

# The Minnesota American Legion and Auxiliary

# Legionnaire



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For God and Country

November 2015

## Chronic pain clinic at VA tries to give veterans their lives back

Many veterans face constant and debilitating pain, so much so that it makes their lives unproductive and miserable.

Two doctors from the Minneapolis VA Medical Center told the Fall Conference that while pain is a difficult issue to tackle, there is increasing hope for people to deal with and regain a more normal life.

Cynthia Townsend, PhD, and Laura Krause, PsyD, explained the Chronic Pain Rehabilitation Clinic at the VA hospital, and what it does for veterans.

Before they spoke, though, Dan Williams, Fourth

District Commander, gave a testimonial for the center on a short film. "They were able to get me functional again," said Williams, who experienced a traumatic brain injury after a fall.

Williams urged all veterans experiencing chronic pain to try the CPRC.

Townsend said there has been more advancement in the field of chronic pain in the last five years than in the 100 years prior.

In the United States, she said, pain is often treated with narcotics. "We have five percent of the world's population

and we use 80 percent of the world's opioids."

She said there are over 15,000 overdose deaths in the U.S. each year from prescription pain killers.

Townsend said the best thing is to cure the pain, but that's often impossible. What CPRC does is to not try and cure the patient, but to help them deal with the pain and regain their lives.

Krause said, "Pain is something like diabetes. Once you get it, you got it. All you can do is work through lifestyle changes, exercise, diet and other ways to live with it."

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### It's not all education

The first joint Auxiliary, SAL and Legion Fall Conference featured the gentlemen modeling poppy hats for the annual creative poppy contest.

## DEC hears about outside money options

The Department of Minnesota each year depends greatly on money from what are called "revenue enhancement programs," and last year one of those programs failed miserably.

Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl told the Department Executive Committee, meeting at Pequot Lakes Post 49 as part of the Fall Conference, that the Department is looking at new ways to enhance revenue.

Partially responsible for that conversation was the poor showing of the annual calendar program. In 2013, the calendar earned about \$26,000 for the Department. Last year, it earned \$1,300.

The problem, Tesdahl said, is that the Department plans on that revenue, and when it doesn't happen, there can be budget problems.

Tesdahl and Finance Committee Chair Bill Goede traveled to Baltimore this year to meet

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## How do you get your newspaper?

The Board of Publications at its annual meeting voted to urge subscribers to the *Minnesota Legionnaire* newspaper to consider getting their newspaper electronically.

The newspaper has had several years in a row of making money, but this year faces a probable deficit.

"We work on controlling our costs in every way," Editor Al Zdon told the Fall

Conference. "But the one cost we cannot control is postage."

By receiving the *Legionnaire* as a PDF in an email, subscribers can still get their newspaper, but not incur the cost of postage or printing.

To subscribe electronically, go to the Legion website, [mnlion.org](http://mnlion.org), and click on "Legionnaire Publications," then click on "Sign up to Receive..."

## Fall Conferees hear from top leadership

Attendees at the Fall Conference in Breezy Point got a chance to hear from the national leadership during the conference.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Charles Schmidt of Oregon and Northwest Division Vice President Judy Twete of North Dakota shared their views.

Schmidt praised Minnesota for its strong leadership at the national level.

As for himself, he said he never anticipated when he joined the Legion that he would be running for high office. "I just wanted to give back and to take care of my buddies, past present and future."

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## Heart Foundation goes back to 1946

On the wall at the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital in Minneapolis is a listing of those who have donated at least a million dollars to the hospital.

It is a short list that includes the Viking's Wilf Family and the Masonic Homes.

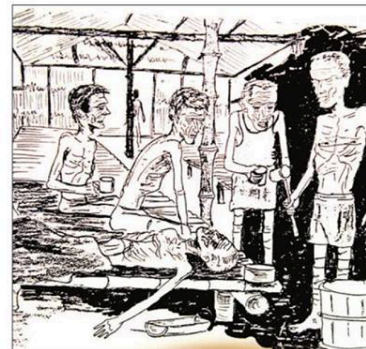
Included on that short list is the Minnesota American Legion and Auxiliary.

The Legion's connection with the Children's Hospital, considered one of the best in the nation, goes back to 1946 when the Legion initiated a fund drive to partner with the University of Minnesota.

Don Walsler, the liaison for the Minnesota American Legion and Auxiliary Heart Research Foundation, told the Fall Conference that the idea originated at the state convention in St. Cloud in

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Bob Hanley tried to keep soldiers alive on the Death Railway



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### The colors and the colors

Fall colors at the lake make a good setting for the American flag. (Photo by Bird Partridge)

## Veterans with chronic pain can get life back

Continued from Page 1

Krause explained the program at the Minneapolis VA. It consists of 100 hours of intensive treatment over a 15-day period. She said there's a wide variety of providers, everything from counselors to acupuncturists, who work with the veterans.

Part of the program for many veterans is to wean them from the opioids through a slow tapering process.

Patients in the program need to be motivated to change, to be able to work in a group setting, and they must be medically stable.

The results are improving, but are not guaranteed by any means. Many, like Dan Williams, regain functionality in their lives. Forty percent of those who go through the 15 days experience greater endurance, and 70 percent said the severity of their pain decreased.

She said there was a 30 percent decrease in PTSD symptoms in veterans who went through the program.

Townsend said a common statement of veterans who enter the program is, "I want to have my life back."

For more information on the clinic, contact the Minneapolis VA.



LAURA KRAUSE



CYNTHIA TOWNSEND

## DEC hears about revenue enhancement

Continued from Page 1

with the company that does the calendar and other enhancement programs for Minnesota.

Tesdahl said the company is undergoing extensive reorganization. He said the failure of the calendar program may in part be due to the fact that the National organization also sent out a calendar last year.

