

2014 Department Convention Issue

The Minnesota American Legion and Auxiliary

Legionnaire



Volume 96, Number 7

For God and Country

July 2014

Moon, Schaffer square off for 2014-15 Department Commander position

This year's Department convention will feature a contest for state commander between Mike Schaffer of Fulda and Peggy Moon of St. Joseph.

It will be the only contested election for a Legion officer at the convention, which will be held July 17-19 at Rochester.

On the Auxiliary side, which for several years has featured a contested election for second vice president, there is one candidate, Carol Kottom of Buffalo.

The convention will kick off with activities on Wednesday, July 16. The American Legion Executive Committee will meet at 7 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel.

On the Auxiliary side, there will be a series of meetings during Wednesday including the executive committee at 1 p.m. at the Windsor Hall III at the Kahler Grand Hotel. There will be a reception for Northwest Division National Vice President Patricia Steranka of Colorado at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Elizabethan Ballroom at the Kahler.

Complete convention programs for the Legion and Auxiliary are on page 6-7 of this convention issue.

The Legion convention will begin at 9 a.m. Thursday, July 17, at the Mayo Civic Center Presentation Hall, with Commander Mike Ash presiding.

The morning session will feature greetings from Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner



MIKE SCHAFFER



PEGGY MOON

Larry Shellito and Minneapolis VA Medical Director Patrick Kelly.

A joint memorial service will be held, in conjunction with the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion, **Continued on Page 11**

Minneapolis VA director: Support is still strong

By Al Zdon

To put it all in perspective, while the ongoing VA investigations are casting the national veterans' health care agency in a negative light, the VA health care offered locally is regarded as still quite good.

Beginning with the scandal in Phoenix, where VA officials apparently lied about wait list problems, every day seems to bring a new headline about poor performance by the VA. Last month, the top official in the VA resigned.

"There's been lots of negative stories in the media," said Minneapolis VA Director Patrick Kelly. "But our experience has been overwhelmingly strong support by the veterans for the Minneapolis medical center.

"Sometimes we don't get it right, and that's when we need to put it right and make sure we don't do it again," Kelly said. "But there's no reason for veterans to lose confidence in the VA system. We will be better. We want to make improvements."

Kelly addressed the major concerns in the recent investigations and Congressional scrutiny including wait lists, staffing and quality of care.

"Our wait times are considerably better than the average around the country, but that's always an area that needs improvement."

Kelly said Minneapolis and Rochester facilities in a recent VA audit were singled out for further investigation, two of 112 VA facilities in the country at which the VA auditors will be doing a follow up. No reason was given by the

Continued on Page 20

19 resolutions slated for the convention

A total of 19 resolutions will be dealt with at the 96th Minnesota American Legion Department Convention in Rochester.

The most common of the resolutions, offered by several districts, calls for any district delegates to the national convention that won't be used by the districts to be added to the Department's delegates at large. The resolution, if passed as it is, would go into effect this year.

There has been an ongoing discussion within the Department about not sending a full delegation to the National Convention – especially when some districts do not send their full complement.

Other resolutions include: (The entire list of resolutions begins on Page 9.)

-- Calling for a special prosecutor to investigate the Department of Veterans Affairs.

-- Having a national training program for flag etiquette at sports events.

-- Calling for each district in Minnesota to have at least one team in the state baseball tournaments.

Minnesota Legion Baseball has gone to a zone system whereby every team in the state participates in the playoffs, but there is no guarantee that every district will have a team in the tournament.

-- Change the appointment process

Continued on Page 3

Boys State at Marshall



A candidate for a city office at Boys State tells his peers why he is qualified for the job. A Boys State story is on page 2 and Girls and Boys State pictures are on pages 12-13.

Charlotte will host '14 National Convention

The 2014 National Convention will come back to Charlotte, North Carolina, this year, Aug. 22-28 at the Charlotte Convention Center. The convention was held there in 2002.

The Minnesota delegation to the 96th national convention will be housed at the Sheraton Charlotte Hotel at 555 South McDowell Street. The room rate is \$151 per night, and there is a \$25 registration fee for each person attending.

The Department has reserved 100 rooms. Delegates and others must make room reservations through the Department headquarters. Parking at the Minnesota hotel is \$13 a

Continued on Page 19

Vietnam vet presents event at St. Cloud

A Minnesota Vietnam veteran has written a multi-media presentation about his experience in war that will be produced in St. Cloud. Jerry Hansen, who served and was wounded in Vietnam in the 1960s, has written "The Wedding of Tomorrow and Sorrow," a memoir in prose and poetry that will be combined with music and photography.



JERRY HANSEN

There will be four performances, August 21-24, at the Pioneer Place on Fifth Theater, 22 5th Ave. S. in St. Cloud.

Hansen said he's aware the presentation will be breaking new ground, combining his writing with special music. Photographs, mainly of the Vietnam War, will be shown on two screens during the play.

The main thread of the multi-media play will be Hansen's words. He is the recipient of the 1990 Loft-McKnight Award for Poetry, and also was a 2009 Bush Artist Fellow in Poetry.

"It doesn't have to be truthful," Hansen said. "But it has to tell the truth. At least my truth."

In addition to the poetry, there will be 10 longer prose monologs through the presentation.

Hansen trained with 101st Airborne and was sent to Vietnam. He was wounded in the chest and had to be evacuated by helicopter. He spent seven weeks in a hospital in Japan.

The play will be directed by Brother Paul Vincent Niebauer, a Benedictine Monk at St. John's Abby. He has been a teacher and director, including a 13-year stint as a circus ring-leader.

Dwight Gunderson, a professional actor, will do the readings. Gunderson is a well-known Minnesota actor who has performed on various stages including the History Theater.

After Hansen left the Army, he volunteered for seven years in East Africa with the Maryknoll Fathers, working with disabled children.

"I've always loved writing, but it was a full 20 years after I got back from Vietnam before I started my book of poems."

Part of the play will be a look at his relationship with David C. "Pappy" Papesh, a close friend who was killed in Vietnam by a sniper in 1967.

"I suppose in some ways, it will be closer to liturgy than a play. I hope it will take people towards reflection, how wasteful war is in so many different ways."

Hansen, who is the nephew of Past National Commander Dan Ludwig, said he is now in the position of stepping back and letting the director and performers take his work to the stage. "It's never been done before, so until it comes together, we don't know what direction it will take."

Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$19 for seniors and students. The performances from Aug. 21-23 are at 7:30 at night, while the Sunday, Aug. 24, performance will be a 2 p.m. matinee.

Tickets may be purchased by going to the Pioneer Place website, www.ppfive.com.



HANSEN AND HIS FRIEND DAVID PAPESH

South Haven young man is 2014 Boys State governor

Tucker Pearson, South Haven, Minnesota, has been chosen by his peers as the 2014 Boys State Governor.

Pearson recently completed his junior year at the Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville,

Georgia. He is the son of Russ and Betsy Pearson of South Haven.

He also won the Chic and Bill Zweiner Award for the Outstanding Boys Stater and he will be a senator to Boys Nation.

Rory Calabria,

Plymouth, won the Freisleben/Way Award for Boys Nation Senator, and will join Pearson at Boys Nation.

Calabria is a junior at Maple Grove High School and is the son of Mark and Marie Calabria.



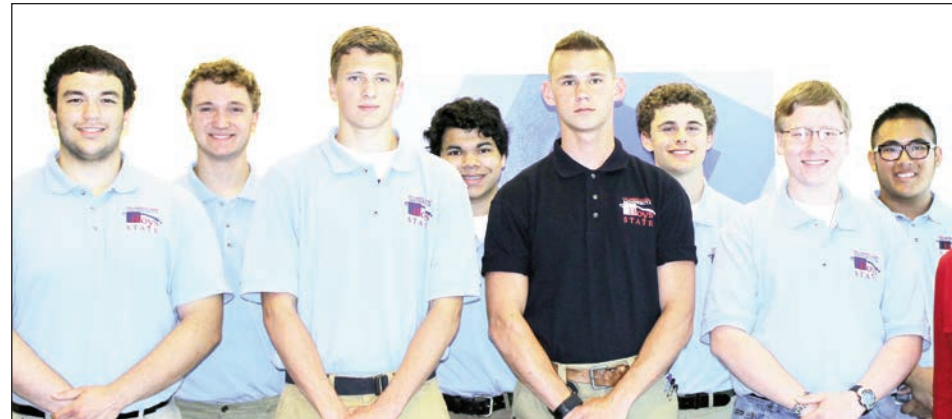
TUCKER PEARSON

Lucas Mumm, Pequot Lakes, won the Lee Krough Award and will be first alternate at Boys Nation. He is a junior at Pequot Lakes High School.

