



Auxiliary butterflies adorned the stage during the annual membership skit. From left are Junior Honorary President Jules Efta, President Chris Ronning, First Vice President Sandy Fredrickson and Second Vice President Carol Kottom.



Jerry Whitcomb of Kimball won the Volunteer of the Year Award from Operation Post Home. Accepting was Tess Davis, who nominated him. Presenting were Commander Moon and Chairman Denise Milton.



Two future butterflies waited to emerge from their cocoons. Carol Kottom and Sandy Fredrickson spread their wings later.



Minnesota supported National Commander Candidate Dale Barnett with a check to defray campaign costs. Presenting was National Executive Committeeman Ray DeZurik and Commander Peggy Moon.



Auxiliary Membership Chairman Judy Ackerman was the butterfly keeper.



Fall Conference Chair Person Denise Milton addressed the conferees.



Membership Director Pat Logan led the audience in a rendition of "Take me out to the Ballgame."



Honorary Junior President Jules Efta spoke to the Legionnaires at Mahnomen.



Auxiliary President Chris Ronning came down the hallway to speak to the Legion session.



Northwest Division Vice President Lori Skallerud from Madison spoke to the Legionnaires.

Merchant Marine was just the first of his adventures

Bucky Bacaner joined the Merchant Marine in 1942 and his adventures included being torpedoed and spending 14 days at sea in a rubber boat. After the war he help being Jewish refugees into Palestine, and after that he invented and patented a drug that saved a president's life.

By Al Zdon

Bucky Bacaner has had one of those lives from which great stories abound.

A tough kid from Chicago's west side, his resume includes Merchant Marine duty in World War II, bringing holocaust survivors to Palestine through the British blockade after the war, and a long stint as a researcher at the University of Minnesota where he invented a drug that not only saved the life of a president, but also the movie character ET.

It all started in Chicago. "You had to be tough to grow up there during the Depression," he said.

Marvin Bacaner was born in 1923 to Jacob and Minie Bacaner. His father was a Jewish immigrant from Russia who was drafted into the Russian Army in 1914 to fight in World War II.

"My father always said he felt more danger from the anti-Semites in his own army than the enemy." Finally one day, Jacob Bacaner threw away his weapon and his cap, pulled his pants outside his boots and simply walked away from the army. He made his way to America and settled in Chicago where his brother lived.

The elder Bacaner learned English from reading the newspapers and listening to the radio, and he managed to get a position selling insurance. "We were very fortunate that my father had a good job. He took care of our family and the whole extended family."

The Chicago neighborhood was filled with different ethnic groups. "It was a very tough neighborhood and full of anti-Semites. Sometimes you had to get into a couple of fights just coming home from school."

Bacaner was big and athletic, and few people picked on him. During the eighth grade, he saw a flier advertising boxing lessons from Benny Leonard, the former lightweight champion of the world and one of the greatest boxers of all time.

"Benny told me I was pretty good, and got me going in Golden Gloves. I won the Midwest Division in my class. Benny said I was good enough to turn pro, but I told him that wasn't in my plans."

One of Bacaner's biggest challenges, though, was a bully at school. "I asked him why he hated Jews, and he said because the Jews killed Christ. I said, well that happened 2,000 years ago, and he said, 'Yeah, but I just found out about it.'"

One day while Bacaner was in the bathroom standing at a urinal, the bully cold-cocked him from behind and left him stunned on the lavatory floor.

"We had this thing in school called giving someone 'the arm.' It meant that you made a fist and waved your arm at someone. It was a challenge to meet them in the alley after school for a fight."

Bacaner, still angry from the attack in the bathroom, gave the bully "the arm" one day. All the kids in the class were excited to see someone challenge the toughest kid in school.

"Benny Leonard taught us this boxing move. It was two quick left jabs, followed by a right cross the body. As soon as the opponent drops his guard, you hit him in the head

with a left hook. That's just what I did to this kid. The next thing I knew I was on his chest and the kids were screaming for me to quit before I killed him. I told them that's exactly what I wanted to do."

But Bacaner was hauled off, and the bully went home in shame and never returned to school.

After graduating from Chicago's Austin High School, where he was a pole vaulter and a clarinetist and saxophone player in a dance band, Bacaner went to the University of Illinois at Urbana to study engineering. "When the war broke out, that's all I wanted to do was go to war. A friend of mine had an appointment to the Naval Academy at Annapolis, and I wanted that too."

The congressman in his district had given out his last appointment, but he told Bacaner he could get him into the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York.

The ten-week training program was followed by a year of on-the-job training as a midshipman at sea. "They were terribly short of Merchant Marine officers in those days. I served on all kinds of ships."

The Merchant Marine, especially early in the war, suffered terrible losses. In fact, through the course of the war, the Merchant Marine suffered the highest ratio of losses of any branch of service. Of the 215,000 who served in the Merchant Marine, 9,300 were killed. During 1942, the Allies were losing 33 merchant ships per week to enemy attack.

On one voyage to India during his first year, Bacaner's ship was torpedoed. "We don't know if it was German or Japanese. We never saw the sub."