One of the solutions to budgeting for enhancement programs that don't deliver, Tesdahl said, might be to hook up with the National American Legion for calendars, Christmas cards, etc.

"They are going to look at our numbers. If we go with them, they will guarantee an amount that we will raise each year. If we earn more, we will also get that."

Discussions will continue with National, but Tesdahl said the Department is looking at other options too.

One of those might be a raffle or sweepstakes similar to what other states do. But, he said, Minnesota has stricter rules, and a meeting is planned between the Minnesota Board of Gambling Control and the National American Legion to see if that kind of fundraiser is possible for Minnesota.

Tesdahl noted that partnerships with the insurance companies USAA and LIT are the major source of outside income for the Department. He said other corporate affiliations, whether they be for money or to enhance the visibility of The American Legion are important.

Tesdahl mentioned Great Clips and Founding Fathers beer as two ongoing partnerships that are beneficial.

In other business, the DEC:

-- Heard from National Vice Commander Al Davis. He noted that Minnesota is second in the nation for Legion membership, but was still over 1,700 behind last year. He also said that Minnesota's resolution on incorporating National Guard into the national Spirit of Service Awards

was adopted.

-- Treasurer Richard Horn reported on the budget for this coming year. The revenue for the year is projected as \$1.308 million and the projected expenses for the same amount. Horn also noted that the audit for this year has not been completed, but that a \$43,319 net loss was expected for fiscal year 2014-15. He said the Department may be looking at a dues increase this coming year.

-- Membership Director Jim Lucas reported that the three training sessions held in October were tremendously successful, both in numbers and in the quality of the training. The numbers included: Clearwater, 121 attendees; New Ulm, 111 attendees; Grand Rapids, 50 attendees. Including the trainers, he said over 300 people were involved. Lucas said that there have been three revitalizations done in the state so far, and more are planned. He reminded the DEC that the national dues increase will go into effect on Jan. 20, and that an effort should be made to sign up members before that time.

-- Legionville Vice President Eugene Leifeld reported that Legionville is beginning work on several projects including underground power lines and security lights.

-- Tesdahl gave a talk on various aspects of the Legion organization including use of the logo, background checks for those involved in youth activities, National Emblem Sales, and running posts legally.

### Tom Newman resigns

Department Service Officer Tom Newman has resigned his post to take a job with federal Department of Veterans Affairs. He will still office in the Whipple Building at Fort Snelling.

"Tom has been an outstanding service officer, helping many veterans and representing the Department very well," said Adjutant Randy Tesdahl. "We will miss him greatly."

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# Endorsements

## Oliver endorsed in District Eight

West Duluth Post 71 has endorsed Kenneth J. Oliver, Jr. for the position of 8th District Commander for the year 2016-2017. An Army Veteran of the Vietnam Era, he has been a member of The American Legion for over 25 years.

He has served as Post Chaplain for 10 years, Post Commander for 2 years and is currently serving as Post 71 Adjutant. In addition, Oliver has been the 8th District SAL Commander for the past 3 years and 8th District Vice

Commander for the Lumberjack Area for the last 2 years. Oliver is a strong supporter of American Legion Programs and hopes, if elected, to continue that effort.



KEN OLIVER JR.

## Brockberg endorsed for Dept. Chaplain

Charles-Flentje Post 461 in Round Lake has endorsed Bill B. Brockberg for Department Chaplain, American Legion. Brockberg is a past Commander and membership director of Post 6 of Pipestone and past Commander and vice-Commander of the Second District. Brockberg entered the US Army in April of 1982

and served 24 years. At the District Level, Brockberg has served as Chairman of the Rehabilitation and Public Relations committees. Currently he is the Second District Historian. Brockberg is the County Veterans Service Officer for Nobles County. He is a Paid-Up-For-Life member in The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign

Wars and Disabled American Veterans. He's a member of the Sons of the American Legion. At Department, Brockberg has served on the Post Revitalization and Legislative committees and now serves on the Rehabilitation Committee. He is a graduate of the American Legion National College.



BILL BROCKBERG

## Fall Conference hears from top leadership



CHARLES SCHMIDT  
Leading Candidate for National Commander



JUDY TWETE  
Northwest Division National Vice President

Continued from Page 1 Schmidt was a career Air Force veteran.

"Everyone in this room has invested in America," he said. "We didn't get here just taking care of ourselves."

He noted that the Auxiliary has "been on this journey with us from the beginning, not behind us, but standing right next to us."

He urged Legionnaires to let their communities know what they do. "We have to accentuate the positive. We have to toot our horns a little bit. If we don't, who will? We have to let them know that we're here and everything we do."

He asked that the Legion members rededicate themselves to the Legion principles. "It's our time to carry the legacy forward."

Twete told of a plane ride from Indianapolis to Minneapolis she took that changed her outlook on young veterans. She sat next to a young man who had just signed up for the military.

"I want to be there to help him when he comes out of the military."

She encourage the Auxiliary members to work hard on membership. "There's no other group that

does what our organization consistently does: support veterans. There would be a huge negative impact in this country if the American Legion Auxiliary went away."

She also urged members to be kind. "Sometimes we're not very nice to each other. We need to create a culture of civility."

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## Children's Fund began in 1946

Continued from Page 1 1946. "The idea was to fund research into rheumatic fever, which was a terrible problem in the nation at that time."

By 1948, the Legion and Auxiliary were able to transfer funds of \$500,000 to be used by the University Children's Hospital.

That fund eventually grew to \$2 million and funds two chairs at the University.

The first chair, established in 1948, is currently held by Dr. Mark Schleiss. He leads a research team that is trying to develop a vaccine for the CMV virus that is the leading cause of deafness in newborns.

