



Department Judge Advocate Don Walser shares a thought with National Commander Dan Dellinger.



At Pipestone, Dellinger was presented with an authentic, hand-crafted peace pipe.



Pipestone County Start Editor Debra Fitzpatrick interviews the National Commander.



Dellinger got before the bright lights of the TV camera during an interview in Rochester.



The National Commander paid an unscheduled stop to the Department Headquarters at the Capitol in St. Paul.

## Dellinger tours Minnesota

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the Legion continue to be a source of information and counsel to the lawmakers. "We are the fabric that holds America together."

Membership, he said, is crucial for the Legion to have an impact. He recalled one Senate hearing where one of the elected officials was busy talking to staff and was ignoring the Legion person who was testifying. At one point, though, the witness noted there were 3.5 million members of the Legion Family.

"After that, the senator paid attention. It's important that we have the numbers."

He congratulated Minnesota on being one of five states over 90 percent in membership at this point.

Dellinger visited posts in Pipestone, Granite Falls, Redwood Falls, Olivia, St. Peter, Waseca, Rochester, Chanhassen, Elk River, Minneapolis, North Branch and Roseville.

The meetings were attended by 852 Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members, and the national commander was interviewed by 10 newspapers, one radio station and two television stations.

One of the things he said he tries to impress on members of Congress is that the nation's debt to its service people doesn't end when the war ends. "It's not the cost of the war, it's the cost of 50 years of care for our veterans afterward."

Dellinger said the two signature injuries from the recent Mideast wars have been Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury.

He said the Legion is pushing the VA to be creative and modern in its therapies to heal veterans with brain problems. "The VA's usual method was to give a veteran a bunch of pills and stick him in a corner and hope he got better. That never worked very well."

Dellinger urged posts to have a close relationship with their local newspapers, radio and television stations. "You need to be on a first-name basis with these people. When your post does something for the community, make sure your newspaper runs a picture of it."

He said getting the word out is crucial in attracting younger veterans to join. "They will join if they see a value in membership."

And don't forget the Vietnam veterans, Dellinger said. His post recently did a revitalization, and he said he signed up 35 new members – 21 of them being Vietnam vets. "There are six million of them out there just looking for something to do."

Dellinger's project for the year is the National Emergency Fund, and his goal is to raise \$1 million by the end of his year. He reminded the Minnesota posts along the way how much Minnesota benefitted when the Red River Valley flooded several years ago.

The national commander was joined on the trip by his aide, Robert Renner, also of Virginia. Renner was a career Marine.



Stopping by to visit with the National Commander at Minneapolis Post 1 were Past National Executive Committeeman Don Schroedl and Hennepin County Assistant Veterans Service Officer Sarah McGinty.



Second District Adjutant Alberta Marth-Wohlfeil, better known as "Bert," celebrated her 80th birthday during the tour, and the crowd at Redwood Falls sang in her honor.



Department Commander Mike Ash spoke at Rosetown in his home district.



Sandy Frederickson, Department Second Vice President, spoke to Dellinger. Tom Conway, who was the driver for the tour, looked on.

# Posts at Goal during the 2014 National Commander's Tour



HILLS POST 399



HOLLAND POST 534



LISMORE POST 636



MONTEVIDEO POST 59



BELVIEW POST 309



CLEMMONS POST 519



MADELIA POST 19



SANBORN 286



WALNUT GROVE POST 267



HECTOR POST 135



KINGSTON POST 483



ELYSIAN POST 311



LE CENTER POST 108



PETERSON POST 526



RUSHFORD POST 94



ST. CHARLES POST 190



EYOTA POST 551



MILLVILLE POST 579

# Posts at Goal during the 2014 National Commander's Tour



CHANHASSEN POST 580



HILLMAN POST 602



ST. JOSEPH POST 328



ST. MICHAEL POST 567



ZIMMERMAN POST 560



APPLE VALLEY POST 1776



BRUNO POST 563



CHISAGO CITY POST 272



HINCKLEY POST 388



RUSH CITY POST 93



3M POST 599



CHRISTIE-DE PARCQ POST 406



NORTH ST. PAUL POST 39

## V4V announces grants

The Veterans 4 Veterans Trust Fund has announced \$52,500 in grants.

-- \$20,000 was presented to the Minnesota Disabled American Veterans Foundation to help them purchase a new bus for the Adult Day Center at the Minneapolis Veterans Home.

-- \$20,000 to the Military Assistance Council for Veterans for support to homeless veterans.

-- \$7,500 to the Minnesota American Legion for veterans outreach through pro fisherman Mark Courts.

-- \$7,500 to the Military Order of the Purple Heart for their "Birthday Party Program" for veterans at the VA Medical Center.

## National American Legion launches an initiative with Founding Fathers Brewing

The American Legion will be launching an initiative with Founding Fathers Brewing Company. Founding Fathers is an American made beer with the mission of supporting American military families with half of their net profits.

The company's goal is to offer Founding Fathers Premium Lager to members through participating post homes that currently sell beer. In turn, The American Legion will receive a donation of 50% of Founding Fathers' profits on beer sold through our organization. Full post participation is important to this effort.

Founding Fathers will be launching this February in nine states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Minnesota, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Tennessee) with product availability in April 2014.

Based on successful results and favorable consideration by the National Executive Committee in May, the company plans to roll out nationally through the second half of 2014 and first quarter of 2015.

This could provide a significant revenue stream for years to come.

Founding Fathers is targeted to mainstream beer drinkers in the premium beer category (Bud, Miller, and Coors) and is priced competitively with the category leaders.

The goal is to provide half barrel kegs and tap handles for their three varieties, Pale, Amber and Light. The prod-

uct will also be available in 12 oz. bottles to augment the important presence of the tap handles.

Current beer distributors and Founding Fathers brewery representatives will be calling on each post this February and March asking for initial orders.

They will be providing extensive Point of Sale (POS) materials to include; co-branded tap handles, glassware, coasters, signage and banners to help educate and promote the benefits of this alliance to our members.

The company is hoping each post would review this opportunity with its staff and ask them to return the "Post Participation Form" which can be accessed by contacting Scott Miller.

"We believe this alliance will have a tremendous impact in supporting the important work of The American Legion," Miller said.

If you have any questions, please contact Scott Miller at 765-543-3289 or [smiller@legion.org](mailto:smiller@legion.org).



# Spam Post 570 is Minnesota's only all-women post

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his dignity.

"You'd better believe it," she said.

Wangen is one of a handful of original members of Spam Post 570 out of Austin, Minnesota. In fact, she is a charter member.

Back in 1946, just after World War II, Jay Hormel, the owner of the Hormel packing plant in Austin, had a bright idea. Why not have an all-woman American Legion Post with a drum and bugle corps?

The Spam Post 570 was chartered on Dec. 9, 1946. It should be noted that patriotism wasn't Hormel's sole motive. He also was interested in promoting Hormel's line of meat products, including Spam, the staple of American GIs in World War II.

Now that the war was over and the Army wasn't buying Spam by the trainload any more, Hormel needed to find a domestic market – despite the fact that many soldiers and sailors said they'd never touch a can of the stuff again in their lives. You might say they were overexposed to it during the war.

The drum and bugle team was a great success, and there's a picture in the Spam Museum in Austin of Spam Post 570 marching down the streets of New York in 1947 as part of the parade at the national convention.

Hormel wasn't doing this on the cheap. Once it was organized, the Spam Post was sent to Stamford, Connecticut, to train at the Eastern Military Academy for a month. In the American Legion finals for drum and bugle corps, they were the first and only all-women corps in the competition.

In 1947, they finished 13th out of 45 corps, and in 1948, they improved to ninth best in the Legion.

This was all well and good, but Jay Hormel had bigger ideas. The drum and bugle corps evolved into an orchestra with singers and dancing girls. This new group was called the Hormel Girls, and they toured the country for the next five years. Most of them were not veterans, and they came from all over the country.

