

training and to learn how to be an anti-aircraft gunner. He was assigned to the 777th Anti-Aircraft Armored, Self-Propelled, Auto Weapons Battalion. "We called ourselves the triple hooks."

The "self-propelled" part of the name meant the weapons were mounted on half-tracks and could be driven wherever they were needed. Two halftracks would work as a team. One would be mounted with four 50-caliber Browning automatic machine guns, and the other would have two machine guns and a 37 millimeter anti-aircraft cannon.

"In training, they kept asking if anyone could type. I could, but I was suspicious. Just before that, they had asked if anyone wanted to be a fireman, and a lot of guys signed up thinking they would be in those red trucks. It turned out they got to shovel coal into a boiler."

Burgstahler overcame his skepticism and volunteered as a typist. He was sent to the battalion's headquarters where he spent the rest of the war. Specifically, he was assigned to the "plans, training and operations" section where he soon became the right hand man for the commanding major.

He remembers a couple of incidents from Fort Sheridan. "I was in charge of arranging for a pilot to pull a sleeve on a 600-foot rope along Lake Michigan while the gunners tried to hit it. If you know about duck hunting, you have to lead the target. All the pilot could see were these tracers coming right him. After two passes, he radioed me that he had engine trouble and he was going home."

During the training, Burgstahler was called in and told that he had been nominated to go to West Point. "It was the biggest honor I ever got from the Army. It meant four years of a top quality education. For a kid who could never afford college, it was incredible."

Unfortunately, Burgstahler failed the eye exam. "You had to have 20-50 or better and I was 20-70. The doctor said he could fudge the results a little bit, but this wouldn't be the last eye exam I'd be getting."

Burgstahler's lifestyle may have had something to do with his almost appointment. "I never drank or smoked. I didn't even play poker. I'd watch the other guys play poker, and I figured they were too smart for me."

It was on to Tennessee and North Carolina for more training, and finally the young lads in the 777th got a week's furlough to go home. The trip to the Midwest needed all of the GI's ingenuity.

"When we got to the train station, we had missed the train to Richmond. So we hired a bus to take us to Cherry Point, North Carolina. There we met the same train we had missed. That's how slow the trains were. But then they wouldn't let us on the train."

Several of the GIs waited until the train was leaving and then they snuck on. "I spent the night lying under the sink in the men's room. I didn't have a ticket, and they didn't ask for one. When we finally got to Richmond, I was so tired I fell asleep in the station and missed the train to Minneapolis."

Burgstahler finally did get home. His next stop was Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, and then the unit boarded the New Amsterdam, the fourth largest ship in the world, for transit to Europe. He shared a stateroom with 14 other guys.

"They had AA guns on the ship, and we were assigned to help the Navy man the guns. The ship went at top speed, all by ourselves, across the ocean, zigzagging all the way. The ship just rumbled, especially toward the back. I spent all my time looking for stove pipes (submarines) in the ocean."

They landed at Gourcock, Scotland, in late April, 1944. "We marched off the ship with our weapon, our duffle bag, and our backpack. We were ready for war."

A train took them to Hereford in southern England, where the 777th got its first job: to protect three Army air bases from German attack. The bases contained paratroopers and gliders getting ready for the D-Day invasion.

"There was so much equipment assembled in the area that you could walk for ten miles on the hood of a halftrack or the turret on a tank and never touch the ground."

Time passed as the preparations continued for the invasion. No German planes were seen. "My buddy and I were watching the gliders practice when a sergeant asked us if we wanted to go for a ride. We said 'sure.' Inside we sat on a thousand pounds of sandbags and held onto the conduit pipe.

"The glider took off before the tow plane, and we were really hoping that plane would also take off and it finally did. It was so beautiful to see the English countryside with the sheep grazing and the stone walls. It was thrilling to see. Finally I said, 'Wow, this is the first time I've ever flown.'"

"And the pilot turned around and said, 'This is the first time I've ever flown a glider.'"

Going to movies helped pass the time. "One time the projector broke down and there were all these anti-aircraft guys sitting in the dark. It wasn't long before they started filling up condoms with foot powder and tossing them in the air. Guys were tracking them with flashlights and guys were shooting paper clips at them with rubber bands. Everybody was yelling 'Air raid, air raid.' When they'd hit one, it would explode and all this powder would go all over.

"I guess you've just got to see the humor in these things."

One day in early June, Burgstahler and some friends



The 777th went to battle in halftracks, vehicles with wheels in front and treads in the rear. This halftrack was fitted out for headquarters duty and only had one mounted 50 caliber machine gun. Other halftracks either had four 50 calibers mounted in back, or two 50 calibers and an anti-aircraft cannon. The unit shot down 111 German planes in the war.



Burgstahler poses with an artillery shell.



General Eisenhower talks to paratroopers on the day before D-Day. Burgstahler passed Ike on the highway on his way back from one of these pep talks.

Prepare in Duplicate

100th DISTRICT OFFICE
HERKIMER COUNTY, N.Y.
MAR 4 1943
2706 E. LAKE STREET
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
(Local Board Date Stamp With Code)

March 4, 1943
(Date of mailing)

ORDER TO REPORT FOR INDUCTION

The President of the United States,

To: Merrill Curtis Burgstahler
(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)

Order No. 11480

MEETING:

Having submitted yourself to a local board composed of your neighbors for the purpose of determining your availability for training and service in the land or naval forces of the United States, you are hereby notified that you have now been selected for training and service therein.

You will, therefore, report to the local board named above at Minneapolis Armory
(Name of Reporting Station)

7:00 A. m., on the 24th day of March, 1943.
(Hour of reporting)

This local board will furnish transportation to an induction station. You will there be examined, and, if accepted for training and service, you will then be inducted into the land or naval forces.
Persons reporting to the induction station in some instances may be rejected for physical or other reasons. It is well to keep this in mind in arranging your affairs, to prevent any undue hardship if you are rejected at the induction station, you are employed, you should advise your employer of this notice and of the possibility that you may not be accepted at the induction station. Your employer can then be prepared to replace you if you are accepted, or to continue your employment if you are rejected.
Willful failure to report promptly to this local board at the hour and on the day named in this notice is a violation of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, as amended, and subjects the violator to fine and imprisonment.
If you are so far removed from your own local board that reporting in compliance with this order will be a serious hardship and you desire to report to a local board in the area of which you are now located, go immediately to that local board and make written request for transfer of your delivery for induction, taking this order with you.

[Signature]
Member or clerk of the local board.

H. FORM 150
Revised 1-15-43
U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-38875-6

Burgstahler is probably one of the few GIs who still have their induction notice. "My mother saved everything," he said. He was ordered to report to the Minneapolis Armory on March 24, 1943.



Burgstahler and the headquarters group from the 777th Anti-Aircraft Battalion. Burgstahler is at lower left wearing glasses.

took a Jeep to see a movie. On the way back, a convoy was coming through in the opposite direction, and there was General Eisenhower. "If I reached out my arm, I could have touched him." The general had just given a pep talk to the paratroopers getting ready to depart for Normandy.

"At about 12 midnight, all the engines started up. We had a front row seat for that moment in history."