Paul Mako, Lakeville, won the Abrose Koll Award and is second alternate to Boys Nation.

He is a junior at Lakeville North High School.

Boys State was held at Southwest State University at Marshall.



CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS -- Elected by their peers at the 2014 Boys State at Marshall were: Front: Secretary of State Hamzeh Saltri, Lt. Governor Benjamin Ertl, Governor Tucker Pearson, Attorney General Caleb Christensen. In back: Associate Justice Nicholas Battis, Chief Justice Pedro Angulo-Umana, Associate Justice William Cipos, Auditor Kristopher Nguyen.

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Help for veterans and families

Endorsements

Barbknecht endorsed for Alt. NEC

Bill Barbknecht has been endorsed by Underwood Post 489 for Alternate NEC for the years of 2015-2017. He has also been endorsed by the Ninth District.

Barbknecht has held most chairmanships and offices including Post Commander at Post 58 Browns Valley, Post 153 Barnesville, and Post 489 Underwood. He is currently membership chairman for the post, which has exceeded the previous year for the past five years.

He has served in many capacities for the Ninth District, including Commander in 1982-1983 and currently is the District Judge Advocate.

He has served the Department of Minnesota as VA&R chairman, Finance Committee chair-

man, National Security, two terms as membership chairman and Department Vice Commander. Barbknecht was Department Commander in 1994-1995. At this time Bill is chairman of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust.

The National Appointments include Veterans and Rehabilitation Committee, Region Six Chairman, Vice Chairman of Merchant Marine, Distinguished Guest Committee, and National Security.

He was in the Marine Corps for two years and in the Air National Guard for 24 years.

His wife Carol served as Department President in 2008-2009 and is currently the Auxiliary Chairman of Finance for Minnesota.



BILL BARBKNECHT

They have a son Jason and daughter Trish, and three grandchildren.

Resolutions at Convention

Continued from Page 1

for the Legislative Committee to four-year terms in order to provide continuity on the committee.

-- Change the eligibility dates for the Korean War to consider the conflict ongoing, and that all dates since the war would now be eligible for membership.

-- A resolution calling for all committees that have multi-year appointments to always have the senior member as chairman. After the chairman's year, he or she would leave the com-

mittee.

-- Forbidding members of committees with multi-year terms from being re-appointed.

-- Require the federal Veterans Benefit Administration to have at least 50 percent veterans in its workforce.

-- Calling for changes in the American Legion Riders backpatch.

-- Asking for a new Minnesota Veterans Home in Montevideo.

-- Calling for all American Legion Baseball teams to be sponsored by

and have a business manager from a local post. No outside sponsored posts would be allowed.

-- Supporting copper-nickel mining in northeastern Minnesota.

There was also a resolution from the SAL Detachment Convention endorsing Dennis Henkemeyer of Bagley for National SAL vice president.

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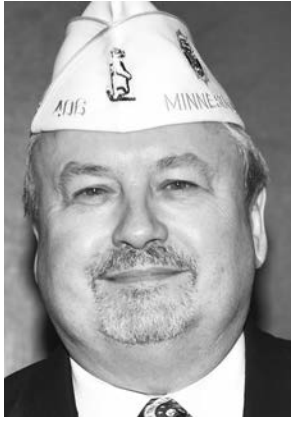
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COMMANDER'S COLUMN

By Mike Ash



...And so I face the final curtain... Next month you'll have a new smiling face to greet you on the inside of the Legionnaire. What an outstanding year it has been. Because of you, we have celebrated successful post revitalizations, had a rewarding National Commander's tour, are putting the final touches on a new education center at Legionville, and continue to have some of the most successful Legion programs in the nation. Although it's been challenging at times, it was well worth it – again, made worthwhile by those post, unit, squadron, and chapter members who stepped up and said, "Challenge? What challenge? This is just who we are."

Also the support I received from Legion staff, the Department Vice-Commanders, the District Commanders and all the post/district/department officers and committees has been nothing short of amazing – all I had to do was ask. Sometimes I didn't have to do that – several times I'd get calls or emails that said - "Commander, I notice you're supposed to be in two places at the same time, and although I don't doubt you could somehow achieve that, I would be happy to represent you at one of the functions." Being able to work closely with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and the other VSO leaders in the Commanders Task Force has reinforced my belief that "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts." I think it shone brightest when we stood side-by-side and showed our concern for veterans as we gathered together on Capitol Hill.

I recently checked out the progress of the new education center at Legionville. It has truly come together, but there are finishing touches that must be made. They can use three things – tapers, sanders and painters. Please remember the camp over the summer and if you have any free time, please give the camp manager Roy Kruger a call and let him know you'd like to stop by, throw some sticky stuff up on the wall, use some sandpaper, or would be willing to slop some paint up on the wall (doesn't sound so technical, does it?).

Opinion

Darwin H. Berg, 1943-2014

By Al Zdon

I first met Darwin Berg back in the 90s when he was a vice director of the Minnesota American Legion Baseball program. In those days, the committee included a preponderance of ornery and irascible old buzzards who had opinions on any issue the size of Mack Trucks. My thought at that time about Darwin was, "What's a nice guy like you doing with a group like this?"

And then, as the years went by, he was elected director of the program by his peers. And again, I had my doubts. How can an easy going, thoughtful guy like Darwin survive in this shark tank?

Over the next decade, Darwin Berg taught me and mentored me about what real leadership was. Darwin was the eye of the hurricane, the rock of Gibraltar. While the dynamics of the baseball committee raged around him, Darwin provided a calming and reasoning dimension to the discussion. He listened to people. He sought wisdom, not rhetoric. Through the storms and rough water that the baseball program encountered, Darwin's hand at the tiller was sure and steady.

But when it came time to take a stand, and everyone had had their say, Darwin took a stand and he did so with

Mail Call

Response to Commander To the Editor:

Commander Mike Ash in his June column continues to pride himself on keeping in place a Minnesota Veterans Home policy that gives non-veterans the same nursing home admission rights as veterans. The Minneapolis Home has a capacity of less than 750 nursing home beds. With 2,000 veterans on the admission waiting lists, many will die or be placed in a private nursing home before their number comes up.

Minnesota's Veterans Homes were built and are maintained for veterans with public tax dollars. Commander Ash will deny deserving veterans admission to these homes

As of this writing, we haven't gotten a final tally on Consolidated Post Reports, but having been approached by several district commanders, it sounds as if the last-minute effort paid off. A word to all the incoming district commanders, if you stay on top of these reports from the beginning of the year, you'll have less wear-and-tear on your vice commanders and yourself as your year winds to a close. Here's where mentorship and the passing of the torch becomes critical – all the district commanders have done a spectacular job, but remember, pass on what you've learned to the newest fish in the barrel – because as they say "You don't know, what you don't know."

I've just returned from Legionville and the Sons of the American Legion Detachment Convention. They elected a great leader in Dennis Henkemeyer and the changing of the guard begins. The SAL reported on what they've done during the past 12 months and what they plan to do in the new Legion year – they have truly hit the ground running. Just a reminder to all posts, if you have an SAL squadron, work with them and give them the same support you expect from them – they are a true asset.

We're still about 3,600 short on membership. Department Membership Director Tom will be more than happy for you to keep turning those in – right up to December 30th (however, if you could do that by July 30th, he'd be much happier). Although the 2015 cards are now moving out, we need to make sure we don't leave out those who "forgot" to pay in 2014. So contact your unpaid members and let them know, it's not too late. If your finance officer/treasurer won't have a coronary, maybe you can swing a special one-time deal for them and offer them 2014 and 2015 at a discounted rate?

