

47 and the glider pilot could disengage the tow rope if necessary.

"I was flying a glider that had a Jeep inside. There would be four guys in the jeep, and all kinds of weapons for the Airborne stuffed inside the glider. That's mainly what we were doing - bringing weapons and ammo and other supplies to the paratroopers."

On June 5, 1944, the pilots and paratroopers gathered at their gliders and waited to take off. It was already dark by the time Eisenhower called it off. The weather was too bad.

The next day, they were ready to go again. "We were hauling for the 82nd Airborne. We wanted to come at it from the backside, so we flew over the Cherbourg Peninsula and headed for our landing spots."

It should be noted that gliders, which are sometime referred to as "silent wings," are not silent. "When you're taking off, you're right behind the props, right in the exhaust. Later you can ride above the prop wash. We had head phones and ear plugs, but it was still pretty deafening."

Swanson's glider was assigned to land on a hunk of ground near St. Mere Eglise. They approached the target at about 1,000 feet and then moved down to 500 feet trying to avoid the German's big guns. The landing would be about an hour after the rest of the paratroopers had landed in the area.

"Down below you could see absolutely nothing. Even the farm houses had their windows blacked over. It was just plain dark down there."

Glider pilots are not overly laden with aviation equipment. In fact, the only instruments they had were an altimeter and a speed indicator. There were no radios. The only communication between the C-47 and the two gliders it was towing was a set of lights on the tail of the tow plane.

An amber light meant all was well. A green light indicated the landing zone was approaching and the glider pilot should get ready to drop the cable. The red light meant the pilot was going to drop his end of the cable no matter what the glider pilot did. There were no return trips.

"We saw the green light which meant the drop zone was maybe a minute or so away. It was an area about five miles across. We assumed the whole area was full of paratroopers who got there an hour earlier."

The plane and gliders would come in at about 80 or 90 miles an hour. It was the co-pilot's job to watch the altimeter and the air speed indicator and keep calling out the numbers to me. The instruments were pretty accurate, but you go by round numbers.

"It was just pitch black down there when we released the cable. This is where all the training came in. As a pilot, you've got six people's lives in your hands."

The co-pilot called out the numbers every few seconds. 450 feet, 70 miles an hour. 350 feet, 70 miles an hour.

During this descent, the glider pilot made a 270 degree turn to the left and ended up crossing his original flight path just before touchdown. The idea was to land into the wind.

Swanson said the only control the pilot had over the air speed was to keep the nose down. If the nose was up, the glider would slow down and could crash.

"I kept looking, looking, looking, but I couldn't see anything. When you're down to 35 or 40 feet, you've got to pick your place to land pretty quickly."

And then there was a crash.

In the darkness, the glider hit a tree with its right wing. "It was a pretty big tree, and it knocked the wing off and sent me kitty-wampus. I was still heading straight, but the glider was turned sideways. We hit the ground, and because we weren't straight, both wheels were ripped off. But there are skids on the glider and we skidded to a halt."

Swanson said that if the glider had hit the tree directly, it would have been the end of the road. "The bumper of the Jeep is right against the pilot's seat. If you hit the tree, then the pilot and co-pilot are between the tree and the Jeep. That's how a lot of pilots got killed."

As the glider ground to a rough stop, suddenly there was complete silence. Swanson yelled back to the soldiers to see if they were all right. They were.

"The complete quiet is really something after the ride and the crash. Suddenly, a cow bellowed really loudly right next to us. We had landed in a cow pasture."

The paratroopers got busy unloading the glider and getting the Jeep and its little trailer off the aircraft and running. Swanson and his co-pilot had little to do and so they went exploring.

"We could hear a vehicle, and then another one, and so we thought there was a road nearby. There was a little light now, and we went from tree to tree toward that road. When we got there, we found that there was a road. All of a sudden, 'Bang!' and then a moment later another bang. It was rifle fire."

Swanson was wearing his clicker or cricket around his neck, a child's toy meant to help the paratroopers find and identify each other in the dark. "I thought I saw a guy moving in the bushes, and I clicked him. I waited and there was nothing. Finally he clicked back. I waved to him and he came over."

They asked him what he was firing at, and he said he thought he heard a German in the brush and so he fired.



A C-47 tows two gliders during the war. Both the transport pilot and the glider pilot could release the tow rope if need be. The glider pilots only took over total control of the aircraft with about two minutes left in the mission. On D-Day, they had to land with no lights or landmarks.



Swanson trained twice at Chanute Field in Illinois. The first time was for engine mechanics, and the second time for instrument repair.



Swanson works on a aircraft engine while stationed in Texas. He left mechanical work to train as a glider pilot.



Swanson, at left, poses in front of his glider. He named it the Dassel Dispatch after his hometown newspaper. His Army nickname, Swede, is also painted on the aircraft.



Swanson was a popular guy when he came home on furlough to Dassel. He once rode a motorcycle home during the Armistice Day blizzard.



Glider pilots weren't fragile, but with the aim at making them as light as possible, they didn't exactly inspire thoughts of sturdiness. Most of the gliders were built in Minnesota. One of them has been restored and is now on display at the Fagen Fighters WWII Museum in Granite Falls.

“When he heard it again, he fired again. When he got to the spot, he found he had killed a cow.”

He didn't know where anybody else was. They were scattered all over the place. Swanson and the two others went back to the glider and waited for morning.

When they could see, one soldier drove the Jeep down the road while the others walked alongside in the ditch. “We worked our way toward St. Mere Eglise. We could hear the paratroopers having quite a fight up ahead.”

By dawn, the town was captured. It was the site of the famous incident where a paratrooper got hung up on the church steeple, hanging for hours before he was captured. “I walked right under that steeple.”

The pilot and co-pilot made their way to the sea. “At night you just grabbed a parachute and wrapped yourself up in it. There were parachutes everywhere.”

Reaching the Normandy beach, they were able to get a boat ride back to England.

