

Johnson transported wounded through the heavy shelling to aid stations.

He made trip after trip, and his ambulance was hit several times by small arms fire, but Johnson went unscathed.

It didn't take long for the American troops to learn about the massacre that had occurred at Malmedy on Dec. 17 when SS units killed 84 American prisoners. Johnson had been there the day before.

"It changed our way of thinking about prisoners. We had been a peace-loving people before then."

The 99th, despite its lack of experience, did its job and held up the German offensive just long enough to severely upset its timetable and to allow Allied reinforcements to be called up. Two of the division's regiments were badly mauled, and had to be combined to make one effective regiment.

On Dec. 19, four days into the Battle of the Bulge, the division made its way to Elsenborn Ridge, just to the north of Malmedy, where it stood its ground against violent German attacks.

"I've always said, if you don't get wounded, the war was really interesting to watch."

On one run, Johnson and others were cutting through a woods and found an American fuel dump. "It was filled with five-gallon jerry cans of gasoline. There must have been 10,000 of them. The Germans had gone right by the dump and didn't see it. And at this point they were running out of gas."

His chore, sometimes day and night, was to keep heading to the battle areas, pick up wounded men, and bring them to aid stations. "It was a dangerous deal. I would have rather stayed in that church."

When the order was given for the division to occupy the ridge, there were few roads through the Ardennes to where they wanted to go. "It was about 10 or 15 miles, and the other roads had been cut off. So the Corps of Engineers just cut a road through that forest. We were one of the last two ambulances to leave Klinkert."

Johnson didn't have any wounded for the trip, but he wasn't alone. "I had four soldiers on each bench in the back, and there were two guys on the running boards. We left the windows open so they could hold on. They were very thankful for the ride."

The weather during the battle was terrible, cold and snowy, and many American soldiers got frostbite. "I was saved by my truck. I would run that heater every day and every night. I never had wet feet. If I had room, I'd always invite other soldiers to share the back of the ambulance with me at night."

He also was better prepared than many soldiers. "I never had boots. I had four-buckle overshoes, and they kept my feet dry."

He said generally, the Germans didn't shoot at the ambulances. "At least they hardly ever shot at me."

Johnson kept sandbags stashed around his seat in the ambulance. "It was just in case we hit a landmine. I don't know if the sandbags worked, but everybody did it."

On one run, Johnson got lost in the woods trying to find the wounded men. "I just kept driving around, and finally I switched on my half lights. It turned out I was right in the middle of an American unit in foxholes. A guy yelled, 'Turn those damned lights off.' And so I did."

By January, things had calmed down quite a bit, he said. The Germans were stopped and had little fuel left after the opening days of the fighting.

The soldiers were gathered together for medal ceremony at one point, and Johnson was surprised to hear his name called out as the recipient of a Bronze Star for his work at Krinkelt. "I said to a friend, 'What the hell, he told me I was going to get a Silver Star.'"

A few minutes later in the ceremony, the officer who had promised Johnson a Silver Star was awarded one himself.

Johnson was not bothered. "Both medals were worth five points toward going home early. That was the key to any medal. Of course, the guys who had done the same thing as me in Belgium were not impressed with my Bronze Star."

By March, the 99th Division was on its way into Germany.

"I remember one town we went through called Duren. It was the most bombed-out town I ever saw, and we saw a lot. They put a blade on the front of the tanks and just had them follow the streetcar lines to clear the way."

On March 11, 1944, the 99th became one of the first divisions to cross the Rhine River, crossing the bridge at Remagen.

"We were moving up the river, and toward evening we could look down the hill and see the Rhine River and the Ludendorff Bridge. They had captured it the day before. When we got up to the bridge, the guard said, 'Not over five miles an hour and we mean it.'"

"The bridge had been hit so many times, that they had put sheets of steel over the holes. If you went more than five miles an hour, it would move those sheets. So over we went. It was terrifying.

"And when we got to the other side, we realized that we could never go back. We thought we had been abandoned.



Johnson stands next to the Dodge 3/4 ton truck that was the standard Army ambulance in World War II. The picture was taken at Camp Maxey, Texas, just before the 99th Division was shipped overseas.



Dodge 3/4 ton Ambulance

Manufacturer: Dodge Brothers (Chrysler)

Crew: 2

Weight: 5,920 lbs.

Engine: Dodge model T214, six-cylinder, 230 cubic inch.

Speed: 54 miles per hour

Range: 240 miles

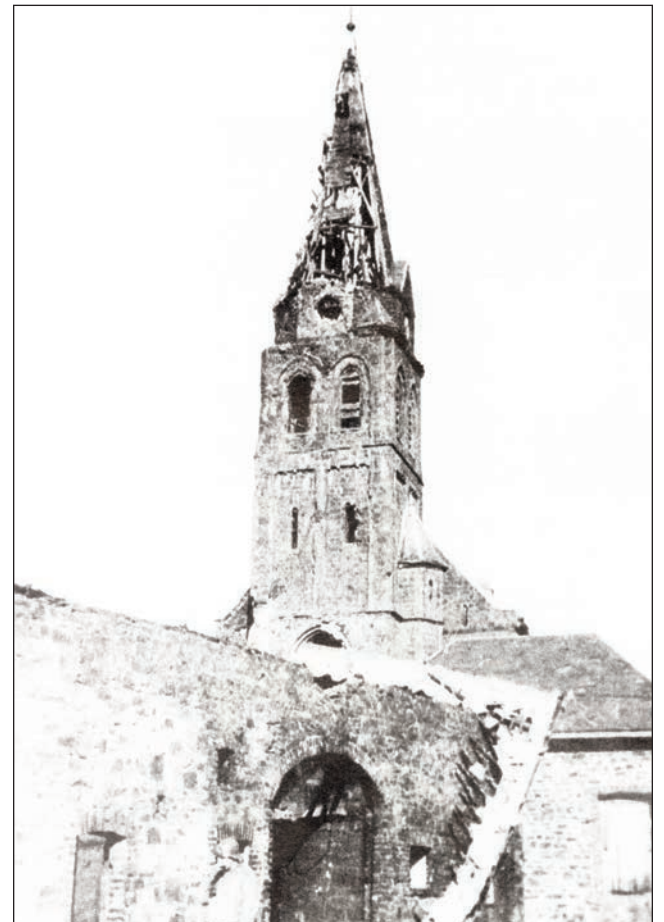
Gas consumption: 8 miles per gallon

Transmission, manual four speed

Ground clearance: 10 inches



Johnson and a comrade lean on a Jeep during the war in Europe. The 99th Division fought in Belgium, Germany, and ended the war in Austria.



The heavily damaged church at the twin towns of Krinkelt and Rocherath, Belgium, was a hiding place for many GIs as the shelling rained in from the German blitz in the Battle of the Bulge. Johnson stayed at the church until an officer sent him back to work.



Don Johnson, right, was able to hook up with his brother, Kenny, during the war. The two later ran the family's men's clothing store in Red Wing for many years.

But it was amazing how many troops they brought over that bridge.”