It was a great shock to the young midshipman. "There's a big noise and a huge jolt. It knocked me right out of my



bunk. When you get hit like that, the whole ship warps. I couldn't get my stateroom door open and I was starting to panic.

"The submarine wasn't satisfied with hitting us once, and it circled around and hit us again. This time it knocked me right off my feet. I was lying on the deck and I looked



MARVIN 'BUCKY' BACANER
In the Merchant Marine during World War II



DR. MARVIN 'BUCKY' BACANER
At home in Golden Valley

at the door and there were the words, "kick-out panel."

Bacaner in his excitement had forgotten that the designers of the ship had known about the effects of torpedoing and had put kick-out panels at the bottom of each door so those inside could still get out if the door was jammed.

"I made it up to the deck to my lifeboat station, but the boat had been destroyed and all aboard killed by the second torpedo. If I hadn't panicked, I would have been on that lifeboat. That's when I decided that God had something else planned for me in this life."

Bacaner joined 19 others on another lifeboat and got underway as the ship sank beneath the waves. One of the survivors was so badly burned, he died after a few days.

"The first mate was in charge, and he had a gun. But he had so much natural leadership, that nobody questioned his authority. He would open a can of peas and distribute three or four to each man. We didn't have much food or water. But the first mate told us they had radioed our position when we'd been hit, and there would be boats looking for us. We stayed hopeful."

The men survived on hope and the rain water they could catch in the boat cover. Fourteen days went by.

"Finally, an Australian man-of-war came by and picked us up. It was a miracle." Of the 128 crewman aboard the merchant ship, only 19 survived.

On another occasion, Bacaner was firing a 50 caliber gun at an attacking aircraft. "There were two of us on each gun crew, one guy to fire the gun and the other guy to change magazines. I yelled out "magazine" to get fresh ammo, but nothing happened. I looked over and my magazine guy was dead from the strafing. I had to get out of my belt and load the magazine myself."

In another attack, he may have shot down an attacking aircraft. "We had two 50 calibers, and one of us got him."

Bacaner said he heard some harrowing tales from merchant mariners during the war. "I ran into one officer who had been sunk twice in one day during a run to Murmansk in Russia. Can you imagine that, twice in one day? That water was so cold your survival rate was about one minute. He was a little goofy when I met him, but he had a right to be."

In the course of the war he guesses he did ten trips across the oceans. In addition to the Merchant Marine, he also served in the Army Transport Service which used Army ships and Merchant Marine officers. He helped bring the U.S. troops to the Anzio beachhead in Italy.

"My last cruise during the war was on a hospital ship, and it was my job to make sure all the medical equipment kept going. If something was broke, I had to fix it. It spurred my interest in bio-medical engineering which I focused on in later years."

When war ended, his last assignment was to take munitions back to the United States from Antwerp.

"We were loading all the unused bombs and shells, and it was a very slow process because it all had to be done by hand. All of a sudden, somebody yelled, 'fire!' Someone had left a rope on a smokestack, and it was on fire. The other ships were supposed to help us fight the fire, but they just pulled out to sea. I don't blame them. If we'd gone off, we'd have blown Antwerp right off the map. In the end, we were able to control the fire ourselves."

"By that time in the war, I really wasn't afraid of anything. God had saved me so many times, that I just decided it wasn't my time to go."

While ashore in Antwerp, Bacaner saw a British captain decked out in kilts and wearing a small Jewish star patch on his uniform. "So I went up to him and asked about his uniform. He said he wore the kilts because he was in the Gordon Highlanders, a famed Scottish regiment, and the patch was because in his spare time he was an officer in the Jewish Brigade."

Growing up in Chicago, Bacaner had become a strong Zionist. He felt that Jews must have their own country.

"I told him I was very interested in what they were doing, and he invited me to his barracks to meet some of the other guys. I was a lieutenant commander by that time. They told me that by day they were British officers and by night they helped Jewish refugees get to Palestine. I was very interested."

Europe at that time was full of Jewish and other refugees — often stateless people whose hometowns and families had been taken away by the war. The effort to bring these people to Palestine was called "Bricha" or "flight." The process of getting these people to Zion was very hazardous. It was illegal for refugees under the Soviet government in Eastern Europe to leave, and illegal by British law for them to settle in Palestine.

"I asked them what I could do, and they said they needed both food and compasses. I told them I could get them K rations right away, but I'd have to think about the compasses."

His thinking led to the liberation of four free-standing box compasses from an unnamed source. When the ship came back to Charleston, S.C., Bacaner went ashore to a marine supply store and bought four compasses out of his own money to replace the ones he had borrowed.

In the United States, he was contacted by one of the leaders of his old Zionist youth group. "He told me, 'Don't sign up for another ship. We have something for you to do.'" Bacaner volunteered to help.



Refugees line the rail on the converted Canadian Corvette Josiah Wedgwood after it was captured by the British on June 27, 1946. Marvin Bacaner, the ship's engineering officer, mixed with the passengers and left the ship with them. He later escaped.