A few days later, a C-47 came back with wounded from the front. "We thought this was really wonderful that we had the invasion and only a couple of days later we were bringing our wounded back to the hospitals. Then they opened the doors, and there were 21 wounded German soldiers inside. It was one of those shocking moments, but we later understood that they wanted to bring them back quickly to get all the intelligence as fast as possible."

A week later, the 777th was still guarding the bases near Hereford without ever seeing an attacking plane.

"But then Hitler started sending V-1 rockets into England. It was just a ram jet engine attached to a one-ton bomb. They sent us over to Ashford on the English Channel to try and shoot them down.

"We weren't stupid and we quickly learned not to shoot them down when they were on their way, but only as they passed over. I think it really sharpened our skills."

The bombs were extremely powerful. "I saw one go down, and I timed the explosion. It was about a mile and a half away. The force of the blast ripped my pants legs."

One day, Burgstahler and others were washing their mess kits after lunch. "We heard one of those engines, and then it stopped. We knew it was coming down near us somewhere.

"It exploded about 150 feet away and knocked every one of us flat on our backs. I couldn't hear anything. I looked up and saw all these green leaves floating down that been blown off the trees.

"The V-1 killed about a half dozen cows and made a crater in the ground about 30 feet wide. I went over to the crater, and it was nothing but a smoking pile of debris. But I could see part of the engine down there. So I went down, and I was able to unscrew the fuel injector. I put it in my pocket."

Burgstahler still has the small injector. "I don't think too many GIs came home from war with a fuel injector from a V-1 rocket."



Burgstahler still has the V-1 fuel injector he took from a crater.

In mid-July, the 777th was loaded onto an LST and was landed on Utah Beach at Normandy. "We had to get the halftracks ready to be dropped in the water. We had to waterproof them. We put in a six foot pipe up for air intake and another one for the exhaust. Everything was covered in Cosmoline so the engine could run underwater.

"They dropped us in about four feet of water, and it all worked. Those were good engines. When we got ashore, we had to clean off all the Cosmoline and clean the sea water off our weapons."

The 777th at this point learned that it had been permanently attached to the 6th Armored Division, part of Patton's Third Army. "We were told that the 6th Armored's commanding officer, General Grow, had picked our unit over other units. It was said that he knew a lot of us were from the Midwest and we knew how to hunt. With all our training, we had a lot of confidence in ourselves."

The unit first fought on the Cotentin Peninsula, and then returned to Normandy as the U.S. and British were making their breakout from the hedgerow country.

The unit's job was to protect the tanks and the other battalions assigned to the 6th Armored. "We were playing defense on the greatest offensive power in Europe."

Burgstahler's job, along with the major and other headquarters personnel on the halftrack, when attacked was to get off the vehicle pronto and let the single machine gun on the headquarters vehicle fire at the German plane. "It was my job to get away from the vehicle, to get down on my knees in the mud, and to do some shaking."

The very first time the halftrack was attacked by a German Focke-Wulf 190, the machine gunner hit the plane. "He only used 68 rounds, and he shot it down. We were the first in the battalion to get a kill."

At one point, Burgstahler saw an American pilot bail out and come floating down in a parachute. "All the way down, the Germans were shooting at him. It made me realize that war is for real. You get that guy, or he gets you. You get a little hardened."

When the U.S. was stuck in the hedgerow country in Normandy, the AA units would sometimes be called to the front to take care of a sniper in the tall hedges. "I don't think you want to be a sniper in a tree with four 50 calibers firing at you as we backed down the trail. It was the only time we went on offense."

The armored division would advance quickly, sometimes covering 60 miles in a day, and then sit for several days waiting for gas or further orders. "One time we stayed for three or four days in a schoolhouse. It had brand new cement steps in front. After we left, we heard that the schoolhouse had blown up. The Germans had planted a time bomb in the new steps."

Burgstahler encountered another case of a possible booby trap. "Everyone wanted a German Luger. We were in a convoy going past some dead horses and some dead Germans. The P-47s had done a sweep. I looked and there was a dead German officer with his coat pulled back and a Luger pistol just sitting there. I jumped off the halftrack and got about two steps from that pistol. But the Lord talked to me and I backed away. It was just too obvious."

The division reached the Saar River in November and spent some time in Saarbrücken, just into Germany.

"We were there when the Bulge happened. Patton told Eisenhower that he could have two divisions to Bastogne in 48 hours. We were one of those divisions."

The 4th Armored got to the besieged city first and got most of the glory. Burgstahler said there was often competition between the 4th and the 6th to get places first and get some recognition, but the 4th often won out. "They had a better PR guy."

The 6th Armored rumbled through Bastogne and headed north and east to chase the Germans back into Germany. Early in 1945, the division got a short rest after being in combat for 221 continuous days. It then pushed ahead into Germany and reached the Rhine River on March 21, 1945.

As the German Army collapsed, the 6th Armored began taking in vast quantities of prisoners. "In the end, we captured 64,000 German prisoners. Taking prisoners was always a problem for us, because it's your duty to take care of them. That's why at the Battle of the Bulge, I think some prisoners got taken care of in the quicker way, on both sides."

The division moved to the Weimar area at the beginning of April. Weimar was known as the intellectual capital of Germany and had been the home of Schiller, Goethe, Liszt, Klee and Gropius. About five miles from Weimar was a concentration camp called Buchenwald. The camp provided slave labor for factories in the area.

On April 11, 1945, a unit of the Sixth Armored liberated the camp.

"When a tank division moves, it's divided in three parts, A, B, and R. A and B take parallel roads and R, the reserves, come up behind. Word got to B to go liberate this camp. They went 31 miles in 13 hours."

What they found was probably one of the most shocking discoveries of the war. Corpses were stacked like cordwood, and thousands of starving men and women roamed the camp. The guards had fled.

"Buchenwald was the largest camp liberated up to that time. This was the camp where the commandant's wife made lampshades out of prisoners' skin, and where they froze people to death in ice water to test and see how long German pilots would last if shot down in the sea."

"When they saw the Americans coming, a number of prisoners rushed the fence and were electrocuted."

A couple of days after the liberation, Burgstahler's boss, Major Dailey, ask him if he had seen the camp yet. "He



Shirley and Merrill Burgstahler were married in 1951 and have four children and eight grandchildren.

said, 'Take my Jeep and go up and see it.' When I got there, I got a guide, a Danish prisoner."

There had been 48,000 prisoners in the camp, but about 28,000 had been taken on a forced march a few days earlier. Over a third of those prisoners died on the march.

"Over 400 prisoners died in Buchenwald the first week we were there. Either they couldn't handle the rations we gave them, or they were so near death anyway.

"The guide showed me the barracks and the kitchen. I looked and all there was in the kitchen was big metal pot. I asked him where the rest of the kitchen equipment was, and he said that was it. They would just fill it with water and throw in beets or potato peelings or whatever they had. Sometimes I think they threw in a mouse for some meat. Then each prisoner would get a liter of that soup every day along with a crust of bread."

As they toured the camp, Burgstahler was almost overcome by the stench of the place. "It was a combination of feces and rotting bodies."

He was shown a doctor's office where the prisoners were brought if they were sick. "The doctor would determine if they had any more labor ability. If not, he gave them a shot and knocked them out. They were thrown out the back door and other prisoners would carry them to the crematorium. I asked why prisoners would do that kind of thing, and the guide told me, 'They get two crusts of bread every day.'"

