 20 years including duty on the USS Pluck. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

**Caswell, Donald**, 82, Air Force veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, died Sept. 21, 2015. He served 35 years. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

**Olson, Lloyd W.**, 95, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 25, 2015. He was a mechanic. He was a member of Roseau Post 24.

**Soltis, Richard A.**, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 6, 2015. He served in Germany. He was a member of Robbinsdale Post 251.

**Weirgalla, Stephen F., Jr.**, 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 28, 2015. He was a member of Long Prairie Post 12.

**Hunter, William M.**, 74, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 5, 2015. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

**Olson, Stuart J.**, 90, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 22, 2015. He was a past commander of Albert Lea Post 56.

**Sichko, Michael**, 91, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 16, 2015. He landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

**Opp, Hilmer L.**, 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 17, 2015. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

**Mueller, Lloyd G.**, 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 26, 2015. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

**Matthes, Gene R.**, 69, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 25, 2015. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

**Garrison, Weldon**, 91, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 15, 2015. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

**Kuenzel, Orlin O.**, 70, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 2, 2015. He was a member of Lonsdale Post 586.

**Eisterhold, F.H., "Bud,"** 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 2, 2015. He served in Germany. He

was a member of Austin Post 91.

**Christians, Rolland W.**, 81, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 30, 2015. He was stationed in El Paso and the Panama Canal. He was a member of Edgerton Post 42.

**Nelson, Lloyd J.**, 90, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 29, 2015. He landed on Omaha Beach. He was a past commander of North Branch Post 85.

**Blankenship, Gregory McKinley**, 52, Air Force Veteran of the Panama-Grenada War era, died Aug. 6, 2015. He served at the Naval Air Station in Keflavik in Iceland. He was a member of Brandon Post 278.

**Norberg, Jerry J.**, 67, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 25, 2015. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

**Zanke, Harlow J.**, 97, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 19, 2015. He was a member of Marietta Post 156.

**Erickson, Terrence**, 65, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 22, 2015. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

**Brechtel, Lloyd F.**, 88, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Sept. 8, 2015. He served in Alaska. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

**Luedloff, Loren "Lit,"** 84, Air Force veteran of the

## Obituary policy

Updated: February 2006

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.

# Legionville Dedication



A new Legionville sign greets visitors to the School Safety Patrol Training Center.



Past Dept. Commander Mike Ash



Past Dept. Commander Chuck Kruger



Past Dept. Commander Peggy Moon



Past Dept. Commander Don Pankake



Part of the Legionville project was financed by the sale of pavers of different sizes. For the dedication, the pavers were installed at the entrances to the training center.

## Harvest Rally



Commander Jim Kellogg received a talking dog as a gift from President Sandy Fredrickson. Looking on were SAL Membership Director Cliff Teigland, SAL Commander Gene Olsword, and Legion Membership Director Jim Lucas.

The Harvest Rally, the first rally of the Legion membership year, was held at Legionville in September. The rally was blended into the annual Camp-O-ree, and the dedication of the new Legionville building.

SAL Membership Director Cliff Teigland said the Sons were aiming at 11,347 members this year. So far, the organization is at 16.81 percent with the 4th District leading the way with 27 percent.

Auxiliary Membership Chairman Jean Walker said the 10th District was leading so far this year with 11 percent. The Department is at about 7 percent.

Membership Director Jim Lucas said the Legion was at 62.60 percent thus far, and that the Third District with 66.30 percent was leading the way.

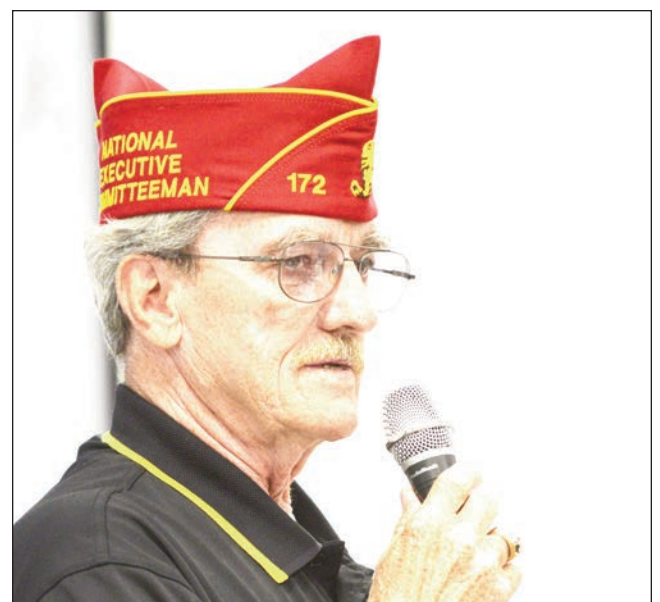
Legionnaires were encouraged to purchase their memberships now before the national dues increase goes into effect in January. The increase will add \$5 to the cost of each membership.

Lucas also encouraged Legion and Auxiliary members to attend the membership enrichment training sessions that are being held across Minnesota this month:

- Oct. 3, Clearwater Post 323.
- Oct. 10, New Ulm Post 132.
- Oct. 17, Grand Rapids Post 60.



Newly elected National Vice Commander Al Davis of Beroun spoke to the ralliers.



New National Executive Committeeman Marland Ronning brought news from National.

