

The Minnesota American Legion and Auxiliary

Legionnaire



Volume 97, Number 6

For God and Country

June 2015

Session mostly good for veterans' issues

By Al Zdon

In a legislative session where many of the major decisions were made in the wee hours of the morning, veterans did well said Mike McElhiney, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs legislative director.

The biggest issue in the waning hours of the 2015 session was the funding for the health care side of the MDVA's budget.

The agency had told the Legislature that unless \$11 million was added to the Department's budget for the veterans homes salaries, as many as 85 full time positions would have to be cut. Rising health care costs, a planned raise for

state employees and other factors had left the budget short.

With the governor's support, McElhiney said, the \$11 million increase was approved by the lawmakers.

"We got what we were asking for funding-wise," he said. "For us, the session is over, but for other agencies it's not." At the end of the session, Governor Mark Dayton vetoed several bills, putting the funding for several state agencies in limbo and necessitating a special session.

McElhiney said the strong support of the veterans organizations help pass the funding bill for the MDVA.

The session wasn't all peaches and cream, however. Notably, the Honor and Remember Flag legislation passed

when it was added to another bill in the final hours of the session.

The bill recognizes the Honor and Remember Flag as an appropriate symbol to acknowledge those who died in war and also suggests days for the flag's display.

The flag bill was strongly opposed by The American Legion and by other veterans service organizations. Specifically, the Legion argued that the American flag was the appropriate symbol for honoring war dead, and that another flag was superfluous. The Legion also objected that the flag was copyrighted by a private organization and can

Continued on Page 3

Redwood Falls gears up for 2015 state convention

The 2015 Department Convention will be held July 16-18 at Jackpot Junction Casino near Redwood Falls. The Legion and Auxiliary Conventions are sponsored by Redwood Falls Post and Unit 38.

The convention will begin Thursday, July 16, and conclude Saturday, July 18, with the election of officers. A gaming seminar will be held at 2 p.m. July 16.

The post has announced its schedule for the convention. Registration will begin at the post on Wednesday, July 15, from 4 to 8 p.m. After that, registration will be at the casino.

On Wednesday night, the post will be serving pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans and chips for \$7. On Thursday, there will be DJ karaoke at the post from 5-10 p.m. Burgers and brats and French fries will be for sale for \$7.

Friday night will be the annual parade and hospitality rooms at the casino and there are no plans for special activities at the post.

The post is still working on arranging shuttle service from the casino to the post, and an announcement will be made soon.

A registration form is on Page 3 of this issue.

Registration is \$15 per person until July 1, and \$18 thereafter.

The official headquarters for the convention is the Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel. To make housing arrangements, call 507-697-8000. Camping and RV spaces are still available.

Additional rooms at \$82 including tax are available at Redwood Valley Lodge, 507-644-5700. Camping is also available at a city park.

There are other hotels in the Redwood Falls area.

The convention will conduct the annual business of the Minnesota American Legion.

There will be a Department Executive Committee meeting preceding the convention at 7 p.m. Wednesday on July 15.

Contract signed for 2018 Minneapolis Convention



During the recent Spring Meetings at Indianapolis, National Commander Mike Helm put his signature on a contract that will bring the 2018 National Convention to Minneapolis. Looking on were Past National Commander Dan Ludwig, National Executive Committeeman Ray DeZurik, Department Commander Peggy Moon and Convention Chairman Jeff Olson.

ALFHA seeing fewer claims

By Al Zdon

One of the earliest programs of the Minnesota American Legion, the Family Hospital Association, has encountered a drought of claims.

The Association, which has been around since the early 1920s, has helped hundreds of families through the years in paying medical bills.

The number of claims, however, declined last year and appears to be following that same trend this year. For the three years preceding last year, the number of claims per year averaged about 44.

This past year, there were 34 claims. And so

Continued on Page 3

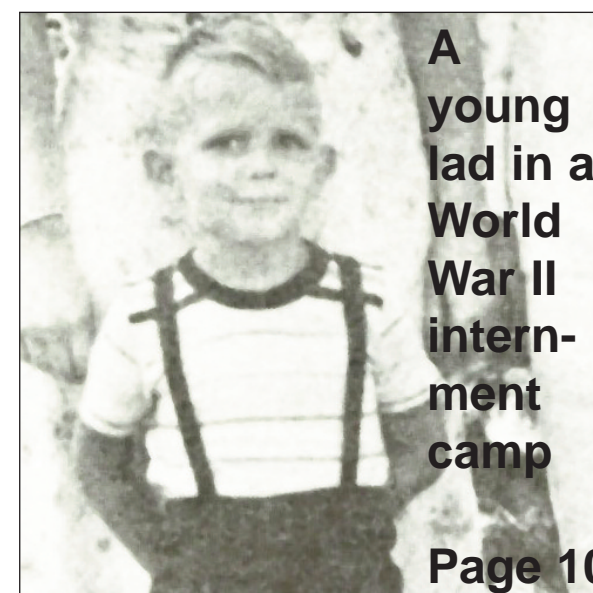
Researcher studies the brains of NG enlistees

Many soldiers coming home from war or from training have traumatic brain injuries or PTSD.

Doctors know what TBI or stress might look like in a returning service person, but they are sometimes handicapped by not knowing what that person was like beforehand.

A new study being conducted at the VA Medical

Continued on Page 2



A young lad in a World War II internment camp

Page 10

VA research

Continued from Page 1

Center in Minneapolis will track National Guard soldiers from the time they enlist through the end of their training.

Dr. Nicholas Davenport, the principal investigator, said the study piggy backs on a previous study that compared soldiers who had concussions during their National Guard service to those who didn't have concussions.

"We didn't find a whole lot of difference in those who suffered a concussion during deployment and those who didn't."

The idea of the new study, called PROTECT, is to have a "clean baseline" for a soldier, so that what happens to their brain later can be compared to what was there from the start. "We'll know what that person's brain is supposed to look like."

Davenport said the project will try to encourage 240 people who are entering the Guard to go through a six-and-one-half hour testing process to get a picture of their brain and their personality. Those being studied are paid \$100.

The examination, which usually takes two days, includes having an MRI brain scan done with the University of Minnesota's Prisma scanner, the most advanced MRI in North America. "The Prisma can gather higher quality images in less time."

The rest of the testing includes interviews and cognitive tests, much like IQ tests.

Davenport, who is an assistant professor in psychiatry at the University of Minnesota, said he has learned a lot from studies done at colleges and universities that look at student athletes and the consequences of concussions.

After the Guard people have gone through training, 50 of those 240 in the study will go through a second series of tests to see what, if anything, happened to their brain. The study will be looking for those who had a concussion or other brain trauma during training, but even if there are none, the study may learn about brain change in those who go through a stressful environment – like military training.

The study was originally designed to study those who came back from a combat deployment, but no one is being deployed at this time. "And we have no problem with that. We're glad people are not going to war as readily,"



Minneapolis VAMC researcher Nicholas Davenport.

Davenport said.

Part of the study will be looking at how training affected those who seemed to be ready for it, with a strong sense of self discipline, and those who were not ready.

"We'll be looking at the measurable effects of military training, and how military stressors are different than normal live stressors."

Davenport said suffering a concussion in the military may result in different treatment or in the timing of the treatment. "If you suffer a concussion in civilian life, medical treatment is readily available. They'll probably tell you to take a couple of days off."

"In the military, that's not always the case."

The National Guard itself is not a participant in the study. It is being conducted through a grant funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Over \$20 million in research is done at the Minneapolis VAMC each year.