Burgstahler later learned that one doctor had killed 7,000 prisoners with a needle.

At the crematorium, they were slid down a chute into the basement where they were hung on hooks in the ceiling until dead. Then they were taken to the ovens. "They could do two bodies every 14 minutes."

"The whole camp was based on systematic starvation. I wrote to my mother, 'It was a slow, grinding death that was welcome when it came.' The guide told me there was only one way out of Buchenwald, and he pointed at the crematorium chimneys."

In later years, Burgstahler began talking about his experience at the camp, driven to a certain extent by the fact that there are still people who don't believe it happened. "When I got home and told my family, my uncle took my aside and said, 'Merrill, I don't believe you.' I asked him why and he said, 'Because Germans wouldn't do that.'"

The 6th Armored rushed to the Elbe, only to have to wait two weeks for the Russians to show up and take over that area. The division was then sent south to Wolfersdorf in Bavaria for occupation duty.

"The camp was set up on terraces, and one night a guy drove a Jeep off the top of the terrace. It went right through my tent and put me in the hospital. I had tire marks across my shoulder and a big gash in my head. One of my friends came to visit me and said, 'Burg, it's a lucky thing it didn't hit a vital spot.'"

It turned out that Burgstahler had two fractures in his spine. "The chaplain came to see me and asked what I wanted. I asked him to get me out there." Though in great pain, Burgstahler rejoined his unit. "There was no Purple Heart for being run over by a Jeep."

Back home in Glencoe, Burgstahler joined the "52/20 Club." He got \$20 a week unemployment compensation and he was eligible to draw it for a year. After a few weeks, though, he went back to work at Minneapolis Moline, and then got a business degree from the University of Minnesota using the GI Bill. He worked for the Minneapolis Gas Company, retiring in 1982 as assistant secretary and assistant treasurer of the company.

He and Shirley married in 1951 and had four children and eight grandchildren.

They live in a senior community in Glen Lake in an apartment they've had for 17 years.



Burgstahler and his unit befriended a French boy for a time. The boy gave Burgstahler some wooden shoes, a gift that Burgstahler still treasures.

District Commanders

FIRST DISTRICT

**Brian Medinnus
Commander**



Spring is here. We are down to the hardest membership month of the Legion year. This last 30 days before we hit National's 100% goal are the ones that both District and Post Officers must bear down and try to get as many unpaid members to pay as they can. This is the time that will prove the mettle of the 1st District.

Please remember to get in your Post Children and Youth Reports, Blood Reports, Consolidate Post Reports and any nominations into Department for individual awards as soon as possible. Every Post does something to put down on the Consolidated report. Please fill out these reports and turn them in as directed. Commander Mike is looking for 100% turn in of the Consolidated Report this year.

Please remember that the District Convention will be held in Austin at Post 91 on Saturday May 17th. The District Executive Boards will be held on Friday afternoon as well as the ALR Convention. Also the Past Commanders/Presidents dinner will be held at the post on Friday night. This is the District's 1st try at a one-day Convention. We hope to see as many District members as possible at Convention.

SECOND DISTRICT

**Eugene Olsword
Commander**



I want to thank all who attended the District President's and my Testimonial on April 12th. What a night it was and one that will be long remembered. We were "toasted" and "roasted" very well and all in good humor. All attendees were pretty much kept in stitches, even Commander Mike from Department. As his wife, Teresa, commented on Facebook, "This District knows how to party." Again, thanks to all and thanks for all the gifts we received. My year as your Commander will be long remembered and the accomplishments we made as a District.

There is still a lot of work that needs to be done yet, especially in Membership. It is time to get out there and start knocking on the doors for those that have not renewed yet. I know in many posts there are but a very few who have not renewed. While you are getting their renewal, ask them if they know someone who should be a member and is not. Referrals is a good way to get new members. Let's "Getter Done."

All posts have received their Consolidated Post Reports (CPR) in the mail. Commanders and Adjutants, please get these filled out and sent in right away. I want this District at 100% by the end of May. Again, "Let's Getter Done."

Memorial Day is a time to remember our loved ones and the ultimate sacrifice many of our service members have made. Let's bow our heads as we observed this special day. Drive safe this Memorial Day weekend.

Events coming up are Commander Mike's Testimonial on May 10 at the Rosetown Memorial Post and the Department Convention being held in Rochester on July 17-19. Information may be found on both in the April issue of the Legionnaire. Make your reservations now.

THIRD DISTRICT

**Mark Dvorak
Commander**



The last Department Rally of the year was on April 26th held at Montevideo Post 59 and now the Third District will begin closing out its year. We will select new officers at our convention during the general session on Saturday, May 17th in Faribault.

Also, "The Four Pillars" of The American Legion will be on display as the Chairpersons give their yearly report. My Chairperson list indicates we have 26 different programs that attendees will be briefed on. Please take the time to ask questions, learn and give your input so the Third District can continue to grow.

Below are "The Four Pillars" of the American Legion:

- I. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
- II. National Security
- III. Americanism
- IV. Children and Youth

The Legion's network of service officers, Boy Scouts of America, Junior Shooting, Oratorical Program, American Legion Baseball and the Family Support Network are just a few of the many programs that fall under "The Four Pillars"

Memorial day is Monday, May 26th. Please take the time and go to a Memorial Day Program. We must remember the veterans that have given their all so we can be free today.

FOURTH DISTRICT

**Carroll Partridge
Commander**



Hello 4th District. It has been busy the last couple of months. First, thanks for the testimonial. This has been a great year and your support was the best. I am looking forward to our 4th District convention June 7th at Rosetown. Coffee and rolls at 7:30 am. Convention starts at 8:30 am. Hope to see you there.

FIFTH DISTRICT

**Robert Johnson
Commander**



We are starting to wind up our Legion year. It seems to have gone by so fast. There are still a number of things left to complete our year.

- The Fifth District American Legion Family will hold its annual District Convention Friday, May 30th and Saturday May 31st at the Holiday Inn in Bloomington off of I-35W, 1201 West 94th Street, Bloomington. Registration is \$12 on or before Monday, May 12th, and \$15 after May 12th, 2014.

- There will be a joint Memorial Service on Friday, May 30th at 7:00 P.M. All Posts and Squadrons need to have their deceased members list turned into the District Chaplains by Thursday, May 15th.

- One more thing on the convention: I invite each of you to register and come on down to the convention. This is our annual business meeting where the Rubber Meets the Road. Experience firsthand the inner workings of the 5th District.

- Nominating Committee is looking for any and all candidates for District officer positions. Our goal is to get as many Legionnaires involved as we can. Bench strength is the life's blood of any organization. There are many here to help you so why not give it a try.

- The Commander's & President's Project is coming along nicely. We welcome all contributions and if you or your Post has contributed many thanks. If you are planning on contributing please forward your donations to The Commander, President, Finance Officer or Secretary. This program is to support Veterans right here in the 5th District. Thank you.

See you all at our 5th District Convention

SEVENTH DISTRICT

**Harold Meyer Jr.
Commander**



Congrats to all of the posts that made 100%, but there are a few posts that are so close to making goal. I know these posts are going to make goal. We still have a few months to get membership in. We just have to go out and work harder to make this happen.