The next jump was at Operation Market Garden, the unsuccessful plan to capture a series of bridges in the Netherlands and rush a tank corps into the German heartland.

This jump was during the day, and Swanson had to wait an extra day for his chance. “They had more gliders than they had tow planes. So they went in alphabetical order. By the time they got to the S's, there were no more C-47s. I had to fly the next day.”

The delay may have been fortunate for Swanson, who said that many of the gliders in the first wave were hit by German defenses. “I lost a lot of friends that day.”

The next day, the Allies came in a circular attack and never crossed over the German lines, but landed behind them. Swanson's glider came in for a smooth landing, although afterward he counted four bullet holes in his windshield.

The interesting thing about being a glider pilot is that just when the fighting begins, your job is done. “They wanted us to get out of there as quickly as possible. They wanted us to be ready for the next mission.”

The pilot and co-pilot were armed with sub-machine guns they called burp guns, but few glider crews had a chance to use them.

Swanson and his co-pilot hitchhiked back to France. “We were supposed to head back to England, but we decided to go see Paris. We figured we had it coming to us since we were over here. We spent five days, which was pretty good. Some of the guys didn't show up back in England for a month.”

Paris was wonderful, and the recently liberated French treated the Americans well. “You'd go into a bar, put your submachine gun on the counter, and they would ask you if you wanted a beer or a bottle of wine. You never had to pay for anything.”

Next up for Swanson and his fellow troop carriers was Operation Varsity in March, 1945, as the Allies pushed across the Rhine into Germany.

It was another daylight mission. “We were to go across the Rhine, fly about five or seven miles farther and land behind the Germans. We went right at noon, and everything went fine. It fact it was going too good.”

As Swanson's glider, still in tow, crossed the Rhine, it was hit by German anti-aircraft fire. At 90 miles an hour, the gliders were easy targets.

“I felt the first thud. It hit the back of the glider. I lost my rudder pedals right away, they just went slack. But the rest of the controls seemed to work. The second thud passed through the tail fuselage and ripped out a bunch of fabric.

“The third hit was right under the Jeep and it flattened all the tires. It also hit the gas tank and you could smell the gas.”

The pilot and co-pilot had some protection. A piece of metal was attached under their seats and they wore flak suits and steel helmets.

The fourth hit, though, was right under the co-pilot's seat. “It caught him in the legs pretty bad. I was hit in my right arm and right leg.” The worst damage to Swanson, though, was in his face.

“Shrapnel hit me in the face and just ripped my cheek open. I was bleeding all over the place, all down my shirt. I looked over at the co-pilot and he was out. I was afraid he would slump over into the wheel, but the shoulder straps held him upright.”

Now all the injured Swanson had to do was land the glider with no rudder and no co-pilot. “We went about five miles farther before we were cut loose. The ailerons were okay, and that was awfully lucky. I made a good landing.

“I yelled back to the four paratroopers in the Jeep to see if they could get out the door. Sometimes when a glider is hit, it twists the frame and the door won't open. But the door worked. I asked them to come up fast and help me with the co-pilot.”

The men got the co-pilot to the ground and Swanson fetched the first aid kit from the cockpit. Several tourniquets stopped the bleeding to the co-pilot's legs, and Swanson administered a syringe of morphine to the co-pilot's thigh.

“He started to come to almost right away. I learned later that when the body goes into shock, the blood flow to the head is cut off. When you administer the morphine, the



Swanson posed with his Thompson submachine gun which every glider pilot carried.



Home in England was a Quonset hut. The soldiers got around on bicycles.



Glider pilots first trained on Piper Cubs, and had to turn the engine off and land them with a dead stick.



Swanson showed off his physique while in England.



Swanson has a prized possession from the war, the actual clicker he was issued in order to find friendly troops on D-Day. He used the clicker to identify a paratrooper near St. Mere Eglise.

body relaxes and the people tend to come back to life.”

With the co-pilot stabilized, the four paratroopers took a look at Swanson and saw his bloody leg and arm and the blood streaming from his cheek. One of them said, “It looks like you need a shot too.” “So they gave me some morphine.”

Medics were finally able to tape up Swanson's cheek so tight that it quit bleeding. They had to use tape. “You can't put a tourniquet on someone's head. Once they patched me up, I was okay.”

He had earned a Purple Heart and three Air Medals during his three flights.

The war in Europe ended a few weeks later and Swanson was shipped back to the United States for some furlough time. He had orders to Santa Ana, California, to wait to be shipped to the Philippines to get ready for the invasion of Japan. He was at Santa Ana when the war ended.

“He needed to get home, and he heard of a salvage yard nearby. I went over there and it was just airplanes as far as you could see. You could buy anyone of them for \$500.” Swanson picked out a Ryan P-22 trainer to fly home.

“I got up to Portland and visited my sister, but then I had to figure out how to get over the mountains. I didn't know how far I could go on a tank of gas. I had no radio, no lights,

and I'd never flown over mountains before.”

Swanson took off from Spokane. “I had some road maps but no aviation maps. I was just following the roads, but then when they got into the mountains they all started doubling back. I knew I didn't have enough gas for that, so I just headed out on my own. When I landed in Butte, I had a couple of gallons left in the tank.”

He sold the plane for \$3,000 and later went back to the salvage yard and bought another plane, a Stearman trainer for \$500, came home and sold it for \$2,000. He joined the local flying club in Hutchinson, but after a few years, his flying career was over.

He farmed and raised chickens, only retiring a few years ago. He and his wife, Aileen, have been married for 67 years and have two children, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Except for the war, he has never left the farm he grew up on. He built his own house on the property in the 60s. Recently he was interviewed extensively by a crew from National Public Television for the Nova series. The show is expected to be aired in May.

District Commanders

FIRST DISTRICT

**Brian Medinnus
Commander**



Greetings from the First District. Well I think Spring is finally coming. It has taken it's sweet time getting here but I think we are finally turning the corner.