The second chair is held by Dr. Joseph Neglia, and was established in 2010. The purpose of the chair is to recruit and retain outstanding faculty members in pediatrics. Neglia is the head of pediatrics at the

hospital and is also the physician-in-chief.

Neglia has focused on long-term health outcomes for children with cancer.

Walser said the fund was turned over to the university in 2010. Over the years, over \$5 million has gone into children's research at the University of Minnesota Children's Hospital through the foundation.

"We have saved children's lives with that money," Walser said.

**COMMANDER'S COLUMN**

By Jim Kellogg



Greetings from your Commander.

What an October I have had. It all started with the Minnesota Sons of the American Legion and their annual Disabled Veterans deer hunt at Legionville. I can truly say that I have hunted deer for the past 50 years and never had such a rewarding experience. To see fellow hunters of all ages who have overcome their individual challenges go out in the field and hunt with the help of our SAL is truly overwhelming. To see the gleam in their eye and smile on their face was what made this an event I will never forget. Then just a few days later I had the privilege to do it all over again at the Camp Ripley hunt which is sponsored by our fellow veterans organizations -- this time on a much larger scale. Thanks to all who donated of their time and money to make these events happen. It is an investment that the returns on can't be measured in dollars and cents because the memory is priceless.

Next came our National Fall meetings at our National Headquarters. It was a time to learn more about our programs and spend time exchanging ideas with fellow American Legion leaders. Our national staff put on some very informative and interesting meetings. They are a very dedicated and focused group of fellow veterans. Our meeting with the National Commander found him not to be a happy person. He asked that we gather by our regions to define ways to renew and reinstate more of our current and

past members. To make this effort successful I will need all of your help. We are a member-based veterans organization and our very existence depends on our membership. The more members we have the larger our voice becomes on legislation to protect our veterans rights. We as veterans are less than 2% of the population of this nation and we need the support of all our eligible veterans to help make our voice heard. Please help me make this happen in Minnesota. You can make a difference and only with your help will it happen.

I had another new experience and found myself on a radio program. Tom Lyons, a fellow veteran volunteer, produces Minnesota Military Radio. Each week he covers a new event with guests from the veteran community. The time on the air is donated by the host station. The programs are broadcast statewide. To find your local station, contact your District Commander for a list of stations in your area. I think you will find it informative.

This year we have been trying a few new events geared for the entire American Legion Family. Three membership enrichment meetings were held in three regions of the state. I want to thank all who made these events the huge success they were. Your attendance showed your dedication to our organization. I can not thank enough those who gave of their time to attend. I hope we are able to continue these in every District. Your message was heard when you asked for more. A special thanks to all who presented, conducted, and hosted these events.

We just finished our first joint Department American Legion Family Fall Conference. Thanks to all who attended. In review of your comments I feel that it was successful. Working together as one, we all learned from each other. I hope you take the message home and share it with your home Post, Unit and Squadron.

In between events, thanks to family and friends, my fall harvest become complete. With their help and the good Lord it was a safe and bountiful one. I hope you can say the same. Veterans Day will soon be here. Please take time to spend with your fellow veterans on this day whether it be at your local post home or school or Veterans Home or hospital. It is our special day. Make it a memorable one and may God Bless.

**Chaplain's Corner**

By Richard Wog



I hope you took the time to read the story in the last Legionnaire. I was not trying to make my job easier, I wanted to share that story of what or how some people think it is not about God, but about themselves. Our military has fought for the freedom they have been given. The constitution of our country gave us freedom; but it cost a lot of lives to keep that freedom.

I was sorry I did not make the rally at Legionville, but as a lot of you know we were attending our granddaughter's wedding in Oklahoma. Before that I had the honor to attend the National Convention in Baltimore. The memorial service was wonderful. The Texas Tenors were part of it and the National Chaplain delivered a wonderful message. It was wonderful to be able to attend our granddaughter's wedding. You know what I'm saying, when you watch that young woman march in with her father. Yes, a tear falls, and you think to yourself she was just a little girl yesterday and today a new page of her life starts. I wish them well, as I do all newlyweds. I pray that their love stays strong.

I have been to Baltimore and Oklahoma and have just returned from Indianapolis. While traveling, I have seen some beautiful sights. However, I have also seen poverty and homelessness. Some say these people are lazy. I heard a saying, "Never look down on anyone unless you are going to help them up." In the Bible, James 2: 1-8 says, "My brothers and sisters, do you with your act of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here please." While to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there" or "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?"

"Listen, my beloved brothers and sister, has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs to the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?" "But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? Do you well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture." "You shall love your neighbors as yourself."

This country has a lot of homelessness and we as the Legion are to help in whatever way we can. Some of the homeless are veterans who need our help. The holidays are approaching and they are a time that many people need help in any way you can; food, clothing, gifts, etc. It is a time to reflect on the blessings you have been given and to share with others.

I was sitting in the airport in Indianapolis and there were eight young men on their way to basic training for the Marines. They were so excited to get to their destination. I thought, there is the reason to be proud of where we live. I asked one of the young men where they were going and I thanked him for giving their service. He asked me if I was a veteran and what branch of the service I was in. I told him I am a Command Sergeant Major of the Army, retired. He told his friend and they thanked me for my service. We talked until the flight was called. Remember, to thank a veteran this Veterans Day for their service as well.