Having traveled thousands of miles and being able to share the stage with dignitaries such as MDVA Commissioner Shellito, Governor Dayton, Supreme Court Chief Justice Lorie Gildea, and former Minnesota Vikings coach Bud Grant – I had to vacillate between being humbled and being tired. I'd like to thank all those who helped me along the way. Thanks for the Facebook likes, the positive comments and commentary when I came to visit, and most of all the sincere friendship. Once I become a "has-been," I will always be available for questions, comments, concerns or just a listening post for all Legion, SAL, ALR and Auxiliary members.

Finally, let me thank my family, especially my wife Teresa (Army veteran, Department Public Relations Chair, as well as the long-suffering Mrs. Ash) – although I didn't consistently recognize her (on time) when we were together at functions, she was always there making sure my mug would appear on the Department Facebook page and supporting me.

strength and a solid vision of the future good.

It's no coincidence that Minnesota American Legion Baseball experienced a golden era under Berg's watch. Two national championships, two runners up. It was a summer program where over 5,000 student-athletes learned about teamwork and hard work and something about love of country. Of course, Darwin didn't do it himself. It starts with coaches and parents who run the teams and fight the battles at the local level. It has to do with kids who are willing to give up some of their summer for the love of the game. It continues with a solid team of district directors and state directors who keep all the moving parts moving.

But at the top, you need somebody who has the respect of everyone, somebody who has the energy and talent to do the job, and somebody whose leadership can raise a program to its highest potential.

I never stopped learning from Darwin, even when he knew it was time to gracefully step aside and let other talented people run the show.

Minnesota baseball has lost a true leader and its best friend. He made the program better, but, more importantly, he made all of us better.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be known as the children of God.

in favor of non-veterans who precede them on the waiting list.

In testimony before my committee, he said that in taking this position he is speaking for the 86,000 members of the Minnesota American Legion. I question that. Many veterans have approached me and said they believe priority in the Minnesota Veterans Homes should go to deserving veterans and all others should go to the back of the line.

**Rep. Jerry Newton
Coon Rapids**

Chaplain's Corner

By
Richard Wog



Greetings to all American Legion family members. To start off I want to thank you for letting me serve as your department Chaplain. It has truly been an honor to serve this year. I have learned so much, and believe me when you say you can teach an old dog new tricks; it's true. The best teachers I have had are you, the members of the great American Legion. When I started I thought it was going to be a cake walk. Little did I know what was involved with my duties as Chaplain. The trip to the Chaplain conference really opened my eyes by allowing me the chance to spend time with other department Chaplains; some who have been in their position for twenty years. The history each of them had experienced and the stories they had to share made me wonder. What am I doing here? But, when the conference was over I realized I was no different than each of them. It is God's way of showing we are all equal in his eyes. I enjoyed sharing time with all of you, whether at a rally or at a post meeting, you made me feel welcome. The words of encouragement and your comments on my articles mean a lot to me; and the cards and letters helped also. Sometimes you wonder, does anyone read what you write? I know now you do.

I have driven a lot of miles and I thank God every time I get home safely. Just as each of us pray to our God for safe travel. The miles I have driven this year to attend the rallies and meetings have allowed me to meet and visit with WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans and hear about the events in some of their military lives. Even with what they went through, not one ever said they would not do it again for their God and their country. They were proud of their service as we are proud of each of them. As we talk about our veterans, let us never forget those who are in our Veteran's Homes, which I know are full. With the government cut backs there are just not enough rooms. We as veterans need to push our congress people to try to find a way to help. I know I should probably stay out of politics, but this is our veterans I'm talking about. Make that call, write that letter. Now I'll get off my soap box.

In my last letter I touched on the Ten Commandments. I was so happy to hear and read your comments. It seemed ironic that Sunday, our pastor was talking about them also. He talked about the first three commandments and how they are important in our lives. The third commandment is to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy; with all that's going on in our lives, that day seems to be set aside for other things. Our pastor pointed out that on any given Sunday only thirty percent of people attend their church of worship. That got my head up. Can that be true? Yes, it is; it was in a survey. As I was driving one day I saw this sign, "Have a wonderful summer, please, don't forget your summer church service." The department convention will soon be here. The memorial service will be held July 17th at 11:15 am. I am asking each of you to take the time to remember those that we have lost. It is right to pay them this tribute.

I would be remiss if I didn't take this chance to say happy belated birthday to the U.S. Army founded June 14, 1777. You have done well. Let me leave you with this quote by Grandma Moses, "Live for today, that is the way it has always been, and will always be."

God bless, see you soon, and be safe – for God and country.

The Minnesota Legionnaire

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Al Zdon, Editor

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What's Happening

Relief Grants Available

Veterans their families may be eligible for a disaster relief grant of up to \$1,000 if they have not received any state or federal assistance. The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs is offering Disaster Relief Grants to veterans in counties that have been declared in emergency status by the governor.

Veterans should contact their local CVSO to determine if they are eligible.

Minnesota Legion members may also qualify for National Emergency Fund grants. Up to \$1,500 is available for those suffering losses from the heavy rains and floods. Posts can receive up to \$5,000.

Applicants must have been displaced from their homes, and they must provide receipts showing the cost of temporary housing, food, etc. For more information, go to www.legionl.org.

Nominations Open for Vets

Nominations are now open for the 2014 Veterans's Voice Award in Minnesota. The award is open to both younger and older vets through the Minnesota Humanities Center.

Nominations are due no later than July 9. The award is for those vets who have served honorably and are making extraordinary contributions to their community.

For more information, go to the website: mnhum.org/vets.

Metro StandDown

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans is offering the Metro StandDown on Aug. 5-6 at the Boy Scout Base Camp at Fort Snelling.

Services for veterans include meals, clothing, VA benefits, legal assistance, Veteran's Court, dental, optometry, haircuts, housing counsel, employment assistance, AA/NA

meetings, mental health counseling, wellness and more. For faster registration, veterans should have a copy of their DD-214. For more information, call 651-200-4750 at MACV.

Vietnam Exhibit Help

Help is needed for a new Vietnam exhibit at the Minnesota Military History Museum at Camp Ripley, near Little Falls.

Photos, stories and artifacts from Minnesota Vietnam veterans -- actually used or worn in Vietnam -- are needed from all branches of the service. Viet Cong and North Vietnamese artifacts are also sought.

The exhibit will tell the story through the words and photographs of Minnesotans who served.

For more information, contact Doug Bekke, curator of the museum, at 612-729-7651 or email dpbekke@yahoo.com.

5th Legacy Ride

The Minnesota American Legion Riders will be "riding for the children" again this year to raise money for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. The fund provides scholarships for children who had a parent killed while on active duty since 9/11.

There will be a kick-off part at the Richfield Post 435 on Thursday, July 31, starting at 5 p.m. The run will tour all ten districts during the first two weekends of August.

The run will end at the Coon Rapids Post 334 with a party on Sunday, Aug. 10, at noon.

For more information, go to the website: www.mnlegacyrun.org. The detail of the stops and information on how to donate is on the site.

Fair Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for both the regular Minnesota

American Legion booth at the fair, and for a special booth that the Legion will operate in a different part of the fair on the day the fair honors veterans.

The fair's Military Appreciation Day will be Tuesday, Aug. 26. Veterans and spouses can get in to the fair that day for \$8. If you would like to volunteer for this special booth, contact Tom Newman, 612-970-5402.

Help is also needed for the regular fair booth on Thursday, Aug. 28, and Labor Day, Sept. 1. Please contact Al Zdon at 651-291-1800.

Legal Clinics

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans is sponsoring a legal clinic at the Fargo VA on Wednesday, July 9, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. There will be attorneys, MACV staff, CVSOs and others available with legal help.

For more information, call Sara at 651-224-0292.

The St. Cloud VA and community partners are sponsoring a recurring legal clinic at the St. Cloud VA campus on the first and third Tuesday of the month from noon until 2 p.m. For an appointment or information, call 320-253-0138.

In addition, free legal consultation is available at the Montevideo CBOC from noon until 2 on the third Friday of every month. For an appointment, call 320-403-1051.