Before it collapsed, six divisions made it across the bridge and the pontoon bridges built near it.

The Germans were shelling the bridge constantly and would now and then attack with airplanes. “We had the biggest collection of anti-aircraft guns ever assembled during the war at Remagen. They were up and down the river, on both sides.”

Still, a flight of two German planes came over the bridge. “They came through so fast it was unbelievable. They were the first jets in the war. Don’t think that wasn’t an eye opener. Of course, our AA batteries couldn’t hit them, but the jets also didn’t hit the bridge. They only made one pass.

“The Americans were just like they were at a state high school basketball championship or something. They were all looking up and cheering as we tried to shoot them down.”

There was one down side. “Those AA rounds were coming down as fast as they were going up. We were hitting a lot of guys. It kept the ambulances busy.”

The divisions that made it across were able to form part of a pincers movement in the Ruhr Valley that had trapped thousands of German troops. In one day, the 99th Division captured 23,000 troops.

“I went by the stockade, and I remember that the German officers were mad as hell that the American soldiers wouldn’t salute them. They kept yelling about the Geneva Convention.”

By this time of the war, it was clear the German Army was finished. “They had no will to fight and nothing to fight with.”

The 99th was transferred to the Third Army in April and came under the leadership of the famed Gen. George Patton. Johnson had been a big fan of Maj. Gen. Courtney Hodges, the commander of the First Army. Those sentiments didn’t hold true for Patton.

On the 29th of April, the prisoner of war camp at Moosberg, Germany, was liberated by the U.S. 14th Armored Division. Johnson and the other nine ambulances in his unit were sent to the camp.

“We were talking to the prisoners. I had a bunch of Sunday papers that my folks had sent me rolled up behind my seat. One guy said, ‘Where are you from?’ I said Minneapolis. He said, ‘Oh, I’m from Duluth,’ and he grabbed those newspapers. I never saw him again. I’m sure he got a lot more out of them than I did.”

As the men were milling around the camp, Patton’s Jeep with the siren blaring suddenly roared into the stalag. “There was Patton, in all his glory. You knew he had to put in an appearance there. When he was done, the Jeep went roaring out of the camp right through all the prisoners. All of a sudden it came to a skidding stop. Patton jumped out and tore the stripes off a sergeant. They guy hadn’t saluted him.”

The division ended up in Linz, Austria. “I remember the American soldiers shooting the little chamois deer with their burp guns. The local farmers didn’t like that very much.”

In the hundreds of trips he made bringing soldiers to aid centers, Johnson never had a soldier die in the back of his ambulance. Of the ten ambulances in his unit, none was seriously hit during the war.

He said his closest call to an accident was when he was transporting some American soldiers and one German soldier to a hospital. “It was pitch black out, and I was trying to follow the cat-eye lights of the trucks in front of me. The German kept complaining and complaining. The Americans were quiet. They were going home.

“Well, I lost track of the other trucks, and I speeded up to try to catch them. Sure enough, I ran right into another truck in the dark. Wouldn’t you know it, it was the German who got thrown out of the stretcher onto the floor. Boy, did he complain then.”

While the rest of medical unit got ready to head for the war in the Pacific, Johnson was able to use the points he had earned for his Bronze Star to get a 30-day furlough back to the United States. He was with his family in Minnesota when the war with Japan ended.

He was never reunited with his division, and was sent to Fort Hood in Texas and then to Louisiana where he guarded prisoners. He got out in December of 1945.

After a stint at the Minnesota School of Business, he and his brother, Kenny, took over his father’s business, Johnson and Meyer. It was one of the finest men’s stores in the area. “We did well until the Targets and the rest came along. I finally liquidated it in 1981. It was a lovely store.”

Kitty-corner from the St. James Hotel, the store is now a confectionary shop.

He married Frankie in 1949, and they had two girls. Frankie, who was an accomplished rosemaking artist, died seven years ago.

Johnson still lives in his hometown and still goes down to the Red Wing American Legion Post for a cup of coffee now and then. He said he likes to give Past National Commander Dan Ludwig, also a member of the post, a hard time.



A U.S. Army photograph shows an ambulance delivering wounded soldiers to an aid station in Europe during World War II.



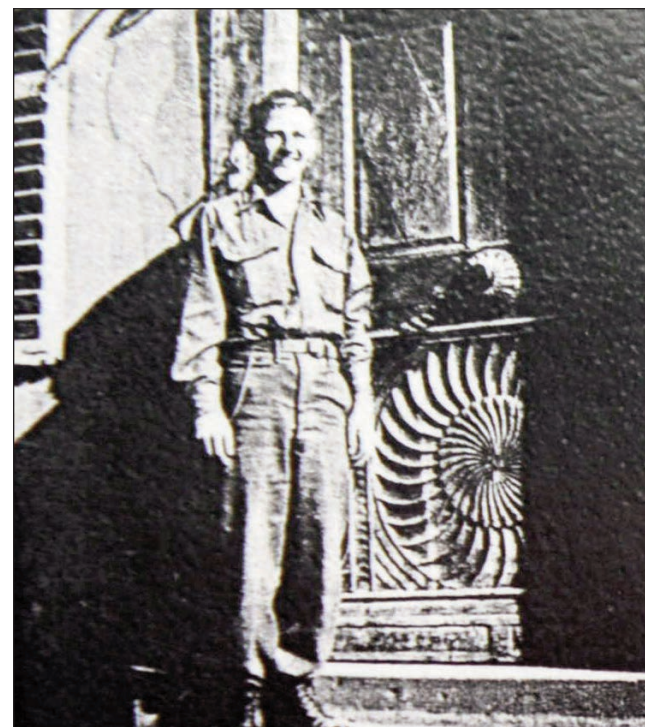
Johnson, left, posed with Wally Johnson, no relation, in Hammelberg, Bavaria, in June 1945.



Johnson posed with his mother and father when he was home on furlough in Red Wing.



After the war, Johnson and his brother, Kenny, ran the Johnson and Meyer Clothing store in Red Wing. It is now a confectionary shop.



Johnson stood by some of the local architecture in Bavaria at the close of the war.

District Commanders

FIRST DISTRICT

Myron Ehrich
Commander



I was invited to attend the 59th Annual Venison Dinner on January 16 at the Minnesota veterans Home in Hastings. The meal was very good and had a good time visiting with the other District Commanders that were in attendance. I am looking forward to the National Commanders Tour in Minnesota. Let's all give him a great Minnesota welcome. I hope to see him at the New Ulm Post 132 for the evening meal. Is the weather going to be good for his week and also for the Sweet Heart Rally in Chanhassen? We have had some up and down temperatures as of late but we have no control over that. We just have to take what comes. Think Spring.

SECOND DISTRICT

Jennifer Kafka
Commander



As I sit and wonder what to write about the main thing that pops in my head is "what as an organization are we doing wrong with new members?" I don't mean this to be negative but we always look at what we are doing right in getting new members, but our retention is down. Our membership team works hard to get new members but, we as an organization is lacking in the retention.