## Membership Chart

As of Sept. 23, 2015

District	2016 Goal	Total 2015	Total 2016	Percent of Goal	Same Date '14
1	9,627	9,569	6,463	67.13	6,565
2	7,779	7,695	5,069	65.16	5,377
3	12,165	12,100	8,307	68.29	8,479
4	2,561	2,537	1,728	67.47	1,742
5	2,829	2,806	1,879	66.44	1,940
6	12,485	12,414	8,258	66.14	8,327
7	6,997	6,919	4,514	64.53	4,687
8	4,630	4,589	2,841	61.36	3,034
9	7,332	7,167	4,623	63.92	4,810
10	10,964	10,910	7,081	64.58	7,458
At-large	3,734	2,661	1,730	46.33	1,744
<b>Totals</b>	<b>81,000</b>	<b>79,367</b>	<b>52,493</b>	<b>64.81</b>	<b>54,163</b>



Minnesota presented a check to the Legacy Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$103,000, the second-most of any state and the most earned by Legacy Runs of the Legion Riders. A large group of Riders and Department officials surrounded National Commander Mike Helm during the presentation at the Baltimore convention.

# Minnesota at the National Convention in Baltimore



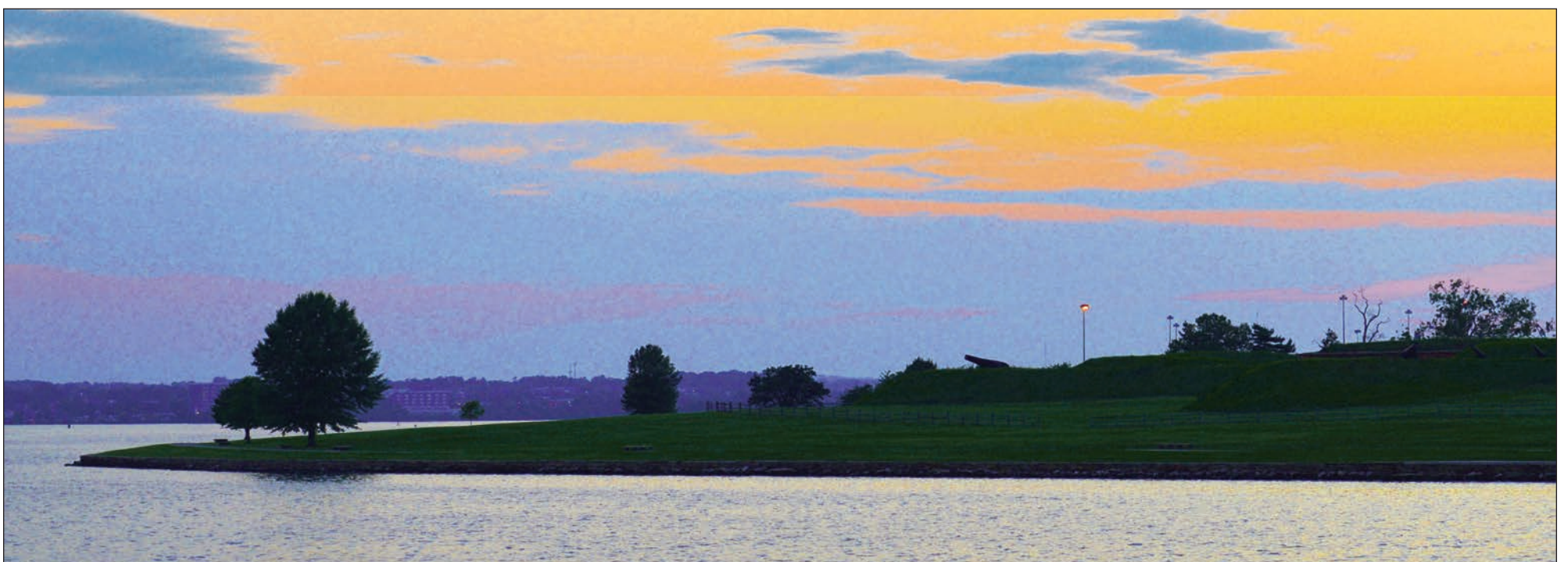
Bill Goede gave the National Guard and Reserve report.



During the opening ceremonies of the convention, a group of younger Minnesota veterans were asked to sit front and center at the convention hall.



Ferdie Haberman of Brewster marched in his 50th national parade in Baltimore.



During the Minnesota Party cruise into Baltimore Harbor, the delegation got a chance to see historic Ft. McHenry from the water side. It was here where the Star Spangled Banner was written by Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812.



Following the tradition, Minnesota massed colors during the national parade down Pratt Street in Baltimore.



Past National Commander Butch Miller of Wabasha was presented with a special award at the NEC meeting for his guidance of the Legion College. It was presented by George West, Vice Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee.



Minnesota presented a \$1,000 donation to the Operation Comfort Warriors Project.



Delegation Chair Peggy Moon and husband Carl enjoyed the Minnesota Party cruise at Baltimore.



Department Vice Commander Bird Partridge posed with the American Bombshells after the parade.



Minnesota also donated \$2,000 to the National Emergency Fund.



New inductees into ANIVICUS donned their new hats after the breakfast. From left: Assistant DSO Jeremy Wolfsteller, ANAVICUS Vice President Dan Ludwig, Department Chaplain Richard Wog, and Past Department Vice Commander Carl Hendrickson.



New National Historian Jim Copher of Mound received his red hat from national staff.



After 10 years of service as a red hat, Past National Executive Committeeman Ray DeZurik got his new blue cap with help from his wife, Patricia.



During the entertainment at the National Commander's Banquet, a volunteer was sought from the audience of over a thousand diners. Past Department President Chris Ronning volunteered and found herself part of a juggling routine.



Past National Commander Dan and Mary Ludwigined at the National Commander's Banquet.