Vendors needed

Vendors are needed for the Fall Flea Market sponsored by the Apple Valley Auxiliary 1776. The market will be held on Saturday, Sept. 20. The sponsors are looking for sellers of wood products, household items, food and crafts. For information, call Marlene Heinzen, 651-423-2493.

Bemidji Vietnam Exhibit

Bemidji Post 14 will host a special Vietnam traveling exhibit for five days, July 3-Aug. 3 at the Beltrami County Fair. The exhibit is funded by community donations.

The exhibit will feature the Mobile Riverine Force Museum and memorial in a traveling trailer.

The exhibit commemorates the 50 years since the start of the Vietnam war in 1964.

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 POST 92 CONVENTION FUND. No credit cards will be accepted.

Registration at the door will be \$18.

Mail to:
Bill Born, American Legion Post 92 Office, 403 East Center St. Rochester, MN 55904

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.

Membership Chart

As of June 17, 2014

District	2014 Goal	Total 2013	Total 2014	Percent of Goal	Same Date '13
1	10,370	10,312	9,873	95.21	10,297
2	8,528	8,443	8,004	93.86	8,429
3	12,927	12,862	12,339	95.45	12,819
4	2,686	2,663	2,511	93.48	2,660
5	3,112	3,089	2,936	94.34	3,073
6	13,192	13,121	12,605	95.55	13,099
7	7,545	7,467	7,144	94.67	7,454
8	5,049	5,008	4,717	93.42	5,001
9	7,659	7,594	7,353	96.00	7,580
10	11,741	11,688	11,145	94.92	11,667
At-large	1,733	1,748	2,330	134.45	1,745
Totals	84,542	83,995	80,957	95.76	83,824

Preserving Minnesota's History

Give the gift of Minnesota military history to your loved one.

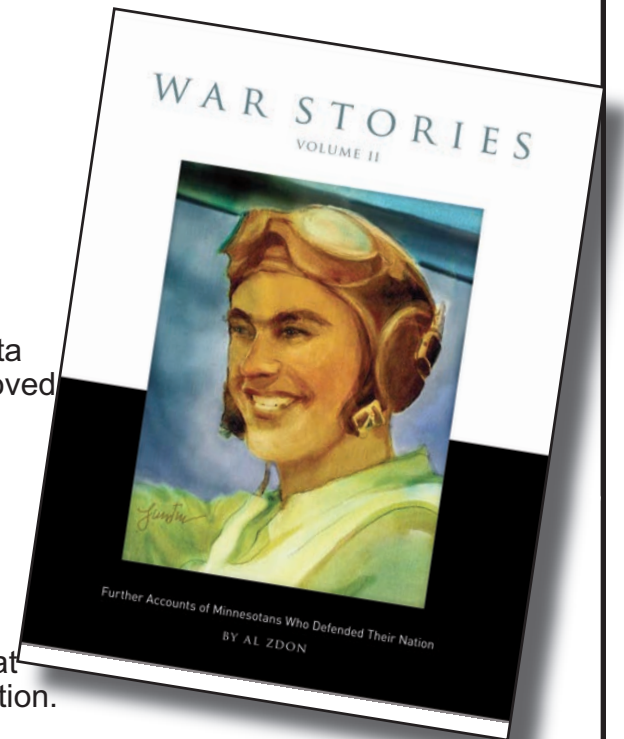
War Stories II has 35 stories about Minnesota veterans and over 300 pictures.

Books will be available at the Department Convention.

To order simply go to www.mnlegion.org. Credit cards accepted.

Or use the blank below.

Mail to: Books
Room 300A
20 West 12th Street
St. Paul, MN 55155



Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Please send me _____ copy(ies) of War Stories Volume II
Cost is \$29 per book. Includes shipping and handling.

Please send me _____ copy(ies) of War Stories Volume I
Cost is \$23 per book. Includes shipping and handling.

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Legion

Convention Program

96th

e 96th Annual Convention of The American Legion
Department of Minnesota
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA July 17-19, 2014

THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 17, 2014

7-8:00 a.m. CAUCUS OF ALL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES BY DISTRICTS

8:30-9 a.m. Music

9:00 a.m. AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION SESSIONS – Mayo Civic Center, Presentation Hall, Rochester
CALL TO ORDER: Mike Ash, Department Commander, St. Paul
ADVANCEMENT OF THE COLORS 2013 Champions, Hayfield Post 330
POW/MIA FLAG: Richard Gosse, NS/FR Committee, Wabasha
Gary Olson, Department Sergeant at Arms, Moorhead
INVOCATION: Richard Wog, Department Chaplain, Willmar
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
"THE PREAMBLE" — Recital by Commander and Delegates
GREETINGS: The Honorable Ardell F. Brede, Mayor, Rochester
Thomas Quick, Commander, WM. T. McCoy Post 92
Brian Medinnus, First District Commander, Austin
Reid Oberle, General Convention Chairman, Rochester

9:30 a.m. READING OF THE CONVENTION CALL: Randy Tesdahl, Department Adjutant
REPORT OF CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
REPORT OF CONVENTION RULES COMMITTEE
ADVANCE READING OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT RESOLUTIONS:
Don Walser, Department Judge Advocate, Hutchinson

9:45 a.m. GREETINGS: Larry Shellito, Commissioner, MN Department of Veterans Affairs
Patrick Kelly, Director, Minneapolis, VA Health Care System
Barry Bahl, Director, St. Cloud, VA Health Care System
Other Veterans Service Organizations
Neil Doyle, President, Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers
RESPONSE: Joe Niesen, Department Vice Commander, Cologne

10:00 a.m. "REPORTING NATIONALLY" – Ray DeZurik, National Executive Committeeman, Breezy Point

10:05 a.m. REPORT: Legionnaire Insurance Trust, Bill Barbknecht, Chairman, Underwood

10:10 a.m. REPORT: Minnesota American Legion Foundation, Lloyd Ricker, President, Dawson

10:15 a.m. REPORT: Armed Forces Service Center, Joe Jansen, Representative, Arden Hills

10:20 a.m. REPORT: Kathy Vitalis, Executive Director, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans

10:25 a.m. AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL NW DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT
Pat Steranka, Colorado

10:35 a.m. VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION: Phil Ringstrom, Dept. Rehabilitation Chairman, Sartell

10:50 a.m. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEES AND INSTRUCTIONS
Randy Tesdahl, Department Adjutant

11:00 a.m. RECESS

11:15 a.m. JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICE – Mayo Civic Center, Presentation Hall

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 17, 2014

1:00 p.m. MEETINGS OF ALL CONVENTION COMMITTEES.

2:00 p.m. GAMBLING SEMINAR, Mayo Civic Center, Presentation Hall
Moderator: Robert Hart, Legislative Committee Chairman, Stillwater

FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 18, 2014

7-8:00 a.m. CAUCUS OF ALL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES BY DISTRICTS —

8:30 a.m. CALL TO ORDER: Mike Ash, Department Commander, St. Paul
INVOCATION: Richard Wog, Department Chaplain, Willmar
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
"THE PREAMBLE": Recital by Commander and Delegates

8:45 a.m. REPORT: Credentials Committee, Lynne Nottage, Chairman, Minneapolis

8:50 a.m. YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES:
SAL REPORT: John Affolter, SAL Detachment Commander, Mankato
BOY SCOUT OF THE YEAR, Tom Hallett, Boy Scout Chairman, Mankato
2014 LEGION BOYS STATE REPRESENTATIVE
2014 ORATORICAL CONTEST WINNER, Tess Davis, Chairman, Princeton

9:10 a.m. REPORT: V4V, Marland Ronning, Maple Grove

9:20 a.m. REPORT: Jim Kellogg, President, Brain Science Foundation, Taopi

9:30 a.m. REPORT: Katy Ryan, Director, Voluntary Services, Minneapolis VA Health Care System

9:40 a.m. REPORT: Wayne Gilbertson, President, Legionville Corporation, Zimmerman