They traveled in 35 white Chevrolets, and they had their own radio and television show. When they weren't performing, they toured grocery stores and handed out free products and greeted the public. The group disbanded in 1953.

In 2007, the Minnesota History Theater created a production of *Hormel Girls*, and the musical play has been performed since then at many venues across Minnesota.

So what happened to the original Spam Post 570? Well, it's still going with seven paid members, but it hasn't been active in some time.

"I think there were 21 of us at the beginning," said Wangen.

Of the seven on the rolls, three of them now live at the Sacred Heart Nursing Home in Austin. The three served in different branches during the war.

Wangen, who moved to Austin from St. Paul when she was 14, said, "I joined the Navy to see the world, and I ended up 100 miles from my home."

Wangen tried to enlist in the Navy in 1942. "But I wore glasses and they rejected me. A year later they sent me a notice they would take me, so I went in."

Wangen, whose maiden name was Van Camp, trained in New York City and spent time in training in Georgia before returning to Naval Air Station Minneapolis at Wold Chamberlin Field. "I took care of helmets and leather jackets. I was in the supply division. I was a storekeeper."

How was her social life in the service? "You've got to be a WAVE to know that. Then I'll tell you all my secrets."

She enjoyed the time she spent serving her country, and she quipped, "I fought the Battle of the Bars, in Minneapolis and St. Paul."

After the war, she married a former Marine, Orville, who was a blacksmith at the Hormel plant. "We had a six-week engagement and then we got married. That's a Marine for you." They had seven children.

Ruth Rasmussen grew up on a farm near Rose Creek. When the war broke out, she enlisted in the Coast Guard and became a SPAR (from the Coast Guard motto: Semper Paratus, Always Ready.)

"I picked the Coast Guard because it was a small organization and I was a small-town girl."

Rasmussen went to boot camp at Hunter College in Brooklyn, N.Y. "We had to go to the warehouse to get our mattresses. They weren't ready for us."

Rasmussen, 89, was assigned to a Coast Guard unit in New Orleans. "It was great. They didn't have any housing for us, so we stayed in a private home. There were four of us in two bedrooms. And the lady who owned the house, she could really cook. I remember they would bring home buckets of shrimp."

Fern Granle grew up in Hayfield and as a young woman worked in a hardware store and then for the post office in Austin. She joined the WACs when she turned 21, the



The all-women Spam Post 570 marched through New York City as part of the National Convention Parade in 1947. The drum and bugle corps was one of the best in the nation.

youngest age that was acceptable for a woman in the Army.

"I trained at Fort Des Moines, and then we stayed there for a year until we got orders overseas. We didn't know where we were going, but when we got to the East Coast they put us on the Queen Mary. A few weeks later we arrived in Glasgow."

Her ultimate station was in Birmingham, England, where she worked in the base post office. "Then somebody got the bright idea they needed us in France."

There they moved into a barracks that had been occupied earlier by German and French troops. What was it like being a single woman in the romantic city of Paris with all those troops around? "Oh, you know," she said with a big smile. "Comme si, comme ca."

Her single days were over, though, when her boyfriend from Hayfield came to Paris and married her.

When the war ended, she remembers being sent to a French port and waiting for a ship. "We went home on one of those small troop ships."

What do these veterans remember about the Spam Post?

"Oh, we marched in parades, and we did some Veterans Day activities. We'd have a picnic once in a while. But I was proud to be in the post. I had served my country," Rasmussen said.

Wangen said the post never was very active because of its small size and lack of money. "I think we had lunch once a year. We enjoyed it. I don't think there's another all-women's post anywhere."



RUTH RASMUSSEN



GRETCHEN WANGEN



FERN GRANLE



Rasmussen as a Coast Guard SPAR in New Orleans during the war.



Wangen served as a WAVE at NAS Minneapolis in WWII.



Granle trained at Fort Des Moines and served in England and France.

A recent story in the Washington Post indicated there may be a dozen women's posts in the nation. The American Legion doesn't keep track.

Wangen commented also on why it took so long to look for the *Minnesota Legionnaire* to do a story. "We should have had all this publicity 50 years ago when it could have done us some good. What the hell."



Austin Post 91 Commander Roland Hanson and Rasmussen and Wangen pose with Spam Post 570's charter. Hanson has been instrumental in keeping the Spam Post going. Wangen is a charter member.

# Medal reunited with family after many years being lost

even looked at some of it.”

While going through one box, Mark found a small box covered with dirt and grime. He opened it up, and there was a Purple Heart, a medal awarded to soldiers and sailors who have been wounded or killed in action.

Written on the back of the medal was “George J. Johnson.”

Kasper talked to his grandfather, Lloyd Cyr, about the medal, and Cyr began to do some research on the internet. On Oct. 21, 2013, he also contacted this reporter who happened to be his wife Marie Ann’s godchild.

I contacted Reggie Worlds, Deputy Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and told him about the medal. Worlds started looking through MDVA files.

Meanwhile, Cyr began searching the internet. I told him later that he should work for the FBI.

He found out that there were two George J. Johnsons from Minnesota who had earned a Purple Heart. One was a World War I veteran who had not been killed. The other looked more likely. He had been killed in action in Korea in 1950.

Cyr wrote in an email: “He must have been killed among the first casualties because the war had just started in June of 1950.” Cyr added, “Mark and Kristen would like the rightful owner to have the medal.”

Cyr found additional info on Johnson that listed his residence as “Hennepin.”

Meanwhile, Worlds checked with the Military Order of the Purple Heart in Minnesota to see if they had any way of tracking the name, but they did not. He also found a George J. Johnson in the benefits records, but it was a Navy veteran.

Worlds said he was checking with country veterans service officers about information on Johnson.

Cyr got back on the internet and Googled “George J. Johnson, killed in action in Korea” and was rewarded with an official document that listed Johnson’s service number (17272560), his rank, private first class, and his date of death, July 28, 1950. Again, it listed his address as Hennepin.

Another site showed that Johnson was an infantryman in the 25th Division.

Cyr also found an internet site called Purple Hearts Reunited. I emailed a contact at the website and got a message back the next day. They sounded interested. Several days later, they asked me to send them a picture of the medal to determine what kind of Purple Heart it was. Apparently there are different kinds, including a presentation medal.

Lloyd took the pictures and I sent them the Purple Hearts Reunited source. It was the last we heard from them, even though follow-up emails were sent.

Meanwhile, back on the MDVA front, the agency had run Johnson’s service number and found that he was born Oct. 16, 1932, and that he enlisted at Fulda, Minnesota. They also found out his mother’s maiden name was Wildfire.

It was at about this point that Brad Lindsay, the MDVA’s senior director of programs and services, got involved. I had worked with Lindsay on other projects, and I knew he was a good sleuth.

Cyr, meanwhile, found George Johnson’s gravestone on the internet. He was buried in the Fulda cemetery. He also found that the original spelling of the mother’s name was Wildfleur.

He enlisted the help of a friend, Melani Weber, who worked the genealogy websites and found that George Johnson had two sisters and a brother, William, who was born in 1938.

She also found that the funeral had been handled by a predecessor of the Totzke Funeral Home in Fulda.

On Dec. 2, Lindsay heard back from the funeral home that the brother, usually called “Bill,” was still alive and lived in Avoca, Minnesota. They provided contact information.

It had taken nearly six weeks, but the link between the medal and the family had finally been made. Lindsay began to prepare a way to get the medal back to the family in what he said in an email would be a “modest ceremony.”

And, in fact, the ceremony was quite simple with Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Larry Shellito presenting the medal to Bill Johnson. Shellito called the Purple Heart, “the one medal no one wants to get.” And he said we must continue to remember those who fought and died for America. “We will not forget, we cannot forget.”

Johnson wiped away tears as he sat with the medal at the Whipple Federal Building in Minneapolis. It was a touching moment. The room, however, was filled with television and newspaper cameras, microphones and inquiring reporters.