This particular study goes through 2018. Davenport said that it's possible the baseline information gathered in this project could be used in a future study.

The main beneficiaries of the result of the research will be the VA, which may have a better understanding of TBI and PTSD and how it changes the brain, and, of course the veterans themselves.

"If we treat PTSD, and the injury turns out to be a TBI, the patient is not going to get better. And if we treat a TBI patient as though he or she had PTSD, they're also not going to get significantly better."

"This type of study can help quantify the effect on the brain or the personality. Ideally it could lead to better diagnoses."

Lanesboro and Cold Spring win Legion Bowling Tournament

The winners this year on the Legion side were: Singles-Travis Theis-Waite Park, 801, beating Tim Lind Osseo-Maple Grove by 6 pins.

Doubles: Richard Smith-Tim Gray of Anoka, 1517.

Team: Lanesboro Post 40, 2876.

All Events, Jeff Ziebell, Bloomington, 2207.

Auxiliary winners were:

Singles, Emily Kappel, Elk River, 745.

Doubles, Naomi Christopherson-Kelly Miller, North Branch, 1382.

Team: For the second year in a row, Cold Spring, 2569.

All Events, Jenny Malmon, Delano, 2127.

This year's Tournament was hosted by the Osseo-Maple Grove American Legion Post-172.

"Thank you to all that helped make it a very successful tournament," said Tournament Secretary John Torma.

Participation was up around 30 % from last year.

"I want to thank everyone that bowled this year. The Auxiliary was up about 10 percent only, so we could use more ladies to bowl," Torma said.

Next year the tournament will back to the Albert Lea Holiday Lanes for 8 weekends again. If you signed the book for next year, please have the forms to John Torma by Dec 31.

There are only 20 lanes to work with and if you do not get the paperwork in, that date will not hold. The forms will be out by the end of October and should be at the Legion posts by the first part of November. If you do not see them, please e-mail Torma and he will send you one. The price will be the same as this year.

The Legion posts wanting to host the tournament in 2017 will have to have your forms in to Torma by Oct 10. The bowling committee will meet at Mid-Winter and choose the site.

The tournament did have one 300 game bowled by William H. Robison of North Branch on March 28. There was also a 298 game bowled by Nate Williams of Waite Park.

"Thank you for another great year. I enjoyed it very much. hope to see you all again at Albert Lea," Torma said.

Complete results of the tournament are printed on pages 16 and 17 of this issue. No photos were available this year.

VA DISABILITY APPEALS

TOM HAGEN
ATTORNEY & VETERAN

BRADLEY HAGEN & GULLIKSON, LLC
GREATER MINNESOTA: (507) 593-4098
TWIN CITIES METRO: (651) 379-0900
WWW.BRADLEYLAWMN.COM

Thinking of **Viagra?**

Try 'The Silver Bullet'
It only takes one!

No Prescription needed • Low Cost • 36 Hour Performance

Great Health
"LOOK GREAT, FEEL GREAT"
Vitamins • Herbs • Supplements

1360 University Ave.
651-645-2315
5192 Central Ave. NE
763-571-5544
1668 Robert Street
651-453-9150

Auctions WANTED

Seller Pays No Commission
30-Day Closing

We Buy Properties
Homes, Farms, Businesses,
Estates and Lands

Larry Hennig Realty and Auctions
320-656-5399
larrytheaxe@hotmail.com
Auctioneer # 71-05-001

Larry "The Axe" Hennig
Wrestling Hall of Fame 2006

DignityTM
PLANNING

Funeral Plans for Veterans

As a veteran you may qualify for certain funeral benefits. **Dignity Planning** offers one of the best end-of-life planning tools available. Through documenting your final wishes and purchasing a final need plan, you will:

- Protect your family from any financial burden in time of grief.
- Gain peace of mind by knowing your funeral is taken care of.

Yes, I would like to know more about:

Traditional Funeral Cost Cremation Cost
 Payment Plan Options Discount Plans

For a free consultation on Funeral Pre-planning Costs and a review of New VA Burial Benefits, return this coupon to:

Jerry Albrecht, 15116 Manitou Rd. NE, Prior Lake, MN 55372 or call (952) 226-6393. Absolutely No Obligation!

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Birth Date: _____

MP2772 1/12

Display, Protect and Preserve Your Memorial United States Flag in a Beautifully Handcrafted Solid Oak Flag Case with a Glass Front, Removable Back and Engraved Plate with Name and Branch of Service of Veteran.

"Made by Veterans for Veterans"

Minnesota Veterans Home **Phone: 651-539-2486**
1200 E. 18th Street **Fax: 651-480-0058**
Hastings, MN 55033

Hospital Association

Continued from Page 1

far this fiscal year, which begins in August each year, there are only 11 claims according to the Association's Claims Representative Roger Myren. Nine of those claims met the criteria and were paid.

"We are concerned," Association President Marie Goede said. "Are we not getting the message out? We want to know what's happening. We need to get the word out."

Goede said one possibility is simply that people generally have better insurance these days. "It's possible that not as many need assistance."

The Association collects 25 cents from every member of The American Legion, the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion in Minnesota each year. Money is also donated by posts, units and individuals.

Everyone in those organizations is considered a member of the Association, and all members and qualified dependents are eligible for benefits if they have been a member in good standing for the prior 12 months.

Assistance can be as much as \$3,000 and is paid directly to the medical facility. Sometimes negotiations can be conducted with the facility to reduce or eliminate the bill.

Applicants need to establish financial need, and they should have exhausted all other means of paying the bills, such as federal or other assistance programs.

To apply for assistance, a member needs to fill out a one-page application that will ask basic information about the applicant, their claim, and their financial status. They may be contacted by Myren to gather more information.

Anyone needing an application can approach any board member, contact Department Headquarters, or visit with their county veteran service officer.

The board of trustees, consisting of six elected members from the three organizations, votes on the payment of medical bills, based on Myren's recommendation. The applicant's name, address, and district are redacted from the applications the board considers.

The nine claims paid out this so far this year have totaled \$17,292. Members in four districts – the First, Second, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth, have made approved claims, while members in other six districts have not.

The Association, as of its annual meeting last year, has \$242,000 in net assets. This past year, the Association paid out \$31,000 in claims and brought in \$48,000 in dues and donations.

The program began after World War I when veterans were flocking to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester for treatment, but often had no means to pay or a place to stay. The program only paid for care at Rochester until 1970 when it was broadened to include Fargo-Moorhead, Duluth and the University of Minnesota. In 1993, it was broadened to include all medical facilities in the state.

The Family Hospital Association is unique to Minnesota.

Goede said a letter went out to all posts this Spring reminding them of the program and its benefits. She said the board is prepared to visit any district mid-winter or convention where it is invited. "It needs to be talked about."

Legislative report for 2015

Continued from Page 1

only be manufactured and sold by them.

"We'll see how that works out," Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl, who lobbied against the Honor and Remember Flag bill, said. "Even to infer that the flag should be displayed on public buildings means that facility managers will feel obligated to buy the flag. Now, will they need new flag poles too?"

Overall, Tesdahl agreed with McElhiney that it was a good session. "We got pretty much what we asked for, and we want to say thank you to the legislators for once again supporting the veterans."

Other veterans legislation that was passed included:

— A requirement that the Office of Legislative Auditor conduct a special review of the MDVA financial management of the state Veterans Homes. The review will look at general financial management, staffing levels, the use of reserve funds, the use of federal money in paying for health care, and the operation of the Adult Day Care Center at the Minnesota Veterans Home at Minneapolis.