Now it's time to knock on doors, make in-person visits and make telephone calls to Members who haven't paid their dues for this year. The District is down to the last 7.48% or 773 memberships to make our national goal. These last memberships will require hard work and dedication of all members of the 1st District Legion team to make our goal. It's time to step up to the challenge and make the National Goal.

Remember that Commander Mike wants 100% of the Post Consolidated Reports turned in this year. Every post, no matter how active or inactive they are, will be able to fill out at some lines on this report. The 1st District has 57 active posts so I expect 57 Post Consolidated Reports turned in to Department.

The next District rally is scheduled for Lake City on April 12th with a 3 p.m. social hour and a 4 p.m. rally.

SECOND DISTRICT

**Eugene Olsword
Commander**



According to the calendar, Spring has been here for almost two weeks now. That means no more winter driving and it is time to go out and knock on doors and get those few remaining renewals in the posts that are needed to make goal. In the Second District, there are many posts that have five or less renewals to make goal. The Spring Round-Up Rally is April 26th in Montevideo and all posts should be at 95% but I can see many posts at 100% or better. New members are always needed and wanted, so keep your eyes and ears open and an application ready for that guy or gal waiting to be asked to be a member of The American Legion.

My testimonial is coming up on April 12th in Redwood Falls at Post 38. This will be a joint testimonial with District President Jeannette. Full details may be found on Facebook under MN Second District.

The Second District is seeking interested veterans to be Vice Commanders for the coming year. Get your endorsement from your post and send it to the District Adjutant as soon as possible. Post officer elections for the coming year are in May. We are all proud and supportive of our current armed forces on active duty who have said Yes to protect our Country. Take a lesson from these members when someone in the Legion asks you to hold an office in the Post. By doing so, you are saying Yes to those veterans. Be sure to let your post nominating committee know if you are interested.

Mark your calendars for June 7th for the District Convention to be held at Post 132 in New Ulm. Be a delegate from your post. As a delegate, you are exercising your right to vote for the Officers you want to serve you in the District for the coming year.

THIRD DISTRICT

**Mark Dvorak
Commander**



The Department Appreciation Rally, held at Richfield Post 435 was well attended by the Third District. We had a good membership turn-in and are still in first place for the Premier Race. Thank you to all the posts' membership directors for all you do for the American Legion.

Thank you to all the posts that have contributed to my project, the Armed Forces Service Center (AFSC). The next month, or so, the AFSC will be processing approximately 8,000 troops coming into the airport from around the country on their way to Camp Ripley. Please consider a donation to my project. Checks should be made out to 3rd District Commanders Project - AFSC.

Faribault Post 43 will be hosting the Third District Convention May 16-18. All chairpersons are required to present their report at the general session on Saturday, May 17th. A copy of the report should be sent or e-mailed to Adjutant Linda no later than May 5th so she has time to put together the convention Book of Reports.

2015 cards and rosters will be printed from the information on Nationals computers as of April 10th. Make sure you get any changes or membership into Department prior to that date. The next cut off date for points for the Premier Rate is April 9th.

FIFTH DISTRICT

**Robert Johnson
Commander**



The Fighting 5th District would like to congratulate all of our Posts who are at (or beyond) their membership goal for 2014. New members are the life's blood of The American Legion and it seems when the going gets tough, the hard charging organizations seem to get it done first. Thanks again.

5th District Joint Testimonial Dinner is scheduled for May 3 at Minneapolis/Richfield Post 435. Social hour starts at 5 p.m. and dinner at 6. Contact Shawn Davis or Penny Becker for ticket information.

5th District Minneapolis VA Hospital visitation is always the 1st Sunday of the month. We gather in the auditorium at 2 p.m. It can be a most rewarding experience for both the Legionnaire and the patients. See you there.

Our next District Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6 hosted by Northside Post 230 and held at Minneapolis Post No. 1. The Executive Board will meet at 6:45 p.m. and General Membership session at 7:30 p.m.

The Nominating Committee, headed by Jim Munson, is looking for officers for 2014. If you are thinking about running for office in 2014-15 please get your endorsement in ASAP. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jim directly.

Our 5th District Convention Call has been approved and mailed to each Post Commander and Post Adjutant as well as being published in our District Newsletter - The Flash. Convention dates again are May 30 & 31.

SIXTH DISTRICT

**Vern Massie
Commander**



Well I am sure like many of you we are praying spring has finally arrived. A winter to remember. But with spring comes many important things for the American Legion. I hope your Post celebrated the 95th Legion Birthday in March. Now the reports have arrived and need your attention. The Consolidated Reports should be at every Post and please take a few minutes right now and fill them out. Again writing "same as last year" doesn't make it as last year's reports are long gone. Review the report and you may be surprised how much your Post actually did and then fill it out and mail it back today. Thank you.

March was a busy month with activities in the district and department. At the Appreciation Rally, we came in third, but so close to first we can see it. Let's get out there and give the final push and help Jim help Bruce put the 6th district in first were we belong. We can do it with just a little effort. Next rally is Legion Riders Membership Rally in Montevideo and I know you all will put us in first on membership. Thank you for your efforts.

May 3rd is the combined District commander, president and SAL commander testimonial in Park Rapids. Please get your reservations in early and I hope you can attend and have a great event. We can use your donations toward our Joint District Project of the Veterans Art Project at the Committal Hall Lobby at the MN State Veterans Cemetery near Little Falls. Any donations will be greatly appreciated. The US Army painting is up and the US Navy painting will be unveiled on May 26th. A great project that the three of us decided we wanted to support this year. I thank those that have donated and for those still planning to donate Thank you as well in advance.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

**Harold Meyer Jr.
Commander**



Greetings from the mighty 7th district.

I got a memo from our Department Membership Chairman Tom Fernlund saying that we need approximately 1,678 members to reach the 95% goal before April 9th. But if we get 168 members per District this goal can be made. So all of us must go out and work a little harder, and we can get it done. There are a lot of posts that need one or two members to make goal and a lot more within the ten and under range. We still have time to get this done also.