Bacaner stands on a ladder aboard the Wedgwood, one of the first ships in what would become the Israeli navy.



Over 2,700 passengers, many of the survivors of the Nazi death camps, waited aboard the Wedgwood after it had been captured.



On the Wedgwood's first voyage, the passengers were offloaded to a Turkish ship which brought them to Palestine.

"They had purchased two Canadian corvettes, sort of like small destroyers, to be used to transport these people. I helped tow the corvettes to City Island, New York. Everything had to be overhauled. I was the engineering officer, and I was in charge of reconditioning the engines and recruiting and training the ships' engineering crew. It was top secret. The ships were registered to Panama, and we were using Panamanian papers. These were the first two major vessels the Israelis had.

"There was no question in my mind that God had saved me so I could help create the state of Israel and protect it."

Once the ships were seaworthy, they both sailed to Europe. One ship, the Haganah, went to Sete, France, and the other to Savona, Italy. "Both those small ports were still controlled by the partisans and they allowed the refugees to come on board."

Bacaner's ship, the Josiah Wedgwood, loaded up with about 2,300 holocaust survivors at Savona and attempted to cross the Mediterranean and slip through the British blockade.

Each of the refugee ships had two commanders: One was the ship's captain and the other was Israeli military.

The ship, though, was spotted by the British. "We transferred all of our passengers to a Turkish ship. The British had no right to board the ship of another sovereign nation, and so that ship got through to Palestine."

The Wedgwood headed back to Italy and picked up another load of holocaust survivors, this time cramming 2,700 on board for the 10 to 15 day voyage. On June 27, 1946, the British intercepted the Wedgwood as it arrived at Haifa.

"We carried no papers and so the whole crew just mixed in with the passengers. They took us all to an internment camp at Atlit." There the British slowly released the internees into the Palestine population.

Bacaner escaped in a simple and novel way. "They were going to transport us somewhere, and I just went in the front door of the bus and walked out the back door and kept going."

Bacaner decided it was time to get on with his career at that point. "I'd been at war for five years, I'd had enough." He returned to Chicago where he studied pre-med at a University of Illinois campus in Chicago. He earned his medical degree in 1953 from Boston University.

After research jobs at Stanford and Berkley, he was convinced to join the faculty of the Physiology Department at the University of Minnesota, where he taught for 35 years.

Along the way, Bacaner developed a drug called Bretylum, which could be used to stop the heart's fibrillation during a heart attack. While the drug was still experimental, he received a call in May of 1967 from former president Dwight Eisenhower's doctor. Eisenhower had just had his sixth heart attack, and he was dying.

"The doctor had read one of my papers on Bretylum. He asked if I could send some right away. I happened to be on my way to the airport, and I gave a handful of ampules to a Northwest pilot headed for Washington D.C. A team from Walter Reed Hospital was waiting at the airport, and they brought it to the president. It saved his life.

"I arrived in France the next day on my flight and picked up a newspaper. There were two major stories. One was that the Soviets had invaded Czechoslovakia and the other was that the president had been saved by a drug developed by Dr. Marvin Bacaner at the University of Minnesota."

Not only that, but in the movie "ET," when the extra-terrestrial is having a heart attack, the doctor (played in a cameo role by the movie's director Steven Spielberg) yells out to the hospital staff to "bring the Bretylum." It saves ET's life.

The drug was a financial boon for Bacaner and his family, and allowed him to continue his research without seeking grants. He has two chairs endowed in his name at the University of Minnesota.

Bacaner had two interesting airplane incidents over the years. "I was in Switzerland, and I was on an El Al flight to Israel. As we were taxiing out to the runway, we were attacked by a terrorist group. Bullets were flying everywhere. The captain got on the public address and told us in three languages to get on the floor. He was very calm.

"As I was on the floor, I saw a guy with gun working his way to the emergency door. It turned out it was a Jewish security officer. They opened the door, and he went down the slide, and I went right after him. The terrorists were still firing at us, and he killed two of them."

Bacaner then went to the front of the aircraft and climbed up the slide to go to the cabin and treat the pilots who had been wounded. The experience was not over for him, though, as he had to return to Switzerland to testify on behalf of the security officer who had been accused of murder by the Swiss. The officer was acquitted.

On a domestic flight one time, a man collapsed in the aisle, and the pilot asked if there was a doctor on board. It turns out the man was Thomas Anthony Harris who wrote the famous self-help book "I'm Okay, You're Okay."

"He was lying on the floor, and I could see that he had a burst appendix. He said to me, 'I'm okay.' And I said, 'No, you're not okay.' I arranged to have an ambulance waiting



Dr. Bacaner developed a heart attack drug named Bretylum that helped save the life of former President Eisenhower in 1967.



Bucky Bacaner and Hadassah at home.

at the airport when we arrived. Maybe I saved his life."

Hadassah, Bacaner's wife of 76 years, looked at her husband as he told this story and said, "You never want to get on an airplane with Bucky."

Over the years, Bacaner continued his close relationship with Israel. "I volunteered as a doctor during the Yom Kippur War, during the First Lebanon War and during the War of Attrition.