Consolidated Post Reports are do in soon. Please try and get this report in as soon as possible. Past District Commander Steve Johnson is taking the bull by the horns and working with all of the posts. If you have any questions on the Consolidated Post Report please call Steve at 320-296-3899 or email steven.johnson@us.army.mil

The 7th district convention is at Marshall Post 113 on June 7th. The Legion will be meeting at the Eagles Club across the street from The American Legion Post and the Auxiliary will meet at the Adult Community Center. The memorial service will be held at the church across from the Eagles Club. Jeff Gay, the Committee Chairman, will send out flyers at a later date. Any questions call Jeff at 507-530-8378 or 507-532-9707. He also has motel information. Also the e-board meeting will be Friday night at 7 p.m.

My Testimonial is May 16th at American Legion Post 113. Social at 5:30-7:00 dinner and program to follow. Cost per person is \$12. RSVP to Jeff Gay at 507-530-8378 or mail to American Legion Post 113 ATTN: Jeff Gay at 412 West Main Street Marshall, MN 56258. The dinner will be down stairs in our new meeting room.

SIXTH DISTRICT

**Vern Massie
Commander**



I am sad my year is near its end but happy that a new commander and team will take over the reins and keep the Sixth District the heart and soul of the Department.

May is the month we remember our fallen with Memorial Day. We remember those who are no longer with us because they sacrificed their lives in defense of our freedom.

My Team set out this year to "Get out of the Rut" and I

hope we were able to lead some out of the old ruts and start down a new path. May is election month for Posts and I hope you are Communicating with your Members to serve your local post in any way they can. I know there are smaller Posts that the same persons are Commander and Adjutant year after year. They say no one else will do it. I can tell you one success story this past year with Clear Lake who was ready to fold but they spent some post money sent letters and made phone calls to their membership had a picnic and they found new Commander and Adjutant and are out of the rut and making their post live again.

I hope by now all posts have filled out all the reports that were mailed to you especially the Consolidated Report Form. If you haven't find them and get it done now Thank you. These reports are needed for the committee chair and the Legion to show others what the Legion does and continues to do. So take the few minutes and get them sent in.

It has been a great honor and privilege to serve as your Commander this year and I had a lot of fun and enjoyed the time. It has been a great ride and I hope to continue to serve the district and you in the future. Hope you can attend the District Convention this year and give our new Commander and his team all the support they will need. Thank you again and I truly appreciated the honor.

NINTH DISTRICT

**Thomas Norgaard Sr.
Commander**



Greetings to all you fellow Legionnaires. Continuing with my idea to highlight certain holidays and national observances throughout the year, May was full of them. These are three that are of interest to veterans and the military.

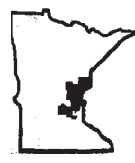
Loyalty Day is on May 1 each year. It is a special day for people to reaffirm their loyalty to the United States and to recognize the heritage of American freedom. It also falls on the same day as Law Day in the USA.

Many Americans celebrate Armed Forces Day annually on the third Saturday of May. It is a day to pay tribute to men and women who serve the United States' armed forces. Armed Forces Day is also part of Armed Forces Week, which begins on the second Saturday of May.

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May. It was formerly known as Decoration Day and commemorates all men and women, who have died in military service for the United States. It is traditional to fly the flag of the United States at half mast from dawn until noon. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials, particularly to honor those who have died in military service. Many volunteers place an American flag on each grave in national cemeteries and on state and local cemeteries. Memorial Day started as an event to honor Union soldiers, who had died during the American Civil War. It was inspired by the way people in the Southern states honored their dead. After World War I, it was extended to include all men and women, who died in any war or military action. The current name for this day did not come into use until after World War II.

TENTH DISTRICT

**Richard Juhl
Commander**



I am going to skip the history and philosophy this time and focus on the fact that it is "Crunch Time". We have a lot of work yet to do to make this a successful Legion year.

Reports are coming due and I have the same philosophy as our past Department Commander. There is no excuse for not sending them in. That goes for officers, chairmen and Post reports. If you have nothing to report, then indicate that, but send in the report. No one is grading them. It's all about National having the information about what we have done as an organization so when they go to Congress, they can show what we, as The American Legion, are doing for our veterans. Please take the time to send in a report (especially the Consolidated Post Report) and for officers and chairmen, tell us what went on during your year. If we don't get a report, we have to assume you didn't do anything.

Just so it doesn't seem like this is just a bitch session, I know you've done things, just take some time and tell us about them. It really is more important than you realize.

Don't forget about membership. We're way below last year and I know it's not all about members dying off. We have the tools to find new members and bring back those who haven't renewed, but now it's all come down to personal contact. Email and letters won't get it done. Please help with this. Our strength is in numbers.

My thanks to all of you for supporting me this year and keep up the good work. No commander could do this without you.

Listening Post

News from around the State



NISSWA HELPS SCHOOL -- Nisswa Post 627 recently donated \$3,700 to Nisswa Elementary School which was used to purchase 10 iPads for the school's digital listening centers.



TESTIMONIAL -- The Ninth District honored Commander Tom "All Aboard for Veterans" Norgaard and his wife, Doreen, the "Conductor."



RIDERS HONOR BLOOMINGTON -- Tenth District Legion Riders Director Jody Hassing presented a plaque to Terry Selle, Bloomington Post 550 Commander, to honor the post for its \$3,000 donation to the Legacy Scholarship Fund.



LITCHFIELD HONORS 50 YEARS -- Members with 50 years of continuous membership were recently honored by Litchfield Post 104. From left: Howard Wallmow, Russell Kivi, Howard Holtz, Boyd Anderson, Rayland Sherman, Donald Holmgren, Vernon Madson, Aldeen Kadelbach, Glen Doering, Bruce Cottingham, Ed Olson.



BAGLEY HONORS LONGTIME MEMBERS -- Bagley Post 16 honored 28 Legionnaires with 50-plus years of service. Nine were able to attend. In back are Post Commander James Hance and Department Commander Mike Ash.



SPRING GROVE MILITARY BALL -- Valborg Clauson of Spring Grove was honored as the oldest military supporter in attendance at the Tenth Annual Military Ball in Spring Grove. She was presented with a cased U.S. Flag. She was presented with the flag by John Geiwitz, left, and John Ellis.



HUTCHINSON HONORS LONGTIME MEMBERS -- Hutchinson Post 96 honored longtime members at the Birthday Dinner. From left, front: 60-year member: Leroy Majeski, Charles Yerks, Don Rasmussen, Leroy Hedtke, Charles Wixcey. In back: 50-year members: Bob Bowen, Myron Seifert, Dale Ewald, Richard Smykalski, Don Tate, Melvin Zummach.



BACKUS KIDS EASTER PARTY -- Over 100 children and accompanying adults attended the Backus Post's annual Kids Easter Party. The Backus Lions co-sponsor the event which includes an easter egg hunt.



FORMER BOYS STATER -- Dean Ihrke of Plainview-Millville-Elgin High School, was awarded a four-year Direct ROTC Scholarship at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire. He is the son of Liz and Bill Ihrke of Plainview, and is a former Boys State participant.



MINNEAPOLIS NORTH SIDE HONORS MEMBER -- Burton Falk, right, was honored by North Side Commander Dick Tetzlaff with a 70-year membership award. Falk was a gunner's mate on the USS Drake, APA-159 and saw action in the Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

World War II History Round Table

Battle for Rabaul went on for several years

The longest battle of World War II was for the fortress city of Rabaul in the southwest Pacific.