We can make a list of reasons why our members drop after the first couple years, but we need to look at what are we doing to keep them? Are we investing in new members? Because if not why should they invest in us? Are they just a number? If we see them as a number that "number" will drop, but if we take time to get to know them, invite them to events, learn about these men and women who, chances are have a story to tell. Then we give them more than a membership, we give them a place to belong, a place that understands and is there even if it's just to listen.

Mentoring is great. This has been around for a long time but we need to use it the right way, we need to guide and teach. Not preach and point out everything they are doing "wrong" or talking down to members, these are things that will belittle and leave a sour taste in anyone's mouth.

I love the American Legion Family and what it stands for. I am passionate about its beliefs but I am more passionate about our veterans. So please if you have a new member you know of or a long time member who hasn't been active reach out to them, befriend them but more importantly invest in them.

THIRD DISTRICT

Duane Anderson
Commander



I'm still trying to get caught up after the holidays with days going by way too fast. I just was reading a report sent down from National American Legion regarding our national security and thought I might recap some of it. The report quotes Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James. She states that the Air Force is planning for future budget constraints at the same Airmen are pursuing the fight against terrorists from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Event over the skies of Syria and Iraq. Our Air Force has provided more than 60 percent of the 16,000-plus sorties that have been flown over this area. At the same time, she said, the Air Force is ensuring the United States remains dominant in the air and in space and executing missions ranging from intelligents, surveillance and reconnaissants to global mobility and global strike. She indicates that the tough budget decisions have led to an increasingly stressed Air Force. The bottom line, she says, is that everyone wants more Air force and indeed we have never been busier around the world. Demand for our services is way up, but we are meeting those demands today with the smallest Air Force in our history. I am sure the rest of our military is facing these same challenges at the same time our country is trying to find new ways to give away money.

FOURTH DISTRICT

Dan Williams
Commander



Our Mid-Winter was held at Arcade Phalen Post 577. A good time was had by all. Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons members we thank you all for making it a success. Post 577, you were an outstanding host, as always. We appreciate every guest and visitor for taking the time to come and share a portion of your busy day with us.

Congratulations Carroll "Bird" Partridge on receiving endorsement from 3M Post 599 for 2015-2016 Department Vice Commander for 4th and 5th Districts. We know you will serve the districts and department very well, if elected. A rare "Bird" and great choice.

Calendar reminders: Wednesday, February 4th National Commander's Breakfast at Rosetown Memorial 8:00 a.m. Saturday, February 7th, Sweetheart Rally at Chanhassen Post 580 (Turn-in 3:00-4:00 PM.) February 13 - Dept. Oratorical Semi-Finals - AM (Coon Rapids & Osseo) and Finals - PM (Anoka). February 11th RCCC District Meeting will be held at Rosetown Post 542. The E-Board will meet 6:30 and general meeting starts at 7:00 PM. Our guest speaker will be Past Department Commander Mike Ash. Minneapolis VA Visitation Sunday, February 15th.

The Department of Defense reported 2014 had a slight increase in the number of suicide deaths among active service members. Let none stand alone, we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers.

FIFTH DISTRICT

Wayne Glanton
Commander



The holidays are over and we must work on membership. Old and new members are what we need. Chairmen, every member should call on just two members that you know and encourage them to pay their dues.

With all the benefits and programs that the Legion has to offer, this would be a good start and help your posts to meet their membership total.

The Oratorical program is now being put together. It would be wonderful if every post would send a high school person to enter in the contest. The prize is for a scholarship to a collage. I have attended the contest in the past and the students do a good job preparing for the contest and presenting their subject.

I am amazed how the motorcycle Riders can raise so much money on their rides. Keep up the good work Riders. I hope you are able to settle your problem.

John Austin, our Sargent at Arms, is doing a great job at raising funds for the commander's project. Thank you John. And may God Bless America.

SIXTH DISTRICT

Carl Moon
Commander



The Sixth District is starting the new year in a pretty close race with our Sister District, the Ninth, for First Place in membership for the Department. As with Sisters, one is always trying to one-up the other and so it appears this is happening between our Districts. Currently the Ninth is in the lead, but only by 0.5%. Little do they know that we are just being the Good Sister District by letting them have a little glory before we leave them in the dust. Now I know that our Department Vice Commander Mel Buesseler is thrilled to death to have both the First and Second place Districts in Department but since he is from the Sixth, I know he won't mind if we put our Sister in their place; "Second" that is.

I know that all of the Districts are in the middle of having their Mid Winter Conferences, and I know this because I don't think I will be seeing much of my wife (AKA Department Commander Moon) until mid March at her Testimonial. I want to thank Aitkin Post 86 for hosting our Mid Winter Conference that was held on January 24th.

The Sixth District will be having a Membership Revitalization on April 9 through the 11th concentrating on areas in a 20 mile radius from both Brainerd and Little Falls, which will include Camp Ripley. We are fortunate that our National Membership Director, Billy Johnson, has agreed to come in to conduct the training for this endeavor.

My Testimonial "ROAST" will be on April 11th at the Zimmerman Legion. 5:30 Social/6:30 Dinner. More information to follow.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

Victor Gades
Commander



We are just back from Mid-Winter and membership rally at the Olivia Post. We were at 50, combined American Legion and Auxiliary memberships turned-in for the day. Thank You to all that attended.

We are doing well with incoming memberships; the membership team has been doing well. If you are lagging in meeting goal be prepared to be receiving a call from the membership team. We do already have 17 Posts at 100% or better, with several Posts within striking distance by one or two memberships. Even if you are at 100%, you still may

have some members that have lapsed over the years and there are definitely other eligibly members out there. Now is the time to contact these individuals, find out why they have not renewed or joined.

A short message to 7th District Posts: We want a valid email from each Post that will accept electronic mailing. By the time your Post receives a printed newsletter some or all the included information is at best 10 to 14 days old, some even older. Having these emails will enable District and everybody to communicate and disseminate info in a more realistic time frame.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

Wilson Spence
Commander



I would like to thank all who attended our Mid Winter meeting in Virginia. I also would like to publicly thank Kurt E. Thielen, business manager for the VA Medical Center Minneapolis for his willingness to speak to us. All attendees were able to renew friendships, make new ones, learn more about The American Legion, and able to hear from/ask questions of Thielen about VA health care.

We are all members of that American Legion Family. When any of our district posts excel, we all excel. When any of our posts have difficulty, we all have difficulty with them and we want to help in any way we can. I know many post are exceling and a few are struggling. The Eighth District members want to give our aid and share our ideas to those of you who feel overwhelmed. Please let us know.

Membership is a very important to all of us. The national, Department of Minnesota, and the district all speak of the importance of membership. Why you ask? You are The American Legion. The sacrifices for our Nation continue with the activities of our posts. When you help a fellow veteran, a member of a veteran's family, your community, or contact your public officials, you help The American Legion. Ask your neighbor, your policeman, your sheriff, your fireman, you never know who will say "yes" and become an American Legionnaire.