**Mail Call**

**Never forget**

To the Editor:

As the Celebration of major Events of History cycle on our calendars, there is always the reminder to not forget:

- + 9-11 - a recent disaster with 3,000 killed - Never Forget
- + Holocaust - a worldwide genocide - Never Forget
- + VA treatment of Veterans - second biggest item in our National Budget - Never Forget
- + Pearl Harbor Attack - 3,000 killed - Never Forget
- + World War I - Centennial Nearing - Never Forget

We just passed the dates that ended the most significant event of the 20th Century: V-E Day and V-J Day. The USA led a coalition to defeat tyrannies that resulted in the deaths of an estimated 100,000,000 people. WWII was significant militarily, but it changed technology, world finances, international relations, and social and racial structures. There was hardly a mention of these dates in our papers or news media.

And there was no recognition by our State Leaders at the Capitol? I heard some say that we can wait for the 75th Anniversary of the end of WWII, but if you check the death notices in the paper, there will be few in five years to express our gratitude. Look at the delay in building the WWII Memorials in D.C. and in St Paul? We can't celebrate every major event every year, but with all the hubris in our political leaders, most of their recent contributions pale to those of the "Greatest Generation." We pay tribute to the veterans at the monthly meeting of the WWII Round Table. And we can't forget the valuable efforts of the Veterans of Korea, Vietnam, and most recent War on Terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq. Who at the state leadership level is looking out for our Veterans????

In Britain they are now commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the "Battle of Britain." The Chinese organized a 20,000 person military parade as tribute of their defeat of the Japanese in September. And I was told there was a huge celebration in Kosovo to celebrate those more recent events, but no mention in the news here.

I am afraid we have already forgotten???

Donald (Don) G. Patton  
WW II History Round Table, Minneapolis

**Incorporating Posts**

To the Editor:

During the NEC Meeting held October 14, 2015, the National Judge Advocate spoke about incorporating all American Legion Posts.

The most important reason to become incorporated is because of the limited liability of the corporation. If your Post finds itself the target of a lawsuit, incorporation can provide peace of mind. Nonprofit corporations can be sued but their members and directors are generally protected from personal liability, meaning that their own money,

houses, cars, or other property is not at risk. That is not true of an unincorporated association.

How does our post incorporate in Minnesota? Your Post can hire an attorney to prepare your corporation. You can go on line and there are companies, willing to prepare your incorporation for a charge. The easiest and least expensive way is to do your own incorporation. These are the directions on how to incorporate.

-- Go to the Secretary of State website: [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us)

-- Under forms and publications click business and non profit

-- Click Minnesota Nonprofit articles of incorporation

-- Save articles of Incorporation for a nonprofit, fill them out and mail to address on instructions.

The National Commander is not happy with the way membership is coming in. He stressed with a five dollar dues increase coming in January, the importance of making personal contact with all members at this time. Be sure to write and call your out-of-area members and snowbirds.

**Bill Barbknecht**  
Alternate NEC, Battle Lake

**Deer Hunt**

To the Editor:

This past Wednesday and Thursday I helped with the disabled veterans deer hunt at Camp Ripley. I have attached a photo of Robert Donaldson ---guy on the right---who is the disabled veteran who shot a nice adult doe. I partnered with Robert to help him during the hunt. Bagging a deer is important but Robert and myself--- and I think most of the others in the hunt--- would agree that making new friendships and just enjoying the outdoors and nature are more important. A great time was had by all. There should be a big thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors who make this event happen.

Robert is a member of the Little Falls Post 46 and I am a member of St. Stephen Post 221.

**Mike Legatt**  
St. Stephen



**Legionnaire**

The Minnesota

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**Al Zdon, Editor**

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# What's Happening

## Great Clips Buzz Cut

Richfield Post 435 and Great Clips will be sponsoring a Buzz Cut Challenge event for the Twin Cities from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 2. For a suggested donation of \$10, Great Clips stylists will be on hand to provide buzz cuts.

Money raised from the event will be used on veterans and their families.

On Veterans Day, Great Clips will give cards to non-veteran customers that can be given to a veteran or a service-member for a free hair cut.

## Two Events at Post 39

North St. Paul Post 39 will sponsor two events. On Veterans Day, the post will serve a free SOS lunch to veterans from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The meal will consist of creamed hamburger over a baked potato. Beverage is not included.

On Sunday, Nov. 15, from 2-6 p.m., Festa Italiana will present a salute to veterans at the post. The event will include an Italian buffet, live and silent auctions, a raffle and a cash bar. The keynote speaker will be Capt. Troy Hyland, the Minnesota National Guard Provost Marshal and a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan. There will be a history of Minnesota Italians in the military.

World War II veterans are free. Cost for adults is \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. For more information, call 651-765-1813. Proceeds go to Festa Italiana.

## VA Clinic Moves

The VA's Compensation and Pension Clinic has moved from the VA Medical Center to the first floor of Whipple Federal Building at Fort Snelling.

The space previously used by the clinic at the hospital will be used to expand the Chronic Pain Rehabilitation Program.

In addition, three audiology booths and an imaging center have been located in the basement of the building. The C&P exam evaluates veterans for medical conditions related to military service. The Regional Benefit Office, which makes the determination on a disability claim, is also located at the Whipple Building.

## Lakeville Two Events

Lakeville Post 44 will be having a fundraiser on Tuesday, Nov. 10, at Buffalo Wild Wings in Lakeville. The restaurant will donate 10 percent of any food bill to the post if the patron says "We're here to support Lakeville Legion Post 44."

The post will also have a Veterans Day ceremony. It will be held at the memorial in Aronson Park beginning at 11 a.m.

## History Center Program

The Minnesota History Center will offer "War, Disability and the American Veteran" on Tuesday, Nov. 10, from 7-9 p.m. The program is free and open to the public as are the history center exhibits that day from 5-8 p.m.

The program will feature John M. Kinder of Oklahoma State University who will talk on disabled veterans. There will be a panel discussion afterward moderated by Doug Bekke. The program will focus on soldiers coming home from World War I.