Early in the war, the small city in a protected harbor was a key operating base for the Japanese. The U.S. never captured the city, and it was still in Japanese hands at the end of the war – but like other bypassed Japanese positions, it became useless as the war went on.

Historian and author Bruce Gamble, who has written three books on Rabaul, was the featured speaker at the April meeting of the World War II History Round Table at Fort Snelling History Center. He was joined by two veterans of the Pacific campaign.

Gamble gave a short history of the city, which is perched on the very northeastern tip of New Britain, a long volcanic island that is part of modern day Papua New Guinea.

“It’s a spectacular center of volcanic activity,” Gamble said. In fact, Simpson Harbor, Rabaul’s remarkable deep-water harbor, is itself a caldera from an ancient volcano.

The city was established in 1878 and became a German headquarters early in the 20th Century. It came under British and Australian governance after World War I, and it was garrisoned by 1,500 Australian troops at the beginning of World War II.

“The lynch pin to this whole area was Australia for the Allies,” Gamble said. “It was critical to keep Australia in the fight.”

The Japanese targeted Rabaul right after Pearl Harbor. “It had this spectacular harbor that could hold a whole fleet of ships. And its location meant that it could control a large area of the Pacific.”

In early January 1942, the Japanese began bombing Rabaul, and also sent a carrier fleet to attack the small Australian presence. The Aussies only had a handful of aircraft, and most of those were training planes that had been converted to fighters.

“The Japanese were able to launch 109 planes from four carriers and pretty much tore Rabaul apart.”

Gamble told the story of Rabaul’s only anti-aircraft battery, a two-man operation that had practiced by aiming at the mail plane that came in and out each day. “They managed to knock down three Japanese planes and damage some others.”

The invasion fleet arrived on Jan 23, about six weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and it contained about 5,000 Japanese troops.

“Despite several months’ worth of preparations by the Australians, the battle was over in a matter of hours. They just couldn’t defend that much harbor with so few troops.”

The next day, with Rabaul now a Japanese base, the Australians attacked it with bomb-carrying PBV sea planes. It was the first of several years’ worth of Allied attacks on the base.

The Australian troops in Rabaul fled into the jungle, but there was no backup plan for a rescue. In the end, only about 400 troops got off the island on small civilian boats. Many of the rest were captured, and many of those were killed when an American submarine sunk the transport ship that was taking them to another island. The Japanese also executed some 160 prisoners.

“The Japanese did lots of construction at Rabaul and created a modern 20th Century fortress. There were hundreds of anti-aircraft guns.”

Much of Gamble’s account was about the slow buildup of American aircraft in Australia and in southern New Guinea at Port Moresby.

“The U.S. won the war of attrition by being able to replace planes and pilots.” The United States attacked with a variety of planes. With the emphasis of the war on the Atlantic side, American generals in the Pacific had to settle for what aircraft they could get.

The Japanese put over 100,000 troops on New Britain, but they never had to fight off an invasion because there never was one. Instead, the U.S. and Australians fought in other places and simply left Rabaul behind. Unable to get supplies, the fortress died on the vine.

The major effort of the Allies was called Operation Cartwheel, with the Army advancing across New Guinea and later the Philippines, while the Navy and Marines worked their way up through the Solomon Islands taking Guadalcanal and other key bases for airplanes.

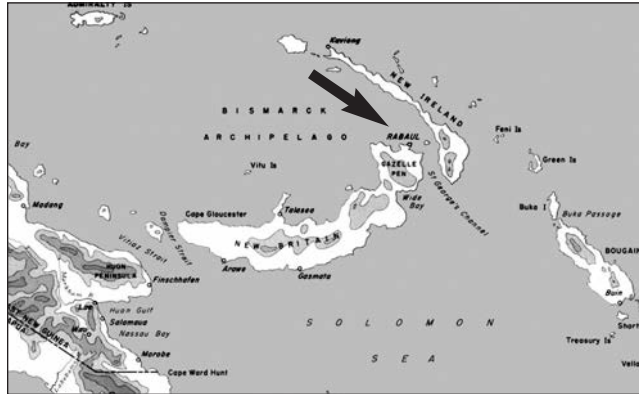
“Still it took Cartwheel two years to properly neutralize Rabaul. Some of the air battles were large. At one point there were 200 American planes and 100 Japanese Zeroes fighting in a big fur ball right over Simpson Harbor.”

By February 1944, Rabaul became ineffective as a base in that area.

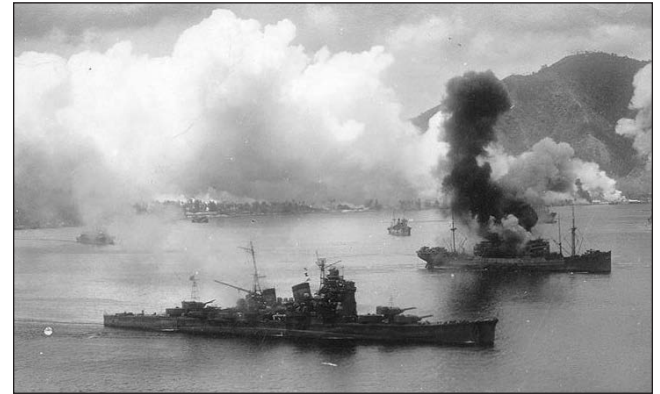


Bob Hinz grew up in Hibbing and joined the Army Air Corps. He was assigned as an aviation mechanic in the Fifth Air Force in the Pacific.

“I was always mechanically inclined, and I used to work on cars a lot. But my eyes were bad, so I couldn’t get on a



Rabaul was at the very tip of New Britain. New Guinea is to the left and Bougainville is to the right.



American forces attacked a Japanese cruiser in Rabaul’s Simpson Harbor on Nov. 2, 1943.

flying crew.”

He said the working conditions in the south Pacific were not good. “You had to sleep under nets at night, or the mosquitos would get you.”

He recalled one island base where it would rain heavily at 11 a.m. each morning. “We would just drop our clothes and step outside the tent. It saved us a long walk down to the main showers.”

The men did major repairs on the many planes the U.S. used, including changing wings and engines.

Getting a new engine as a replacement was another matter. “The paperwork took so long that we would just sneak in there and steal one. We called it a midnight requisition.”

After four or five months on New Guinea, Hinz took a Navy ship to the Philippines. “We like the Navy. We ate a lot better than when we were on land.”

Hinz recalled one incident at Clark Field near Manila when an American bomber came back from a mission with a 500 lb. bomb hung up in the bomb bay. “They tried everything to shake it loose, but nothing worked. They radioed the crew to take the plane as high as they could and ditch it. But the crew wanted to try and land it.”

As the plane approached the field, the bomb finally came loose. “It came right through the roof of our hangar, bounced and went right out the front door. It hit a B-24 and exploded. It was quite a loud bang. It took us a bit to get our wits about us, but then we started pushing the P-38s by hand out of the line and away from the fire. We lost 13 men in that fire.”

After the Philippines, the next stop for Hinz was Ie Shima, an island off the coast of Okinawa. The plans, he said, called for the Army to next move to Seoul, Korea, to prepare for the invasion of Japan.