NINTH DISTRICT

Thomas Norgaard Sr.
Commander



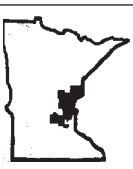
February stacks up to be a fairly busy month. On the 2nd I will meet the National Commander Mike Helm at Walker for supper. The 6th is our 9th District Godfather's Rally in Mahanomen at the Post starting at 6:00 pm. Let's help all the Godfathers out and have a lot of memberships to turn in at the Sweetheart Rally in Chanhassen the next day. February 11th is the National 85% cutoff for membership. We are past that goal already and need to be over 90% by that date.

During the Mid-Winter Conference, I was able to turn in \$680.00 toward my Commanders Project. This year is to raise money to purchase a handicap assessable pool table for the Veterans Home in Fergus Falls. They have set a cost of about \$6,000 for it and are getting donations from other area organizations as well as from the 9th District. My goal is \$2500 and I think that we could go beyond that. I would like to see every Post in the District contribute something, even if you can only afford \$10.00.

Last year's project, a bingo machine, was a success as I was just informed that the machine has arrived and is working perfectly. Jen Morken, last year's 9th District President and myself will have to set a time to go down and have a photo taken with the new Bingo Machine.

TENTH DISTRICT

Tom Sanders
Commander



Mid-Winter Conference at Anoka Post 102 went well. I want to thank "Helping Paws" for their demonstration of the Districts combined project. I hope that everyone present enjoyed it and found it a deserving project to donate to. I hope the information that was presented was something you can bring back to your own American Legion Family in your community and use. I would also like to thank the Anoka folks for putting on such a great conference.

The 44th Annual 10th District Snowmobile Rally was a huge success. It is my honor and pleasure to thank everyone involved that came on the run. This has been the "Big Kahuna" for getting all the Family closer to the set goals for membership. Special thanks to Hopkins Post 320 for hosting the turn in at the end of the run.

Now that we are in the month of February "Dues are due" so now is the time to really work those members that are in jeopardy of losing those continuous years. As of Jan. 31st dues became delinquent. This is the time of "snow-birds" and frosty weather, so let's keep warm and working.

Taps

Hansen, Donald C., 92, Navy veteran of World War II, died Dec. 30, 2014. He helped organize Hardwick Post 478, and served as post commander three times. He was a Second District Commander from 1966-67 and a Department Vice Commander from 1969-70.

Waytashek, LeRoy, 85, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 15, 2015. He was a member of Hillman Post 602.

Hulke, DeWayne "Red," 80, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Dec. 24, 2014. He served on the USS Quincy. He was past commander of Clarissa Post 213. He was the brother of Past Department President Gwen Hamilton.

Seide, Roman H., 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 12, 2015. He served on the color guard of Chisago City Post 272.

Clausen, Douglas E., 80, Navy veteran the Korean War, died Dec. 25, 2014. He trained as a Seabee and did construction projects in Japan and the Philippines. He was a member of Waseca Post 228.

Swenson, Marvin Sanford, 89, Navy veteran of World War II, died Jan. 12, 2015. He was a radioman on the USS Adams. He was a member of Waseca Post 228.

Bruner, Ervin A., 88, Army veteran of World War II, died Dec. 25, 2014. He served in Germany at the end of the war. He was a member of St. Michael Post 567.

Fredrickson, Duane W., 79, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Dec. 28, 2014. He was the manager of the Kenyon-Wanamingo Legion Baseball team for 22 years and was active in fund raising. He was commander of Kenyon Post 78.

Poser, Leonard Math, 85, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 11, 2015. He served in California. He was a member of Pierz Post 341.

Leidenfrost, Herbert, 92, Navy veteran of World War II, died Jan. 2, 2015. He was a member of Pierz Post 341.

Rademacher, Leander Philip, 89, Navy veteran of World War II, died Dec. 31, 2014. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Benesh, John Martin, 91, Army veteran of World War II, died Jan. 1, 2015. He served at Corregidor and Manila in the Philippines. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Atwood, John, 89, Army veteran of World War II, died Jan. 3, 2015. He served in Korea during World War II. He was a member of Paynesville Post 271.

Larson, Wallace Otto, 95, Navy veteran of World War II, died Jan. 6, 2015. He served at North Africa and Okinawa. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

Gams, Paul M., 51, Army veteran of the Grenada and Lebanon conflicts, died Dec. 29, 2014. He served as a medic and later joined the Army Reserve. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

Rosendahl, Harold, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 7, 2015. He was a past commander and honor guard member of New London Post 537.

Bridges, William, 88, Coast Guard and Army veteran of World War II, died Dec. 24, 2014. He served as a reserve officer in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He was a top officer at the St. Cloud VA Medical Center. He was a member of Rice Post 473.

Stewart, Amanda Lee, 28, Army veteran of the Iraq War, died

Dec. 24, 2014. She served in both the Minnesota and Colorado National Guard. She was a member of Rice Post 473.

Hoye, William, 81, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 12, 2015. He served in Japan. He was a member of Twin City Ford Post 439.

Bereuter, Wilmer O. "Buzz," 88, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Dec. 17, 2014. He was a past commander of Brainerd Post 255, and a long time member of the color guard.

Nelson, Clifford J.B., 86, Army veteran of World War II, died Dec. 24, 2014. He was a member of Brainerd Post 255.

Austin, Lyle, 92, Army veteran of World War II, died Jan. 11, 2015. He was a member of Brainerd Post 255.

Linnerooth, Wallace, 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died Jan. 11, 2015. He retired from the Navy in 1982 as a lieutenant. He was a member of Brainerd Post 255.

Hayes, Arthur Dean, 92, Navy veteran of World War II, died Jan. 8, 2015. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Donnay, Arthur M., 94, Army veteran of World War II, died Dec. 21, 2014. He was a member of Kimball Post 261.

David, Jason Donald, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 2, 2015. He served active duty and in the National Guard. He was a past commander of Lonsdale Post 586.

Lacina, William, 92, Army veteran of World War II, died Jan. 11, 2015. He served in the 311th Infantry Regiment, M Company, in Europe. He was a member of Mankato Post 11.

Jacobsen, Marvin W., 88, Navy veteran of World War II and Korea, died Jan. 8, 2015. He served as a Seabee. He was a founding member of Zimmerman Post 560.

Reineccisu, Royal T., "Ted," 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Dec. 1, 2014. He was a sergeant in radio communications and he served in Japan and Okinawa. He was a past commander of Princeton Post 216.

Sumner, Clifford E., 74, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died Dec. 27, 2014. He served on the USS Valley Forge. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 117.

Defreece, Virgil, 68, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Dec. 26, 2014. He served in Korea. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 117.

Braun, Raymond E., Navy veteran of World War II, died Dec. 22, 2014. He served on the USS Pennsylvania in the Pacific. He was a member of Chisago City Post 272.

DeClercq, Dayle L., 82, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 3, 2015. He was awarded the Bronze Star. He was chaplain of Chisago City Post 272.

Macken, Stephen, 69, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died Dec. 18, 2014. He was in Naval Air. He was a member of Eyota Post 551.