## Willmar Veterans Day

The Willmar Veterans Day Observance will be held Nov. 9-11 at the War Memorial Auditorium in Willmar. Over 5,000 items from the Civil War through the present day will be on display. The display will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day.

On Veterans Day at 7:30 p.m., a special Observance Program will be held with Navy Commander Mitch Schueler as the featured speaker. He is a nuclear submarine officer who is currently in the Naval Reserve.

For more information, go to [www.usmhc.org](http://www.usmhc.org).

## Drop-In Clinic

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans will offer a free drop-in legal clinic for veterans featuring housing, employment, benefits, expungement, wills, debt collection, and family law. It will be held at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center on Tuesday, Nov. 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 651-200-4750.

## Apple Valley Vets Day

Apple Valley High School will present its sixth Veterans Day Celebration on Wednesday, Nov. 11, from 9 to 9:50 a.m. at the high school gymnasium. The public is invited, but should arrive 15 minutes early. There will also be a social hour at 8:15 a.m. with coffee, donuts and bagels in the cafeteria sponsored by the student government. For more information, call 952-431-8204.

## BBQ Fundraiser

Thrivent Financial will hold a Minnesota Veterans Home at Minneapolis BBQ event to raise money for a new basketball hoop at the veterans home. The event will be held at the Richfield Post 435 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 7.

## Round Tables

The St. Croix Valley Civil War Roundtable will present "Sherman, Johnston and Davis and the End of the Civil War" on Monday, Nov. 23. This is a dinner meeting. The featured speaker will be Ken Fredrickson. For more information and to make reservations call 715-386-1268.

The World War II History Round Table at the Fort Snelling History Center will be held on Thursday, Nov. 12, with the Harold C. Deutsch annual lecture. The subject will be "Forgotten Trials of the Holocaust" with author Michael Bazzyler. Donation is \$5. The program begins at 7 p.m.

The Rochester Veteran's Round Table will be held on Monday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m. at Autumn Ridge Church. The program will be on the homefront during World War II. Donation is \$5.

## Military Funeral Stipends

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs has asked veterans service organizations to be careful to use updated forms when applying for the \$50 stipend from the state for performing funeral honors. Many posts are still using old forms and submitting them to the National Guard. They should be submitted directly to the MDVA.

To get the printable form, go to the MDVA's website: [mn.gov/mdva/memorials/militaryfuneralhonors.jsp](http://mn.gov/mdva/memorials/militaryfuneralhonors.jsp).

# Taps

**Savage, Mary Lou**, 79, former staff member at the Minnesota American Legion Headquarters office, died Oct. 11, 2015. She was the office leader for many years, and widely respected for her leadership.

**Reif, Thomas J.**, 71, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 19, 2015. He served as a lieutenant in the Military Police, serving in Vietnam. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

**Current, Waldon Lee**, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 22, 2015. He served in Texas and Germany. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

**Bartholomew, Les R.**, 91, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 23, 2015. He served on various islands in the Pacific during the war. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

**Zech, Gary F.**, 70, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died Oct. 9, 2015. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

**Kosloske, James N. "Buzz"**, 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 17, 2015. He was a past commander of the Sauk Rapids Post 254.

**Wallin, James E.**, 73, Army Reserve veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 26, 2015. He was a member of Brainerd Post 255.

**Schmid, Charles A.**, 75, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 26, 2015. He was a sergeant first class. He was a member of Brainerd Post 255.

**Philpot, Ralph J.**, 81, Marine veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 12, 2015. He was a past commander of Baudette Post 217.

**Farwell, Merle W.**, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 12, 2015. He was a member of Morris Post 29.

**Coudron, Donald**, 80, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 25, 2015. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

**Field, Burton W.**, 93, Army veteran of World War II, died Oct. 13, 2015. He was a member of Waconia Post 150.

**Hustad, Myron A. "Sam"**, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 1, 2015. He was a combat engineer and served in Germany. He was a member of Granite Falls Post 69.

**Hosse, James W.**, 74, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 23, 2015. He was a member of Post 381, Eden Valley.

**Petersen, Orville D.**, 93, Army veteran of World War II, died Sept. 9, 2015. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

**White, Gabriel "Gabby"**, 78, Marine Corps and

National Guard veteran of the Korean War and Vietnam War, died Oct. 3, 2015. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

**Koster, John Jr.**, 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 1, 2015. He was a past adjutant and membership director at Round Lake Post 461.

**Tinklenberg, Marvin J.**, 88, Army veteran of World War II, died Sept. 27, 2015. He was a member of Edgerton Post 42.

**Klumper, Gerrit J.**, 88, Army veteran of World War II and Korean War, died Oct. 1, 2015. He was a member of Edgerton Post 42.

**Brutlag, Kenneth E.**, 88, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Sept. 14, 2015. He was a member of Deer Creek Post 283.

**Alberg, Lawrence H.**, 74, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 15, 2015. He was a member of Maple Lake Post 131.

**Jewell, Gerald J.**, 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 5, 2015. He was a member of Elysian Post 311.

**LaTour, Maurice**, 80, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 26, 2015. He was a member of Maple Lake Post 131.

**Constantine, Edward Douglas**, 89, Army veteran of World War II, died Oct. 3, 2015. He was a member of Lonsdale Post 586.

**Rambo, Donald Gene**, 91, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 28, 2015. He was a member of the color guard at Austin Post 91.

**Gelinne, Ray**, 100, Army veteran of World War II, died Oct. 1, 2015. He served in the 286th Combat Engineering Company in Europe. He was a member of Redwood Falls Post 38.

**Johnson, Marlowe D.**, 86, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 5, 2015. He was a member of Roseau Post 24.

**Farley, William R.**, 90, World War II Army veteran, died July 22, 2015. He served in Europe in the 100th Infantry Division, where he earned the Bronze Star. He was a member of Roseton Post 542.