9:50 a.m. REPORT: Chuck Stone, Chairman, Veterans Pheasant Dinner, Owatonna

10:00 a.m. AWARDS PRESENTATIONS:
Dennis Blue, President, American Legion Hospital Assn., Coon Rapids
Terry Buraas, Children and Youth Chairman, Grand Forks, ND
Art Tobkin, Americanism Chairman, Bagley
Gary Weaver, Education Chairman, LaCrescent
James Blakesley, Safety-School Patrol Chairman, Aitkin
Tom Conway, Law and Order Chairman, Argyle
Steve Nelson, Blood Chairman, Chaska
Michael Schaffer, Trophies and Awards Chairman, Fulda
Dennis DeLong, Yearbook and Narrative History Books, Bloomington
Bob Locker, Community Service Chairman, Fridley
Denise Milton, Operation Post Home, Bagley
Robert Hart, Legislative Chairman, Stillwater
Bob Mace, Bowling Chairman, Waite Park

11:15 a.m. PRESENTATIONS BY:
David Heidebrink, Employment Committee Chairman, Hutchinson

11:30 a.m. GREETINGS: Scott Mills, Director Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS)
NATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICE AWARDS:
Ray DeZurik, National Executive Committeeman, Breezy Point
Phil Ringstrom, Rehabilitation Committee, Sartell
"PAT" CLIFF AWARD to Outstanding Post Service Officer

11:45 a.m. CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS

12:00 Noon RECESS

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 18, 2014

1:30 p.m. CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS

1:45 p.m. GREETINGS: Shirley Frederick, Department President, American Legion Auxiliary, Hackensack
Sandie Deutsch, Department Secretary, American Legion Auxiliary, St. Paul

2:00 p.m. CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS

2:30 p.m. FINAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS: Tom Fernlund, Department Membership Director, St. Cloud
Gold Brigade Winners - Premier Plaque - Other Membership Awards

3:00 p.m. NOMINATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICE

4:30 p.m. BENEDICTION
RETIREMENT OF THE COLORS
RECESS

VOTING AT MAYO CIVIC CENTER FOR ONE HOUR FROM TIME OF RECESS

FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 18, 2014

7:00 p.m. CONVENTION PARADE - 6:00 p.m. Parade Line-up

9:00 p.m. DISTRICT AND CANDIDATES OPEN HOUSES

SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 19, 2014

8:00-9:00 a.m. Voting at MAYO CIVIC CENTER

8:30 a.m. CONCERT: Ninth District Band

9:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER: Mike Ash, Department Commander, St. Paul
ADVANCEMENT OF THE COLORS: 2014 Color Guard Winner
THE NATIONAL ANTHEM - Led by Ninth District Band
INVOCATION: Richard Wog, Department Chaplain, Willmar
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
"THE PREAMBLE" - Recital by Department Commander and Delegates
"CONVENTION MEMORIAL SERVICE": Richard Wog, Department Chaplain, Willmar

9:15 a.m. REPORT: David Bode, Parade Coordinator, Nicollet
FINAL REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
REPORT AND PRESENTATIONS:
Mike Ash, Department Commander, St. Paul

9:20 a.m. REPORT: Mike Perry, American Legion Baseball Director, Minnetonka

9:45 a.m. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS AND INTRODUCTION OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
Presentation of Department Commander's Badge
Presentation of Past Department Commander's Insignia by Mike Ash's Family
Presentation of Miniature Department Colors to Retiring Commander
Don Pankake, Past Department Commander, Hutchinson
FIVE DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDERS - without numerical designation
CHAPLAIN
HISTORIAN
SERGEANT AT ARMS
MEMBER OF PUBLICATION BOARD - for three-year term
ELECTION OF DELEGATES-AT-LARGE TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION
FIVE ALTERNATES-AT-LARGE TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
BENEDICTION
RETIREMENT OF THE COLORS
ADJOURNMENT

Auxiliary Convention Program

95th

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
 Department Convention, July 17-19, 2014
 Kahler Grand Hotel, Rochester, Minnesota

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

8:00 a.m. Department of Minnesota Girls State Meeting - Directors Room
 10:30 a.m. Department Ad-Hoc Committee of Minnesota Creative Arts
 12:00 noon Department Finance Committee Meeting - Mayo Brothers Room
 1:00 p.m. Department Executive Committee Meeting - Windsor Hall III
 3:00 p.m. Registration Opens - Rochester American Legion Post #92
 7:00 p.m. Reception for NW Division National Vice President Patricia Steranka of the American Legion Auxiliary and other Distinguished Guests (Open to Everyone) - Elizabethan Ballroom

THURSDAY, JULY 17

7:00 a.m. Registration Opens - Heritage Hall Foyer
 7:30 a.m. Briefing and Rehearsal for the Processional - Heritage Hall
 7:30 a.m. District Caucuses (10) meet -
 8:00 a.m. Convention Credentials Committee Meeting - Mayo Brothers Room
 8:00 a.m. Convention Rules Committee Meeting - Watson Room
 9:00 a.m. Daily Roll Call of District Presidents - Sandie Deutsch, Dept. Sec'y
 9:00 a.m. Auxiliary session convenes - Sandie Deutsch, Dept. Sec'y
 9:05 a.m. Processional - ALL COLORS (see processional line-up)
 9:10 a.m. Call to Order - Shirley Frederick, Department President
 Invocation - Dolly Zitur, Department Chaplain
 Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag - Jean Walker, Americanism Chairman
 The National Anthem - Jean Walker
 Preamble to the Constitution - Karen Thygeson, Constitution and Bylaws Chairman
 9:20 a.m. POW/MIA Remembrance - Raleen Tolzmann, National Security Chairman
 9:30 a.m. Welcome to Rochester
 Sharon Kingsley, Auxiliary Convention Chairman and President, Rochester Unit #92, Jill Mueller, 1st District President, Thomas Quick, Post #92 Commander
 Brian Medinnus, 1st District Commander
 Tim Weaver, 1st District SAL Commander
 Reid Oberle, The American Legion Convention Chairman Post #92
 9:30 a.m. Response to Welcomes - Chris Ronning, Department First Vice President
 9:35 a.m. Greetings - The Honorable Ardell Brede, Mayor of Rochester
 9:40 a.m. Presentation and Introduction of National Northwestern Division Vice President of the American Legion Auxiliary - Patricia Steranka, Dept. of Colorado
 Address by Vice President Steranka
 10:00 a.m. Presentation of Distinguished Guests
 Chris Ronning, Sandra Fredrickson, Raleen Tolzmann, Linda Thompson, Evelyn Starr, Kris Nelson, Marie Goede
 Lori Skallerud, Norma Tramm, Peggy Tesdahl, Carol Holmgren, Ella Dokken
 Joyce Olson, Opal Stokes, Beverly Otterness, Doris Ann Werlinger
 10:05 a.m. Response for the Distinguished Guests - Raleen Tolzmann, National Executive Committeewoman
 10:10 a.m. Greetings - Larry Shellito, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs
 10:15 a.m. Preliminary Report of Convention Credentials Committee - Doris Lafayette, Chairman
 10:20 a.m. Reading of the Call to Convention - Reading of the 2013 Department Convention Minutes - Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
 10:25 a.m. Report of the Convention Rules Committee - Carolyn Albertson, Chairman
 10:30 a.m. Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee, Minnesota Disaster Fund, Raleen Tolzmann, Chairman
 10:35 a.m. Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee, Minnesota Creative Arts Festival, Sandra Fredrickson, Chairman
 10:40 a.m. Nominations of candidates for: Department President
 Department First Vice President
 Department Second Vice President
 10:45 a.m. Remarks by candidates for Department Offices
 11:00 a.m. Nomination of delegates-at-large
 11:05 a.m. Announcements
 11:10 a.m. Recess
 11:15 a.m. Memorial Service - The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion - Presentation Hall, Mayo Civic Center

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 17

2:00 p.m. Meeting of the Convention Committees

2:00 p.m. Gambling Seminar - Mayo Civic Center - Presentation Hall

THURSDAY EVENING, JULY 17

7:00 p.m. Department President Shirley Frederick's Reception for her Official Family and Special Guests (invitation only) - Elizabethan Ballroom