The story had become a major news event in Minnesota. But that isn’t all the story. Lindsay had found out that



Minnesota Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Larry Shellito presented the lost Purple Heart Medal to Bill Johnson, the brother of the soldier killed in Korea.



The Purple Heart was originally presented to George J. Johnson’s parents in 1950. The family had the medal for many years until it was stolen in a robbery.



Bill Johnson was surrounded by media after he was reunited with his brother’s medal at the Whipple Federal Building.



Kristen and Mark Kasper found the medal in a box of junk on a property they purchased in Otsego. Their first thought was to reunite it with the family.



George Johnson’s gravestone in Fulda shows that he won both the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, both presented posthumously. He was 17 when he was killed in action in southern Korea early in the war.



Brother Bill Johnson, center, awaited the return of the medal in a ceremony at the Federal Building in south Minneapolis. He was joined, on the left, by the Mayor of Avoca, his hometown, Roger Lindmeier, and by his son, Brad Johnson.

Johnson had died in what was called the Battle of Hwanggan.

Johnson was serving in B Company, First Battalion in the 25th Infantry Regiment. The 25th Division had been on peaceful occupation duty in Japan when the North Korean Army attacked South Korea on June 25, 1950.

Johnson’s regiment, known as the “Wolfhounds” arrived in Korea on July 23rd and was assigned to halt the North Korean advance. At Hwanggan, they were able to slow the offensive for a week before giving ground. There were 53 Americans killed in that action, including Johnson.

He was only 17 years old.

His parents were presented with the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. George Johnson’s father, Emil, kept the medal in a store he owned in Cambridge until one night the store was broken into and the medal was taken. It was never seen again until the Kasper’s found it in a pile of junk in Otsego.

But wait, there’s more. Bill Johnson told the news conference and later the Murray-County News more details about his older brother.

George Johnson had been taken to Minneapolis by his father in the late 1930s. It was a sad time for the family, as George’s mother was institutionalized with epilepsy, and the father had to put Bill up for adoption.

A decade later, George got in trouble with law. He was given two choices by the judge: reform school or the military. He chose the U.S. Army.

Before being sent overseas in 1950, George was able to come home, and part of that visit was spent with his brother, Bill. The two had never talked to each other, and it would be the last time they would ever talk.

George gave Bill a tin box he had made, and Bill still has it, a family treasure. And now he has the medal. “It finally got to where it should be,” he said.

# District Commanders

## FIRST DISTRICT

Brian Medinnus  
Commander



Membership: The First District is looking to renew current members. The First District is looking to sign up new members. The District is also looking for former members who left the Legion Family and bringing them back into the fold.

A big thank you to the Waseca and Rochester Posts for all the hard work that was done for National Commander Dellinger's visit to the 1st District. Both Posts pulled out all the stops and did a fantastic job. Also a big thank you to all the members of the 1st District Legion family who came out to meet the Commander at the above listed locations.

I must give a "Shout Out" to the Spam Post 570 for making their Membership Goal. This Post is the only all female post in the State. It consists of WW2, Korean and Vietnam era women veterans. I am proud of their achievements.

The next District Meeting will be the Past Commanders Fish Fry to be held in Lewiston on Friday, March 7th.

Remember Commander Mike wants 100% turn in of the District Posts Consolidated Reports. When your Adjutant receives the form, fill it out and get it turned back in as soon as possible.

## SECOND DISTRICT

Eugene Olsword  
Commander



February was a very busy but rewarding month for me and the Second District. It started out with the Sweetheart Rally in Waite Park. National Commander Dan Dellinger made two stops in the district with breakfast in Pipestone followed by dinner in Redwood Falls. Both visits were well attended by posts in each area. What a fantastic speaker our National Commander is and if you were unable to attend one of his visits, you really missed a great opportunity. He is very interested in what the blue caps have.

As posts in the District attain goal, my visits increase to these posts to congratulate them. As of this writing, we have 20 posts at goal or exceeded goal. 15 of these posts have exceeded goal by 4 or less.

A job well done to these posts. We are in 2nd place for Goal Posts with the Ninth District in 1st with 23 posts. We can easily take over 1st place for Post Goals and nothing would delight me more to be in 1st place. Let's show the 9th, we are the "Solid Second." I hope you see that, Commander Tom. The challenge is on. As I look over Department's report, we have many posts with five or less to make goal, which is outstanding. The support of The American Legion and all its programs is strong within the District. For the 2nd District, "Let's Get 'er Done."

## THIRD DISTRICT

Mark Dvorak  
Commander



Elysian Post and Unit 311 did an outstanding job hosting our Third District Mid-Winter Conference. It was an honor to have Department Commander Mike Ash and Department Membership Chairman Tom Fernlund say a few words to the attendees. Thank you to Jack Zimmerman for being our guest speaker.

National Commander Daniel Dellinger visited two Third District Posts, St Peter and Chanhassen. One of his concerns is the importance of contacting our elected officials and letting them know how we feel about the current cuts to military benefits and cuts to defense spending.

The Has-Beens Rally is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4th at Savage Post 643 beginning at 1:00 pm. Please contact past Third District Commander Pat Logan.

Posts should consider sponsoring a membership for a veteran at the Hastings Veterans Home. The cost is \$26.75 per membership and checks should be made out to the Department of MN American Legion. All checks should be processed through Membership Director Duane Anderson or myself. Thank you.

## FOURTH DISTRICT

Carroll Partridge  
Commander



Hello 4th District and others,

I have been told that I have some folks from other districts that read my column.

I got a letter from the National Commander thanking us for the great gift and he had a good time.

For those that saw the camel on face book, it is because we are over the hump for this year.

The ice fishing on Big Marine for the vets homes was a big success. If you want to have some fun be sure to come to it next year. You don't have to go out on the ice.

Well, I'm just about tired of the snow. Everyone keep warm think spring.

Bet the guys at Creek Side are drinking lot's of hot coffee on these cold days.

## FIFTH DISTRICT

Robert Johnson  
Commander



There are many who work in the District that sometimes do not get the recognition or the thanks for their efforts. Just to mention a few; thanks to Jim Munson of Minneapolis/Richfield Post 435, for his campaign on the Consolidated Post Report. Jim was instrumental last year in the 5th District achieving a 100% compliance which simply set his bar for this year - Thanks Jim.

Ray Eiden of Falldin Post 555 is responsible for the success of our Sunday VA Hospital visitation program. Ray continues to draw significant numbers of volunteers to visit our brothers and sisters. Thanks Ray.

Gary Martin, 1st Vice Commander, is staying on top of the Children & Youth Reports. Each District meeting Gary makes it plain he is also expecting 100% participation. - Thanks Gary.

Thanks to Commander John Nelson and Minneapolis Post No.1 and President Carrie Lamb and Auxiliary Unit No. 1, for hosting the National Commander's breakfast February 6th. Thanks for a job well done.

Thanks to Annette Bray, President 5th District Auxiliary for organizing an outstanding Pot Luck Dinner and Silent Auction fund raiser for our 5th District Project - Thanks Annette.

As always we thank all of you for your continued effort on Membership. As of February 12, 2014 the 5th District was at 2,751 members. Thanks for your efforts.

Our remaining 2014 meetings as follows:

- April 1, 2014 at Richfield Post 435
- May 6, 2014 - Northside Post 230 @ Minneapolis Post No. 1. See you at Richfield in April.

## SIXTH DISTRICT

Vern Massie  
Commander



I have to start this month by wishing our district membership director a big get well soon. Bruce Baird has been having some major health issues and I know we all have him in our prayers and wish him a quick recovery.

The Sweetheart Rally was a good run but we came a fraction from getting first place once again. With Bruce being out, Jim Lucas has stepped up and I appointed him to fill on membership. So if you get a call from Jim on membership please help him and the district get into first place at our next rally on March 8th.