Lund, Glenn R., 74, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Dec. 14, 2014. He was an Army nurse during the war. He was a member of Franklin Post 308.

Asleson, Richard, 82, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Dec. 30, 2014. He drove a Jeep for a general. He was a member of Eyota Post 551.

Peterson, John William, 61, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Dec. 26, 2014. He was a member of Clarissa Post 213.

Hulke, DeWayne "Red," 80, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Dec. 24, 2014. He was a past commander of Clarissa Post 213

and served as Clarissa Police Chief.

Gurven, Morris Smith, 81, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Dec. 30, 2014. He was a member of Bertha Post 366.

Johnson, Roger Bruce, 63, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Dec. 31, 2014. He served for 25 years in the North Dakota National Guard and served in Germany. He was a member of Breckenridge Post 53.

Banitt, Ronald J., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Dec. 20, 2014. He was a member of Zumbrota Post 183.

Kuntz, Alfred A., 77, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Dec. 5, 2014. He served in Vietnam. He was a member of Waconia Post 150.

Sanders, Andrew G., 82, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died Dec. 6, 2014. He was a past commander of Albert Lea Post 56.

Morley, George H., 89, Navy veteran of World War II, died Dec. 11, 2014. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Doty, Glenn L., 89, Marine Corps veteran of World War II, died Dec. 20, 2014. He served in the Battle of Okinawa. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Carlson, Albin R., 98, Army veteran of World War II, died Dec. 10, 2014. He served in Italy and North Africa. He was a member of Cass Lake Post 284.

Schroedl, Leroy A., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 2, 2015. He served two tours in Korea. He was a member of Fairfax Post 205.

Paulson, Daniel E., 70, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died Dec. 20, 2014. He served for 20 years as a nuclear weapons superintendent in the Strategic Air Command. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Lindquist, Donald, 81, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died Dec. 25, 2014. He was a past commander of Park Rapids Post 212.

DeCrans, Alfonse Peter, 93, Army veteran of World War II, died Dec. 11, 2015. He was a forward observer in the Battle of Okinawa. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Dragstra, Joseph A., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Dec. 23, 2014. He served in Germany. He was a member of Edgerton Post 142.

DeLay, George E., 98, Army veteran of World War II, died Dec. 31, 2014. He was a member of Faribault Post 43.

Marshik, Donald A., 75, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died Dec. 26, 2014. He was a member of Hillman Post 602 and a great volunteer.

Zapp, John W., 87, Army veteran of World War II, died Jan. 2, 2015. He was a member of Cold Spring Post 455.

Fuller, Keith H., "Murph," 67, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Dec. 25, 2014. He served in the honor guard of Faribault Post 43.

Brooks, Paul, 96, Army veteran of World War II, died Dec. 21, 2014. He was a member of Fairfax Post 205.

Vait, Leroy W., 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Dec. 22, 2014. He was a member of Fairfax Post 205.

Shierts, Kenneth William, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 16, 2015. He was a member of Monticello Post 260.

Westphal, Roger "Butch," 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 16, 2015. He was a member of Maple Lake post 131.

Stahlke, Donald E., 81, Coast Guard veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, died Jan. 19, 2015. He was stationed at the Coast Guard Academies in New London and Norfolk. He was a member of Waconia Post 150.

Minnesota Legionnaire Obituary Policy

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

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

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

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

Sons of The American Legion

By
Dennis Henkemeyer



As I have traveled around the State of Minnesota this year, there is one thing that truly sticks out and that is the Minnesota epitomizes the term American Legion Family. The kindness and hospitality that has been extended to me as the Detachment Commander of the Sons of The American Legion has been unbelievable and I thank all of you for that.

As I write this article, I have traveled to three district mid-winters and will hit another two this weekend. From what I can see the meetings have been well run and the reports and speakers have been very interesting. It is obvious to me that The American Legion Family is working hard in promoting our programs and setting them in motion.

Just a reminder to the

SAL members here in the Detachment of Minnesota that it is not too early to start making plans for our Spring Meeting in Anoka. The finance committee meeting and the detachment executive committee meeting will be held on Friday evening, March 20, 2015. The general session will be held the following day and will more than likely start a little early to allow those of us that are planning on going to the department commander's testimonial in Walker a safe trip. More information will be coming soon from Detachment Adjutant Douglas Bible.

We are having a great year with our membership program. We have met all national targets to date and have stayed consistently in the top 10 nationally for a number of weeks now. We have also been number one in the Central Region on a

number of occasions. I have to say that we are on track to obtain another all time high for Minnesota and I am confident that we will break that magic number of 11,000 members by the time the year is done! I thought it very fitting and a fine tribute to Past Detachment Commander John Affolter that Minnesota did make an all time high for 2014.

As for my project of the Minnesota Fisher House, donations are continuing to come in. I have said that I had no idea what type of a goal to set since this particular project was a first for Minnesota and a lot of people have little or no knowledge of this terrific program. However, based on donations to date, I have finally set a goal for my year. Since we are going for 11,000 members in Minnesota, I think the goal for the Minneapolis Fisher House should also be \$11,000.00. I have not seen any totals to date, but I know that we are somewhere around \$8,000.00 right now, so yes it is definitely obtainable.

Membership Chart

As of January 21, 2015

District	2015 Goal	Total 2014	Total 2015	Percent of Goal	Same Date '13
1	9,976	9,918	8,879	89.00	9,201
2	8,110	8,026	7,203	88.97	7,518
3	12,486	12,421	11,200	89.70	11,467
4	2,554	2,530	2,261	88.53	2,336
5	2,959	2,936	2,513	84.93	2,661
6	12,698	12,627	11,402	89.79	11,727
7	7,245	7,167	6,412	88.50	6,638
8	4,768	4,727	4,139	86.81	4,402
9	7,443	7,378	6,678	89.72	6,905
10	11,243	11,189	9,952	88.52	10,228
At-large	2,340	2,338	2,417	76.54	2,151
Totals	81,822	81,257	73,056	88.42	75,234

Listening Post

News from around the State



Silver bay hosts 23rd Superior fishing trip

Since 1993, the Silver Bay Minnesota Veterans Home has hosted a fishing trip on Lake Superior. This year, 60 residents from Silver Bay, Minneapolis, Hastings and Fergus Falls fished and caught 50 fish on 15 charters. They later had a shore lunch.

At top, Art Kale get his line ready. At bottom, a poster welcomes vets aboard a volunteer-donated charter boat.



ST. FRANCIS DONATION -- St. Francis Post 622 donated over \$6,000 worth of clothing to the St. Cloud VA Medical System at Christmas time. The money came from the post's annual Support our Troops Golf Tournament. In front is tournament organizer Bob Nelson with some of the donation boxes.



FIFTH DISTRICT AT MOA -- Organized by the SAL's Shawn Davis, the Fifth District had a booth at the Mall of America. Carol Larson, right, holds the baby of a veteran signing up for additional information. Richfield Unit 435 President Jill Davis sat behind the booth.