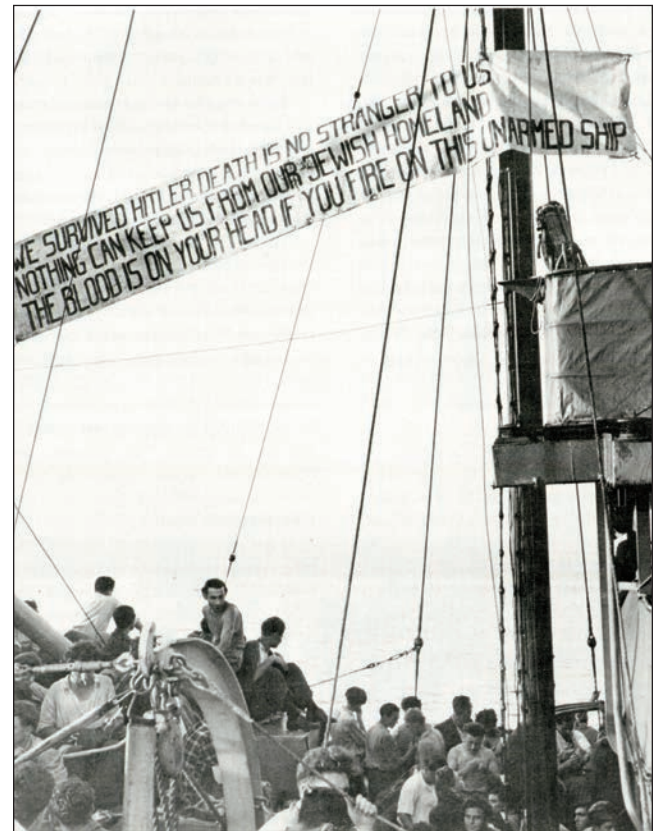
"I was assigned to a tank brigade in the Yom Kippur War. There's nothing more powerful than an armored brigade, and I was with them as they headed across the Sinai toward the Suez Canal. I remember thinking how far Israel had come from the time we were bringing in the holocaust survivors. We were so helpless then. What a difference not to be helpless."

Years later, he attended a reunion of those crewmembers who had participated in Aliyah Bet, Israel's secret navy in the 1940s. They were joined by some of the refugees who had been brought to Palestine on the Josiah Wedgwood and other ships.

"I was introduced to a woman who had two small children, and she remembered me. She told the children that I had saved her life. The two children came over and hugged my legs. That's when I realized I had not just helped save one generation, but all the coming generations."



Bacaner had his picture taken with Yaakov Frank, one of the heroes of the birth of Israel.



Passengers aboard the Wedgwood flew a banner to let the British fleet know their feelings.



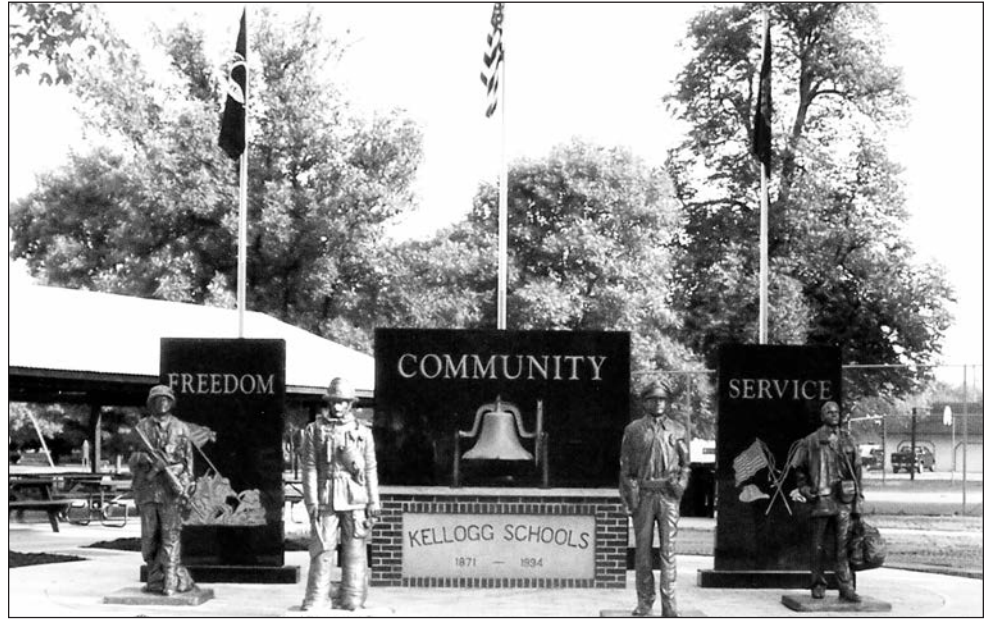
Bacaner's drug Bretylum also saved the life of the movie character ET.

Listening Post

News from around the State



SAL DEER HUNT -- The annual Sons of the American Legion John Zgoda Deer Hunt was held at Legionville. Hunters and volunteers and a deer posed for a picture.