The Adjutant I have started receiving this year's report forms from various committees. Please take a few minutes and fill them out and again if you haven't done anything please indicate that and send it back to the committee chair so they can wrap up their duties as well.

Time is flying and we are busy planning the district testimonial for the Auxiliary President. SAL Commander and myself. It will be May 3rd, at Park Rapids Post 212.

Had great opportunity to meet and visit with the National Commander on his only visit to the 6th District at Elk River Post 112. I believe as I said at the function that the 6th District is the Heart and Soul of the Membership for the Department of MN. I hope every post will send a member to Department Convention this year in Rochester to cast your vote for Department Commander.

## SEVENTH DISTRICT

Harold Meyer Jr.  
Commander



A big thanks goes out to Browns Valley post for hosting the midwinter conference 2. The turn out was really low. Those of you that didn't make the conference lost a lot of good information that you could have brought back to your posts.

If you are thinking of running for a district officer be sure your post endorses you and than send it to our Adjutant Orwill Wigen at jrwill@iw.net so he can get it in the dis-

trict news letter.

About our newsletter. We need to have all of the vice-commanders to write a column every month to see what is going on in their areas. And anybody else in the district that wants to bring something up.

Membership. Now is the time we need to go out and work a little harder for those last few members that still haven't paid. Thanks for the 10 posts that have made goal but we still have a lot of post that are 1 and 2 away from goal. Get your membership teams together and make a few calls or go see the members that haven't yet paid their dues I'm sure they just forgot to pay.

God bless you, God bless America, and God bless our troops in harm's way

## EIGHTH DISTRICT

Jerry St. Michel  
Commander



All seems to be going well with the district in 2014. Membership continues to be our most important program. We have reached all the goals set by the Department so far. Keep up the good work. We need to continue until we reach all our goals for 2014.

Our District Meeting in Virginia went well. Thank you to all the Committee Chairmen and District Officers for your good reports on what we accomplished.

We still have a long way to go. Keep visiting The American Legion Posts, Units and Squadrups and remind them of our mission: To provide for our Veterans and current Armed Forces. Remember we are an American Legion Family. Lets all get together to make the Eighth District Number one.

## NINTH DISTRICT

Thomas Norgaard Sr.  
Commander



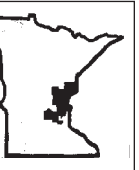
As in previous months, I will emphasize special days in the Month of March beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 5th. On March 8th we honor our District Vice-Commanders at the Department Appreciation Rally at Richfield Post 435. The next day you need to remember to turn your clocks ahead as it is Daylight Savings Time again, a sure sign of spring. March 13th is a rather special day to me, "World Kidney Day." I wish I had known about this day much earlier as I may not now be on Kidney Dialysis. Next in line is St. Patrick's Day, held on March 17th. St. Patrick's Day marks the life and deeds of St. Patrick, one of Ireland's patron saints. It is an Irish-American celebration in the USA and the use of the color green is predominant. Next is the Spring Equinox on Mar 20th, the official start of spring.

On a more personal note, my Commander's Project is to raise \$2,500 for the recreation fund at the Fergus Falls Veterans Home. Every dollar you can spare for this project will help make the life of our Veterans there a bit more enjoyable.

Lastly, on March 29th, I will be having my 9th District Commander's Testimonial and "Roast". It will be held at Bagley Post 16 and will start at Noon with a social, dinner at 1 pm and a program to follow. The cost should be between \$10 and \$12. Please RSVP me at norgaardlegion@gvtel.com or P.O. Box 3, Shevlin, MN 56676.

## TENTH DISTRICT

Richard Juhl  
Commander



In preparation for writing this article, I did some research on the origin of our great organization. In the process, I stumbled across a book that is long out of print, but I found a copy in the library of the University of California. I have to say, it was a real eye opener and a fascinating read. It's called "The Story of The American Legion" by George Seay Wheat. It was written in 1919 and is a detailed, first-hand account of the men serving in Europe and how they came together and decided that an organization was needed to look towards the needs of our men and women who served and the future of our nation. It details the events leading up to the Paris Caucus, the St. Louis Caucus, how they came to choose Minneapolis as the site of the 1st National Convention and actual transcripts from the events.

I would like to leave you with a quote from Bishop Brent, Senior Chaplain, A. E. F. in March of 1919. "I believe that the army of to-day, when it gets back to citizen thinking and citizen acting, will be capable of so contributing to the commonwealth of the United States as to change the character of the whole country and lift it up to a higher plane." How prophetic. Please read it.

## World War II Round Table at Fort Snelling

# Patton, Ike and Brad -- the European leaders

By Al Zdon

America's success in Europe in World War II depended in part on how the "big three" of Army officers – George Patton, Dwight Eisenhower and Omar Bradley – worked together to get the job done.

The relationship between these three leaders, though, was complex and often not very amiable.

Jonathon Jordan, an author and lawyer from Marietta, Georgia, told the February meeting of the Fort Snelling World War II Round Table, that the relationship between the three generals went back over 25 years. He is the author of *Brothers, Rivals, Victors*, about the three.

Later in the program, three World War II veterans told of their experiences with other high ranking American military leaders.

Eisenhower and Bradley went to West Point at the same time and both were "middle of the pack" scholars. Eisenhower was known as a rule breaker, while Bradley was more of a straight arrow.

"But they both loved sports. Ike played football until he was injured and Brad was also on the team." Bradley was also a baseball player who pitched and hit .380.

"One more thing they had in common – they both missed the big show." For officers at that time, fighting in World War I was a coveted assignment.

Eisenhower applied for duty overseas, but instead was assigned to the new tank corps. His unit was finally assigned overseas duty, but the war ended before they could go. Bradley was also headed to France, but the armistice intervened.

Patton was more of a "golden boy" than the others. He was older, and graduated from West Point in 1909 with high military and poor academic honors. He competed in the 1912 Olympics in the modern pentathlon and finished fifth.

He did make it to France in World War I, but was wounded early on while leading a tank unit. He never saw any more action.

Back home, both Patton and Eisenhower commanded a tank battalion at Camp Meade. Jordan called the two "the odd couple."

Patton was introverted and upper class. When confronted with a problem, he would think about it, meditate about it, even pray about it."

"Eisenhower was middle class, one of seven rambunctious boys. But both Patton and Eisenhower became close friends."

Bradley, when he was 17, had an accident that left his face damaged. "He was always self-conscious about his smile, and you can see that in the pictures. He was a simple man with simple tastes. His wife was a tee-totaler, and they were not comfortable in social situations."

Fast forward to 1939. The American Army was woefully undermanned and not ready for war. "Our army was smaller than that of Switzerland. The good thing was that there was a small officer corps, and they got to know each other very well."

When the U.S. did get into the war and did poorly in North Africa, General Marshall picked out Patton to lead the Second Corps. He, in turn, asked for Bradley to be his deputy. Eisenhower was back in Washington, planning strategy for the Allies. By June, 1942, though, he was the commanding general of the European Theater of Operations.

Jordan said the interactions from this point on all aimed at victory. "It wasn't a rivalry of power, it was more like a sibling rivalry, a rivalry of methods – what was the best way to win the war."

For Patton, it was "Attack, attack, attack, until the last ounce of gas is drained from the gas tanks. For Bradley, it was logistics, air support, keep the fronts and the flanks safe. He had a mathematical formula for a battle, and if everyone did their job, we would win. For Patton, doctrine got the boot when victory demanded something else."

Their relationship became fractured in Sicily where Patton performed well but not according to Bradley's wishes. When Patton slapped two soldiers in military hospitals, he was relieved of command.

It took some time for Patton to get back in the good graces of Eisenhower and others, but he was finally assigned command of the Third Army in the landings at Normandy. Bradley was not happy.

Jordan said finally a common enemy bound them together – British General Montgomery. "Monty wanted all the gas, and he wanted the American Army to watch his flank."