NORTH BRANCH HONOR -- North Branch Past Commander and Chaplain Jim Johnson, center, was honored as North Branch Post 85's Member of the Year. Presenting were Commander Randy Koivisto and 10th District Vice Commander Ron Rollins.



VIKES HONOR WINDOM VET -- Joe Carpenter, a Viking season ticket holder since 1963 and a longtime member of Windom Post 206, was honored during the Vikings-Bears game in December. Carpenter, who got a standing ovation from the crowd, served with the 45th Division in North Africa and Italy, and was at the invasion of Sicily where his landing craft was sunk and he had to swim ashore under enemy fire. He wore his Legion hat for the recognition at TCF Bank Stadium.



EDEN VALLEY HONORS OLD TIMERS -- Eden Valley Post 381 gave out continuous membership awards recently. From left, front: Gary Scheierl, Roman Utecht, Willie Becker and Butch Belanger. Middle row: Ken Tschumperlin, Arnie Thielen, Sonny Thielen, Post Commander Art Kuechle. Back row: Greg Utecht, Fritz Theis, Jim Haag.



HAMEL VETS VOLUNTEER -- Three members of Hamel Post 394 serve on the Fort Snelling Memorial Rifle Squad in the Tuesday group as well as doing thousands of our hours of volunteer work. From left are: Dale Malmberg, Jim Heimerl and Roman Rowan.



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 15-1

President Chris Ronning

February 2015

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

The President's Column

By
Chris Ronning



What an amazing month of January, the weather was kind to us, gas prices kept getting lower, how much better can it get?

I attended seven District Mid-winters throughout our great state. As each District Chairmen gave their reports I knew we are in good hands.

These ladies give their all to work our programs and I want to thank them for all they do.

Sandie and I went over to the Fisher House to deliver all the items the Auxiliary members have collected. We were running out of space at the office.

We had several bags to be delivered and also lots of gift cards, such as gas cards, Target and Wal-Mart cards and many more.

I wasn't sure how this would work, when I asked the members to bring items for the Fisher House. They came through, plus so much more.

Some of you had Fisher House Showers, Silent Auctions, collected items at your Unit meetings and Rallies. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generosity.

February will be another busy month. Our National Commander Mike Helm will be visiting our great state.

Let's hope that the weather stays nice for a little while longer. I hope some of our Auxiliary members will be able to visit with him at one of his stops.

I am looking forward to Washington DC in February. This is such an exciting city and it gives me a chance to visit with our Legislators and talk to them about issues concerning our Veterans.

A few dinners, Department Sweetheart Rally and final Oratorical contests are coming up.

American Legion Bowling will kick off February 21st. I will be on my way to Washington, so you will miss me throwing out the first ball. It would have been ugly.

It is time to get Girl State information to your schools. This is one of the best programs we as the American Legion Auxiliary offer.

These ladies are the cream of the crop and I encourage all Units to send at least one girl.

Keep our service men and their families in your prayers and let's not forget our Veterans that gave so much so we can live in this great country.

Our Veterans – Past –Future and Present.

National President Jefford to visit Minnesota March 2-5

National President Janet Jefford will be in Minnesota on Monday, March 2, through Thursday, March 5. There is a daily itinerary included in this issue of the Legionnaire. Please make a point to visit one of her stops. She will be telling everyone of her year so far and her plans for the balance of her year.

Jefford, of Manchester, Conn., was elected national president of the American Legion Auxiliary during the organization's 94th National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., Aug. 22-28.

Jefford joined the American Legion Auxiliary through her father William Lucas, a WWII Army veteran. She is also eligible through her son, Jeff, a Desert Storm Army veteran. Jefford is a member of Goodale-Rameker Unit 56.

Jefford is the first Connecticut resident to represent the American Legion Auxiliary as national president since Helen Lee Gilbert during the 1944-1945 administrative year. She has held numerous leadership positions in the organization at the unit, district and department levels, including eight national program chairmanships. She currently serves on the 2014-2019 Centennial Strategic Planning leadership team.

Jefford recently retired as vice president of institutional effectiveness at Goodwin College in East Hartford, Conn. She served as a commissioner on an agency that accredits schools and colleges, and as president and chairman of the Board of Connecticut Training Center, a community-based nonprofit training center. Jefford has two children and two grandchildren. All are members of The American Legion Family.



JANET JEFFORD

Joachim has put various aspects of this most important program in the February Unit mailing. All members should strive to be a patriot through Unit involvement in community events. Encourage and get involved with your youth to teach them the importance of Americanism. Work closely with The American Legion and their Americanism programs.

POPPY CARDS AND POPPY DAYS

Poppy Card Distribution Days will be held April 17- 26, 2015, inclusive for closed territories, starting at 12:01 a.m. on April 17. Beginning April 27 Poppy Cards may be distributed anywhere right up until Poppy Day. Poppy Cards may be distributed within the confines of one's own Post home to members and patrons only on Thursday evening, April 16 – if the Cards are hung on the wall of the Post Home and NO distributed Cards leave the building on Thursday evening.

Poppy Days will be May 15-16, 2015, beginning at 12:01 a.m. on May 15. Closed territories are in effect until noon on Friday, May 15.

This "gentlemen's" agreement involves the VFW, VFWA, The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Posts and Units. Everyone's cooperation is necessary to ensure a successful Poppy program. Please do not distribute any Poppy Cards and/or Poppies prior to these dates. This applies to all Posts and Units in the seven-county metropolitan area (Ramsey, Hennepin, Washington, Dakota, Carver, Scott and Anoka counties).

POPPY ORDERS

Shipping of 2015 Poppy orders began last fall as orders were received and Poppies were available. All orders are shipped according to the "need by" date indicated when the order was placed. Orders are shipped by first class mail. Upon receipt of your Poppies please check it carefully. Contact the department office with any discrepancies. If your Unit has already ordered Poppies, but needs more, please order again. Units may place as many Poppy orders as they want to.

If you haven't placed your Poppy order yet, please do so. We need to finalize the number of Poppies needed for this year's Poppy distribution so we can plan accordingly. Let's have 100% Unit participation in the Auxiliary Poppy program. Right now out of 444 Units 326 have placed orders. Remember our Poppies are made by our veterans and they receive a small compensation for their work. Let's support their efforts.

2016 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Gosh, it seems that these months go by so fast — in the February Unit mailing, every Unit received a notice asking for the amount of your Unit's 2015 Senior and Junior dues, and the name and address of the person whose name should appear on your Unit's 2015 dues' notices. Please make sure this information gets back to Sandie at the Department Office by March 15. There are no increases in dues at either the National or Department level this year.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Just a reminder all applications for any Department and National scholarships must be received in the department office by March 15. Let your schools know they are available and provide them with the application forms. They are also posted on our website for your convenience. If additional copies are needed, you may duplicate those you have received or contact the Department office.