FRIDAY, JULY 18

7:00 a.m. Registration Opens -
 8:00 a.m. District Caucuses (10) meet
 9:00 a.m. Daily Roll Call of District Presidents - Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
 9:00 a.m. Call to Order - Shirley Frederick, Department President
 Invocation - Dolly Zitur, Department Chaplain
 Supplemental Report of Convention Credentials Committee - Doris Lafayette, Chairman
 9:10 a.m. Presentation of the District Presidents
 Jill Mueller, Jeannette Mertens, Joanne Joachim, Paula Davis, Annette Bray
 Diane Gustad, Patricia Ecker, Betty Manginen, Jennifer Morken, Donna Redepenning
 Response for the District Presidents
 Paula Davis, Fourth District President
 9:25 a.m. Recognition of the Department Office staff - Shirley Frederick, Department President
 9:30 a.m. Presentation of The American Legion Legion Department Commander Mike Ash
 SAL Detachment Commander John Affolter and Adjutant Doug Bible
 Department Adjutant, Randy Tesdahl
 9:50 a.m. The Honorable Mark Dayton, Governor, State of Minnesota

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

10:20 a.m. Convention Committee Report - Children and Youth, Jodi Meckle
 10:25 a.m. Chairman Convention Committee Report
 American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State, Suzette Maluchnik,
 10:30 a.m. Greetings - Anna Gardner 2014 Governor of Minnesota Girls State, sponsored by Brainerd Unit #255
 10:35 a.m. Convention Committee Report - Junior Activities, Mary Kuperus, Chairman
 10:40 a.m. Greetings - 2013-2014 Department Honorary Junior President, Kaitlyn Fernlund, Waite Park

FAMILY SUPPORT POD REPORTS

10:45 a.m. Convention Committee Report
 Americanism, Jean Walker, Chairman
 Announcement of Americanism Essay Winners
 10:55 a.m. Convention Committee Report - Community Service, Patti Coleman, Chairman
 11 a.m. Convention Committee Report - Education, Louise Kleiboer, Chairman
 11:05 a.m. Convention Committee Report - Memorial, Dolly Zitur, Chairman
 11:10 a.m. Report on The Brain Science Foundation - Mary Efta
 11:20 a.m. Report on The American Legion Family Hospital Association - Dennis Blue, President
 11:25 a.m. Announcements
 11:30 a.m. Recess
 11:30 a.m. Past Department Presidents' Luncheon - Michael's Restaurant

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 18

1:30 p.m. Call to Order - Shirley Frederick, Department President
 1:35 p.m. Report on Legionville, Wayne Gilbertson, President, Legionville Corp.
 1:40 p.m. Report on Convention Corporation, Phil Bellefeuille, President
 1:45 p.m. Presentation - Auxiliary Bowling Trophy - Bob Mace & John Torma, Legion Bowling Chairmen

ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT REPORTS

1:50 p.m. Convention Committee Report - Constitution and Bylaws, Karen Thygeson, Chairman
 1:55 p.m. Convention Committee Report - Resolutions, Marsha Bible, Chairman
 2:00 p.m. Convention Committee Report - Finance, Carol Barbknecht, Chairman
 2:05 p.m. Convention Committee Report - History, Mary Hendrickson, Chairman
 2:10 p.m. Convention Committee Report - Past Presidents Parley, Marie Goede, Chairman
 2:15 p.m. Presentation of the Past Department Presidents - Shirley Frederick, Department President
 2:25 p.m. Response for the Past Department Presidents - Lori Skallerud, Past Department President
 2:30 p.m. Memorial Service for Past Department Presidents - Marie Goede, Chairman

VETERAN/MILITARY SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY

2:40 p.m. Congressman Tim Walz, representing

2:50 p.m.

2:55 p.m.

3:00 p.m.

3:05 p.m.

3:15 p.m.

3:20 p.m.

3:30 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

3:45 p.m. Report on the Auxiliary Emergency Fund - Lynn Hall, Chairman
 3:50 p.m. Convention Committee Report - Leadership, Carol Kottom, Chairman
 3:55 p.m. Convention Committee Report - Membership, Barbara Klehr, Chairman
 4:00 p.m. Department President Convention Committee Report - Public Relations, Judy Ackerman, Chairman
 4:05 p.m. Announcements
 4:10 p.m. Recess
 4:30 p.m. Musical Extravaganza "Disney Songs" - Heritage Hall - Dee Dee Buckley, Director

FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 18

7:00 p.m. Parade

SATURDAY, JULY 19

7:00 a.m. Registration Opens - West Corridor
 9:00 a.m. Daily Roll Call of District Presidents - Dept Secretary Sandie Deutsch
 9:00 a.m. Call to Order - Shirley Frederick, Department President
 Invocation - Dolly Zitur, Chaplain
 Supplemental Report of Convention Credentials Committee - Doris Lafayette, Chairman
 9:10 a.m. Voting on the Constitution & By-Laws, Standing Rules Changes
 9:20 a.m. 9th District Band, Vernon Kuhn, President
 9:30 a.m. Final Report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee - Karen Thygeson, Chairman
 Final Report of the Resolutions Committee - Marsha Bible, Chairman
 9:40 a.m. Presentation of Department President's Memory Book - Wanda Anderson, Chairman
 9:45 a.m. Presentation of the Department Convention Chairman and Committee
 Sharon Kingsley, Auxiliary General Chairmen, Special introductions and thank-you's, Shirley Frederick, Department President
 9:50 a.m. Unfinished business
 9:55 a.m. New business
 10:10 a.m. Final Report of the Credentials Committee - Doris Lafayette, Chairman
 Election of Officers - Report of the Election Committee, Darlene Wondra, Judge of Elections
 10:20 a.m. Judge of Elections.
 Department President
 Department First Vice President
 Department Second Vice President
 Delegates-at-large
 Announcement of the 2014-15 National Executive Committeewoman and Alternate NEC
 1. Ratification of the 14 delegates financed by the Department
 2. Ratification of delegates elected at District Conventions
 3. Ratification of alternates elected at District Conventions
 4. Election of alternates-at-large
 Retirement of Department and Past National Presidents' Colors
 Installation of Incoming 2014-2015 Department Officers and District Presidents - Karen Thygeson
 Presentation of Department President's Pin to Newly Elected Department President
 Presentation of Past Department President's Pin - Kris Nelson
 Benediction - Dolly Zitur
 Retirement of All Colors
 Adjournment of 2014 Department

Convention Rules

To the Post Commanders:

The Rules Committee submits the following proposed Rules for the Convention to be held at Rochester, Minnesota, July 17, 18, 19, 2014.

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 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 second 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:

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	Brian Medinnus	Austin
Second	Jennifer Kafka	Blue Earth
Third	Mark J Dvorak	Le Center
Fourth	Larry Ryan	Oakdale
Fifth	Robert Johnson	Minneapolis
Sixth	Vern Massie	Park Rapids
Seventh	Not represented	
Eighth	Jerry St. Michel	Grand Rapids
Ninth	Tom Norgaard	Shevlin
Tenth	Richard C. Juhl	Watertown

Department Commander (vote for one)	
Peggy Moon	
Mike Schaffer	
Write In	

Department Vice Commander (Vote for 5)	
Glenn Mueller	
Arne Gynild	
Dennis DeLong	
Mel Buessler	
Carl Hendrickson	
Write In	
Write In	

Chaplain (vote for one)	
Richard Wog	
Write In	

Historian (vote for one)	
Gary Olson	
Write In	

Sergeant-at-Arms (vote for one)	
Clinton Burt	
Write In	
Board of Publication (vote for one)	
Joe Bayer	
Write In	

2014 Resolutions

RESOLUTION 1

The following Resolution originated from the 3rd District in convention at Faribault, MN and was adopted by the 3rd District and is submitted for consideration by the 2014 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 17-19, 2014.

Unfilled District Delegate Positions to National Convention

WHEREAS, from time to time districts in The Department of Minnesota do not elect a complete slate of delegates to the National Convention, and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of The American Legion and The Department of Minnesota to have all the National Delegate positions filled, and

WHEREAS, it would be reasonable that any unfilled District Delegate position be filled as a Department Delegate At Large position at the following Department Convention, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that any National Convention Delegate positions unfilled at a District Convention shall be added to the number of Department Delegates At Large to be elected by that year's convention, and elected by that convention, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be effective with the close of business of the 2014 Department of Minnesota Convention, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the Department of Minnesota Convention to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 17, 18 and 19, 2014, for concurring action.