At the Battle of the Bulge in late 1944, it came to a head. The German Army had pushed the U.S. forces back. Bradley was in charge of the situation, but he had great trouble communicating with his divisions on the other side of the Bulge. Eisenhower turned over two divisions to Montgomery.

Bradley had one response. "I resign."

Eisenhower talked him out of it, and took responsibility for the decision. Meanwhile, Patton's army drove north and freed the critical city of Bastogne.

In the end, they all achieved an immortality of sorts.

"Eisenhower was the chief of staff, the Ulysses S. Grant of World War II. Bradley was the top general and the last of the five star generals." Patton was a legend.

But while Eisenhower and Bradley's careers continued apace after the war, Patton's did not. He was as aggressive in peace as he had been in war, and soon was in hot water back home and with the Allies. He was relieved of command, and not long after was killed in a car accident.

Jordan said the three left an indelible mark on the army and their country. "Their imprint on American consciousness may be their lasting victory."



Marty Romano is a native of Jersey City, New Jersey, and he joined the Navy in 1943. He was assigned to PT boats in the Mediterranean area.

His strongest memory early in the war was a trip across northern Africa in a cattle car. "There were 60 or 70 of us sandwiched in there. All we had were K or C rations, and the sanitary conditions were not good.

"We had a deal with the train's engineer that when we pulled into a station that had bathrooms, or where there were some woods, he'd toot the horn once. When it was time to go, he'd toot twice."

He was assigned to Squadron 22 at Corsica and did 63 missions in PT Boat 306.

At one point in Italy he was able to observe the French commander. "It was Charles DeGalle. He was a tall, gaunt man and very proud. When I saw him he was rallying the crowd."

In the landings in southern France, Romano assisted a group of commandos led by Douglas Fairbanks, the famous actor. Fairbanks had developed a team of commandos known as "beach jumpers." They would attack a beach with small numbers, trying to draw the enemy away from the main point of the attack.

Later his PT boat had the job of protecting a navy ship that had many of the Allied leaders on board. "They had generals, and Admiral King, the Chief of Naval Operations, was on board. Once I saw a guy come out of the engine room and he had a .45 stuck in his hip pocket. It was Admiral Forrestal."

"It was our duty to circle this ship 24 hours a day. Once we went to general quarters because an enemy was detected. We lay down a smoke screen, and pretty soon you couldn't see this ship."



Bob Maynard also grew up in New Jersey, at Patterson, and became an officer in the Army. He first was forward observer for the artillery, a job he found somewhat dangerous. "If you make a mistake in the mathematical code, you could bring down fire on yourself."

He was then asked to join the fledgling OSS, Office of Strategic Services, America's first spy and counterintelligence unit under the command of the legendary Billy Donovan.

"They asked me if I wanted to join, and I squeezed out a week yes. Then they asked me if I had any dependents. I was not sure I really liked this situation."

Maynard told of his psychological training, where each man was given a false ID and ordered not to reveal anything about himself. All went well for five days. "But then we had dinner and a little gin, and I became indiscreet and told everybody my name."

Maynard still made the team. "I'd never heard of Bill Donovan or the OSS." The OSS was not organized like any other unit. People from all walks of life, including forgers from the prisons, were in the pool. When a mission came up, people were drawn from the pool for their skills.

Eventually, Maynard was sent to China. "China was chaotic. There was a lot of espionage. American policy was split in half on who to support."

He served for a time with a woman named Julie McWilliams, who later became famous as the food guru Julia Childs. "I've since heard said that she was a spy. But she was a six-foot-two woman in China with brown hair and funny eyes. She would have been a very poor spy."

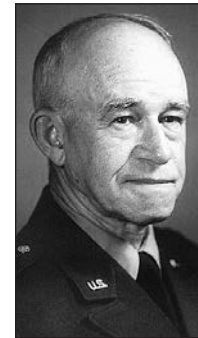
McWilliam's real job was to assemble intelligence for missions and she was very good at it. "She said she was a glorified file clerk, but she was much more than that. She could get all the info needed for any mission."

A highlight of his service in China was a visit from Donovan himself at one point. "He wore whatever he wanted. He had red, white and blue socks.

"He once said he wanted a barber, and I couldn't find anyone on base and so got one of the locals. He came in and was stropping his straight razor."

Donovan took one look at the Chinese national with the razor, and told Maynard it might not be a good idea. "I thought I'd get court martialled. But then I found a guy on the base who gave Donovan a haircut."

One other time, the base was flooded and Donovan, Maynard and others had to go to a restaurant in town. "We



BRADLEY



PATTON



EISENHOWER

cleared the place of all the Chinese, and we went in for our meal. Donovan had a briefcase. In it, he had all our rescue plans for pilots, classified information about the atomic bomb, and a paper he was working on for the future of the OSS. He wouldn't let that briefcase out of his sight."

When the meal was done, the men were being driven back to the base. Donovan asked which one of his aides had the briefcase. None did.

"We went back to that restaurant, and now it was full of Chinese. We found the briefcase up against a table leg.

"Later, on the trip back, it was very quiet. Finally Donovan said, 'I won't tell anybody if you don't'"



Whitey Johnson of Beaver Bay, Minnesota, flew P-40s and P-51s in World War II, and also ended up in China.

It all started when the young pilot and several of his peers found themselves about 20 miles from base in India. As a courtesy, a general asked them to a sophisticated party he was throwing.

"It was in a castle. The general only drank Scotch and so everybody had to drink Scotch. It didn't take very long before our group got out of hand. There were about 40 or 50 of the most beautiful women I've ever seen at this party. Well, I guess we got a little too friendly, and we were asked to leave.

"When we got outside, there was a nice jeep sitting in the driveway, and nobody was using it. So we grabbed it and ran. We were going so fast that my hat blew off along the way. When we went through the gate, evidently somebody saw my white hair."

The officers hid the Jeep and quickly got into bed, but it wasn't long before the MPs were at Johnson's door. It was fortunate for Johnson, though, that the commanding officer was someone who owed him a favor. The favor was to get on the first plane out, wherever it was going.

It was going to China.

A few days later, Johnson was in line with the other new officers and General Claire Chennault himself was greeting them. "He always met all his new pilots. He had black, piercing eyes, and a rugged countenance. He was staring right at me. I thought, 'Oh, oh, he's heard about the Jeep.'"

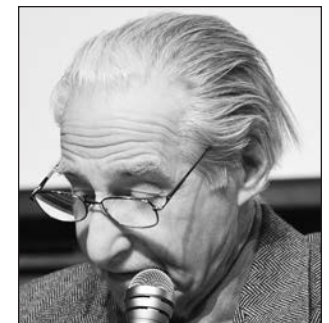
Johnson, of course, in his hasty departure from the scene of the crime had no orders. Chennault stared some more.

"Finally he asked where I was from, and I said I grew up on a farm in Minnesota. He said he liked farm boys because they could determine if an engine was running right from listening to it. I was shaking pretty bad."

Chennault then asked where Johnson's orders were, and Johnson replied they were misplaced. Chennault told Johnson he had just the place for him, and ordered him to a base in eastern China.



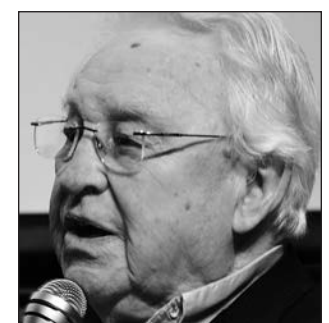
JONATHON JORDAN



MARTY ROMANO



BOB MAYNARD



WHITEY JOHNSON



# The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 14-8

President Shirley Frederick

March 2014

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

## The President's Column

By  
Shirley Frederick



From the 36,170-plus members of the Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary, we wish The American Legion a happy birthday. We also want to thank them for their leadership, dedication and work to make our country a better place for everyone. Especially their never ending dedication to make sure that our veterans and military are taken care of as they should be.