PRESIDENT'S MEMORY BOOK

If our Department President Chris has attended an Auxiliary or Legion function in your community, be certain to share with her through her Memory Book Chairman any pictures, newspaper articles, etc. that pertain to her visit. You may send these directly to: Jill Mueller, 548 E. 10th St., St. Charles, Minnesota 55972 or email them to Jill @ jilly1026@gmail.com. You can also send them to the department office and we will forward them for you. It has been such a pleasure watching Chris have so much fun while still getting our American Legion Auxiliary message out this year.

STATE JUNIOR CONFERENCE

The 52nd Annual Department Junior Conference will be held April 10th and 11th at the Stewartville American Legion Post 164, Stewartville, Minnesota, hosted by the First District.

We are hoping that a large number of the Junior members are able to attend and participate. If your Juniors have never attended a Department Junior Conference, plan to join us this year. Junior members will enjoy a "fun night" on Friday, April 10th, the night before the opening of the Conference. The 1st District has been working hard to make this a special evening for the Junior members.

On Saturday the Conference will be called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Jules Efta, the Department Honorary Junior President. This is a day when the Juniors become reacquainted with each other, make new friends, learn how to conduct a meeting and participate in it. This meeting is a Junior Conference and the Junior members run it. They are very capable young women.

The "Call to Conference" was included in the January Unit mailing, giving you all the details. Junior Activities Chairmen, please obtain this information from your Unit President so you can make your plans to have your Juniors attend. You do not need to have an organized Junior group to participate. All Juniors are welcome. The information is also posted on our website mнала.org

Hotel reservations must be made by March 13, 2015. All reservations should be made with the Americinn, Rochester, 7320 Airport View Drive, Rochester, Minnesota 55902. The direct telephone number is (507) 536-7000 Block name: American Legion Auxiliary Juniors.

Efta has chosen to raise monies to make activity bags for children while their parent(s) are at doctor's appointments. These will be put in the VA Medical Centers and Veterans Homes. Please bring your donation to the Conference so she can finalize her project.

AMERICANISM MONTH

February is Americanism month. Chairman Joanne

Auxiliary

Membership as of Jan. 20, 2015

District	1-20 Total	Percent	Goal
First	4,276	73.13	5,847
Second	4,337	76.18	5,693
Third	3,795	75.61	5,019
Fourth	607	69.77	840
Fifth	712	69.87	1,019
Sixth	5,312	75.11	7,072
Seventh	3,490	76.45	4,565
Eighth	1,374	71.01	1,935
Ninth	3,851	76.11	5,060
Tenth	4,431	73.58	6,022
Depart.	106	60.92	174
Total	32,291	74.62	43,276

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

I am sure many of you have some real interesting "moments."

UNIT ANNUAL REPORTS

Unit Annual Reports have been mailed to each Unit in January. All reports, instruction sheets and history paper will be in one envelope. If you don't receive this envelope, contact the department office immediately. Please note: The Unit reports cover the period from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

This year the reports have again been reformatted because of the feedback we received from the Units. We have made the Unit reports like those in the past. When our Units ask for better ways of doing things we do everything in our power to come through.

All Unit reports are due on or before April 15. Reports are important. Let's hear from every Unit.

GIRLS STATE

Now is the time to send your \$300 fee to reserve a place for your American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State citizen(s). Cut-off for reservations is March 31. Upon receipt of your reservation fee (\$300 per girl) you will receive the needed registration packet(s).

Enrollment is limited to the first 445 applications received. The name of the girl, information sheet, enrollment card, pledge and order form for the citizen's Capitol Day polo must be into the Department office by May 1.

There is no restriction as to the number of delegates a Unit may send to Girls State from their high school(s). The delegate must be a Minnesota resident, or attend a Minnesota school. Please note that there will be NO refunds given this year. Once we receive your registration fee and you do not have a girl to sponsor we will use it for a deserving girl who wants to attend but has no sponsor.

Each high school principal has received a mailing pertaining to Girls State. Contact your high school now and let them know if you will be sponsoring a girl. High schools may not register a girl on their own. All Girls State citizens must be sponsored by an American Legion Auxiliary Unit.

Girls State will be held June 7-12 at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. This year will be very exciting with many new changes in store.

TESTIMONIAL DATES

District 1, Michelle Weaver, April 18, 6 p.m., Winona
 District 2, Vida Bacon, April 11, 5 p.m., Blue Earth
 District 3, Michelle Leonard, May 30, Farmington
 District 4, Joan Strack, April 24
 District 5, Cari Lamb, May 23, Post #1, Minneapolis
 District 6, Jessie Hoppe, April 18, Sauk Centre
 District 7, Sandy Wersal, May 25, New London
 District 8, Zandra Kessler, June 20, Two Harbors
 District 9, Margee Keller, May 2, Noon, Crookston
 District 10, Robin Dorf, May 2, 11:30 a.m., Monticello

Please contact the District President listed for more information.

SECRETARY SANDIE'S NOTES

Another month has come and gone - spring is getting closer every day. I would like to take the opportunity to introduce my newest staff member, Julie Deneffe. Julie will be greeting you when you call in to our Department Office. Take a minute to wish her well. She has started out running and done a great job so far. Jan Lauby will be transitioning into some of the bookkeeping functions at the Department along with membership. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to call, all three of us are more than happy to help. There are many events coming up and I encourage you to attend as many as you can. We have the Sweetheart Rally in Chanhassen, the National President's Tour, the Family Appreciation Rally in Royalton and then the Spring Round Up Rally in Duluth. I hope to see many of you at one or all of these membership rallies. They are a great time to visit and catch up with those you haven't seen in awhile and to meet new friends as well.

I know this gets beaten to death but I would like to bring up membership. We have been doing a great job to date but here is where we always seem to falter. We are in 5th place in the Nation but we are behind last year's Minnesota numbers by 1,489 dues paid. I encourage you to come up with ways to get our current members paid. Have a little "membership party" at your meeting place. Have those that attend each call one of two of your members that haven't paid. Spend a little time on the phone with them, let them know what we are doing and what our mission is. Without our members we don't have an organization. If you can come up with other success stories, please share them with me and I will get them out to other Units that are struggling.

Happy Valentine's Day to each and every one of you. I sure hope your special Valentine remembers you with a special treat. I know my special Valentine had better remember me or he might not be so special anymore.

National President's state tour schedule

2015 American Legion Auxiliary National President's Tour						
National President Janet Jefford						
Monday, March 2, 2015						
Location	Time	Event	Phone	email	Cost	Deadline
Plainview Unit #179	5:00 p.m.	Social	507-534-2931	mkg1945@embarqmail.com	\$12.00	2/23/2015
215 3rd St. SW	6:00 p.m.	Dinner	(for reservations)			
Contact is Marie Goede						
Tuesday, March 3, 2015						
Location	Time	Event	Phone			
New Ulm Unit 132	12:00 noon	Lunch	507-354-4016	vbpic@newulmtel.net	\$7.00	2/24/2015
13 South Minnesota			call between 1-8 p.m for reservations			
Faribault Unit 43	5:30 p.m.	Social	507-334-8784 or	cbraun@carleton.edu	\$15.00	2/20/2015
112 5th St. NE	6:30 p.m.	Dinner	507-330-4883			
Contact is Candy Braun (for reservations)						
Wednesday, March 4, 2015						
Location	Time	Event	Phone			
Minneapolis VA/Brain Science	a.m.	Tour				
Fisher House	noon	Lunch				
Minneapolis Veterans Home	afternoon					
Osseo Unit 172	5:30 p.m.	Social	763-424-8812			
	6:30 p.m.	Dinner	Erma Redden	club172manager@comcast.net	\$15.00	2/27/2015
763-425-4858 Post (for reservations)						
Thursday, March 5, 2015						
Location	Time	Event	Phone			
Armed Forces Center	Before flight home					
Minneapolis Airport						

Americanism Month

The Americanism program promotes patriotism and responsible citizenship year round. We, as the Auxiliary, should be promoting patriotism and responsible citizenship all year round. We should be doing this not only at our meetings but all around our communities.