**Wedeking, Roger C. "Buck"**, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War died Sept. 15, 2015. He was a member of Lakefield Post 4.

**Smedsrud, Dennis Lee**, 71, Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 9, 2015. He was a member of Windom Post 206.

**Kramer, Richard Carl**, 90, Army Air Corps veteran of

World War II, died Sept. 16, 2015. He flew 28 missions on a B-17 in Europe as a gunner and flight engineer. He was a member of Trimont Post 373.

**Niemeyer, John**, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 15, 2015. He served 13 months in Korea. He was a member of Long Prairie Post 12.

**Schillinger, Robert Joseph**, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 19, 2015. He was a member of Breckenridge Post 53.

**Mueller, Sylvester "Cy"**, 81, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 18, 2015. He was a member of Cold Spring Post 455.

**Bjorlin, Paul Merlin**, 88, Air Force veteran of World War II, died Sept. 19, 2015. He was a member of Woodbury Post 501.

**Arthur Lilga**, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 3, 2015. He served in Germany. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

**Cable, Thomas S.**, 66, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Oct. 15, 2015. He was a member of Fairfax Post 205.

**Heier, Frederick George**, 88, Army veteran of World War II, died Oct. 15, 2015. He served in the Philippines. He was a member of Staples Post 70.

**Brooten, Robert N.**, 90, Army veteran of World War II, died Oct. 17, 2015. He was a paratrooper. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 117.

**Manthley, Robert Clark**, 94, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Sept. 24, 2015. He flew 30 missions in a B-24 in Europe. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

**Portner, Allen E.**, 82, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 9, 2015. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

**Bendex, Alern "Butch"**, 71, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died Oct. 10, 2015. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

**Hopkins, Max Wendell "Hoppy"**, 91, Army veteran of World War II, died Oct. 13, 2015. He served in France and Germany and earned two Bronze Stars. He was a member of Waseca Post 228.

**Cleasby, Edward R.**, 91, Army veteran of World War II, died Sept. 28, 2015. He was a past commander of Lonsdale Post 586.

**Bachman, Charles Matthew**, 65, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 28, 2015. He was a member of Chaska Post 57.

## Sons of The American Legion

By Gene Olsword



What a great year this has been so far with good weather, rain when we needed it and now the fall harvest is in full swing with good reports, as I have heard, for yields being very good. Being a rural state and much of our membership is the farmer, we need to sit down and think where we would be without the farmer. He is the life blood of not only of our state but of our nation always having to deal with favorable weather conditions and the many long hours spent at his occupation putting food on our tables and strengthening our nation's economy. Remember that farmer and thank him for what he does.

Membership has been good so far this membership year and I am very happy to report the Detachment of Minnesota is continuing to meet and exceed National's goal by their deadlines. It takes the work of many for this to happen for which I am truly grateful for. This year my theme is "filling our nets with membership" and I would love to see our nets always full to overflowing at times. What a wonderful way to strengthen all our American Legion Posts and help support and contribute to all their programs. We are a strong part of the American Legion Family.

I have set up conference calling within the Detachment of all Vice Commanders and the 10 District Commanders. The purpose for this is communication and helping each other with ideas and sharing what is working for them in their districts and making us a stronger Detachment. These call-ins will be held each month. I can see nothing but good results coming from these as experienced already when I did a test run which ended up to be more than a test run.

I recently attended the Fall NEC Conference in Indianapolis and what an experience this was which included a day of training for us new Detachment Commanders. This was also an opportunity to meet and shake hands with our national leaders of The Sons of the American Legion and listen to what they had to share. I guess I would have to say what an "eye opener." It was to see the "great wheels in motion" for this great organization we belong to.

November 11th is Veterans Day and many programs are planned throughout the state. Thank a veteran for what he/she did in preserving our freedoms in these great United States of America and participate in any programs you can. For without them, we wouldn't have the freedoms we still have today. Also this month we celebrate Thanksgiving. This is a time we spend time around the table eating that great turkey and all the trimmings with family and friends. Also at this time, take the time to reflect and be grateful and thankful for what we have no matter how small we think it is. Thank our Lord God for what He has provided us in love, friendship, wealth and family. Happy Thanksgiving everyone.



**LEGION OCW** -- A veteran who has been treated at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center received an electronic device through the Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors. Nicholas McGee is a Marine veteran. From left: Department Commander Jim Kellogg, McGee, VAMC Director Patrick Kelly and Assistant Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfstetter.



**LEGION RECOGNITION** -- The University of Minnesota Masonic Homes Childrens Hospital has a list of \$1 million donors in its lobby. Included in the list is the Minnesota American Legion and Auxiliary.

## Hospital Association elects two members

The Minnesota American Legion Family Hospital Association re-elected Marie Goede of Plainview and elected Roger Stoick of St. Michael to three-year positions at its annual meeting in Breezy Point.

Goede, who is also president of the association, was re-elected without opposition.

Stoick was nominated along with Jim Copher of Mound and Dennis Henkemeyer of Bagley for a Legion slot on the board. Copher withdrew from the election, and Stoick defeated Henkemeyer in a paper ballot election.

The vote was not announced.

Roger Myren, the association's staff person, gave a financial report. Of note, he said, was the fact that there have been only 17 applications for funding this fiscal year compared with 34 last year and 42 the year before.

Four districts, he said, did not have any applications this year.

The association provides financial help to those Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members who are having trouble paying their medical bills. Applicants can receive up to \$3,000 toward their bills.

Myren said donations for the association have been constant, and that the assets have now grown to \$259,000 an increase of \$17,000 over the previous year. Assets are growing because of the death of people asking for financial assistance.