— A new veterans-to-agriculture pilot program that will allow veterans to take a course on agriculture and receive a certificate. A total of \$350,000 was allocated over two years.

— A total of \$170,000 over two years that will be sent to Stearns County to be used for the Eagle's Healing Nest facility for veterans in Sauk Centre. This provision was also opposed by The American Legion which held the position that government money should go into established programs that meet federal standards.

— A grant of \$100,000 to provide resources and referrals to Southeast Asian veterans who were born before 1965, and who do not qualify for regular veterans benefits.

— An allocation of \$353,000 to seven veterans service organizations including the American Legion.

— A grant of \$750,000 for each year to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans.

— \$200,000 each year for honor guards at funerals.

— \$1.1 million each year to fund the County Veterans Service Officers grant program.

— Additional expedited licensing for veterans who gained skills in the military that can be used in civilian occupations that require licensing.

— Allowing the MDVA to use money from the Support our Troops license plate for grants of up to \$100,000 to be given to organizations that support and improve the lives of veterans and their families.

— Changes in the veteran's preference laws regarding hearings about a contested firing. Costs of the hearings will now be shared equally and attorney costs will be paid by the parties who hired the lawyers – except when a veteran wins the decision and is reinstated to his or her job. In that case, the government body will pay for the veteran's attorney fees.

— The commissioner of the MDVA lost his power to close a veterans home unless the Legislature specifically authorizes the closing.

— The Veterans 4 Veterans group was given the power to remove a trustee for cause, if the commissioner approves.

— July was established as Hire a Veteran Month.

Some legislation that was not passed included a vehicle registration tax exemption for disabled veterans and a bill that would have allowed veterans more leeway in spending their own GI Bill education money, and would have

allowed the use of that state money for spouses and children. No money was allocated any new veterans homes in the state during the session.

McElhiney was asked if funding for veterans programs may see a more skeptical Legislature in the future.

"There's no doubt that we have grown in the past years in order to take care of the needs of our war veterans. With the war winding down, I think you might see some hesitation on the part of Legislature. Generally, though, the legislators still strongly support veterans issues."

Tesdahl said there is a sense that times have changed at the Capitol in terms of veterans funding. "You hear chats at the Capitol. They're saying, we hope you've got all you need because it's going to be tougher now. The handwriting is on the wall."

Tesdahl said the veterans community should be thankful for the support of the governor and Legislature over the past several years.

"But veterans are taxpayers too. We see that there always needs to be wise spending. Our goal now may be to maintain what we have created and make it last until those needs are no longer there. It will be many years before the needs of our youngest veterans are fully realized."

Legacy Run starts Aug. 23

On Aug. 23, The American Legion's 10th annual Legacy Run – sponsored by USAA – will take off from Kenneth N. Dowden Wayne Post 64 on the west side of Indianapolis and head for the 97th National Convention in Baltimore.

The marquee national event in the Legion Riders' year, the run will take hundreds of participants through Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania before concluding at Post 22 in Towson, Md., on Aug. 26.

This year, the run will include daily stops at military memorials along the route for wreath-laying ceremonies, as well as visits to the Flight 93 Memorial and Gettysburg.

The run raises funds for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, which provides college scholarships for the children of U.S. servicemembers killed on active duty since 9/11.

U.S. MILITARY MEDALS & RIBBONS

FREE SHIPPING LOCAL TEL: 763-425-0911
TOLL FREE TEL: 800-864-5062

VETS SUPPLY LINE
 10550 CO. RD 81, #218
 MAPLE GROVE, MN 55369
 FREE RIBBON BAR MOUNTING SERVICE

CUSTOM BALL CAPS-NAVY SHIP CAPS

WEB SITE: www.vetssupplyline.com

Experiencing Vision Loss?
 Consider a Low Vision Evaluation.

• Macular Degeneration • Head Injury
 • Diabetic Retinopathy • Stroke

Call today to schedule a Low Vision Evaluation.

Call toll free (888) 882-2040
 Dr. Chris Palmer, Optometrist
 www.LowVisionofMN.com

Veterans Linkage Line™

minnesotaveteran.org | **1-888-LinkVet**
 (546-5838)

Help for veterans and families

OFFICIAL CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION

A registration fee of \$15 for each person attending, whether a delegate, alternate or a guest, must accompany this form. Make this check payable to AMERICAN LEGION POST 38 with "Department Convention" in memo line. No credit cards will be accepted.

Registration at the door and after July 1 will be \$18.

Mail to:
Carrie Werner, Redwood Falls Post 38, Box 354, Redwood Falls, MN 56283.

Legion Post # _____ SAL Sqdn. _____ Auxiliary Unit _____

District _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Delegate Alternate Guest

Delegate at Large (Auxiliary)

(Please check one of the above.)

If additional pre-registrations accompany this request, this pre-registration form should be photo copied for each person. The \$15 registration fee should be enclosed for each person.

Please, only one registration blank per person.

Scholarships announced

American Legion Memorial Scholarships for 2015 were awarded to:

Grace Bandel, Rochester, St. Benedict, Rochester Post 92
Shannon Head, Blackduck, Bemidji State, Kelliher Post 470.

Rion Wendland, Madison Lake, University of Iowa, Eagle Lake Post 617.

Elizabeth Loken, Houston, St. Mary's of Winona, Houston Post 423.

Rachael Allen, Dexter, UW-River Falls, Adams Post 146.

Riley Massie, Park Rapids, Bemidji State, Park Rapids Post 212.

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust Scholarships went to:

Hayley Lhotka, Eden Prairie, Gustavus Adolphus, Chahassen Post 580.

Mia Scharber, Isanti, University of Minnesota, Cambridge Post 290.

Jenna Blair, Lowry, Bethel University, Lowry Post 253.

COMMANDER'S COLUMN

By Peggy Moon



Hello Legionnaires. Summer is finally here. It's time to plant the garden, put flowers out, and drink lemonade. Life is good.

We just completed another Memorial Day, and by all the pictures that have been posted on Facebook, I can see that our Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders served the State of Minnesota well on this most important holiday. Thank you for your sincere dedication to remember those we have lost, and pay respect to those families that have given up so much so that we can live in a free country. In my mind, I remember a young man from Zimmerman, Jim Johnson, who was killed in Vietnam, and will always be 19 in my memories, and when I close my eyes, I can still hear him singing on the school bus. It's a time to say "We miss you, We love you, and We won't forget you." We also take time to honor those veterans we lost this past year, and this was especially true for me as my Father's name was read at Bellwood Cemetery for the first time.

Now we turn our thoughts to our summer programs. American Legion Baseball begins, and there's nothing more American than baseball. Please take some time from your hectic schedules and attend some of these games. These young boys have earned our respect, and we should be there to support them. It is also time for Minnesota Boys State, one of the best programs we have in The American Legion. I am looking forward to being with them in Marshall for most of the week. If you have time to stop in, please do! I will also visit Minnesota Girls State for their Inauguration Ceremony Thursday evening, and watch the new Governor take her oath.

June also brings our District Conventions, and I will try

to attend as many as I can. This year, we have many on the same weekends, so it will be impossible to attend them all. Congratulations to our out-going District Commanders. You have all served your Districts well, and I am very proud of you. Have all of your Posts filed their Consolidate Post Reports? Make some phone calls and offer your help. Please make yourself available to mentor your new, incoming Commanders. They need your support, knowledge, and advice. Share with them what you have learned. Also, congratulations to our incoming Commanders. Your job is just beginning, and we are all here to assist you in any way possible.