RESOLUTION 2

The following Resolution originated from the 3rd District in convention at Faribault, MN and was adopted by the 3rd District and is submitted for consideration by the 2014 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester,

Minnesota, July 17-19, 2014.

Special Prosecutor to investigate the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

WHEREAS, The American Legion National Commander, Dan Dellinger, called for a leadership change at the Department of Veterans Affairs and specifically called for the resignations of Eric Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Under Secretary of Health Robert Petzel and Under Secretary of Benefits Allison Hickey due to poor oversight and failed leadership; and

WHEREAS, It is widely reported that a number of VA Hospitals have engaged in various waiting list schemes and procedural bypasses for the specific purpose of overstating organizational effectiveness and hence awarding bonuses or other consideration to specific employees; and

WHEREAS, An undetermined number of veterans have been denied timely medical care resulting in death or unnecessary deterioration of their health; and

WHEREAS, A culture of indifference and fraud permeates some VA facilities in violation of medical oaths, fiduciary responsibility and moral codes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Legion continues to advocate for the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to press for a special prosecutor to be assigned to investigate and vigorously prosecute any VA Hospital or facility employees engaged in fraudulent practices designed to improperly award bonuses or other financial or meritorious awards to the perpetrator, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the Department of Minnesota Convention to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 17, 18 and 19, 2014, for concurring action, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that if approved this resolution be forwarded to the National Convention to be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28, 2014, for concurring action.

RESOLUTION 3

The following Resolution originated from the 3rd District in convention at Faribault, MN and was adopted by the 3rd District and is submitted for consideration by the 2014 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 17-19, 2014.

Leadership Change at U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

WHEREAS, The American Legion National Commander, Dan Dellinger, called for a leadership change at the Department of Veterans Affairs and specifically called for the resignations of Eric Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Under Secretary of Health Robert Petzel and Under Secretary of Benefits Allison Hickey due to poor oversight and failed leadership; and

WHEREAS, It is widely reported that a number of VA Hospitals have engaged in various waiting list schemes and procedural bypasses for the specific purpose of overstating organizational effectiveness and hence awarding bonuses or other consideration to specific employees; and

WHEREAS, An undetermined number of veterans have been denied timely medical care resulting in death or unnecessary deterioration of their health; and

WHEREAS, A culture of indifference and fraud permeates some VA facilities in violation of medical oaths, fiduciary responsibility and moral codes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED That the American Legion continues to advocate for the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to press for leadership change and accountability within the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the Department of Minnesota Convention to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 17, 18 and 19, 2014, for concurring action, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that if approved this resolution be forwarded to the National Convention to be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28, 2014, for concurring action.

RESOLUTION 4

The following Resolution originated from American Legion Post 50, Wabasha, MN and was adopted by the 1st District in convention at Austin, MN and is submitted for consideration by the 2014 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 17-19, 2014.

National Training Program for Flag Etiquette at Sports Events

WHEREAS, The National Flag of the United States of America, often referred as the American Flag is our Nation Emblem; and

WHEREAS, The flag has become a powerful symbol of Americanism, and is proudly flown on many occasions, with giant outdoor flags used by retail outlets to draw customers and to rouse attendance and participants at sporting events; and

WHEREAS, Athletes from the United States participate in many local, US, and International sporting events including but not limited to the Winter and Summer Olympics, Professional Football, Basketball, Hockey, and NASCAR; and

WHEREAS, Desecration and respect of the flag is still considered a public outrage, but remains protected as "freedom of speech"; and

WHEREAS, Some of our US athletes don't always respect our flag and the ceremonials connected to flag etiquette because they have not been informed; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the National Department of the American Legion through the appropriate committee create a National Training Program for our School Sports Departments and Professional Sports Organizations to assure that our National Flag and Flag Ceremonies are respected at all times; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to the American Legion, Department of Minnesota, in Convention assembled in Rochester, MN, July 17 - 19, 2014 for concurring action; and, be it finally,

RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to the American Legion, assembled in National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., August 22 - 28, 2014 for concurring action.

RESOLUTION 5

The following Resolution originated with and was adopted by the 1st District in convention at Austin, MN and is submitted for consideration by the 2014 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 17-19, 2014.

Unfilled District Delegates to National Convention (Same as Resolution 1)

RESOLUTION 6

The following Resolution originated from The Hellenic

Call for Meeting

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155

CALL FOR THE 96th ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The 96th 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, to be held at Rochester, Minnesota, July 17, 18, 19, 2014.

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, Sergeant-at-Arms, 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 17, 2014 in the Presentation Hall at the Mayo Civic Center, Rochester.

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

16, 2014, in Rochester, MN in the Marriott as specified in the upcoming Call to Meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Standing Department Committee Meetings will be held at the Marriott or The Kahler Grand in Rochester, 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 16, 2014	Regency, Kahler Grand
CHILDREN AND YOUTH	4:00 P.M., Wednesday,
July 16, 2014	Watson, Kahler Grand
NATIONAL SECURITY	4:00 P.M., Wednesday,
July 16, 2014	Centennial Hall, Kahler Grand
REHABILITATION	4:00 P.M., Wednesday,
July 16, 2014	Ballroom 1, Marriott
GENERAL SESSIONS	Presentation Hall,
Mayo Civic Center	Thursday, Friday, Saturday

HOUSING AND REGISTRATION

For the 2014 Department Convention, hotel reservations will be done "on your own" directly with the hotel. Please call the number listed to make your reservation at the Headquarters hotel. The official headquarters hotels for both The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary are the Kahler Grand Hotel and the Marriott. A registration fee of \$15.00 for each Delegate/Alternate and/or Guest must be sent to: Bill Born, American Legion Post 92 Office, 403 East Center Street, Rochester, MN 55904. This check should be made payable to "American Legion Post 92 Convention Fund." Registration will be \$18.00 at the door.

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS OFFICE

A temporary Legion Department Headquarters office will be opened at Mayo Civic Center, Legion Suite A, Rochester, MN starting Thursday, July 17, 2014 for convention service and business during convention business hours only. Meetings will start ON TIME as scheduled unless otherwise announced.

MIKE ASH

Department Commander

ATTEST: **RANDY TESDAHL**

Department Adjutant

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 1st day of May, 2014

2014 Resolutions (CONTINUED)

Post #129 at Bloomington Minnesota, and was adopted by the 5th District and is submitted for consideration by the 2014 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 17-19, 2014.

Minnesota Legion Baseball District Representation

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Minnesota, has participated in the American Legion's baseball program since 1926; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Minnesota's Legion baseball program is one of the most successful in the nation, registering over 300 teams annually, thus qualifying to have two teams qualify each year for regional tournaments in Division I competition and the opportunity to advance to the American Legion's Baseball World Series; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Minnesota, as a prelude for qualification to the Regional Baseball Tournaments, sponsors a State Baseball Tournament each year to determine the two teams eligible for the regional tournaments. The Minnesota State Tournament was based on a 16 team double elimination format with representation from each of the Department's ten districts; and

WHEREAS, The Department's Baseball Committee, effective for the 2013 and 2014 baseball seasons, changed the format for qualifying for the State Tournament by establishing 15 zones and ceding the host team; and

WHEREAS, These zones crossed District boundaries effectively eliminating the Department's District competition; and

WHEREAS, The new 15 zone format resulted in three Districts not being represented in the 2014 Tournament – the Fourth, Fifth and Ninth; and

WHEREAS, No Post in the Fifth District was informed as to the dates, place, or site of the zone tournament; and

WHEREAS, The new zoning effectively denied inner city youth to have an opportunity to qualify to participate in the state tournament, youngsters who need the opportunity the most; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Minnesota American Legion Districts are a vital part of the Department's structure for all successful programs, the ten Districts should have the right to participate and be represented in a state tournament; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Committee of the American Legion, Department of Minnesota, direct the Department's Baseball Committee to restore its qualifying format for the State Legion Baseball Tournament by including representation from all ten Districts beginning with the 2015 baseball season; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minnesota American Legion Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 17-19, 2014, for concurring action.