They were not immediately told of the atomic bomb attacks on Japan. “But we knew something was going on because we all were assigned gas masks. You couldn’t even get in the mess hall without your gas mask.”

The bombings brought the war to an end. “We were happy we didn’t have to go to Seoul. But maybe if we had gone, it would have eventually prevented the Korean War.”



Jim McDougall grew up in Iowa and joined the State Guard, which was mobilized after Pearl Harbor. He became a member of the U.S. Navy. He remembers clearly where he was when he heard of the Japanese attack.

“I was at a lady friend’s place, and she was washing my hair when the news came in over the radio.”

Overseas, he was assigned as an ordnanceman on a PBV Catalina, a large sea plane that was used for both observation and for bombing. He operated a gun on the port side bubble or “blister” on the seaplane. McDougall was

asked what the PBV was like.

“Well, one thing is that it was obsolete.” He noted that the plane was first built in 1937. “There was no radar and so anybody on patrol in a PBV would have to use their eyeballs. With the long missions we had to fly, they made the aircraft very, very comfortable.”

There were three bunks for sleeping, and a two-burner hot plate to make meals. “And you could walk upright in the plane. I’ve been on B-24s and B-17s and I didn’t like those cramped quarters.”

On the long flights, sometimes 14 hours, the sailor crew could take naps. “But the problem was that the cockroaches liked the Navy bread. So when you went back to the bunk, you’d have to sweep it with your hand to make sure you weren’t sharing it with a cockroach. And, of course, there were weevils in the bread.”

The PBV could carry four bombs, two 500 pounders and two 1,000 pounders. They would sometimes dive bomb Japanese ships. “The Japanese had never seen anything that could fly that slow. Besides, we were painted black so we were hard to see. When they fired at us, they always led us too far so our slowness worked for us. We didn’t try too hard to catch up with that fire.”

A sister plane to the one McDougall was assigned got shot down in one action. “All eleven crew members got out and they had to swim to New Ireland. It was a 24-mile swim, but they all made it. They were trying to find the coast watcher, but a young native turned them into the Japanese. The enlisted men were all beheaded right on New Ireland. The officers were sent to Rabaul. Nobody wanted to go to Rabaul because nobody ever came back from that place.

“They would behead them in front of their troops. They had been bypassed in the war, and so that was a way they could keep their morale up.”

On one mission, McDougall’s PBV sank a Japanese freighter. “It was just putzing along. We glided in and at about 300 feet we dropped our four bombs. The two 1,000 pound bombs were direct hits and it went to the bottom. We strafed the freighter, but when we came around to strafe again, it was going down. We were so amazed at what we had done. We were flabbergasted. It just went down so fast.”

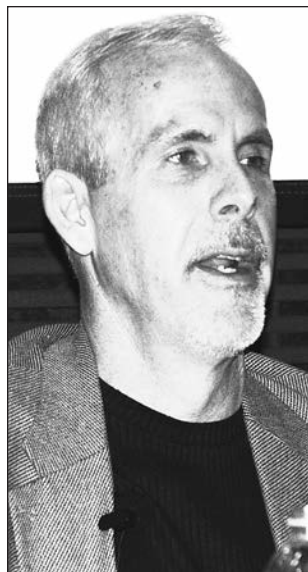
Four days later they attacked a cruiser, but the result was a little different. “We were flying along and I saw the cruiser and reported it to the captain. He just kept flying along like we didn’t see it. It was a diversionary tactic.”

The PBV suddenly turned and dove on the cruiser, which was surrounded by other ships. “The anti-aircraft fire looked like someone had turned on a garden hose.” As the PBV pilot dove and ducked through the fire, McDougall was thrown off his feet four times in his station in the port blister.

“We kept going down, and I remember thinking, oh, this is not good. Other ships were firing and the shore batteries were firing. We finally turned when our right wing was about five feet off the water.”

The PBV dropped its bombs and stayed low to avoid the AA fire. After a while it was able to climb into a low cloud and disappear. McDougall said some crew members thought the cruiser had been hit and sunk.

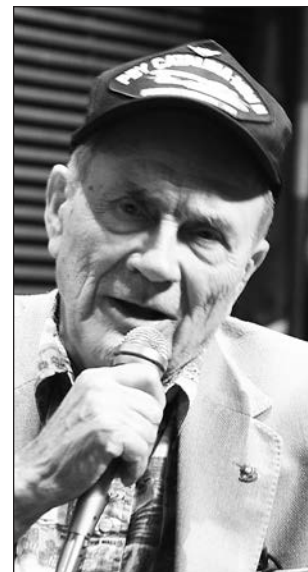
McDougall got malaria twice during the war.



BRUCE GAMBLE



BOB HINZ



JIM MCDUGALL



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 14-1

President Shirley Frederick

May 2014

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

The President's Column

By
Shirley Frederick



It finally looks and feels like spring is here and summer right around the corner. It makes traveling and getting out in our yards so much easier and nicer. So with that in mind it gives us another opportunity to help our veterans, and the families of our service personnel. Spring cleanup is always a big job and I am sure that we can all find someone that can use and would appreciate our help. If you cannot find someone to help how about bringing them a nice sized planter of flowers for their yard or front steps.

Our Junior members rock. Over 30 Junior members attended their Department Junior Department Conference the 11th and 12th of April at Hopkins. To watch the younger ones proudly carry their District Junior Colors for the opening and closing ceremony made me very proud of them. Each took her responsibility seriously throughout the conference meetings and they all met new girls and also enjoyed renewing friendships from last year's conference and their Fun Weekend at Legionville last August. Please continue to work with them in your unit and remember – they are our future leaders of our organization and of our Country.

Even though it was cold, windy and snowy in Washington D.C. the conference was great. I hope you read the articles that are in the Unit Mailing from our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Legislative and National Security chairmen covering much of what we learned and did while there. The placing of the wreath at the Vietnam Memorial Wall, singing our patriotic songs on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and talking with our Senators and Representatives were things we did plus the information we learned during meetings.

We have some units that have reached 100 percent of their membership and that is wonderful.....but.....we have hundreds of members that have not renewed their dues for 2014 yet. Lets each make that personal contact and let them know they are important to the unit, to our veterans, service men and women and their families.

Poppy Days will be here soon so while you are helping with that program be sure to let people know why we are asking them to wear a poppy. Not everyone has heard the poppy story or know what we do with the donations we receive when they wear one.

National Family week is May 27th – June 2nd. Do something special with your family or for another family.

I hope you are all planning on taking part in your Unit/Post/Squadron Memorial Services.

I believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies. This is my belief and it also is the last sentence of The American's Creed.

Patriotism, thank our veterans, teach our children.

State Convention coming

The 95th annual Department Convention will be held at the Grand Kahler Hotel in Rochester on July 17-19. The Convention is being hosted by the Rochester American Legion Post and Auxiliary. All Auxiliary sessions will be held at the Kahler Grand.

Will your unit be represented? A pre-registration is available in this issue of the Minnesota Legionnaire. Our National guest will be Pat Steranka, Northwestern Division Vice President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Colorado. She will be attending the entire convention and would love to meet and talk to as many attendees as she can.

District caucuses will be held at 8 a.m. on Thursday. The parade will be held on Friday evening at 7 p.m. in Rochester.