The American Legion Auxiliary magazine is always full of great stories and information to help and inspire us in working the programs of our organization. If you have not taken the time to read the February 2014 issue, please do so. You will learn much about the Creative Arts Program and understand better why it is part of my Presidents Project. We do have a number of veterans from our Minnesota facilities take part in this on the National level after winning at their facility.

An article on our U.S. military's long-standing reverence for divine saints explains about St. Michael the Archangel, St. Joan of Arc, St. Martin of Tours and St. Christopher is in our magazine.

Another article you will find on page 54 talks about our Poppy Program. There you will find the changes that The American Legion made in the Poppy Program Rules. Yes, it is The American Legion that has the authority to make these changes. These are big changes so please read the full article.

This Auxiliary year has been going by so fast that it is hard to believe that it is time to start working on our annual reports. Please include a summary of what your unit did in each of our programs so our District Chairmen can make a similar report for the Department Chairmen because they need to do the same for the Divisional Chairmen and then to National Chairmen. Without your summary we have no summary to send on to show what we do and how important each of our programs are. Remember to include the programs that do not have a report form.

I have traveled over 12,000 miles across our state to visit members at their meetings, dinners, rallies, conferences and other events including VA hospitals and Veterans Homes. The warm welcomes and responses to my talks let me know I am representing all of us and how we feel about our veterans, military personnel, their families and our Country.

I attended the 6th District Oratorical Competition and by the time you read this I will have attended the State Oratorical Competition. What great young people we have. This program along with our Junior members, Girls State and the Boys State programs for our youth help them develop into our future leaders with great understanding of why and how we are the Country we are.

Patriotism, thank our veterans -- teach our children.

## Department Convention slated for July 17-19

Department Convention is coming up fast and will be held July 17-19 at the Kahler Hotel in Rochester, Minnesota, hosted by the Rochester American Legion Family 92. Further information will be forthcoming.

Circle these dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

Don't forget the Poppy contests that will be held at the Department Convention. They are Patriotism Coloring Book & Poppy Hats: that best describes "Patriotism, Thank Our Veterans - Teach Our Children involving the American Legion Family. (Please check the Trophy & Awards for all specifics) Entries must be at the Department Convention on Thursday, July 17th. Both of these contests are easy to participate in.

## Legion's 95th Birthday is this month

"Happy 95th Birthday" American Legion. Units, make sure to plan something fun to recognize your Post and wish them a "Happy Birthday." We, of the Auxiliary, are proud to serve with you for the purposes upon which our organizations were founded. March is also Community Service month.

### JUNIOR CONFERENCE

The 51st annual Department Junior Conference will be held on Saturday, April 12th, at the Hopkins American Legion Post 320 in Hopkins, Minnesota hosted by our Tenth District. It is a fun and informative day - we encourage all Juniors to attend even if your Unit's Juniors aren't an active group.

Rehearsal for the Junior color bearers will be on Saturday morning with the Conference being called to order at by our Department Honorary Junior President, Kaitlin Fernlund, a member of the Waite Park Unit 428. We encourage all of you to come and see what a wonderful job Honorary Junior President Kaitlin has done for our Juniors.

On Friday, April 11th, registration will be from 6 to 8 pm and Saturday, April 12th from 8 to 9 am. A Junior fun evening will begin at 7 pm, pizza and soda for the evening is included in the registration fee. There will be fun and games held at the Hopkins Post. Districts are encouraged to bring a snack to share! We do hope you are planning to arrive in time for your Juniors to join in the fun.

The Department Junior Conference culminates the year's activities for our Juniors. It gives them the opportunity to meet other Juniors, to exchange ideas, and to learn what other Juniors are doing. Judging of many of the Junior contests takes place at the Conference. Election and installation of our 2014-15 Junior officers will conclude the day. Let's make certain we give the Juniors our cooperation and support. Do what you can to see your Juniors attend.

Endorsements for any Department Junior office for 2014-15 should be sent to the Department office prior to the Conference. Juniors interested in attending the National Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina as the Junior Delegate from Minnesota should also submit their name to the Department Office prior to the Junior Conference.

### MEMBERSHIP

All Units should be very proud of our continued 2nd place in the Nation. We are not that far behind Iowa - wouldn't it be wonderful to overtake 1st place in honor of Department President Shirley? Make those calls or visit those who haven't paid and see if you can reach the 100% goal. Our Department is currently at 85.5% which is awesome. We have 96 Units at 95% or higher. Make sure and bring all of your membership to the next rally - Family Appreciation Rally at the Richfield Post 435 on Saturday, March 8. Hope to see you there.

### 2015 DIRECT BILLING

All Units received a request for information on your Unit's 2015 dues. This information is due in the Department office by March 15th. If your Unit has not yet responded, please send in the information. The form is on the mnala.org website under the Forms tab and select 2015 Unit Data Form Direct Billing. When setting your 2015 dues please keep in mind the National and Department dues of \$18.00 per person so your Unit dues should be greater than that so you have some working capital in your Units.

### LET'S NOT FORGET THEM

Sometimes in our rush we overlook some important people who need us - our own Auxiliary members. There are many of our members who cannot attend meetings or Unit functions, can't leave their homes due to illness, weather or age and would appreciate a visit from an Auxiliary member. In our efforts to serve others, let's not forget our own members who need us and contact them only when their "dues are due". Make an effort to do something special for them.

### 2014 POPPY UPDATE

Poppy time is fast approaching. To date, 363 out of 450 Units have ordered their 2014 small and/or large Poppies. To the remaining 87 units, please place your orders now.

## President Frederick's Testimonial is May 31

The Testimonial for President Shirley Frederick will be held on Saturday, May 31, at Northern Lights Casino at Walker.

The menu will include pork loin, broasted chicken, potatoes, carrots, tossed salad, and dessert. Cost is \$22 per person if reserved by May 17 and \$25 thereafter.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the casino. Please contact: 1-866-652-4683. Social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 and program to follow.

Deadline is May 17. Checks are payable to ALA Unit 202 and sent to ALA Unit 202, Bev Sauer, Box 414, Hackensack, MN, 56452.

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Unit/Squad: \_\_\_\_\_

Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipment of Poppy orders began as orders were received, processed, and Poppies were available. We are shipping orders based on the 'needed by' date reported by the Unit when the Poppies were ordered. Be certain to check your order upon receipt and contact the Department office if there are any discrepancies. A Unit may order additional Poppies at any time, right up to Poppy Day.

Let's hope it won't be long before every Unit has ordered its 2014 small Poppies and becomes involved in one of the oldest and most widely recognized programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

### GIRLS STATE

Will your Unit be sponsoring a candidate to the 2014 session of American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State? Plans are in progress with many changes for the upcoming session. Have you contacted your local high school to begin the selection process? They are waiting to hear from you. Units should work together to make certain every school in their area is contacted and has the opportunity to have someone participate in Girls State.

Consider personal interviews, essays or speeches as ways to make your final selection. It is the Unit's responsibility, not the school's, to choose the girl who will be attending.

Remember your application for reservation and your \$300.00 registration fee must be received by March 31st to reserve a place for your American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State citizen. If your Unit has not yet sent this in, please take care of it immediately. Reservations with the payment of the \$300.00 registration fee for each candidate will be accepted on a "first-come-first served" basis. Upon processing your Unit's reservation fee you will receive the necessary registration packet for each citizen you are sponsoring. American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State can accommodate 445 citizens.

A Unit may send as many young women to American Legion Auxiliary Girls State as they wish to.

The 2014 session of American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State will be held at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, June 15-20. We look forward to the 68th annual American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State week and another educational and successful session.

### VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION WEEK

Has your Unit considered doing something special for those members who are active volunteers within your Unit, your community, or your District? April 6-13th is "National Volunteer Recognition Week", a perfect time to recognize them for their many hours of volunteer service. A certificate, coffee and cookies, or guests at a pot luck dinner are several ideas of what your Unit could do to say "thank you" for the many hours and contributions your volunteers have given in service to others.

### PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

Department President Shirley Frederick appreciates your support of her special Department President's Projects this year. As you know, the funds will be used at the St. Cloud VA for the Creative Arts Festival, clothing room and their general activities fund. She also is looking to purchase a three year subscription to the Legionnaire to be put in each

# Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

of the C-BOC's waiting rooms. Also a designated amount will be given to the C-BOC's for coffee and supplies in the waiting room. Announcement of the total amount received will be forthcoming.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications for all scholarships awarded by the Department are due by March 15th. Announcement of the recipients will appear in this column when the judging is completed. Make sure and follow all of the rules on the application. We don't want our students disqualified because something isn't signed.

## ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual report time is fast approaching. All Units should be preparing their reports covering the time period April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014. The white and all yellow copies of all reports must be mailed to the Department office on or before April 15th. No matter how much or how little your Unit has been able to contribute in time, energy, resources and talent to our programs, it is important that everything be included in your reports. Your reports make up our Department and National reports. Let's hear what your Unit has done as you used your "Working Together, Making a Difference" through your involvement in the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Department citations will be awarded to all Units that have attained their Unit membership goal and have filed a complete set of annual reports by April 15th.

Certificates of Merit will be awarded to Units by various Department Chairmen based on the Unit annual reports. Membership goal is not required.

## REPORTING INDIVIDUAL HOURS

Included in the Annual Reports packet there were forms to report individual members Field Service and Home Service hours. Be sure to complete these forms and return them to the Department office when you send in your annual reports. The permanent records for each individual's hours are updated from these forms, not the report forms.

A special information sheet was included in the instructions describing the various types of hours and what program they should be credited to.

If any instructor has held a Field Service orientation course this year, be certain you have sent in the names of those taking the course to the Department office so our records can be updated. The same is true for any Leadership instructor who has held a leadership school.

When sending in any individual member's hours for Field Service, Home Service or Leadership, please include the member's ID #, her Unit # and location, as well as her complete address.

## TROPHY AND AWARD ENTRIES

Entries for any trophy and award competition are due by April 15th, unless otherwise stated in the rules. Be certain to label each entry with the name of the award you are applying for. A separate entry is needed for each award unless the winning Department entry is being forwarded for National competition. See the rules for complete details.

You may apply for any award, whether your Unit has reached its membership goal or not, unless that requirement is stated in the rules.

## TESTIMONIALS

There has been a change to the 4th District Testimonial. It will be held on Friday, April 25, 2014 at the North St. Paul American Legion Post 39.

And a correction from last month's newspaper: President Betty's Testimonial in the Eighth District will be held June 28.

# March is community service month

The American Legion Auxiliary has been known throughout the years as an organization that contributes endless volunteer hours to benefit the communities around us. In our Community Service program we are looking back at the foundation in which the American Legion Auxiliary was established; to serve veterans and their families.



PATTI COLEMAN

We are directing our focus on what we can do to benefit our communities, while partnering with, and engaging resources within our communities to benefit veterans, active military and their families.

We want to use volunteer events as opportunities to network with other people and community organizations to promote events which align with our aims and purposes to assist in the well-being of veterans and active military, including their children.

We need to invite the community to work side by side with us in our mission to promote economic security for those who have sacrificed so much for us.

Jump into action by developing, implementing and monitoring community-wide service activities.

Organize events that encourage community participation and raise awareness of the American Legion Family. Be the catalyst to deliver a service project that will benefit a veteran or active military family in your community.

Ensure Auxiliary participation in community-wide efforts to coordinate, strengthen and enhance the network of public and private resources and services for veterans, service members and families in need.

Through community outreach we can organize and support, alone or along with The American Legion, a job fair for veterans and military spouses. Co-host or sponsor a Legion Family Information table at a U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation job fair or initiate the job fair in your own community. Let veterans and active military families know that the American Legion Family is there to assist with their needs. ([www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes](http://www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes))

Encourage your Legion Family members to serve as mentors in the career e-mentoring network operated by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Military Spouse Business Alliance. Mentors will virtually pair with current military spouses for career guidance and support. What a wonderful way to use your knowledge to assist others! ([www.ementorprogram.org/p/milspouse](http://www.ementorprogram.org/p/milspouse))

Join the Community Blueprint. This is a set of tools and practices that provide a framework for communities to produce positive, measurable outcomes for veterans, service members and their families. Units can join the coalition and participate actively and regularly as a source of knowledge in the community and help plan various volunteer opportunities. ([www.the-communityblueprint.org](http://www.the-communityblueprint.org))

Community service activities and projects should directly impact the quality of life and security of your local veterans, active military and their families. Opportunities abound! April 6-13, 2014 is National Volunteer Week. It's a great time to get involved!

Patti Coleman



**ATTENDED GIRLS NATION** -- In Front is Myra Soukup, Minnesota Girl's Nation Senator and Secretary of Energy at national. She is surrounded by Hanska Unit 365 Girls State Chair Darlene Nelson, Unit President Kay Grams, and Vida Bacon, New Ulm, Second District first vice president. Soukup said the trip to Girls Nation was "a life changing experience. It was so wonderful to visit with such a diverse group with common interests in government. The girls were all phenomenal."

**DON'T THROW AWAY THOSE UNIFORMS!**  
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# Auxiliary Membership as of Feb. 12, 2014

District	2-12 Total	Percent	Goal
First	4,870	85.77	5,678
Second	4,775	85.57	5,453
Third	4,124	84.80	4,863
Fourth	698	83.10	840
Fifth	879	84.11	1,045
Sixth	5,792	85.19	6,799
Seventh	3,821	86.39	4,423
Eighth	1,565	81.43	1,922
Ninth	4,234	87.81	4,822
Tenth	4,838	83.80	5,773
Depart.	129	77.71	166
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,725</b>	<b>85.50</b>	<b>41,784</b>