KELLOGG MEMORIAL -- The new "Heroes Memorial" in Kellogg was dedicated in October. Kellogg Post 546 Commander Ken Pavelka was instrumental in promoting the idea of the memorial. The memorial includes veterans, firemen, policemen, and emergency responders. Pavers paid for the memorial.



LEGIONVILLE HOSTS -- Legionville hosted the Crow Wing Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol recently. The CAP teenage cadets did training exercises.



BACKUS HOSTS PARTY -- Backus Post 368 recently hosted a kids Halloween party and 120 kids and adults participated. There were contests for all ages.



PLAINVIEW RE-ENACTMENT -- The city of Plainview had a Civil War re-enactment this summer that included dozens of soldiers. Two graves of Plainview soldiers were also rededicated. Plainview Post 179 was involved in the activities.



BAGLEY FLAG DISPOSAL -- Bagley Post 16 had flag disposal ceremony. Area Boys Scouts helped with the ceremony.



WHEATON FLAG DISPOSAL -- Wheaton Post 80 held a flag disposal ceremony recently. The public is invited to come and bring old, worn flags.



DEER RIVER HONORS MILITARY DOG -- The Deer River Honor Guard played taps during a service for Sam, a military dog who served in Iraq. (Photo by Louise H. McGregor, Western Itasca Review.)



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 15-4

President Chris Ronning

November 2014

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

The President's Column

By
Chris Ronning



October has been a busy month, playing Bingo with our Veterans at the Luverne Veterans Home, Pheasant dinners, Unit meetings, membership dinners and let's not forget our Fall Conference.

What a ride so far and I have enjoyed every minute of it, visiting with our Unit members. These ladies do so much for our organization, but what is happening? We are down from last year's membership and we should ask ourselves WHY. We need everyone's help, without you the members, our programs will suffer and so will our service to our veterans, servicemen and women and their families. Who will step up to the plate and take over where we stopped? Please renew, rejoice and also bring some new members into our organization, especially young women to go forward.

We are also celebrating a special birthday, Our American Legion Auxiliary is 95 years young. I do believe young is the magic word and only we can do something about it.

Our Gift Shops are coming up in December and thanks to the Veterans for Veterans (V4V) with a donation of \$20,000, we will be able to give each Veteran a \$20.00 gift card this year. What a heartwarming feeling to know that there are still people out there who care. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for what you do and still are doing. Your donation will put a smile on everyone's face. But let's not forget our \$5.00 bill shower, no Veteran will go without.

November also brings us Veterans Day and I hope that everyone is planning a program at your Posts to honor Our Veterans - Past, Present and Future.

My dates are filling up fast for November. If you would like me to visit with your Unit on your meeting night or any function you might have, you need to send your invitation to the Department office attention to Sandie Deutsch. This includes any of the Districts that would like me to visit.

There is also another big event coming up this month. I hope you all can come to celebrate with me on November 22nd. This will be a day filled with music, food, door prizes and visiting with other Unit members. If you never had a party with me, this is your big chance.

With this I want to wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving and blessings from our House to yours. And don't let the turkey get away.

Ronning testimonial slated for Nov. 22 at Osseo Post

As many things are being done a little different this year, President Chris will be having her Testimonial on November 22, 2014 at the Osseo/Maple Grove Post 172. It will begin at 2:00 p.m. with many fun-filled events to take place. There will be music, prizes and a few surprises thrown in as well. The evening will conclude with a dinner at 6:00 p.m. Please see the flyer that is printed for all the information and the reservation form.

FALL CONFERENCE

The 82nd annual Fall Conference was held at the Shooting Star Casino and sponsored by the Bagley American Legion Family #16. The final session on Saturday, October 25, with the memorable Membership skit led by Chairman Judy Ackerman. It followed her theme, along with President Chris Ronning's of butterflies. We thank Auxiliary Conference Chairmen Doreen Norgaard and all those who worked with her for hosting this very successful school of instruction. We appreciate your warm hospitality and all you did to ensure a smoothly operating Conference. There were around 200 Auxiliary members in attendance.

There will be more information and pictures regarding the Conference in the December issue of the Legionnaire.

95th BIRTHDAY

Does your Unit know November is "birthday month" for the American Legion Auxiliary? Will your Unit be celebrating? It was November 10, 1919, when the American Legion Auxiliary was established by a resolution adopted at the first National Convention of The American Legion here in Minneapolis MN. Since then the Auxiliary has grown to about 10,000 Units and over 800,000 members. This November is the American Legion Auxiliary's 95th birthday. We hope you are planning a celebration in your Unit.

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

November is Past Presidents Parley month. Past Presidents are willing to give your Unit a helping hand. Please ask them.

If your Unit does not have a Past Presidents Parley, organize one. Our Department Past Presidents Parley Chairman Linda Kropuenske will be more than happy to help you out. See the Unit Guide for further details.