New Post Commanders are also assuming their duties. I've received many Post newsletters that have implied that this membership year is ending, and the new membership year will begin the end of this month. Please know, this is not the case. Our membership year continues until December 31, 2015. As I write this, I have been following the weather reports from the Southern part of the United States, and it appears that over 400 homes were lost due to flooding. I am praying that those who are veterans are also American Legion Members with a current 2015 membership card. They will be eligible for up to \$1,500 from The American Legion Emergency Fund. Don't let this happen to the veterans in your community. Tornado season is upon us.

I am happy to report that we had a successful Legislative year, but it came to a nail-biting finish as we waited for the Legislature to fully fund our Minnesota Veterans' Homes. However, in the end, we prevailed, and the great care they receive will continue. If you see your legislators during the summer, please tell them "Thank You." As we keep creating more veterans, we need to take care of them, and we cannot do that without proper funding. As I kept hearing over Memorial Day, these people didn't stand in line to take their oaths, and they shouldn't stand in line waiting for care.

Congratulations to our SAL Detachment of Minnesota. They have surpassed 100% in membership, and are still growing. Commander Dennis and Membership Director Paul have done an outstanding job! Keep up the great work! You make us proud!

As usual, I am on my way to the dealership for yet another oil change. I am now over 35,000 miles, and I still have the majority of the District Conventions on my agenda. Luckily, I didn't need any new tires this month -- let's see what July brings.

Chaplain's Corner

By Steve Klinkner



The neighbors planted the majority of the crops before the first of May which I haven't seen happen for a long time. I have always been out in the field on my birthday and the grandkids think that is a terrible way to spend the day. But this year was different; I received a big gift and not what I was looking for either. I ended up with hernia surgery on my birthday; glad it is over and doing just fine.

My wife will also be glad when the doctor gives the okay to do things like I used to. It is not any fun to just sit and look out the window watching the neighbors out in the fields.

During the month of May, my grandson made his First Communion and his class also did a May Crowning of Mary. I thought back to when I was his age doing the same thing, honoring The Blessed Mary, Mother of Jesus. I thought of my own mother, and my wife, do we honor them like we are supposed to? The Apostle Paul tells us: Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

The month of June brings Fathers Day and there again, do we take time to reflect on our heritage, strength, and give thanks for their guidance? Happy and blessed is the home and the children of loving parents who are devoted to one another, their children and the Lord. Let us give thanks to our God if our home is so blessed.

The summer season brings many patriotic days to reflect on Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Independence Day. In John 15:13 it states "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." This verse is quoted frequently referring to the men and women who have died to serve our Country.

What do we do on these days? For many, it is a Holiday for picnics and recreational activities. Some of us go to cemeteries to pay respect to those who died for our Country. As I go out to these graves, I can remember those burials when the days were so hot or very cold and snowy. At a Veteran's funeral this past winter, it snowed and was very cold. The minister at the funeral had very long prayers and the Color Guard Veterans were very close to frost bite. I didn't think we would ever get warm; then, I thought maybe when this veteran was in the war, it was cold and he had to endure this type of weather no matter how cold it was.

As I march in different parades, which I do enjoy, I see people that do not stand when our American Flag pass by, some just sit there with their hats on backwards, talking and ignoring what the Flag represents. I don't think our kids and grandkids understand what Freedom means and that a lot of good men and women died for our Country. Even today we lose men and women for our Freedom.

When we march, I carry the rifle and when I see someone sitting (and they are able to stand) I fire my rifle and tell them to stand up for our Flag. People always ask me after the parade why I fired my rifle and I tell them why. At school sport games, you will see some adults and kids not paying attention with respect during the National Anthem.

All of these important dates are about our Country and that our American Flag stands for "freedom." It is our duty to continue to educate every chance that we encounter -- respect the Flag "for God and Country."

May all veterans be remembered in your prayers.

Mail Call

Tribute to a fallen comrade

To the Editor:

American Legion Post 427 of Newfolden along with the Marshall County Central School presented a Veterans Day program in the Marshall County Central gymnasium.

In a town with a population of 368, well over 600 people attended this program.

Post 427 on behalf of the family of Myles Westman presented to the school the Honor and Remember Flag given to Arlene Johnson in honor of her son Myles. Along with The Honor and Remember flag the military awards presented to Myles will be included.

The Flag and Military Awards will be on permanent display at Marshall County Central High School.

Myles D Westman was a 1968 graduate of Newfolden High School.

On May 13, 1969, less than twelve months after graduating from Newfolden High School, Myles was killed in action in the A Shau Valley on Hill 937/ (Hamburger Hill) while serving with Bravo Co, 3rd Battalion, 187 Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division.

For his actions above and beyond the call of duty, May 10th - May 13, Myles was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart.

Myles Westman is honored on Panel 25W, Row 114 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, in Washington D.C.

1st Lt. Frank Boccia, Myles Company Commander, gave this tribute of Myles.

"It is a sorrow whenever any young man dies, but when the young man is as gentle, kind and thoroughly decent as Myles Westman, it is unbearable. May his family take pride and consolation in this: No one was as beloved as he.

May his neighbors and friends know this: If your sons develop half the courage and compassion he had, you may count yourselves blessed. He deserves to be remembered. Please, never let his name be forgotten among you."

Jim Larson
Adjutant
Newfolden Post 427

American Legion Riders

By Steve Sullivan



I really don't know where start, so I'm just going to go for it.

Since September 11, 2001, the United States lost approximately 6,820 citizen soldiers in Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn among various other operations in the Global War on Terror. As a result of their valiant sacrifice, these soldiers families are left to pick up the emotional, spiritual, and financial pieces of their lives. Upwards of 12,000 children and spouses must now cope with life without one of their closest friends and providers.

Thus the start of "The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund."

Here in Minnesota, for the past five years, The American Legion Riders (ALR), along with The American Legion

Family, have accomplished what the ALR likes to call the Minnesota Legacy Run. For example, last year we rode 2,000 miles in two weekends and visited 38 American Legion post homes, two veterans homes and raised \$87,600 for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund.

The ALR volunteers meet every month in a different post home to try and figure out where we are going to ride the following year. This year so far I can tell you we are starting the 1st weekend in August in the south half of the state. We are having the kickoff party in New Ulm on July 30 around 6 or 7 p.m. with kickstands up on Friday morning. The 2nd weekend, all I really know for sure is we are having the ending party on August 9th at Monticello Post Home. We will have updates on facebook at "mnlegacyrun."

We have been doing the Minnesota Legacy Run for five years now and we have had a perfect, accident-free ride. All of our Riders pay their own gas, hotels -- everything. They all are a true volunteers for the kids of our fallen heroes. This is a alcohol-free ride while on the run in honor of our fallen heroes.

See ya on the road.
Steve "Sully" Sullivan
Co-Chairman MN Legacy Run

The Minnesota Legionnaire

Official Publication of and Owned Exclusively by
The American Legion, Department of Minnesota

Al Zdon, Editor

First published in 1920 as the Hennepin County Legionnaire, the Minnesota Legionnaire is now in its 95th year of publication. It is published monthly by The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, Room 300A, 20 West 12th Street, St. Paul, MN 55155-2000. Periodicals postage is paid at St. Paul, MN, and at additional mailing offices. The Legionnaire is a member of the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the National American Legion Press Association.