Department Commander Jim Kellogg, whose term on the association board expired this year, made a motion to increase the financial limit per application to \$5,000, but the motion failed on a voice vote.

There were about 35 people in attendance for the annual meeting. It was suggested that next year, the meeting be held as an agenda item during the fall conference.

## Random notes from the Fall Conference

Notes from the 2015 Fall Conference:

— National Historian Jim Copher urged posts to submit a history scrapbook to National for its annual contest.

— Osseo Post 172 donated \$10,000 to Legionville.

— American Legion Riders Liaison Paul Hassing noted that the Riders have visited 178 posts and seven veterans homes on their annual Legacy Rides.

— Strategic Planning Committee Member Roger Olson said a Legion College for Minnesota is being considered.

— The Sons of the American Legion presented Gene Meuwissen of Chaska with its Legionnaire of the Year Award.

— Phil Bellefeuille of Calloway announced that the Convention Corporation has announced a list of future meetings: The 2016 and 2018 Department Conventions will be in Rochester and the 2017 convention will be in Mahanomet. The 2016 Fall Conference will be in Marshall and the 2017 Fall Conference will be in Willmar. He also

said the committee is looking at standardizing badges for the meetings.

— State Baseball Director Mike Perry reported that there are 311 baseball teams in the state program which is still that largest in the nation.

— Mike Bredeck said the Boys State venue for 2017-21 is going through a bid process and will be awarded on Nov. 18. The Legion and Auxiliary Boys State and Girls State will be held on the same dates this year. Katerina Christianson and Louise Lungstrom, Girls Nation senators, spoke at the conference. Christianson was named the outstanding senator at Girls Nation.

— A total of \$4,735 was raised at the silent auction to raise money for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

— There were a total of 492 people registered for the Fall Conference. That number included 228 Legion registrations and 233 Auxiliary registrations. There were 31 from the SAL.



**KELLOGG ON THE AIR** -- Department Commander Jim Kellogg took questions from host Tom Lyons on the Minnesota Military Radio show recently. The show is aired on a network of stations across the state.

**American Legion Riders**

By Lee Davis  
Fifth District ALR

Greetings from the 5th District ALR. As you read this, the riding season is about finished for some of us.

Time to do all the maintenance you have been putting off, or to add some bling. Don't forget to do your maintenance on your leathers. Time for a good leather conditioner.

We had a very nice riding season, thanks to our Ride Captain Russ Jobe.

The only cancellation was for extreme heat. No rides in the rain this year.

Post 435 ALR had their first hot dish feed fundraiser on Wednesday October 7th. The hot dish feeds will be held the first Wednesday of each month wrapping them up in May.

Two posts in the 5th have authorized the formation of chapters: Minneapolis Post 1 and Wold-Chamberlain Post 99. We look forward to working with them to form a district organization.

Keep the shiny side up and see you in February at Legionville.

## Legion Commander: No joy in VA's Hickey resignation

American Legion National Commander Dale Barnett issued the following statement regarding today's resignation of Department of Veterans Affairs Under Secretary for Benefits Allison Hickey: "Under Secretary Hickey is to be commended for her dedicated career as a member of the Air Force and her commitment to veterans. Although we called for her resignation, we take no joy in it. The widespread problems at the VA are not the fault of one person. She is one of three leaders that we asked to step down when the problems were first exposed last year. Now that the three senior officials that were in place at VA have left office, The American Legion is optimistic that Secretary McDonald can finally make the cultural changes that he needs so VA can be worthy of the veterans that it serves."

## Membership Chart As of Oct. 14, 2015

| District      | 2016 Goal     | Total 2015    | Total 2016    | Percent of Goal | Same Date '14 |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1             | 9,627         | 9,569         | 6,684         | 69.43           | 6,807         |
| 2             | 7,779         | 7,695         | 5,434         | 69.85           | 5,543         |
| 3             | 12,165        | 12,100        | 8,698         | 71.50           | 8,810         |
| 4             | 2,561         | 2,537         | 1,798         | 70.21           | 1,786         |
| 5             | 2,829         | 2,806         | 1,932         | 68.32           | 2,035         |
| 6             | 12,485        | 12,414        | 8,712         | 69.78           | 8,944         |
| 7             | 6,997         | 6,919         | 4,791         | 68.49           | 4,937         |
| 8             | 4,630         | 4,589         | 2,990         | 64.58           | 3,192         |
| 9             | 7,332         | 7,167         | 4,826         | 66.73           | 5,048         |
| 10            | 10,964        | 10,910        | 7,353         | 67.06           | 7,845         |
| At-large      | 3,734         | 2,661         | 1,758         | 47.08           | 1,804         |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>81,000</b> | <b>79,367</b> | <b>54,976</b> | <b>67.87</b>    | <b>56,751</b> |

## World War II History Round Table

# Who was making the important decisions during World War II?

Why Guadalcanal? Why North Africa? Why the Philippines?

During the course of World War II, somebody had to make those decisions about how and where and when American forces would fight – somebody at the very top.

The October World War II History Round Table at Fort Snelling featured Jonathan Jordan, the author of the book *American Warlords, How Roosevelt's High Command Led America to Victory in World War II*.

"A half dozen men made most of the truly major decision in the war," Jordan said.

He noted that America was basically an isolationist country in the 1930s, and the government spent all its energy on getting the nation through the Depression years. Even as the rest of the world went to war during and after 1939, the United States stayed home.

"But FDR (President Roosevelt) knew that America had to get into the fight, it was only a matter of time."

With this in mind, Roosevelt – who had very little military experience himself – had to pick cabinet members that could do the job. Strangely enough, he reached across the party aisle and picked two Republicans for top posts. "It was a huge gamble but it worked."