2015 POPPY ORDERS

Orders for our 2015 Poppies are being accepted. Prices for small poppies are remaining the same as last year but there was a slight increase for the large poppies. An order form was included in the first Unit mailing. Poppy prices: Small Poppies - \$180.00 a thousand (\$18.00 a hundred) for orders of 500 or less; large Poppies - \$18.00 a dozen and the Poppy Window Display cards are \$.50 each while supplies last. Our inventory of the window display cards is getting

very low and the cost to reprint them has increased dramatically. We will keep you posted after decisions are made on what will be done with the poppy cards in the future. Remember, we do have a supply on hand for this year so don't hesitate to order. Please note on the form that the shipping costs have changed. Due to the tremendous increase in shipping charges we had to charge more to offset our expenses.

The 2015 Poppy orders will be shipped on the dates requested on the orders. When you receive your Poppies, please store them in a safe place so they aren't inadvertently thrown away or wrapped up as a holiday gift. Please check your order upon receipt and report any discrepancies to the Department office.

The Department Office wants to assure you that the Poppies this year are very well made. Our Veterans at the Hastings Veterans Home have been working very hard. As of right now 47 Units have already placed their Poppy order - we would love to have a 100% participation of Units this year.

PEARL HARBOR CAR CARAVAN

The Pearl Harbor Membership Rally will be held at the Apple Valley American Legion Post 1776 on Saturday, December 6th. Turn in 3-4:30 p.m., Plated dinner at 5 and program to follow. Your District President and Membership Chairman asks every Unit to have membership ready to be picked up when they or a Legion representative comes to your area. Check with your Post Commander for your pick-up day and time.

Please do not hold membership in your Unit. Mail your transmittals on a regular basis. Just be prepared to give those last minute membership to the representative who comes to pick them up for the rally.

Let's make this a special Holiday Season for our Department President Chris and Membership Chairman Judy as we continue to improve our membership counts. We started out real slow this fall but have been picking up very quickly.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

The Department Office and the Hospital and Home Representatives want to give a big thank you to the Units and Posts that have contributed funds to our Gift Shop program. Again this year, the veterans at the four (4) VA Medical Centers and the five (5) Minnesota Veterans Homes will be selecting gifts for their loved ones through our Gift Shop program. About 2,000 veterans participate in this program. A huge change this year for the Gift Shop is the amount that was approved by the Department Executive Committee to spend on our Veterans at the Gift Shop. The gifts will be of a little more value this year than in the past.

The Gift Shop committee has been busy shopping for the gifts and would appreciate your Unit's financial support of

Auxiliary Membership as of Oct. 14, 2014

District	10-14 Tot.	Percent	Goal
First	1,619	27.69	5,847
Second	1,977	34.73	5,693
Third	2,208	40.41	5,019
Fourth	267	30.69	840
Fifth	422	41.41	1,019
Sixth	3,029	42.83	7,072
Seventh	1,246	27.69	4,565
Eighth	651	33.64	1,935
Ninth	2,243	44.33	5,060
Tenth	2,211	36.72	6,022
Depart.	83	47.70	174
Total	15,794	10.16	43,276

Kottom endorsed for 1st Vice President

Buffalo Auxiliary Unit 270 has endorsed Carol Kottom for Department of Minnesota First Vice President for 2015-2016.

Kottom has been an active member of Unit 270 for 31 years. Her eligibility is through her husband Bruce, a veteran of the Vietnam War, who is currently serving as 10th District Finance Officer and Department American Legion Foundation Committee member.

At the Unit level, she has held many positions including President. Currently Kottom is Secretary/Treasurer.

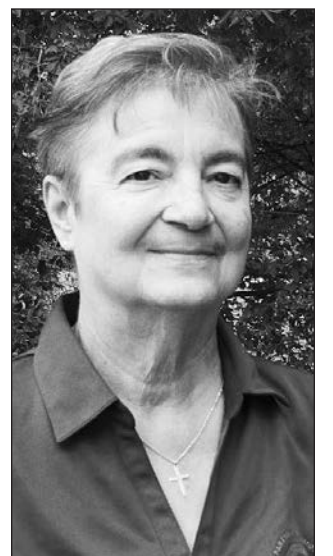
On the District level, Kottom has served as Legislation, Historian, Membership co-captain, Poppy, Membership, Children & Youth, VA&R, Unit Development and Revitalization, President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Standing rules, Advisor, Past President Parley, Secretary, and Parliamentarian.

On the Department Level, she has served on Americanism, Membership, Girls State Director, VA&R, Historian, Gift Shop, Finance Committee, Leadership and attended Girls State to work in the

Moccasin Office the last two years. 2014-2015 Carol will be serving as Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman. Carol has attended most District and Department Conventions, and Conferences since she has been an Auxiliary member.

Kottom has been married for 34 years to Bruce. Their combined family is three sons and two grandsons and one granddaughter.

As many of you know, Carol enjoys knitting, crocheting, sewing and reading. She is retired from Wright County Court Administration.



CAROL KOTTOM

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

this program. Those who attended Fall Conference saw the nice quality and selection of items the veterans may choose from. Please include a generous cash donation in your Unit's annual budget and send it to the department office earmarked Gift Shop. Let's support our own Auxiliary programs first.