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**Albert Lea, MN 56007**

<p><b>National Parks, Utah &amp; Arizona</b> May 9-19, 2014</p>  <p><b>Tour Includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud</li> <li>• Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation</li> <li>• 10 Nights Accommodations</li> <li>• 13 Meals: 10 Breakfasts, 3 Dinners</li> <li>• Admission to Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park, Grand Canyon, Painted Desert &amp; Petrified Forest and Badlands National Park</li> <li>• Luggage handling (1 bag per person)</li> </ul> <p><b>DOUBLE \$1,365.00</b> <b>TRIPLE \$1,345.00</b> <b>SINGLE \$1,655.00</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>PASSPORTS REQUIRED</b></p>	<p><b>Montreal &amp; Quebec City</b> August 16-24, 2014</p>  <p><b>Tour Includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud</li> <li>• Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation</li> <li>• 8 Nights Accommodations</li> <li>• 14 Meals: 8 Breakfasts, 6 Dinners</li> <li>• Luggage handling (1 bag per person)</li> <li>• Visit to Montmorency Falls</li> <li>• Guided Tour of Montreal and Historic Quebec City</li> <li>• Tours of the St. Anne De Beupre Shrine and the Notre Dame Basilica</li> <li>• Olympic Park in Montreal: Experience "Biodome" and the Montreal Tower</li> <li>• Visit the Underground City in Montreal</li> <li>• And much more</li> </ul> <p><b>DOUBLE \$1,139.00</b> <b>TRIPLE \$1,119.00</b> <b>SINGLE \$1,499.00</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>PASSPORTS REQUIRED</b></p>	<p><b>Canadian Rockies</b> September 3-11, 2014</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PASSPORTS REQUIRED</b></p> <p><b>Tour Includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-Seasons Tour Director, Larry Alvey</li> <li>• Delta Airlines flights, Minneapolis to Calgary, return Vancouver to Minneapolis</li> <li>• 8 Nights Hotel Accommodations</li> <li>• 8 Meals: 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, includes lunch at Chateau Lake Louise</li> <li>• Deluxe motor coach in Canada</li> <li>• Tours of Calgary, Moraine Lake, Lake Louise, Banff, Banff Mountain Gondola, Vancouver</li> <li>• Two day Daylight Rail, Banff to Vancouver, rail gratuities included for Red, Silver and Gold Leaf Service</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Starting at \$3,699.00 per person</b></p>
<p><b>Niagara Falls &amp; Toronto</b> June 21-27, 2014</p>  <p><b>Tour Includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud</li> <li>• Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation</li> <li>• 6 Nights Accommodations</li> <li>• 8 Meals: 6 Breakfasts, 2 Dinners</li> <li>• Luggage handling (1 bag per person)</li> <li>• Reif Estate Winery</li> <li>• Evening show "Oh Canada Eh"</li> <li>• Guided Tour of Niagara Falls, Niagara on the Lake and Toronto</li> <li>• Ride the Maid of the Mist</li> <li>• Visit Welland Canal</li> <li>• Casa Loma Castle</li> <li>• Floral Clock</li> </ul> <p><b>DOUBLE \$979.00</b> <b>TRIPLE \$959.00</b> <b>SINGLE \$1,329.00</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>PASSPORTS REQUIRED</b></p>	<p><b>Heart of Alaska</b> July 30-August 6, 2014</p>  <p><b>INCLUDED IN YOUR TOUR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-Seasons Vacations Tour Director, Sue Barber</li> <li>• Delta Air Flights between Minneapolis and Anchorage</li> <li>• 7 Nights Quality Accommodations</li> <li>• 13 Meals: 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners (including an Alaskan Salmon Bake)</li> <li>• Iditarod Travel Headquarters</li> <li>• Travel the Alaska Railroad between Talkeetna and Denali Park</li> <li>• Denali Park History Tour</li> <li>• Riverboat Discovery Cruise</li> <li>• Chena Indian Village</li> <li>• Sled Dog Demonstration</li> <li>• Pan for gold at the Gold Dredge #8</li> <li>• Prince William Sound Cruise</li> <li>• Mears Glacier</li> <li>• Baggage Handling at hotels (1 bag per person)</li> <li>• Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$3,199.00</b> Per Person Double Occupancy</p>	<p><b>A Taste of the Pacific Northwest</b> September 5-13, 2014</p>  <p><b>Tour Includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-Seasons Tour Director, Jenny Gilbertson</li> <li>• Roundtrip flights Minneapolis to Seattle, return Portland to Minneapolis</li> <li>• 13 Meals</li> <li>• Space Needle</li> <li>• Walking tour of Pike Place Market</li> <li>• Olympic National Park</li> <li>• Hoh Rainforest</li> <li>• Newport and Oregon Coast's Three Capes Scenic Drive</li> <li>• Oregon Coast Aquarium</li> <li>• Rialto Beach</li> <li>• Chihuly Garden and Glass</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>\$2,949.00 per person double occupancy</b></p>
<p><b>Alaska Tour &amp; Cruise</b> July 7-19, 2014</p>  <p><b>Tour Includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roundtrip Delta flights from Minneapolis to Fairbanks and return from Vancouver to Minneapolis</li> <li>• Accommodations at Superior and Deluxe Hotels</li> <li>• All sightseeing/entrance fees</li> <li>• 7-Night Southbound Cruise on the <u>Crown Princess</u></li> <li>• All sumptuous meals and lavish entertainment while aboard the "Crown Princess"</li> <li>• Cruise Gratuities</li> <li>• All transfers to and from the airport and pier</li> <li>• Luggage handling on the ship (1 suitcase per person)</li> <li>• Fully escorted by Larry Alvey, 4 Seasons Tour Director</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>\$4,249.00</b> Per Person Double Occupancy</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>PASSPORTS REQUIRED</b></p>	<p><b>Mackinac Island &amp; Door County</b> July 20-26, 2014</p>  <p><b>Tour Includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud</li> <li>• Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation</li> <li>• 6 Nights Accommodations</li> <li>• 10 Meals: 6 Breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 Dinners</li> <li>• Luggage handling (1 bag per person)</li> <li>• Ferry Ride to the Island</li> <li>• Gordon Lightfoot Musical Show</li> <li>• Guided Tour of Mackinac City &amp; Door County</li> <li>• Carriage Ride on Mackinac Island</li> <li>• Lunch at the Grand Hotel</li> <li>• Soo Locks Lunch Cruise</li> <li>• Fish Boil in Door County</li> <li>• And much more!</li> </ul> <p><b>DOUBLE \$1,039.00</b> <b>TRIPLE \$1,019.00</b> <b>SINGLE \$1,289.00</b></p>	<p><b>Historic New England &amp; The Canadian Maritimes Cruise</b> September 22-October 2, 2014</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PASSPORTS REQUIRED</b></p> <p><b>Tour Includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-Seasons Tour Director, Sue Barber</li> <li>• Flights from Minneapolis to New York, return from Montreal to Minneapolis</li> <li>• 10 night cruise on the <u>Ruby Princess</u></li> <li>• Visit the ports of Newport, RI, Boston, MA, Portland, MA, St. John, New Brunswick, Halifax and Sydney, Nova Scotia, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island and Quebec City, Quebec</li> <li>• All sumptuous meals and lavish entertainment while aboard the "Ruby Princess"</li> <li>• All transfers to and from the pier</li> <li>• Cruise Gratuities</li> <li>• Luggage handling (1 suitcase per person)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Starting at \$2,899.00 per person</b></p>
<p><b>Alaska Cruise</b> July 12-19, 2014</p>  <p>ANCHORAGE-HUBBARD GLACIER-GLACIER BAY-SKAGWAY-JUNEAU-KETCHIKAN-INSIDE PASSAGE-VANCOUVER</p> <p><b>Tour Includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roundtrip Delta flights from Minneapolis to Anchorage and return from Vancouver to Minneapolis</li> <li>• 7-Night Southbound Cruise on the <u>Crown Princess</u></li> <li>• All sumptuous meals and lavish entertainment while aboard the "Crown Princess"</li> <li>• All transfers to and from the airport and pier</li> <li>• Cruise Gratuities</li> <li>• Luggage handling on the ship (1 suitcase per person)</li> <li>• Fully escorted by Larry Alvey, 4 Seasons Tour Director</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>\$2,899.00</b> Per Person Double Occupancy</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>PASSPORTS REQUIRED</b></p>	<p><b>Glacier National Park</b> by Amtrak July 17-24, 2014</p>  <p><b>Tour Includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-Seasons Tour Director, Jenny Gilbertson</li> <li>• Roundtrip Amtrak Coach seats to Glacier Park</li> <li>• 5 Nights Hotel</li> <li>• 12 Meals</li> <li>• Luggage handling for one suitcase per person</li> <li>• Going to the Sun Road via the REDS</li> <li>• Entrance fees to Glacier National Park</li> <li>• UNESCO Heritage Site-Head Smashed In</li> <li>• Royal Canadian Mounted Police Museum</li> </ul> <p><b>DOUBLE \$2,229.00</b> <b>TRIPLE \$2,129.00</b> <b>SINGLE \$2,679.00</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>PASSPORTS REQUIRED</b></p>	<p><b>Cape Cod &amp; Plymouth</b> October 4-12, 2014</p>  <p><b>Tour Includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud</li> <li>• Deluxe motor coach transportation</li> <li>• 8 nights accommodations</li> <li>• 14 meals: 8 breakfasts, 6 dinners</li> <li>• Visits to Plymouth, MA and famous Plymouth Rock</li> <li>• Exploration of Historic seaside towns of Hyannis and Sandwich</li> <li>• JFK Museum</li> <li>• Tour of the "Outer Cape" including Provincetown and Chatham</li> <li>• Heritage Museum and Gardens</li> <li>• Luggage handling</li> </ul> <p><b>DOUBLE \$1,089.00</b> <b>TRIPLE \$1,069.00</b> <b>SINGLE \$1,329.00</b></p>

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