We just found out for the state that Marshall Post 113 had the Eagle Scout of the Year award. I'll keep the name out for now, but this young man is a very outstanding person. Wait until you meet him and then you will know what I mean.

Just a reminder that our 7th district convention is on 7 June in Marshall. Marshall post will be sending out more on

a later date.

I hope everyone had a great St. Pat's day and that the little guy didn't get the best of you. Now that Easter is coming soon from my family to yours have a blessed and safe holiday.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

**Jerry St. Michel
Commander**



Legionnaires of the Great Eighth. The next goal may be hard to achieve. The District is in 10th place in the Department rankings. We must do a better job. Vice commanders, contact the posts in your area and help them make goal. Have them send out cards or letters to get them to pay their dues ASAP.

The District Meeting in Virginia went well. Thank you Post 239 for hosting the meeting. We had a good turn out and the chili was really good. Thank you to all the participants that brought chili.

The Two Harbors Bake Off Rally went well. Although there wasn't very many memberships turned in, we had a tremendous Bake Off. Thank you to all that brought goodies.

In closing, Membersip is our most important program. Vice commanders, keep up the good work and get those memberships in.

NINTH DISTRICT

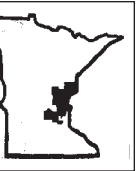
**Thomas Norgaard Sr.
Commander**



Spring is officially here. I can tell because my sewer is frozen again. There are not very many items on the Holiday and Observance List for April. April 13th is Thomas Jefferson's Birthday, April 15th is Tax Day, April 18th is Good Friday and April 20th is Easter Sunday. The only item on the Legion agenda is April 26th, Spring Roundup Rally in Montevideo. By the time you read this, I will have been Toasted, Roasted and probably thoroughly embarrassed at my Testimonial on March 29th. The Ninth District keeps marching along in 1st Place in membership, although the 3rd District is starting to make a move. I feel confident that we will make the 95% goal on April 9th. Until next month, keep all our troops in your prayers, God bless all our Veterans and God Bless America.

TENTH DISTRICT

**Richard Juhl
Commander**



I know that everyone has been told to never talk politics with friends and family. I am hoping you will indulge me, however.

I'm sure most of us have heard about cuts in TriCare, reduction in COLA and Balancing the Budget on the Backs of Veterans. Let's look at this problem a little closer. This is not a new problem. It goes back centuries.

I am only going to go back 150 years. There are examples of young men who filed claims and worked land but then were called to war. They returned home only to find that they had forfeited their claims because they hadn't worked them in the last couple of years. And Government found excuses for not paying the small stipend they were promised.

Following the Civil War (there's an oxymoron), The Union soldiers formed the Grand Army of the Republic while their Confederate counterparts established the United Confederate Veterans, both becoming strong political forces. After the Spanish-American War in the 1890's, the American Veterans of Foreign Service (now known as the VFW) was formed. They were all founded to protect and advocate for veterans. The story of the American Legion should be known to all of us.

Fast forward to 1933 when President Roosevelt sought to balance the federal budget with severe cuts to disability payments and stricter guidelines for proving disabilities. Sound familiar? The list goes on and on.

If it weren't for organizations like ours, where would we be?

Where am I going with this? Wake up and realize our strength comes from our membership and their commitment to getting involved, knowing their legislators, where they stand on the issues and making our voices heard. I urge you to, please, get involved and make sure our veterans don't become Budget Items.

God Bless America and those who protect us.

Washington Conference 2014



Past National Commander Dan Ludwig addressed the Minnesota delegation during the state's caucus in Washington. He advised on how to present veterans issues before the state's elected federal officials. At left is Department Commander Mike Ash and at right is Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl.



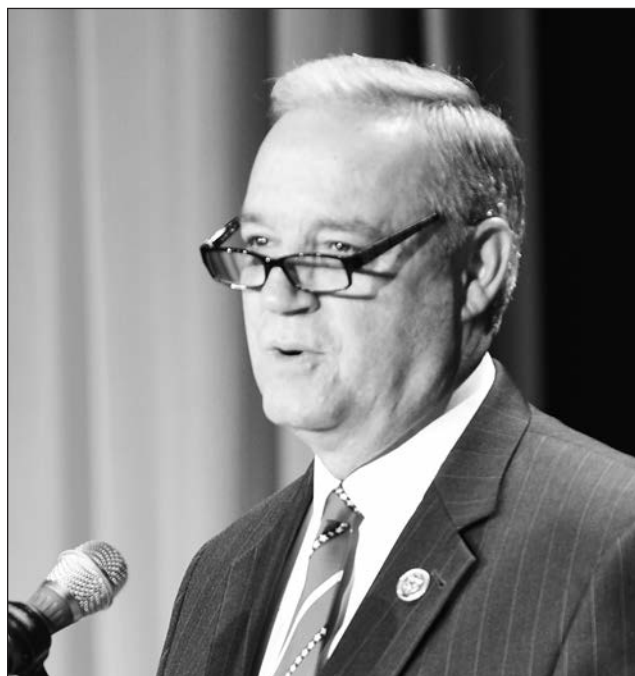
Department President Shirley Frederick spoke at the Minnesota Caucus as Auxiliary members Lori Skallerud, Chris Ronning and Sandy Fredrickson listened in.



Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., ponders an issue raised by the Minnesota delegation at the Washington Conference.



Leading Candidate for National Commander Mike Helms from Nebraska visited the Minnesota Caucus where he was greeted by PNC Ludwig.



At the Commander's Call, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, said the Legion should oppose the depth of the military cuts planned by Congress.

Veterans issues get top priority in D.C. Legion gathering

Every year, hundreds of Legionnaires from across the country gather in Washington D.C. to lobby for veterans issues. This year, a delegation of about 35 Minnesotans made contact with each of the 10 state members of Congress.

Before heading up Capitol Hill to visit with the representatives and senators, the delegation took part in the Commander's Call at the Washington Hilton.