Donations to the Gift Shops are accepted all year. You may use Poppy funds and Gambling funds for this program. The Gift Shop is available to all veterans who are in the various facilities at the time of the Gift Shop including regular day care patients. The Gift Shop is Chaired by Sally Strasser and her Committee Member is Deb Bayer. They are both giving much of their time to make this a very successful event.

What is the Gift Shop? It is where volunteers of the American Legion Auxiliary work together, with the assistance of the Hospital and Home Representatives to find out what types of gifts are appreciated and needed. Those items are purchased and delivered to the facilities.

Where does it happen? The Gift Shop are set up in the Veterans Homes and Medical Centers all over the State of Minnesota. There are 9 facilities and with the assistance of the Hospital and Home Representatives there will be 9 different Gift Shops in the month of December (see dates below).

Who does this help? The helps the Veterans and their families. It gives the Veterans a chance to get a gift that they don't expect and it gives them the ability to give their family members a gift as well.

Who can help? Any Auxiliary member, Auxiliary Junior member, Sons of the American Legion or Legionnaire themselves can volunteer.

GIFT SHOP DATES

Our representatives have announced the date(s) of their Gift Shop at their respective facility.

- Fargo VAMC, December 1 (evening)
- Minneapolis VAMC, December 2 & 3
- Sioux Falls VAMC, December 18
- St. Cloud VAMC, December 1, 2 & 3
- Fergus Falls VA Home, December 8
- Hastings VA Home, December 11
- Luverne VA Home, December 4
- Minneapolis VA Home, December 3-4 (possibly the 5th)
- Silver Bay VA Home, December 11

MEMBERSHIP SUPPLIES

If your Unit is in need of additional membership supplies, i.e., application forms, transmittal sheets, membership cards, etc., please send your order to the department office. All supplies are sent from the office upon request.

SEWING NEEDS

Included in the October Unit mailing were the sewing patterns of items needed at the various hospitals/homes. Home Service Chairmen please ask your Unit President for these items.

Remember: Times are changing; needs are changing. Please make only those items that are requested by our Representatives to meet the needs of our veterans. Send all completed items to the facility that has requested them in care of our Representative there.

If your Unit has an active sewing group, may we suggest you contact your local nursing home, shut-ins, etc. within your own community and "sew for them". Many of these local facilities and their needs are overlooked by our Units and could certainly use your sewing talents.

SECRETARY SANDIE'S NOTES

By the time you are reading this we will have another Fall Conference under our belts. I hope many of you attended. This is a very educational and fun time for all of our members to get together, learn about our programs and ask any questions you may have. We have been busy here in the Department Office as membership has finally started to come in. Very sincerely I would like to thank all of you who work so hard to recruit, renew and rejoin but I would also ask that everyone work just a little bit harder so we could make our goals set by National. They are high and some think very impossible to attain but it can be done. The area we lack in is retaining existing members - we need to make those calls and explain why it is important to continue to be a member of our organization. After a bit of research it has been found that we get new members and they pay one, maybe two years of dues but never hear from the Unit so they ask why are they sending in dues? Every Unit needs to make an effort to reach out to all of their members at least a couple times a year to let them know what is going on and try to involve them in our programs.

I hope to see many of you at President Chris' Testimonial on November 22. Knowing Chris, I can imagine it will be a day to remember.

From Shorty and myself, we want to wish each and every one of you a very Happy Thanksgiving, enjoy your families. I am finally off to Texas to see my kids and grandchildren - I just can't wait. Until next month—

2014-15 UNIT GUIDE

An excellent source of information on all our programs, both department and national, is the 2014-15 Unit Guide. Any member may order her own personal copy. They are available from the Department Office at \$5.00 each.

UNIT MAILING

Each month a Unit mailing is mailed from the department to every Unit. When you receive yours, be certain to distribute the information to your Unit Chairmen. If your Unit is not receiving the mailings, please contact the department office.

A wealth of information and materials is included in each Unit mailing. It is important to your Unit program chairmen they receive these materials as soon as possible so they can develop a meaningful program for your Unit.

I have the ability to send the Unit mailings electronically via e-mail. Please contact the Department Office if you are interested in receiving the Unit mailing electronically. You can also go to the Auxiliary website mnala.org and find all of the Unit mailings by month. You can read the entire mailing and print out whatever sheet suits your needs.

Hear Ye – Hear Ye – Hear Ye

We will be having a celebration like no other!!!! Dinner Saturday, November 22nd 2014, to be held at the Osseo/Maple Grove post home, 260 – 4th Ave SE—Osseo, Mn.

The fun and festivities will begin at 2 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres, door prizes, music and a few surprises thrown in here and there. We will conclude the evening with a dinner, in President Chris's honor, at 6.

The cost is \$22.00 per person and we request pre-paid reservations, please.