SUBSCRIPTION: \$10 for non-members. Members receive the Legionnaire as part of their dues.

PHONE: 651-291-1800, 866-259-9163, FAX: 651-291-1057
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The American Legion, 20 W. 12th Street, St. Paul, MN, 55155-2000. (USPS No. 013-679.) (ISSN No. 1644270)

ADVERTISING RATES: Contact Al Zdon, 651-291-1800

E-MAIL: azdon@mnlegion.org

WEBSITE: www.mnlegion.org

BOARD OF PUBLICATION MEMBERS: President Peggy Moon, St. Paul; Vice President Don Amundson, Blue Earth; Secretary Randy Tesdahl, Elk River; Treasurer, Richard Horn, Melrose. Board Members include: Bob Locker, Fridley; Clinton Burt, Slayton; Joe Bayer, Minneapolis; Pat Logan, Bloomington; Virgil Persing, Columbia Heights; Chris Ronning, Maple Grove; Sandy Fredrickson, Glenville.

What's Happening

Hangar Dance

The Spring Swing Big Band Hangar Dance will be held at Fleming Field in St. Paul on Saturday, June 6. Tickets can be purchased at cafmn.org.

The dance will go from 8-midnight, and there will be prizes for best World War II era dress.

Focus Group

Veterans are being sought for a focus group that will look at barriers to mental health care for veterans. The director of the study and the focus group is Corey Pieper, 320-492-0696. He is an OIF veteran and is a student at the California School of Professional Psychology.

Summer of Service

Both the Minneapolis and the St. Cloud VA Health Care Systems are joining a nationwide effort to increase the number of individuals and organizations serving veterans.

The Minneapolis VA is inviting the community to visit and to explore opportunities to serve during the week of June 28. For more information, go to www.minneapolis.va.gov/.

The St. Cloud VA will have numerous community events this summer. Organizations that want to take part should contact Kerri Schwegel at 320-255-6353.

The national VA is interested in engaging 100,000 volunteers in the country.

50th Anniversary

A 50th wedding anniversary open house will be held for Michas and Alma Ohnstad on Friday, June 19, at the Chisago County Senior Center in North Branch. It will be from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

It is sponsored by the friends of the Ohnstads and cake and beverages will be served. No gifts are allowed, but those attending can bring a fun memory. Memories and RSVPs can be shared on Ohnstad50@gmail.com.

Mike Ohnstad is a Past National Chaplain of The American Legion.

Town Hall in Duluth

A veterans town hall meeting will be held June 25 at 5

p.m. at the Duluth Armory. Senior leaders from Minneapolis VA Health Care System, the Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office and the VA National Cemetery Administration will be present.

The townhall is designed to get open and honest feedback from veterans, service organizations and others in the community.

The armory is located at 1624 London Road.

Walker Show

The Minnesota Folklore Theater in Walker is offering "A Salute to our Men Who Serve" from June 17-28 on the lower level of the American National Bank in Walker. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students. Call 218-547-4044 for showtimes and tickets. Tickets are also available at the Walker Pilot Independent newspaper office.

Round Tables

The Scott Hosier Veterans Round Table in Rochester will have two programs in June. On June 8, the program will be "France, 1944, Normandy to St. Lo" with Ken Axelson and Tony Birdwell. The program will be at the Autumn Ridge Church and will start at 7 p.m. Donations are \$5.

On June 20, the Round Table will sponsor its second annual Hangar Dance at the Rochester Airport, General Aviation Hangar C. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 later. Go to www.mvesm.org or call 507-280-9970 to get tickets.

The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with a cash bar and mess hall food, historical exhibitors, vintage vehicles and event photos. There will be swing dancing lessons at 6:30, opening ceremonies at 7, and dancing at 7:30. Prizes will be awarded for best 1940s period dress.

The Veterans Open Roundtable in Owatonna will feature "World War II, Liberating Buchanwald" on June 9, at 7 p.m. at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Merrill Bergstahler will be the featured speaker.

MACV Clinics

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans will be sponsoring a series of drop-in legal clinics for veterans in the coming weeks. The clinics will deal with housing,

employment, benefits, expungement, wills, debt collection, and family law including child support.

Each clinic includes attorneys, MACV staff, County Veterans Service Officers and child support officers.

The clinics include:

-- Mankato, Wednesday, June 17, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mankato Armory. 651-200-4750.

-- Redwood Falls, July 7, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Redwood Area Community Center, Room 2. 507-345-8258.

-- Fargo, July 8, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Fargo VA Medical Center, Third Floor Auditorium. 651-200-4750.

-- St. Cloud, June 23, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., St. Cloud VA Medical Center, Auditorium, Building 8. 651-200-4750.

-- Minneapolis, June 9, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Minneapolis VA Medical Center, First Floor Auditorium, 651-200-4750.

The clinics are free.

Tomah VA Cuts Hours

The Tomah VA Medical Center has reduced its urgent care operating hours. The new clinic hours are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on weekends and holidays. Hospital officials say the reduction is temporary and due to staff shortages.

Mentors needed

Ramsey County Veterans Court is seeking mentors who are assigned to veterans going through the veterans court process. The role of the mentor is to coach, guide and act as a role model and advocate for the participant.

The veterans court offers veterans who are charged with a crime in Ramsey County an alternative to the regular court process. Those who participate in the court are provided with a coordinated support team.

Mentors must be veterans. Contact Donn Lindstrom at 651-266-2545 or email donn.lindstrom@co.ramsey.mn.us for further information.

Time Capsule Ceremony

A time capsule, that will not be opened until 2065, will be buried in Building 19 Atrium at the Minnesota Veterans Home at Minneapolis. The event will take place at 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 18. Items will be on display at noon.

National Executive Committeeman Ray DeZurik's final report

I would like to just review a few points that were covered in the NEC Spring meeting in Indianapolis May 4-7, 2015. We processed 31 resolutions but I will only give a few highlights out of meetings.

Membership

The DMS program goal was 120,000 with our current total at 118,500 members. DMS is an important program. We have to remember, or be reminded, that 1/3 of our current membership are from the DMS program.

Resolution 18 allows National HQ members transferred through the District Revitalization program, MYLE-GION.ORG, or through the request of the member to be counted in the posts membership count. However, no money will be exchanged. This will be in effect beginning with the 2015-2016 year.

Finance

Resolution 4 was adopted and asks the delegates at the 2015 National Convention for a \$5 dues increase. Why you may ask do we need an increase after almost 9 years:

-Cost of living has increased 13% since 2007 (our last increase)

-Interest income is down 35%. Earnings now average 2.77% versus 4.36% in 2007 resulting in \$1.25 million less income per year

-Employee health insurance has increased 13.29% or \$262,000

Breaking down the increase, it is:

-2 glasses of beer a year or

-less than a pack of cigarettes or

-less than \$.42 per month

I am recommending we support this upcoming increase that would take effect January 20, 2016. If it passes at the National convention, the National organization will be promoting that dues paid prior to the increase be applied. Promotions will include mailings and the web page.

Other news

-Reno, NV was awarded the 2020 convention - Aug 28-Sep 3, 2020

-The NEF contains \$3.9 in the fund. Awards have been changed to award \$3,000 to individuals and \$10,000 to posts versus \$1,500 and \$5,000.

-32 Legacy Scholarship awards were given with none

from MN.

-American Legion baseball, starting with the semi-finals, will be aired on ESPNU.