Junior Conference held at Hopkins; Jules Efta elected

Kaitlin Fernlund, Department Honorary Junior President, Waite Park Unit 428, called the 51st annual Department Junior Conference to order on Saturday, April 12th. Our many thanks to all of the members of the Tenth District, as well as the Hopkins Unit and Post 320 who helped to make this a most successful and fun Conference for our Juniors. Special thanks to Stumpy and his crew at The Legion, along with Jessie Schroeder, Patti Coleman, Renee Suess, Robin Dorf, Mary Dorf and Sue Nunnelee of the 10th District who went way above and beyond to make the weekend very memorable for our Juniors.

Friday evening, April 11th, for those in attendance had a fun night of nail painting, card making, photo booth, among other things. Everyone enjoyed the time together and meeting other Juniors from throughout the Department. The next morning it was down to business when Fernlund called the conference to order at 9 a.m. under her theme: "Touching The Hearts Of Our Veterans, One Stepping Stone At A Time."

Nominations were made for Junior officers for 2014-2015 candidates. There was much campaigning. Our Juniors know how to become involved. They truly have dedicated their efforts and support to the American Legion Auxiliary.

The Credentials committee reported 30 delegates, 5 alternates and no Junior guests and 6 delegates-at-large in attendance. Also present were 45 Senior guests.

The session included their business meeting, introduction of special guests, judging of the Junior entries entered into competition, and the election of the 2014-15 Department Honorary Junior officers. Shirley Frederick, Department President, spoke to the Juniors, congratulating them on their involvement in the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. A graduation ceremony was held for four Juniors who turned 18 and are now Senior members. The four new Senior members are Kaitlin Fernlund, Amelia Tesdahl, Stephanie Haas and Noreen Sloves. President Shirley also served as the installing officer for the 2014-15 Department Honorary Junior Officers.

The day's activities culminated with the election of our 2014-15 Department Honorary Junior Officers. Those elected are:

Honorary President – Jules Efta, Argyle Unit 353

Honorary First Vice President – Bryce Soltis, Waite Park 428

Honorary Second Vice President – Kiana Coleman-Woods, Lino Lakes 566

Honorary Treasurer - Amelia Welter, Stewartville Unit 164

Honorary Chaplain – Nya Johnson, District 8

Honorary Sergeant-At-Arms – Madison Sloves, Minneapolis Unit 1

Our newly elected Junior Honorary President Efta made the following appointments: Honorary Secretary – Debra Haugen, Argyle, Unit 353 Honorary Historian – Lexi Efta, Argyle, Unit 353

Congratulations to each of you. We wish you every success in the coming year as you assume the leadership of the approximately 2,737 Junior members in Minnesota under Jules's theme of "Juniors are gems serving Veterans," using a jewel or gem as her symbol.

Efta was also elected Minnesota's official delegate to the National Junior meeting. The National Junior meeting will be held in Charleston, North Carolina in August at the time of our 2014 National Senior Convention. If there are any other Juniors interested in attending the National Junior meeting, please contact the Department office immediately.

Thank you to the many Seniors who help our Juniors. Our Juniors have done much to further the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary under your leadership and involvement.

There were six different contests and the entries were all spectacular. The following are the winning selections.

POPPY CORSAGE/BOUTTONIERE

Class 1, 1st Place - Markelle Pederson - Warren 27

Class 2, 1st Place – Kylee Swanson – Warren 27
2nd Place – Amy Martins - Lamberton 41
Class 3, 1st Place – Amelia Welter - Stewartville 164
2nd Place – Joanna Welter - Stewartville 164

DRESS A DOLL/STUFFED ANIMAL

Class 2, 1st place – Emily Suess - Monticello 260
2nd Place – Keeley Runge - Sanborn 286

Class 3, 1st Place – Bryce Soltis - Waite Park 428
2nd Place – Kirsi Moody – Lamberton 41

PATRIOTIC DISPLAY

Class 2, 1st Place – Sydney Bortrager - Trimont 373
2nd Place – Emily Suess - Monticello 260

Class 3, 1st Place – Bryce Soltis – Waite Park 428
2nd Place – Kirsi Moody - Lamberton 41

POPPY WREATH

Class 1, 1st Place - Markelle Pederson - Warren 27
2nd Place – Reegan Mortimer - Warren 27

Class 2, 1st Place – Amy Martins - Lamberton 41
2nd Place – Brooklyn Hoshal - Delano 377

Class 3, 1st Place – Joanna Welter - Stewartville 164
2nd Place – Erin Fisher - Stewartville 164

POPPY SCRAPBOOK

Argyle 353 won the scrapbook competition

JUNIOR PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

Department Honorary Junior President Kaitlin Fernlund's special project this year was to raise funds for kits for the Creative Arts Festival program at the St. Cloud VA. As of this date Kaitlin has raised \$1,684.00.

Thank you to all the Units that provided funds in support of the Honorary Junior President's Project.

SECRETARY SANDIE'S CORNER

Well ladies, the verdict is in - I will be coming up with a "new system" of Annual Reports. I am going to redo everything and try to make them simple but yet get the information we need. I really appreciated all of the feedback from you, although there was about one out of fifty comments that was positive. As always, this is your organization and I will try to get you what you want and need.

The list of scholarship winners will be in the June Legionnaire as we haven't received reports from everyone yet.

Plans are underway for Department Convention - I look forward to seeing many of you and hope that if you haven't attended a convention you pick this year to come. President Shirley has been a wonderful President and is so dedicated to the organization and mission - what a way to honor her, by attending her convention.

I will be traveling to Indianapolis the first weekend in May to attend the National Leadership Conference. I hope to learn many things to bring back to Minnesota. Let's all look up and ask for some nice warm weather real soon or my motorcycle vacation to Texas might be a little dicey. Have a great month and talk to you soon.

POPPIES

Governor Mark Dayton has proclaimed May as Poppy Month. Have you organized your Poppy distribution? We hope all Units are planning to place special emphasis on our Poppy program during May, educating the public on the meaning and purpose of the Poppy, and to actively participate in Poppy Day.

If your Unit has not ordered its 2014 Poppies, there is still time. We continue shipping the small Poppies as soon as they are received from the veterans who make them.

Thank you all for participating in this very important program of the American Legion Auxiliary.

There will be two contests at our Department Convention in July. First: Patriotism Coloring Book, with each page depicting a patriotic theme. Second: Poppy Hat, using any hat and dressing them up using President Shirley's theme and/or symbol.

GIRLS STATE

The 2014 session of ALA Minnesota Girls State will be held June 15-20 at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. All Girls State registration materials (enrollment card, information sheet, pledge and Capitol Day t-shirt order



JULES EFTA

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

form) are due into the Department Office by May 1st. As of this writing 371 young women will have the experience of learning about Minnesota government by "doing." St. Thomas is a new venue for us this year and we are looking forward to many new, exciting events.

About the middle of May each ALA Minnesota Girls State citizen will receive her packet of information from the Department. If your citizen has not received her packet by May 22nd contact the Department Office immediately. Do keep in touch with your ALA Minnesota Girls State citizen to answer any questions she may have prior to her coming to St. Thomas on June 15. All ALA Minnesota Girls State citizens are to be at the University of St. Thomas prior to the opening session at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 15h.

Special District ALA Minnesota Girls State buses have been arranged by several Districts. Check your District bulletin or contact your District ALA Minnesota Girls State Chairman for details.