"We're not going to the Hill to complain," National Commander Dan Dellinger told the gathering. "We work every day to solve veterans' problems, but we expect the Congress to do the same."

Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Florida, chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, outlined several areas of concern.

He said there must be advanced funding for the VA medical system so that politics does not hinder its ability to perform well. "And if VA execs fail at a job, they should not receive a bonus. Working at the VA is a privilege and not a right, and we should fire senior executives who do not perform."

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, urged the Legionnaires to be strong in lobbying for veterans issues. "If you don't speak up, then who will? You walked in their shoes, you speak their language, you know what they need."

He said the military downsizing "is inviting disaster for this country."

Graham said the current plan would result in the smallest military since 1940 with only 420,000 Army troops and 240 Navy ships. "The idea is to make sure that those who fight us know they are going to lose."

The world, he said, is full people and nations who hate the U.S. "Radical Islam is still the challenge of our time. It's a dark place where you worship your God and then terrorize everyone else."

"The world is full of dangers. We have a war-weary nation, a dysfunctional Congress and a weak president."

He said Congress has to realize that the United States has a destiny. "We are the city on the hill. We will fight for freedom, and not just ours."

He said the fighting in Afghanistan has had a very positive impact on that country. "There are six million Afghan girls who, without the U.S. military intervention, would not have an education or a say about her children."

Graham said there is a feeling in the country that we should stay away from international issues.

"But I have never seen a more threatening time than now."

National goals

The top legislative priorities for this session of Congress include:

- Fully fund a superior national defense and protect the troops from cuts.
- Oppose further increases in TRICARE fees, including prescription drug fees.
- Ensure stability of VA funding.
- Protect veterans' benefits and health care.
- End the VA claims backlog.
- Create opportunities for veterans in the private sector.
- Support veteran entrepreneurs.
- End veteran homelessness.
- Provide quality education through the Post 9-11 GI Bill.
- Repeal unfair offsets that penalize disabled veterans and widows.
- Protect the American Flag.

Annual Financial Reports

American Legion

INCOME STATEMENT SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

Department Income	
Department Dues Income	\$867,285
Less: MN Legionnaire Portion	\$(253,051)
Revenue Enhancement Program	\$145,736
Grants	\$15,250
Investment Income	\$102,693
LIT Insurance - (Royalties)	\$225,159
Donations / Contributions	\$2,778
In-Kind Rent	\$70,394
Miscellaneous Income	\$15,384
Total Department Income:	\$1,191,628

STATEMENT OF BUDGET EXPENSE

Headquarters Exp.	Budgeted	Disbursed
Administration Salaries	\$272,000	\$270,379
FICA Expense	\$20,808	\$20,130
FUTA Expense	\$400	\$229
SUTA Expense	\$900	\$978
Group Health & Life Ins.	\$49,595	\$42,395
Employee's Ret. Fund	\$27,900	\$27,103
Unbudgeted Expense	\$0	\$1,500
Audit Expense	\$8,100	\$8,116
Investment Mgt. Fees	\$4,400	\$5,400
Furniture & Fixtures	\$1,000	\$1,000
General Office Exp.	\$54,000	\$55,284
Elct. Eq., Mnt. & Mod.	\$46,152	\$13,568
Depreciation Expense	\$0	\$28,817

Insurance (Other)	\$6,841	\$6,841
Program Promotions	\$1,000	\$692
Travel Expense	\$13,563	\$16,131
Emergency Fund	\$500	\$2,000
Rent Expense	\$0	\$70,394
Telephone	\$7,800	\$8,224
Nat'l Emerg. Fds. Disb.	\$2,000	\$0
Misc. Exense	\$0	\$14,632
Total HQ Expense	\$516,959	\$593,812

Special Budget		
Citizens Flag Alliance	\$200	\$207
Legal Expense	\$2,000	\$0
Total Spec. Bud. Exp.	\$2,200	\$207

Rehab Expense		
Salaries	\$107,800	\$106,869
FICA Expense	\$8,250	\$8,071
FUTA Expense	\$200	\$126
SUTA Expense	\$450	\$410
Group Health Ins.	\$24,525	\$21,799
Employee Ret. Fund	\$11,280	\$10,057
General Office Exp.	\$5,000	\$4,695
Total Rehab Expense:	\$157,505	\$152,027

Committee Expense		
Americanism	\$5,500	\$6,060
Blood Program	\$250	\$186
Chaplain's Fund	\$1,500	\$1,588
Children & Yth. Comm.	\$2,500	\$4,050
Commander's Budget	\$31,500	\$31,500
Convention Corporation	\$4,500	\$1,229
Dpt. Conv. Comm.	\$3,600	\$4,106
Dpt. HQ Conf. & Conv.	\$25,000	\$21,754
Department Treasurer	\$3,500	\$3,500

Employment Comm.	\$1,200	\$1,000
Energy & Cons. Comm.	\$2,000	\$1,479
Executive Committee	\$32,000	\$29,086
Exec. Cm. Cntg. Fund	\$3,000	\$0
Finance Committee	\$4,000	\$3,637
Fund for Hosp. Vets	\$1,000	\$807
Historian	\$1,300	\$1,331
Ins. Trust Committee	\$5,000	\$4,903
Judge Advocate	\$4,000	\$4,000
Law & Order Comm.	\$1,000	\$289
Legislative Committee	\$2,000	\$2,263
Membership (Inc. VCs)	\$52,800	\$46,218
March. Dept. Col. Gd.	\$1,500	\$3,000
NEC	\$4,000	\$4,000
Nat'l. Conv. Delegates	\$33,250	\$34,010
Nat'l. Sec./Foreign Rel.	\$7,000	\$7,189
Operation Post Home	\$500	\$264
Post Dev. Committee	\$4,000	\$2,798
Public Relations Comm.	\$22,150	\$12,942
Res. Assign. Comm.	\$950	\$942
Servicemen's Center	\$300	\$300
Trophies & Awards	\$1,000	\$532
Legion Riders	\$700	\$700
USAA	\$0	\$563
Strategic Planning	\$4,000	\$2,365
Credentials Committee	\$950	\$752
Sargeant-at-Arms	\$500	\$96
Alternate NEC	\$2,000	\$2,000
Total Comm. Exp.	\$269,950	\$241,436