-TFA (Temporary Financial Assistance) helped 645 veterans with 1,459 children to maintain shelter, utilities, food, and clothing with over \$655,361 in grants.

-The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation reported the market value of the foundation exceeded \$10 million.

-Caroline Donaldson (MN) was a semi-finalist in the Oratorical contest. Geeta Minocha (FL) was the winner of the \$18,000 scholarship.

There is more but we just don't have the time to go through everything. I want to congratulate the newly elected officers and offer my support.

Please remember our servicemen and women in your daily prayers.

God Bless America.

God Bless our Veterans.

God Bless You.



MILTON HONORED -- Denise Milton, left, was presented with the Annual Nurse Excellence Award for the Fargo VA Healthcare System. She serves veterans as an LPN at the Bemidji VA clinic. Milton has been very active in Legion activities and served as Department Membership Chair. Also honored were Nicole Ueckert and Crystal Nemer, nurses at the Fargo VAMC. The awards were presented by Julie Bruhn, right, associate director for patient care.



MEMORIAL DAY MESSAGE -- Commander Peggy Moon was at the Minnesota Twins studios to record this year's Memorial Day advertisement played on the Minnesota Twins radio network over the holiday weekend. In back is Mark Genosky, the producer of the Twins pre- and post-game broadcasts.

Call for Convention

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155
CALL FOR THE 97th ANNUAL DEPARTMENT
CONVENTION**

The 97th Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, is hereby called in conformity with provisions of the Department Constitution and By-Laws, and by action of the Department Executive Committee, sponsored by Redwood Falls American Legion Post 38 and held at Jackpot Junction, Morton, Minnesota, July 16, 17, 18, 2015.

PURPOSE OF CONVENTION

The Convention is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, amending the Constitution and By-Laws, and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it.

REPRESENTATION AT CONVENTION

The Department Convention shall be composed of delegates from each Post, members of the Department Executive Committee, the Department Chaplain, Treasurer, Historian, and the District Adjutants, but only delegates from Posts shall be entitled to vote at such Convention, (Sec.2, Article Five, Department Constitution). Each Post shall be entitled to two delegates and to one additional delegate for each hundred members or major fraction thereof, whose Department dues have been received by the Department Treasurer and whose District dues have been paid to their respective District officers, 30 days prior to the Convention for which they are chosen. The final voting strength of each Post shall be determined 30 days prior to the Convention. Each Post shall choose its own delegates, who shall be members in good standing of such Post. In addition, each Post may choose alternate delegates to serve in the absence of the principal delegate, (Sec. 3, Article Five, Department Constitution). Delegates or alternates must register in order to vote.

GAMBLING SEMINAR MEETING

The Gambling Seminar will be at 2:00 PM on Thursday, July 16, 2015 in the Auditorium at the Dacotah Exposition Center, Jackpot Junction, Morton, MN.

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Department Executive Committee has

been called and will be held at 7:00 P.M on Wednesday, July 15, 2015, in Morton, MN in the Dacotah Exposition Center at Jackpot Junction as specified in the upcoming Call to Meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Standing Department Committee Meetings will be held at the Jackpot Junction Casino in Morton, Minnesota, in the meeting rooms listed. These rooms will be confirmed in each committee's Call to Meeting.

AMERICANISM 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 15, 2015
Crossed Arrows A

CHILDREN AND YOUTH 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 15, 2015
Crossed Arrows B

NATIONAL SECURITY 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 15, 2015
Crossed Arrows D

REHABILITATION 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 15, 2015
Crossed Arrows C

GENERAL SESSIONS Dacotah Exposition Center
Thursday, Friday, Saturday

HOUSING AND REGISTRATION

For the 2015 Department Convention, hotel reservations will be done "on your own" directly with the Jackpot Junction. Please call 1-507-697-8000 to make your reservation at the headquarters hotel. The official headquarters hotel for both The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary is Jackpot Junction. A registration fee of \$15.00 for each Delegate/Alternate and/or Guest must be sent to: Attn: Carrie Werner, Redwood Falls Post 38, P.O. Box 354, Redwood Falls, MN 56283. This check should be made payable to "American Legion Post 38." Registration will be \$18.00 after July 1st.

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS OFFICE

A temporary Legion Department Headquarters office will be opened in Room 100 of the hotel at Jackpot Junction, Morton, MN starting Thursday, July 16, 2015 for convention service and business during convention business hours only. Meetings will start ON TIME as scheduled unless otherwise announced.

Peggy Moon

Department Commander

ATTEST: RANDY TESDAHL

Department Adjutant

Dated at St. Paul, Minn., this 1st day of May, 2015

2015 Convention Rules announced

The Rules Committee submits the following proposed Rules for the Convention to be held at Redwood Falls, Minnesota, July 16, 17, 18, 2015.

1) With the following modifications, Robert's Rules of Order, revised, be adopted for this Convention.

2) (a) That the speech of any Delegate, recognized by the Commander, shall be limited to three (3) minutes and no more.

(b) Where a motion is made to table a resolution, the sponsor shall be entitled to speak to the Convention for three (3) minutes on the subject, and three (3) minutes rebuttal be granted to the maker of the motion to table before the motion is put.

3) That the Floor be permitted but once to any individual on any subject, except with the unanimous consent of the Convention.

4) (a) That all resolutions, with the exception of those prepared by Convention Committees, must be presented in writing signed by the author thereof, not later than 9:00 A.M. the first day of the Convention, to the Department Adjutant who shall refer them to the Resolutions Assignment Committee without debate. Each District Delegation Chairman or Secretary will meet with the Department Resolutions Assignment Committee at 9:00 A.M. of the first day of the Convention to be informed as to the resolutions assigned to each Convention Committee, then provide copies of those resolutions to the representatives they have appointed to said Convention Committee. The Resolutions Assignment Committee is responsible for receiving, registering and accounting for all resolutions forwarded to it by the Department Adjutant and all committee originated resolutions.

(b) Resolutions containing matters of legislation shall be cleared by the Convention Legislative Committee.

5) On matters where voting has been by roll call vote, when the poll of any Post Delegation is demanded by the Delegate of any Post, the Secretary of the Convention shall poll the vote of that Delegation by Delegates, without debate or discussion.

6) That on Roll Call, the Chair or Acting Chair of each Delegation on the Floor shall announce the vote of this Delegation.

7) No person, not duly accredited, shall participate directly or indirectly in debate on any subject before the Convention, but Past Department Commanders and members of the Department Executive Committee shall have the privilege of speaking from the Floor, but not of voting, except as Delegates.

8) That no Delegate be permitted on the Convention

Floor unless certified by the Delegate's Post as Delegate or Alternate and that every Delegate or Alternate, to be duly accredited, must be registered.

9) That the published program be approved by this Convention.

10) No person or Delegate shall act by proxy for any Post. No Post shall vote unless at least one registered and accredited Delegate or Alternate be present on the Convention Floor.

11) The voting shall be by acclamation, except when a Roll Call is demanded by the Chair or Acting Chair of at least three Delegations; and except for elections which shall be as follows:

(a) The election of Department Officers, NEC positions, and the Member of the Board of Publications shall be by written ballot unless there is but one candidate or, in the case of election of Vice Commanders, there are but five candidates.

(b) The election of candidates for other positions shall be by District as set forth in Rule 14 below. Candidates receiving the highest number of votes in one round of voting shall be elected to the positions.

If there are more than five candidates for Vice Commander, those five receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. Cumulative voting shall not be allowed.