Frank Knox was chosen as Secretary of the Navy. Knox had been a vice presidential candidate running against the Roosevelt ticket in 1936. Henry Stimson, a former Republican Secretary of State, was picked by Roosevelt to run the War Department.

Both men were charged with getting the nation ready for war, and to do it in a hurry.

Joining those two at the top of the military leadership were Adm. Ernest King, Chief of Naval Operations, and Gen. George Marshall, Army Chief of Staff.

"King was a model of the crusty, fighting sailor. He had tattoos on both arms, and he would drink and fight all night and then show up ready for work the next day. He was credited with saying, 'When the going gets tough, they send for the sons of bitches.'"

King's daughter said her father "was an even tempered man – he was always in a rage."

King had little patience for long reports. "If the signature was not at the bottom of the piece of paper – in other words if it was longer than one sheet – he would throw it away without looking at it."

Marshall was a polar opposite. "He was dignified, aloof. He wasn't a strategy guy, but a great organizer and logistics person. Winston Churchill called him the 'organizer of vic-

tory.'"

And it was a good thing that Marshall had a different, more organized, temperament, Jordan said. "The Army was eight times larger than the Navy."

One of Marshall's greatest achievements, Jordan said, was in picking the very best generals to run the war. The one notable exception was Gen. Douglas MacArthur who had enough political clout and savvy to make his own way to the top.

As war neared, Roosevelt gave King orders to protect the convoys leaving the U.S. East Coast for England and Russia. King was given permission to fire on the German submarines if needed. "We were in an undeclared shooting war with Germany three months before Pearl Harbor was attacked," Jordan said.

As the war began, the leadership had to determine how to fight a war on two fronts, and where the priorities would be. Roosevelt and the rest determined that Germany had to be the number one priority, and supplies and manpower would be slanted that way.

How to defeat Germany was a major question though, with some advocating an immediate attack on the European continent. Churchill persuaded Roosevelt to go slow and prepare for such an attack. In the meantime, the U.S. and its Allies would fight in North Africa and then in Italy.

It took time to train and equip an army, though, and during the first year of the war, all the fighting was in the Pacific.

Roosevelt had to referee an ongoing debate between MacArthur and King on the best strategy to reach Japan. MacArthur wanted to use his army to attack Japan in New Guinea, Malaysia and finally the Philippines. King and his top subordinate, Adm. Chester Nimitz, wanted to use the Marines and the Navy to island hop through the empire, choking off Japan's supply lines.

The president solved the difference by employing both strategies, and with America's ability to produce war materials and train its military, both worked.

At the end of the war, there was one more great decision to be made. Should the U.S. use the atomic bomb?

As the bomb became operational, though, the center of American leadership, Roosevelt, died. Instead, the decision fell to his successor.

"Harry Truman knew little of what was going on. It wasn't Roosevelt's style to keep Truman in the loop." For instance, he didn't know about the bomb. But faced

with the decision of trying to end the war with the bomb, or invading Japan and facing a potential of millions of casualties, Truman opted for Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

"It was Stimson who argued that the bomb would have a deterrent effect on future wars."

Jordan also added the insight that the second bomb was slated to be dropped on the Japanese manufacturing center at Kyoto, but Stimson rejected the plan because he knew Kyoto was home to many historic Japanese landmarks. Instead, Nagasaki was chosen.

Jordan was asked if he thought Roosevelt knew the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was coming, but let it happen to convince the nation it needed to go to war.

Jordan said he didn't think so. "Everybody knew something was going to happen, but we were looking in the wrong direction. Pearl Harbor didn't hit our radar screen. Our military experts said that Pearl Harbor could be attacked, but not occupied."

Instead, he said, attention was focused on Singapore, the Philippines and other targets Japan needed to conquer and use for oil, rubber and other resources.

Jordan was asked what the weakest link in the American power elite was. He said there really wasn't one, but if he had to pick one person it would be Roosevelt. "I would say Roosevelt administratively. Some thought he was haphazard."

World War II veterans Bud Nakasone and Bob Maynard told the Round Table audience of their experiences during the war.

Moderator Don Patton asked a World War II veteran in the audience what he thought of the leadership in the war.

The veteran, who was a tail gunner based in Italy, replied, "We weren't that concerned about what went on above. We were more interested in the Italian girls near the base."



JONATHAN JORDAN

## Training Enrichment meetings draw over 300 to three sites



Over 100 trainers and trainees gathered at a church in New Ulm to do Legion training. Sessions were held at Clear Lake, New Ulm and Grand Rapids, with over 300 in attendance.



Jody and Paul Hassing briefed the New Ulm participants on the American Legion Riders. Jody is secretary of the state group, and Paul is the Department's liaison to the Riders.



Bill Stein of Wayzata was one of the trainers at the New Ulm session of the Enrichment Training. (All photos by Ralph Schneekloth)



Membership Director Jim Lucas was in charge of planning the seminars in the state. Those who attended got a free lunch and mileage.



Auctioneer Randy Tesdahl and his helper Commander Jim Kellogg auction off an American Legion Family hat at the Fall Conference at Breezy Point. Sale of the hats will go toward the National Emergency Fund.

# 2015 Fall Conference at Breezy Point



Singers Rick Stang, left, and John Jordan entertained the 500 attendees at the Fall Conference. They represented the Creative Arts Festival at the VA medical centers.



After marching down the aisle at the Grand Promenade on Friday night at Breezy Point, Department Commander Jim Kellogg and Department President Sandy Fredrickson turned and smiled for the crowd.



The paparazzi were out in full force as the elegant officers of the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL made their way to the front of the meeting room.



This year's poppy contest featured a wreath display



Legion and Auxiliary bargain hunters examined the goods at the annual Silent Auction. The event raised over \$4,700 for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.