GRAND TOTAL Budget vs. Actual	\$946,614	\$987,482
Total Undesignated Revenue		\$1,191,628
Total Undesignated Expense		\$987,482
Change in Net Assets		\$204,146

Auxiliary

STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND NET ASSETS MODIFIED CASH BASIS JULY 31, 2013 AND 2012

ASSETS	2013	2012
Cash	\$52,444	\$127,574
Cash - Held for Dists.	42,154	-
Accounts Receivable	567	537
Investments	2,207,432	2,132,229
Fixed Assets at Cost, Net of Accumulated		
Depreciation	19,618	21,699
Total Assets	\$2,280,061	\$2,324,193

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2013	2012
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$30,888	\$4,463
Cash - Held for Dists.	42,154	-
Funds Held for Others	6,226	47,592
Total Liabilities	37,114	94,209

NET ASSETS	2013	2012
Unrestricted	1,865,298	1,871,964
Temporarily Restricted	377,649	358,020
Total Net Assets	2,242,947	2,229,984

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,280,061	\$2,324,193
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MEMBERSHIP, DUES, AND ASSESSMENTS		
Dues Current	\$671,329	\$474,996
Dues VIM	7,831	7,651
Dues Back	3,176	3,345
Junior Conference	2,638	2,425
Bonding Fee Income	-	-
Dues Remitted to Others (Primarily National)	(355,544)	(215,888)
Total Membership, Dues, and Assessments	\$329,430	\$272,529

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES		
Poppy Workroom	\$83,423	\$90,446
Girls State	127,030	128,749
Total Program Act.	\$210,453	\$219,195

CONTRIBUTIONS		
Children and Youth	\$-	\$875
Gift Shop	39,787	38,748
Veterans Aff. and Rehab.	79,131	80,756
President's Project	21,359	17,978
Parley Scholarships	5,223	5,187
Department - Scholarship	5,500	5,604
National Cand Assess.	8,926	8,709
Stamp and Coupon	412	332

Veterans 4 Veterans	10,000	-
Total Contributions	\$170,338	\$158,189

OTHER		
Donated Use of Fac.	\$53,989	\$52,148
Miscellaneous	6,283	8,181
Total Other	\$60,272	\$60,329

PROGRAMS		
Poppy Workroom	\$61,678	\$53,308
Americanism	250	165
Children and Youth	-	4,050
Finance Committee	2,680	2,489
Gift Shop	34,428	33,389
Girls State	118,374	117,452
Junior Activities	3,079	1,553
Legislative	1,451	753
Membership	6,678	7,048
Memory Book	296	100
Memorial and Chaplain	62	93
National Security	1,504	906
Past Pres. Par. - Other	7,525	2,950

Public Relations	217	81
Vet. Aff. and Rehab.	39,609	36,936
National Candidates	2,000	10,200
Veterans 4 Veterans	7,480	-
Department Schol.	12,000	7,000
Project	21,609	17,978
Total Programs	\$320,920	\$296,451

CONFERENCES AND SPECIAL MEETINGS		
Department Convention	\$41,330	\$26,425
Convention Corporation	(23)	800
National Convention	21,968	15,905
Fall Conference	16,675	18,189
Executive Committee	11,670	12,800
Special Meetings	4,063	6,993
Total Conferences and Special Meetings	\$95,683	\$81,112

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT, REVENUES, AND EXPENSES

	2012	Temporarily	Total	2011	Temporarily	Total
	Unrestricted	Restricted		Unrestricted	Restricted	
REVENUE						
Membership, Dues, and Assessments	\$329,430	\$-	\$329,430	\$272,529	\$-	\$272,529
Prog. Activities	210,453	-	210,453	219,195	-	219,195
Contributions	141,229	29,109	170,338	138,357	19,832	158,189
Interest	66,508	-	66,508	52,147	-	52,147
Other	60,272	-	60,272	60,329	-	60,329
Total Revenue	807,892	29,109	837,001	742,557	19,832	762,389
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	9,480	(9,480)	-	3,940	(3,940)	-
Total Revenue	817,372	19,629	837,001	767,690	15,892	762,389
EXPENSES						
Prog. Expense	711,624	-	711,624	645,993	-	645,993
Supporting Services						
Member Dev.	44,919	-	44,919	43,059	-	43,059
Mgt. and Gen.	67,495	-	67,495	64,330	-	64,330
Total Supporting Services	112,414	-	112,414	107,389	-	107,389
Total Expenses	824,038	-	824,038	753,382	-	753,382
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS						
	(6,666)	19,629	12,963	(6,885)	15,892	9,007
Net Assets - Beginning of the Year	1,871,964	358,020	2,229,984	1,878,849	342,128	2,220,977
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$1,865,298	\$ 377,649	\$2,242,947	\$1,871,964	\$358,020	\$2,229,984



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 14-9

President Shirley Frederick

April 2014

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

The President's Column

By
Shirley Frederick



Despite the cold weather, the Month of March has gone by quickly. Would be nice if the snow would go away just as quickly. I am looking forward to blue sky, warm weather, green grass and dry roads to travel on.

I hope you have enjoyed reading the Program of the Month article each month from our Department Chairmen.

April is a busy month. It is Children and Youth Month. Remember to lead by example as children tend to do as we do. Our Department Junior Conference is April 11-12th at Hopkins. Bring your Junior members. It does not matter if they are organized and meet or not. As members they are welcome to come and take part in fun activities and get to meet other young girls like themselves.