What can you do?

Be knowledgeable on flag history, etiquette, and proper flag disposal methods and promote the observation of patriotic holidays so our communities will look to the ALA for information.

As a unit you can conduct a flag disposal ceremony, host flag awareness events, participate in local patriotic holiday events, encourage members to fly the flag, compile a list of patriotic holidays and events and share with your unit.

As a member you can publish flag etiquette tips in the newspaper or social media, practice respect for the flag at public events, volunteer for a local patriotic event.

Encourage our members to get out and vote.

As a unit encourage members to participate in Get Out to Vote and Kids Voting USA campaigns.

As a member, vote and encourage others to vote, take your children/grandchildren with you when you vote.

Increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest. This year's theme is "What Does Freedom Mean to my Family?" Guidelines were sent in earlier Unit mailings for the contest and will be included again.

As a unit contact schools and other organizations such as Boy and Girl Scouts about the essay contest, offer incentives for winners, encourage your juniors to participate in the contest, create information packets on the contest, work with school administration to identify guidance counselors, history teachers, etc. whose students would be interested in participating. Include this in your unit report to your district, department and national chairman.

As a member encourage your children/grandchildren to participate, offer to contact schools or other organizations, help judge essays.

Promote pride in belonging to the world's largest patriotic women's organization, the American Legion Auxiliary.

As a unit and member encourage members to wear Auxiliary logo clothing and/or jewelry at functions, carry membership applications for the Legion Family; plan a program to honor your unit's Junior members who will become eligible for senior membership.

Participate in the promotion of American Legion Americanism programs.

As a unit and member work with the post and/or district Americanism chairman, support and help with American Legion Baseball, support the oratorical contest at either post or District level, support Junior Shooting Sports.

Please check the American Legion's Action Program of Americanism brochure: www.legion.org/publications.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all."



JOANNE JOACHIM
Americanism Chairman



SANDY FREDRICKSON
Legislative Chairman

Legislative Month

As chairman for Legislation in the Department of MN, we as Auxiliary members must become more aware of veterans issues. Members need to know the importance of contacting our senators, legislators, and representatives. We must be advocates to ensure our Veterans are cared for, are honored, and are respected!

Even though monthly newsletters are sent out by the Department we must open doors and contact our representatives, either by phone, letters, e-mail, etc.

2014 was another election year with many changes. Changes, not just for the state of MN, but the Federal government changes for Senators and House of Representatives. We must continue to contact these members and remind them of the oath and promises they made in representing all of us, especially our veterans and their families.

One positive item this past session was, as of Jan 2, 2015, Minnesota Woman Veterans are now able to purchase license plates in their honor. It states "woman veteran". Cost for each plate is an extra \$20.00 for registration and taxes. This is an honor for the some 29,000 female veterans in Minnesota.

Our NW Division chairman, Norma Tramm, keeps us updated and informed of changes with Veterans issues and who our contacts are in Congress.


We as Auxiliary members must always be reminded — we follow the actions of The American Legion, never endorsing any measure until The American Legion has first endorsed it.

As the Auxiliary year continues, I will advocate to our members important issues facing the Veterans and their families. I will continue to encourage members to contact their representatives. Be a "voice." Be "heard."

-- Sandy Fredrickson

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

Double \$999.00 per person
Triple \$979.00 per person
Single \$1,199.00 per person

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

\$2,279.00 per person double occupancy

Glacier National Park

By Amtrak July 16-24, 2015




Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Jenny Gilbertson
- Roundtrip Amtrak coach seats to Glacier Park
- 6 nights' hotel accommodations
- Luggage handling for one suitcase
- 15 meals
- Going to the Sun Road via the REDS
- Cruise on Swiftcurrent & Lake Louise
- Entrance fees to Glacier National Park
- UNESCO Heritage Site-Head Smashed In
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police Museum
- Cruise on Waterton Lake to Goat Haunt

\$2,649.00 per person double occupancy

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
- And much more!

Double \$1,039.00 per person
Triple \$1,019.00 per person
Single \$1,309.00 per person



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Heart of Alaska

July 30-August 6, 2015




Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Sue Barber
- Delta Air Flights between Minneapolis & Anchorage
- 7 Nights Quality Accommodations
- 12 Meals including an Alaskan Salmon Bake
- Iditarod Travel Headquarters
- Travel the Alaska Railroad between Talkeetna and Denali Park
- Denali Park Natural History Tour
- Riverboat Discovery Cruise
- Chena Indian Village
- Sled Dog Demonstration
- Pan for gold at the Gold Dredge #8
- Prince William Sound Cruise
- Mears Glacier

Double \$3,299.00 per person
Triple \$3,129.00 per person
Single \$3,879.00 per person

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 & Gardens
- Two full-day guided tours of Washington D.C.
- WW II Memorial, Capitol Hill, Embassy Row, the Korean War National Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial

\$1,499.00 per person double occupancy

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!

Double \$1,419.00 per person
Triple \$1,399.00 per person
Single \$1,759.00 per person

Alaska Tour and Cruise

August 7-19, 2015



Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Jenny Gilbertson
- Roundtrip Delta flights from Minneapolis to Fairbanks and return from Vancouver to Minneapolis
- Accommodations at superior and deluxe hotels
- All sightseeing/entrance fees as outlined in the itinerary
- A 7-night southbound cruise on the Coral Princess
- All meals and entertainment while aboard the Coral Princess
- Cruise gratuities
- All transfers to and from the airport and pier

PASSPORTS REQUIRED
Starting at \$3,899.00

VA DISABILITY APPEALS



TOM HAGEN
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Legionville Seeking Summer Help

#1 cabin counselors- will be living in the Dorms with the campers. Will be acting as big brother or big sister during the week the campers are here at Legionville.

#2 Instructors- We will be needing a Beach Front Director who will instruct Swimming or Canoeing and supervise the others, working as a team. Instructors are also needed for swimming, canoeing, first aid.

Lead staff- We will be needing lead staff that will be in charge of camp administration, do daily reports to the Camp Manager and be able to run to camp General Store. Will need to run computer to do the Camp Newsletter and Graduation Diplomas and other reports need to run camp.

Contact: Roy Kruger, roykruger@gmail.com



Ross Gabriel, President

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