The printed ballot shall include the names of all candidates who have notified the Department Office of their candidacy at least 30 days prior to the first day of the Convention.

For the election of Department Officers and NEC positions, the Tellers shall issue to the Delegation Chair of each registered Post the number of written ballots equal to the delegate strength of that Post. Said Chair shall sign for the ballots.

Ballots shall be issued and the polls shall be open during the following times:

(a) Friday, for one half hour after recess of the Convention.

(b) Saturday, from 8:00 A.M. until 9:00 A.M.
No ballots shall be counted before Saturday morning. No ballots shall leave the polling place.

The District Commander of each District shall appoint a Teller. Tellers shall elect among themselves two Tellers from the Districts which have no candidate for Commander. These two Tellers, and the Judge Advocate, shall tabulate and total the election results. The result of each contest shall be confidential and shall be placed in a separate envelope and delivered to the Commander.

If there is a written ballot contest which has not resulted

Sons of The American Legion

By
Dennis Henkemeyer



As I sit down to right this article, I have just returned home from attending my first two district conventions. It continues to remind me that over the years, the Detachment of Minnesota has truly become an important part of The American Legion Family here in Minnesota. I had an opportunity to chat with Department SAL Advisor Ray Ozmun at one of the district conventions and found out a few facts that I was not aware of. When Ray accepted the position as advisor for the department in 1988, we had 2,300 members and no structure. There were no officers or even districts formed. Now we are on the verge of hitting 11,000 members and we have definitely matured and developed over the years. We have taken on many of the programs that The American Legion has long supported, in addition to a number of our own. I am truly proud to be a part of this organization.

On 13 May 2015, the Detachment of Minnesota hit the national target of 100%. The detachment membership team lead by Detachment Membership Director Paul Spyhalski pulled out all the plugs and worked their tails off to make this happen. This appears to be the first time in recorded history and so I send my heartfelt thanks to all of the members in Minnesota for their hard work to make this happen. Next week when membership is transmitted to national headquarters, we will officially hit our all time high.

The Detachment of Minnesota will be meeting at Legionville for our annual detachment convention on 26, 27 and 28 June 2015. This is a very important convention where we elect new officers for the upcoming year, hear program reports and review any resolutions that may be presented at the convention. It is a very fun weekend and I would encourage all of you to consider joining us. The call for the convention went out to all detachment officers, detachment chairmen and all squadron commanders. So if you want to attend, please feel free to check with any of them and they can provide a copy of the official registration form.

My commander's project of the Minneapolis Fisher House is coming up on \$30,000 in total contributions. It would be great to exceed this amount and so I put out this last request for donations. If you are planning on attending the detachment convention, I would ask that you bring your checks along with. I will also be on hand at the department convention and would be happy to receive donations anytime that weekend as well.

in a majority vote (except for Vice Commanders), the Commander will be informed immediately. Then, written ballots for that contest shall be distributed immediately in accordance with these Rules and be cast within one-half hour of completion of the distribution. Tabulation and reporting shall be in accordance with these Rules.

Results of the vote count shall be reported to the Convention. All ballots and results shall be destroyed immediately following the close of the Convention, unless there is a motion to preserve.

12) Nominations for Department Officers and NEC positions shall be held on the afternoon of Friday of the Convention. Nominations shall be made from the Floor on Roll Call by Districts, in ascending order starting with the District whose number matches the last digit of the year of the Convention; each District may present as many candidates as it chooses. Thereafter, nominations may be made from the Floor.

13) Nominating speeches for Department Officers shall be limited to five (5) minutes. There will be no seconding speeches allowed for any candidates.

14) When the convention has adopted a Motion to suspend the rules and vote on a matter by District, each District may vote its entire voting strength. If the matter is the election of individuals for any open positions (such as Department Delegate at-Large), each District may vote its voting strength times the number of open positions, but shall not vote more than its voting strength for any one individual. The call for District votes shall be in ascending order starting with the District whose number matches the last digit of the year of the Convention.

15) In the event more than two candidates are nominated for any office, the balloting shall continue until one candidate shall have received a majority of the votes cast. In elections where there are more than two candidates, the candidate receiving the fewest votes in each round of voting shall be eliminated.

16) No personalities or partisan politics shall be discussed or indulged in on the Convention Floor, and the Department Commander shall prohibit such indulgences.

17) (a) Rules Committee approves the following list of Convention Committees to be chosen at this Convention, each District to choose one representative on each Committee:

Continued on next page

Rules

Continued from preceding page

Americanism, National Security/Foreign Relations, Children and Youth, Public Relations, Constitution-By-Laws, Recreation-Sports, Employment, Rehabilitation, Energy and Conservation, Resolutions, Legislative, Safety-School Patrol, Membership

(b) The following Department Standing Committees are approved as Convention

Committees:

Finance

Next Meeting Place (Convention Corporation Committee)

Resolutions Assignment

Credentials

18) The order of business of the Convention shall be in accordance with the printed program, except that the election of officers shall be a special order of business, to be held in accordance with Rules 11 and 12. The order of election of Department Officers shall be as follows:

Commander

Five Vice Commanders - without numerical designation

Chaplain

Historian

Sergeant at Arms

Member of Publication Board - for three-year term

Delegates-at-Large to the National Convention

Five Alternates-at-Large to the National Convention

National Executive Committeeman and Alternate

National Executive Committeeman (when appropriate)

19) The Committee Chairman shall inform the Department Commander when he is ready to present his report, and the Department Commander shall recognize it as an order of business. The committees reporting action on Resolutions must read all approved Resolutions. It is sufficient to report all rejected Resolutions by number, unless requested by a Delegate to set a Resolution aside for separate consideration.

20) All printed reports, which shall have been handed to the Convention Committees, shall be referred to the proper Convention Committee for action.

21) No Band, Drum Corps or other musical organization shall be permitted in the Convention Hall without the invitation of the Department Commander.

22) (a) Any Guests who are not on the official program as speakers shall be introduced by the Department Commander only, and shall be limited to an address of not more than three (3) minutes.

(b) The Commander is to adhere as nearly as possible to the printed program so that guests, and others to be honored, are presented without undue delay.

23) No elective political office holder shall be permitted to speak during the Convention except the Chief Executive of the State of Minnesota, and the Chief Executive of the Convention City, or such persons as are on the official printed and published program.

24) All major speeches shall be limited to fifteen (15) minutes and all others not to exceed five (5) minutes.

25) No intoxicating liquors shall be sold or dispensed in the building of the Convention meeting, except as authorized by the Convention Corporation.

26) The Roll Call of Posts shall be called in numerical sequence in accordance with Post numbers assigned, including the city or town, beginning with Post No. 1, except in odd numbered years the order of call will be reversed, but only those Posts having one or more duly registered and accredited Delegates or alternates accredited prior to 9:00 a.m. as confirmed by the Credentials Committee, shall be included in the Roll Call at any time.

27) Posts challenging exclusion from the Roll Call shall consult with the Credentials Committee for resolution of the problem.

THE COMMITTEE: (Members Present)

DISTRICT	MEMBER	HOME TOWN
First	Myron Ehrich	West Concord
Second	Jennifer Kafka	Blue Earth
Third	Duane Anderson	Elysian
Fourth	Dan Williams	Vadnais Heights
Fifth	Wayne Glanton	Minneapolis
Sixth	Carl Moon	St. Joseph
Seventh	Victor Gades	Morris
Eighth	Wilson Spence	Duluth
Ninth	Thomas Norgaard	Shevlin
Tenth	Thomas Sanders	Pine City

William Shatner joins Riders in promoting the Legion

To celebrate the creation of Rivet, a never-before-seen vehicle created by William (Bill) Shatner and American Wrench, a cross-country ride from Chicago to Los Angeles via iconic Route 66 will take place beginning June 23.