Our Unit Annual Reports are due into Department Office on or before April 15th. I am asking you to please take the time to write a short summary of what you did in these programs. The fact and number sheet is important information needed by our National Organization to show the hours, number of veterans and amount of money we spend in caring for our veterans. This is what helps keep us a tax exempt organization.

The summary in story form is what tells our Unit, District, Department and National chairmen what we accomplish in each of our programs. This is the information used in deciding citations, honorable mention and awards and is the history of your unit.

The Spring Round up Membership Rally is April 26th at the Montevideo Post. If your unit is not at goal yet let's get a team of your members together and call your unpaid members, go visit them and collect their dues. Take along an updated sheet of events, time and place of meeting and remind them you would love to see them attend. Have this information with you and ask others if they are eligible to belong (be sure to have the dates with you) and if so talk about the benefits of belonging and get them signed up.

April is National Volunteer Month. If each active member would mentor a member that is not active or not very active and new members just think how many more volunteers we would have. And that would mean that many more hours could be spent with our veterans, and doing for our veterans. It makes my heart sing just thinking about how many veterans would feel better because of a visit or a card or something special because someone cared and volunteered.

If you have not ordered any of the educational comic books from Department Office please do so. They are a great way to help our youth learn so much about our veterans and our country's strong patriotic people. Great reading for all ages.

Patriotism, thank our veterans -- teach our children.

Poppy Days coming soon

Poppy Days will soon be with us. If your Unit has not ordered its 2014 Poppies we would appreciate hearing from you soon. We have 63 Units that have not yet ordered. Let's have 100% participation in our Poppy Program. If you cannot locate an order form just write your order on a plain piece of paper and send it along with your check to the Department office.

We do have poppies available for any Unit that wishes to order more. The Department does not carry the Poppy cans many Units use on Poppy Days. They must be ordered from National Emblem Sales.

Governor Dayton has been asked to proclaim May as Poppy month. A suggestion to all Units is to present a poppy to your government officials and ask them to wear the poppy on Memorial Day.

95th Department Convention will be hosted in Rochester

Our 95th annual Department Convention will be held July 17 - 19 at the Kahler Grand Hotel in Rochester, hosted by the Rochester Post and Unit 92. A word of thanks to the Auxiliary Chairman and committee members for all they are doing to ensure a successful convention.

Housing information will be out in the May Unit mailing. Hotel reservations are to be made directly with the hotel this year. The registration fee is \$15.00 for pre-registration and \$18.00 if registering at the door. They are to be sent to Bill Born, American Legion Post 92 Office, 403 East Center St., Rochester, MN 55904. Make your checks out to AMERICAN LEGION POST 92 CONVENTION FUND. Please use the registration form. Let's make this a successful Convention and have representation from all Units!!

Don't forget the Poppy contests that will be held at the Department Convention. This year there will be two categories; Patriotism Coloring Book and a Poppy Hat using our Department President's theme and should include the programs of the American Legion Family. More than one entry is welcomed; there will be three places awarded and a People Choice Award. Entries must be at the Department Convention on Thursday, July 18th by 9:00 a.m. Please read your Trophy and Awards packet for details.

JUNIOR CONFERENCE

The Department Junior Conference will be called to order by Kaitlin Fernlund, the Department Honorary Junior President on Saturday, April 12th, at The Hopkins American Legion Post 320 in Hopkins, hosted by our Tenth District. We are hoping many Juniors will attend their very own Conference.

On Friday, April 11 starting at 6:00 p.m. the Tenth District is hosting a "fun" night at the Post for all Juniors. Please come and enjoy the weekend.

2014 GIRLS STATE

Registration fees for the 2014 session of American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State were due on March 31st. We do still have openings so don't feel that because March 31 has gone by that you still can't register. Units may send as many girls as they choose to from the same high school. Your American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State citizens must attend a public, charter, parochial, private or home school in Minnesota or be a resident of Minnesota. Reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. We are still taking reservations and would like each Unit to participate. American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State is limited to 445 citizens. The 2014 session will be held June 15 - 20th at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul.

The enrollment card, information sheet, pledge and order form for a Capitol Day polo shirt are due into the Department office no later than May 1st. Your American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State citizen is not considered registered until these items are received. Each American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State citizen who is completely registered will receive a mailing from the Department office around May 15th which will give her all of the necessary information she needs concerning items to bring, the health certificate form, etc. that are required to bring in June.

If your Unit finds that your candidate is not able to attend American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State, please notify the Department office in writing immediately. Also contact the Department Office if you have questions regarding refunds. Before your Unit requests a refund because you are not able to find a girl to attend please contact our American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Chairman Suzette Maluchnik. She may have a list of girls who would like to attend, but do not have a sponsoring Unit. Please consider sponsoring one of these girls.

We look forward to the 68th annual American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State week and another educational and successful session.

"RENEW-RECRUIT-REJOIN"

The last membership rally of our Auxiliary year, Spring Round Up Rally, will be held at the Montevideo Post 59 on Saturday, April 26. Turn in will be from 2 -3 p.m. with the

program following at 3:30 p.m. Last year was disappointing as the Auxiliary had no turn-ins at this rally. Let's "show em" and bring bunches of memberships!! We are still holding on to 3rd place in the Nation. Let us continue to make President Shirley proud and try to climb the ladder to #1.

HOME SERVICE

Many thanks to all who have been involved in our Home Service program this year. Your canceled commemorative postage stamps, promotional stamps and picture postcards are appreciated. Every little bit helps.

Keep those stamps and postcards coming in. You may count your hours spent working for this program on your Home Service report.