Rather than a stocked "Shirt Shack" as we have had in the past, there will be a vendor with various items for sale. They will put logo's, names, etc. on the purchase your Girl Stater may want to purchase. Pricing will vary from around \$19.00 to \$50.00.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Charleston, North Carolina is the site for our 2014 National Convention. Delegates and alternates will be elected at your District Convention. Each District's representation is based on the District's 2014 membership as of July 22nd.

In order to ensure its full delegate strength at the Convention, we ask that if you are nominated as a delegate or alternate and are not planning to attend, you withdraw your name from consideration. Information will be sent to each delegate and alternate as soon as it becomes available. Our National Convention will be held August 22-28, 2014.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Here it is the first of May, and where are your Unit's annual reports? Reports are important. Be proud to share your activities! Our Department Chairmen would like to include every Unit's accomplishments in their National reports. Let's have 100% reporting. I know many of you have struggled with the new forms and processes. I want to thank every Unit for taking the time and filling them out. We needed to do what the Convention body voted in at last year, and you all did a wonderful job.

UNIT MAILING

The last Unit mailing of this Auxiliary year has been sent out. Though annual reports have been sent in there are still three months left of activities and programs in this year.

Included in this last mailing were two delegate and two alternate cards for our Department Convention as well as a chart to help you determine your Unit's delegate strength based on your Unit's membership 30 days prior to the convention (June 19). Additional cards are available upon request.

2014-2015 OFFICERS' LISTS

All Units will soon be electing their 2014-15 officers. As soon as they are elected, please complete the form (two copies) sent to each Unit in the last Unit mailing. One copy should be returned to the Department Office as soon as possible. The other copy is for your District President-Elect. The due date for this information is June 15, earlier if possible. This form is not the same one your Unit sent in for the 2015 direct billing last winter. We will send your 2015 membership supplies and cards to your 2014-15 Membership Chairman, as per the information you send in now. This form can also be found on our website, mnala.org.



HONORARY JUNIOR OFFICERS -- Elected at the Junior Conference in Hopkins were: Madison Sloves (5th District), Sergeant-at-Arms, Lexi Efta (9th District), Historian, Bryce Soltis (6th District), 1st VP, Jules Efta (9th District), President, Kiana Coleman-Woods (10th District), 2nd VP, Nya Johnson (8th District) Chaplain and Amelia Welter (1st District) Treasurer.



THE WHOLE GROUP -- All the Juniors gathered on the steps at Hopkins for a group photo. At lower right is Department President Shirley Frederick.

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: _____

Auxiliary Membership as of April 9, 2014

District	4-9 Total	Percent	Goal
First	5,119	90.15	5,678
Second	4,994	91.58	5,453
Third	4,347	89.39	4,863
Fourth	759	90.36	840
Fifth	937	89.67	1,045
Sixth	6,164	90.66	6,799
Seventh	4,016	90.80	4,423
Eighth	1,711	89.02	1,922
Ninth	4,429	91.85	4,822
Tenth	5,248	90.91	5,773
Depart.	150	90.36	166
Total	37,874	90.64	41,784

Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake

11300 180th Street N
Marine on St. Croix, MN
(651) 433-2699
www.vetscampmn.org



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Glacier National Park

by Amtrak
July 17-24, 2014

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Jenny Gilbertson
- Roundtrip Amtrak Coach seats to Glacier Park
- 5 Nights Hotel **PASSPORTS REQUIRED**
- 12 Meals
- Luggage handling (1 suitcase per person)
- Going to the Sun Road via the REDS
- Entrance fees to Glacier National Park
- UNESCO Heritage Site-Head Smashed In
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police Museum
- Cruise on Waterton Lake to Goat Haunt



\$2,229.00
Per Person Double Occupancy

Exploring Southern Norway

August 18-28, 2014

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Sue Barber
- Roundtrip air flights, Minneapolis to Oslo
- 9 Nights hotel accommodations
- 17 Meals
- Tours of Oslo, Cider Tour, Norwegian Glacier Museum, Maihaugen Open Air Museum
- Norway in a nutshell tour
- Ferry Crossings
- Visit family farms near Hurdal, Numedal and Hol-Hallingdal
- And much more!



\$4,249.00
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Historic New England & The Canadian Maritimes Cruise

September 22-October 2, 2014

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Sue Barber
- Flights from Minneapolis to New York, return from Montreal to Minneapolis
- 10 night cruise on the **Ruby Princess**
- 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
- All meals and entertainment while aboard the "Ruby Princess"
- All transfers to and from the pier
- Cruise Gratuities

PASSPORTS REQUIRED
Starting at \$2,899.00 per person

Irish Heritage & Dromoland Castle

August 10-18, 2014

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Larry Alvey
- Roundtrip flights, Minneapolis to Shannon
- Deluxe and Superior First Class hotel accommodations
- 13 Meals
- Ferry ride across the River Shannon
- Foynes Flying Boat Museum
- Tour of Dublin
- Walking tour of Waterford
- Visits to Cliffs of Moher, King John's Castle, Blarney Castle, Blarney Woollen Mills, Cobh Heritage Centre, House of Waterford Crystal, Japanese Gardens



PASSPORTS REQUIRED
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Per Person Double Occupancy



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Colonial Cuba

November 29-December 7, 2014

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Larry Alvey
- Roundtrip air flights from MSP
- 8 Nights hotel accommodations
- 18 Meals
- Camaguary (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- King Ranch
- Cienfuegos Choir or Orchestra
- Cigar Factory Visit
- Cuban Institute of Music
- Hemingway's Farm-Finca La Vigia
- Playa Giron-Bay of Pigs Museum
- And much more!



PASSPORTS REQUIRED
\$4,699.00
Per Person Double Occupancy

A Taste of the Pacific Northwest

September 5-13, 2014

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Jenny Gilbertson
- Roundtrip flights Minneapolis to Seattle, return Portland to Minneapolis
- 13 Meals
- Space Needle
- Walking tour of Pike Place Market
- Olympic National Park
- Hoh Rainforest
- Oregon Coast Aquarium
- Rialto Beach
- Chihuly Garden and Glass
- Newport and Oregon Coast's Three Capes Scenic Drive



\$2,949.00
Per Person Double Occupancy

Canadian Rockies

Banff-Lake Louise-Vancouver-Victoria
September 3-11, 2014

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Larry Alvey
- Roundtrip air flights, MSP to Calgary, return from Vancouver to MSP
- Deluxe Motor Coach in Canada
- 8 Nights hotel accommodations
- 8 Meals, including lunch at Chateau Lake Louise
- Tours of Calgary, Moraine Lake, Lake Louise, Banff, Banff Mountain Gondola, Vancouver
- Two day Daylight Rail, Banff to Vancouver
- And much more!



PASSPORTS REQUIRED
\$3,699.00
Per Person Double Occupancy

Southern California Wine Country

October 1-5, 2014

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Jenny Gilbertson
- Roundtrip flights from MSP to San Diego
- 4 Nights accommodations in Temecula, CA
- Wine tastings at several Temecula Valley wineries
- Temecula Olive Oil Ranch tour and Old Town
- Pechanga Resort and Casino
- Lunch and dinner at vineyard wineries
- Optional hot air balloon ride



\$2,099.00
Per Person Double Occupancy



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