We have a block of rooms reserved at the LaQuinta Inn and Suites, with a reasonable rate of \$67.07 including tax. The block will be available until November 1st, and are under the Osseo American Legion. The address for the motel is: 7011 Northland Court Brooklyn Park, Mn 55428 Phone Number 763-971-8000

Please make checks payable to Osseo Unit 172 and mail by November 15th, to: Sharon Wilken 617 – 5th Ave NE Osseo, Mn 55369

CUT-ME-OUT
Names of those attending:

@ \$22.00 each- \$ _____

Bookkeeper sought

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota is currently in need of an experienced Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant to work in the St. Paul Department Office.

If you are available immediately and meet the qualifications listed below, please apply. As a bookkeeper, some of the responsibilities may include, but are not limited to, handling all aspects of accounts payable, accounts receivable, reconciliation, processing and paying bills. Responsibilities are subject to change based on experience.

Job Requirements:

Bachelors degree in Accounting or equivalent work experience required. Qualified candidates must have excellent communication skills, Microsoft Office and Excel proficiency, Quickbooks knowledge, and previous bookkeeping experience. This is a non-exempt position.

Please email your resume to sandie@mnala.org or mail it to American Legion Auxiliary, Sandie Deutsch, Department Executive Secretary, 20 W. 12th St. #314, St. Paul, MN 55155. The American Legion Auxiliary offers health, life and disability insurance, 401K plan and vacation. Salary commensurate with experience.

November -- Past Presidents Parley

November is Past Presidents Parley month. Celebrate the Past Presidents of your Unit. Your Unit's Past Presidents may even include some that have served as a President of the District, Department and National levels. They are an invaluable asset and are ready to assist you in any way possible. It is the goal that every Unit in Minnesota have an organized Past Presidents Parley. Begin now to think about a member that you could submit as the Unit Member of the Year. Along with your Unit Members the Parley should place an emphasis on the women veterans as their needs are often overlooked and vary a great deal from the needs of the male veteran. Please note that the deadline for the Past Presidents Parley Health Care Scholarship is earlier than the Annual Reports. Should you have questions, my contact information is listed in the Unit Guide. Please check the November



LINDA KROEPEUNKE

Unit mailing, Unit Guide and Trophies & Awards as they contain detailed information on these items. Past Presidents are the best ambassadors for the American Legion Auxiliary knowing there is much information to share to make each level of the organization stronger and to maintain its growth and positive actions.



QUILTERS -- St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Roseville has made and donated over 400 quilts to the Minneapolis Veterans Home. Every new resident receives a quilt, and at Christmas last year, each resident got a quilt at the Gift Shop.

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March 5-21, 2015

Tour Includes:

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- All transfers to and from the airport, hotel and pier
- 1 pre-cruise night hotel at the Marriott in Los Angeles
- All meals & entertainment while aboard the ISLAND PRINCESS
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- Onboard ship gratuities



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National Parks Utah and Arizona

May 8-18, 2015

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 10 nights accommodations
- 13 meals: 10 breakfasts, 3 dinners
- Admission to Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park, Grand Canyon, Painted Desert and Petrified Forest and Badlands National Park
- And much more!




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Monuments of Washington D.C.

April 17-21, 2015

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Jenny Gilbertson
- Roundtrip Delta flights Minneapolis to Washington D.C.
- 4 nights accommodations in the Washington D.C. area
- 8 meals: 4 continental breakfasts, 4 dinners
- Evening guided Memorial and Monuments Tour
- Admission to George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Garden
- Two full-day guided tours of Washington D.C.
- WW II Memorial, Capitol Hill, Embassy Row, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Smithsonian, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial



\$1,499.00 per person double occupancy

Miami and Key West, Florida

January 9-19, 2015

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 10 nights accommodations, with 4 nights in the Miami area
- 17 meals: 10 breakfasts, 7 dinners
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- 9 Meals: 7 breakfasts, 2 dinners
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- Excursion to Venice
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PASSPORTS REQUIRED
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Savannah, Georgia

March 21-29, 2015

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 8 nights accommodations
- 14 meals: 8 breakfasts, 6 dinners
- Tours of amazing Jekyll and St. Simons Islands
- Guided tour of charming Savannah
- Tour of gorgeous Beaufort, SC, "Queen of the Carolina Sea Islands" plus a visit to Parris Island



CALL FOR PRICING

New Orleans

April 18-26, 2015

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 8 nights accommodations
- 14 meals: 8 breakfasts, 6 dinners
- Guided tour of a Louisiana Plantation
- Riverboat Cruise on the Mississippi River
- Historic New Orleans French Quarter
- National World War II Museum
- Guided tour of New Orleans



CALL FOR PRICING

New York City Theater

June 24-28, 2015

Tour Includes:

- Escorted by Glen Parsons and 4-Seasons Tour Director, Larry Alvey
- Roundtrip Delta flights from Minneapolis to New York City
- 1 night pre-departure hotel accommodations in Minneapolis
- 3 nights accommodation at Row NYC
- Lunch at Carmine's on Broadway
- Manhattan Island city tour
- Broadway performance, "Aladdin"
- Broadway performance, "Lion King"
- 9/11 Memorial and Museum
- Harbor Cruise with lunch



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VA DISABILITY APPEALS



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