2015 DIRECT BILLING

All Units received a request for information on your Unit's 2015 dues. A second notice went out in the April Unit Mailing. This information was due in the Department office by March 15th. It is critical that this information gets forwarded on to National. If your Unit has not yet responded, please send in the information as soon as possible. There are still 182 Units that have not returned this form. You can email, fax or call in the information to the Department Office.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

April is Children and Youth month. Plan a special program and invite your community to attend. Let them know of your involvement and concern for the youth of our nation. There are a number of programs you can present to your community. Keep in mind that our children are our future. We need to get them involved in our programs and let them know how appreciated they are.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE APRIL 15th

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 15. It is important that your Unit report your activities each year and send them in. The information received on the reports is then compiled into a Department report that is sent onto our National organization. These reports become part of the American Legion Auxiliary record for the 2013-2014 year. Our National organization gives the information to The American Legion and they use the information when they report to Congress each year. Every activity your Unit has participated in is important. Be proud of your accomplishments and activities and share them. Reports are due in April 15th. We realize that many of you are unhappy with the reporting system this year and your comments will be passed forward. Thank you all for letting me know how your Units like this new format.

TROPHIES AND AWARDS

Trophy and Award entries are also 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. Follow this year's rules. A separate entry is needed for each award unless the Department winner is forwarded for National competition. Any Unit may apply for any award whether your Unit has reached its membership goal or not unless that is a requirement stated in the rules.

2014 NATIONAL CONVENTION

The National Convention this year will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina. This year the Parade will be on Sunday August 24, 2014 in Charlotte. When we Minnesotans go to the National Convention we bring with us our national colors from our Posts, Units, Squadrons and AL Riders to march in the National Parade. When we do this, we typically take up an entire city block or more of just Minnesota's attendees all carrying their US colors. We often are on the front page of the newspaper in that city's morning issue the following day. Let's make the headline in Houston big time this year and show the friendly state of Texas how proud us Minnesotans are of our veterans.

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

Picture the image of hundreds of United States flags marched 4 abreast stretching for several blocks? What a sight to see.

More information will be forthcoming regarding the National Convention.

SANDIE'S JOTTINGS

As Department Secretary, I thought I would take up a little space with real exciting news from our Department Office. As you are aware, besides myself there is Cathy Radil, Department Treasurer and Jan Lauby, Department Receptionist. Jan has been a true blessing to us here in the office.

I have been receiving many comments regarding the new Annual Report format and I do appreciate all of the comments even though there haven't been many positive ones. I will be passing on all of the comments to the Executive Committee. The new format was voted on by the Convention Body at last year's Department Convention. On any issues you may have or would like to see run differently, please have your Unit draft a resolution, vote on it and if passed, send it to your District Convention. This is your organization and it is up to you to get the changes made.

Also, I would like to send an invitation to all members that when in the St. Paul area stop in the Department Office for a visit. See where we work, what we do and where your dues are going. The coffee is always on. This is your office and we would enjoy meeting you.

It is the time of the year when things begin to get real hectic around here - Junior Conference, National Leadership Conference, Memorial Day, ALA Minnesota Girls State, Annual Reports Due, New Membership Packets, Department Convention, August Workshop, National Convention, Junior Fun Weekend - holey moley, I am already looking at next winter - that is almost a sin.

Always remember that we are here to assist you in any way we can - call anytime and we will find your answers.

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT TESTIMONIAL DINNER

Saturday, May 31, 2014 at Northern Lights Casino, Walker, MN

Menu to be served:

Honey & Thyme Glazed Pork Loin & Broasted Chicken
With Parsley Buttered Red Potatoes, Glazed Baby Carrots,
Tossed Salad, and Dessert

Cost per person \$22.00 if reserved by May 17, 2014
(\$25.00 after May 17th)

A block of rooms are reserved for this event. Please contact the Casino to reserve a room at 1-866-652-4683.

Social hour begins at 5:30 P.M. Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
Program will follow.

Dinner and Room Reservations
are due by May 17, 2014

(After that date, prices subject to change)

Make checks payable to: ALA Unit 202
send with form to ALA Unit 202, Bev Sauer,
P O Box 414, Hackensack, MN 56452

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ POST/UNIT/SQUADRON _____

NUMBER ATTENDING: _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Three principles guide the Children and Youth Program

By Jodi Meckle
Children and Youth Chairman

April is the month we shine the spotlight on "Children...Our Most Precious Resource" by focusing our efforts on the Children & Youth program. There are three guiding principles: 1) To strengthen the family unit against the forces of today's complex society, 2) To extend support to organizations and facilities providing services for children, and 3) To maintain a well-rounded program that meets the needs of today's young people. You don't need to do this alone. Combine your efforts with Sons of the American Legion members, American Legion members, and other Auxiliary program chairmen such as Junior Activities, Education, and Community service. Also collaborate with your local Beyond the Yellow Ribbon and National Guard Family Readiness groups.

Look for outstanding kids who deserve to receive the Youth Hero Award and the Good Deed Award. Fill out the form and send it in! Make a big deal out of it! Recognize them at a meeting and get their picture in the newspaper.

Coming up on May 8 is "National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day." You can find a wealth of free information, brochure, and posters at www.samhsa.gov. Some topics include substance abuse, suicide prevention, bullying, and military family issues.

May 27-June 2 is "National Family Week." This week aims to celebrate family life, encourage families to spend more time together, and highlight the important role families play in society. Perhaps an end of school party would be a fun activity for your Unit to host.

Always remember that today's children are our world's future. They are always observing what you do and say. Be a good role model at all times. Celebrate and honor our children. Any way you can touch and enrich a child's life is priceless.



JODI MECKLE



POPPY MAKER -- Curtis Anderson constructs poppies at home.

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Auxiliary Membership as of Mar. 26, 2014

District	3-26 Total	Percent	Goal
First	5,085	89.56	5,678
Second	4,984	91.40	5,453
Third	4,321	88.85	4,863
Fourth	736	87.62	840
Fifth	935	89.47	1,045
Sixth	6,085	89.50	6,799
Seventh	3,993	90.28	4,423
Eighth	1,698	88.35	1,922
Ninth	4,414	91.54	4,822
Tenth	5,210	90.25	5,773
Depart.	129	89.76	166
Total	37,610	90.01	41,784

Veterans Linkage Line™
minnesotaveteran.org | 1-888-LinkVet (546-5838)

Help for veterans and families