He will be joined by select members of The American Legion Riders and the team from American Wrench on this epic journey, designed to test the newly minted Rivet and raise awareness around The American Legion's services for veterans and their families.

The entire journey will be filmed for television broadcast at a later date. You can be a part of this opportunity by designing a Mission for Shatner and his fellow riders in your city/town. Where should he go? What should he do?

Taps

Waters, Raymond John, 84, National Guard veteran of the Korean War, died April 27, 2015. Waters was a past commander of Austin Post 91. He also served as First District Commander from 1966-67, Department Vice Commander from 1970-71, and Department Chaplain from 1982-83. He was the longtime chairman of the Citizens Flag Alliance in Minnesota.

Schmidtke, Sigfried E. "Peewee," 91, Army veteran of World War II, died April 19, 2015. He was a member of Morrystown Post 149. He served as Third District Commander in 1970-71 and as a Department Vice Commander 1975-76.

Jeffers, Ward, 85, veteran of the Korean War, died May 30, 2015. He was a member of Laidlaw Post 208 and a member of Minneapolis Post 1. He served as Department Vice Commander in 1982-83 and Fifth District Commander in 1978-79. He was Fifth District Adjutant in 1983-84, 1985-86 and 1989-90.

Franson, Richard V., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War and Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 27, 2015. He retired from the Army after 20 years as a first sergeant. He later served as a SeaBee in Vietnam. He was frequent political campaigner and longtime advertiser in the Minnesota Legionnaire. He was a member of Richfield Post 435.

Hermanson, Donald, 93, Army veteran of World War II, died May 10, 2015. He served in Bora Bora, New Caledonia, Hawaii and Iwo Jima. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 117.

Weinzierl, Edwin, 95, Army veteran of World War II, died May 20, 2015. He served as a medic. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Dvorak, Jim, 82, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 15, 2015. He was a member of Cosmos Post 126.

Cline, Kenneth L., 94, Army veteran of World War II, died May 23, 2015. He was a member of Morris Post 29.

Froehlich, Herbert, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 16, 2015. He was a member of Morton Post 344.

Cannon, Allen, 62, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 14, 2015. He was a tank gunner. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

McGinnis, Dennis, 73, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 15, 2015. He earned the Combat Infantry Badge. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Shogren, Rodney, 93, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died April 12, 2015. He was a waist gunner on a B-17 and served 14 months as a prisoner of war in Germany. He was a member of North Branch Post 85.

Anderson, Verne Dale, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 15, 2015. He served in Germany. He was a member of Granite Falls Post 69.

Meyer, Elroy Casper, 92, Army veteran of World War II, died May 10, 2015. He served in Japan. He was a member of Pierz Post 341.

Billiet, Duane, "Wayne," 86, Navy veteran of World War II, died May 5, 2015. He served on the USS St. Paul. He was a founder of Graceville Post 297.

King, Melvin Earl, 89, Army veteran of World War II, died May 11, 2015. He served in the southern Phillipines as a gunner and sharp shooter. He earned two Bronze Stars. He was a member of Windom Post 206.

Johnson, Orville, 88, Navy veteran of World War II, died May 1, 2015. He was a member of Eden Valley Post 381.

Johnson, Walter, 80, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 7, 2015. He was a member of Eden Valley Post 381.

Pappenfus, Robert Henry, 87, Navy veteran of World War II, died April 15, 2015. He served aboard the USS Fond du Lac, a troop ship that carried the 5th Marine Division, scheduled for the invasion of Japan. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Sherack, Joseph John, 75, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 7, 2015. He served at Loring Air Force Base in Maine. He was a member of Lakefield Post 4.

Rasmussen, Loren Dale, 79, National Guard veteran of

The Mission for Bill should consist of the people, places and things you feel are the absolute, must-see experiences unique to your city/town.

A Mission for Bill should be something only a local would know and a tourist would typically never experience. Bill Shatner will choose his picks from suggested missions and they will be basis of the video footage collected for the produced television show.

American Legion posts in and around Route 66 are urged to suggest a Mission for Bill. While the cities listed will serve as hubs for his adventures and the media, the ride is also interested in stopping at American Legion posts anywhere along the route if it provides interesting activities.

the Vietnam War, died May 7, 2015. He was a past commander of Blooming Prairie Post 52.

Powers, Dana Claire, 89, Navy veteran of World War II, died April 19, 2015. He was a member of Breckenridge Post 53, and a member of the last man's club.

Fagley, Allan, 94, Army veteran of World War II, died April 17, 2015. He went ashore in the third wave at Normandy on D-Day. He was a member of White Bear Lake Post 168.

Bertelson, Richard L., 92, Navy veteran of World War II, died May 2, 2015. He was a carrier-based fighter pilot and an "ace" during the war. He was a member of Chanhassen Post 580.

Schmitt, Kenneth G., 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 25, 2015. He was in the 127th Airborne Division and also served in the reserves. He was a member of Waconia Post 150.

Peterson, Richard, 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 23, 2015. He was the groundskeeper of the Legion baseball field for 30 years. He was a member of Princeton Post 216.

Viehauser, Art, 93, Army veteran of World War II, died April 29, 2015. He served in the Aleutian Islands. He was a member of Holdingford Post 211.

Winchell, Ricard M., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 30, 2015. He was a paramedic. He was a member of Maple Lake Post 131.

Glander, Clarence E., 82, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died April 16, 2015. He was a member of Red Wing Post 54.

Phillips, Seth R., 93, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died April 25, 2015. He was a pilot in the Pacific war zone. He was a member of Minneapolis Police and Fire 396. He was a past Fifth District Judge Advocate.

Ringhand, Byron A. 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 2, 2015. He was a member of Deerwood Post 557.

Grewe, William "Bucky," 86, Army veteran of World War II, died April 6, 2015. He served in Japan. He served in the MPs, and played basketball. He was a member of Gaylord Post 433.

Narveson, Allan, 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 19, 2015. He was a member of Dodge Center Post 384.

Rickert, Daniel J., 64, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 18, 2015. He served in the Pacific. He was a member of Brownton Post 143.

Siegel, Wayne A., 88, Army veteran of World War II, died April 27, 2015. He was a member of Wheaton Post 80.

Donnay, Frank, 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 2, 2015. He was a military policeman in Korea and Hawaii. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Boser, Ronald L., 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 26, 2015. He helped out around the post. He was a member of Hillman Post 602.

Christensen, Gerald L., 69, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 6, 2015. He was a member of Hopkins Post 320.

Maney, LeRoy J., 84, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died April 24, 2015. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212 and served on the honor guard.

Raymond, Richard L., 77, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died April 21, 2015. He also served in the National Guard. He was a member of Deerwood Post 557.

Johnson, James, 88, Army veteran of World War II, died May 25, 2015. He was a past commander of North Branch Post 85.

Peters, Robert Frederick, 93, Army veteran of World War II, died April 19, 2015. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Ludwig, Joseph P. Jr., 91, Marine Corps veteran of World War II, died April 22, 2015. He served in the Pacific Islands and Korea. He was a member of Brainerd Post 255.

Obituary Policy

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

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

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

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

The Legionnaire reserves the right to edit all obituaries for style and brevity.