RESOLUTION 7

The following Resolution originated from the 9th District American Legion Executive Board and was adopted by the 9th District in convention at Detroit Lakes, MN and is submitted for consideration by the 2014 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 17-19, 2014.

Unfilled District Delegates to National Convention (Same as Resolution 1)

RESOLUTION 8

The following Resolution originated from Frank Lundberg Post 282 in St. Louis Park and was adopted by the 10th District in convention at Hopkins, MN and is submitted for consideration by the 2014 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 17-19, 2014.

Unfilled District Delegates to National Convention (Same as Resolution 1)

RESOLUTION 9

The following Resolution originated from North St. Paul Post 39 in North St. Paul and was adopted by the 4th District in convention at Roseville, MN and is submitted for consideration by the 2014 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 17-19, 2014.

Dept. Legislative Committee 4-Year Appointment

WHEREAS, The primary function of the Department Legislative Committee is to act as a lobbying group to the Minnesota Legislature and to our nation on issues of importance to and directly affecting our veterans; and

WHEREAS, It is important that these issues be presented to our legislators, Members of Congress, and Senators in a professional and consistent manner from year to year; and

WHEREAS, A sense of continuity in the leadership of this committee responsible for these functions is necessary, especially when said issues roll over from one year to the next; and

WHEREAS, A completely new committee is appointed

each year by the incoming Department Commander, and a relearning process is necessary in order for the committee to become acquainted with the issues and procedures associated with the duties of this important committee; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, The Department Legislative Committee be a 4 member committee that has multi-year appointments, with the first appointment after this resolution is adopted be made of a 4 year, 3 year, 2 year and 1 year tenure; and be it

RESOLVED, That the member appointed to the 4 year term be the Chairperson of the committee, and the senior member of the committee be the successor of the committee after the end of the year; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a new committee member would be appointed each year thereafter to a 4 year term; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee members would progress through the committee each year; ex: freshman 1st year, sophomore 2nd year, junior 3rd year, and Chairperson the 4th year; and be it further

RESOLVED, That if a vacancy occurs on this committee that the Department Commander will appoint a replacement to fulfill that vacant term; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to the American Legion Department of Minnesota in convention assembled at Rochester, MN July 17th through 19th, 2014 for concurring action; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that if this resolution is adopted by the Department of Minnesota assembled in regular convention July 17-19, 2014 in Rochester Minnesota, that it become effective immediately upon conclusion of the convention.

RESOLUTION 10

The following Resolution originated from North St. Paul Post 39 in North St. Paul and was adopted by the 4th District in convention at Roseville, MN and is submitted for consideration by the 2014 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 17-19, 2014.

Changing Korean Conflict Eligibility Dates

WHEREAS, The conflict between North and South Korea has never been declared to be over, and

WHEREAS, This conflict has been in a state of "Truce" since June 27, 1953, yet no "Final Peaceful Settlement" has ever been achieved, and

WHEREAS, Other Veterans Service organizations have recognized South Korea as still being a designated "war" or "conflict" zone, thus enabling veterans who served in that country to be eligible for membership in their respective organization, and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has a 'cutoff date' for the Korean conflict established as January 31, 1955, yet we have never set an ending date for Gulf War veterans eligibility; and

WHEREAS, By the American Legion National Headquarters changing the Korean War era eligibility to still being open and recognizing it as an ongoing conflict as they do the Gulf War, it would allow many other veterans to join our ranks, and allow them to enjoy the services and advocacy that other veterans now receive as members of our great organization; then therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the American Legion National Headquarters begin the process of approaching the Congress of the United States to recognize the Korean Conflict as still ongoing, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the ending date for American Legion Membership Eligibility for Korean War Era veterans have its closing date changed to OPEN, thus allowing thousands of veterans to join our great organization, and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to the Department of Minnesota for consideration at its regular convention to be held in Rochester, MN July 17th through 19th, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That if this resolution is adopted by the Department of Minnesota assembled in regular convention July 17-19, 2014 in Rochester Minnesota, that it be forwarded to the American Legion National Convention, to be assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 22 – 28, 2014 in regular session, for consideration and adoption.

RESOLUTION 11

The following Resolution originated from North St. Paul Post 39 in North St. Paul and was adopted by the 4th District in convention at Roseville, MN and is submitted for consideration by the 2014 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 17-19, 2014.

Recognize Senior Committee Member as Chairman

WHEREAS, There are a number of Department Committees that have member appointments that are for multiple years; and

WHEREAS, Committees often elect their chairperson by election within the committee, and

WHEREAS, In some cases the same person serves as the chairperson for multiple years, thereby preventing other

committee members from gaining the knowledge and experience of being a committee chairperson; and

WHEREAS, Allowing the members to progress from being the newest appointee to the chair of the committee would allow each member to gain the experience and knowledge of each level; then therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the General Membership of American Legion Post 39, in regular meeting in North Saint Paul Minnesota on April 17th, 2014, that committees with members having multi-year appointments adopt the policy of recognizing the senior member of the committee as the chairperson, and be it further

RESOLVED, That upon the completion of their year as Chairperson of the committee, that member would be removed from the committee and the next senior member of the committee would assume the Chair, and all others would advance in seniority and a new member would be appointed by the Department Commander to fill the vacancy, and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to the Department of Minnesota for consideration at its regular convention to be held in Rochester, MN July 17th through 19th, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, that if this resolution is adopted by the Department of Minnesota assembled in regular convention July 17-19, 2014 in Rochester Minnesota, that it become effective immediately upon the conclusion of the convention.

RESOLUTION 12

The following Resolution originated from North St. Paul Post 39 in North St. Paul and was adopted by the 4th District in convention at Roseville, MN and is submitted for consideration by the 2014 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 17-19, 2014.

Multi-year Committee Re-appointment

WHEREAS, There are a number of Department Committees that have member appointments that are for multiple years; and

WHEREAS, A resolution was passed in the past at a Department Convention that stopped the reappointment of members to the same committee after having completed their multi year tenure; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has never been enforced since its adoption by the Department at convention; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the initial resolution was to open the opportunities for other dedicated Legionnaires to be appointed to these committees; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the membership of American Legion Post 39, in regular general membership meeting assembled in North Saint Paul Minnesota on April 17, 2014, that a policy be established to prevent a member of a multiyear committee be prevented from being re-appointed to the same committee upon completion of his term; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department Commander appoint a different Legionnaire to fill the vacancy created by the outgoing committee member; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to the Department of Minnesota for consideration at its regular convention to be held in Rochester, MN July 17th through 19th, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That if this resolution is adopted by the Department of Minnesota assembled in regular convention July 17-19, 2014 in Rochester Minnesota, that it become effective immediately upon the conclusion of the convention.

RESOLUTION 13

The following Resolution originated from Christie DeParcq Post 406 in St. Paul and was adopted by the 4th District in convention at Roseville, MN and is submitted for consideration by the 2014 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 17-19, 2014.

VBA Hiring & Maintaining 50% Veteran Workforce

WHEREAS, Title 38, United States Code, Section 101, defines a veterans as a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released there from under conditions other than dishonorable; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion was a part of the Dawes Committee in 1920, originally formed to bring together those who understood the issues of those that served in the military and their families, so that they could be properly be taken care of; and

WHEREAS, Those who have not served in the military cannot fully appreciate or understand the needs of a Veteran; and

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States has passed legislation giving veterans who are disabled or who serve on active duty in the Armed Forces during certain specified time periods or in military campaigns are entitled to preference over non-veterans both in federal hiring practices and in retention during reductions in force; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs sole purpose is to serve Veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs makes decisions regarding Veterans based on how their role in the military affected their body and mind; and

2014 convention

Continued from Page 1

at 11:15 at the Presentation Hall at the Mayo Civic Center. There will be a gambling seminar at 2 p.m. Thursday at Presentation Hall.

Governor Mark Dayton is expected to speak at both the Legion and Auxiliary conventions on Friday. He is slated to be at the Legion convention at about 8:30 a.m. and at the Auxiliary convention at 9:50 a.m.

Rep. Tim Walz will speak at the convention on the situation at the VA Medical centers around the country. The exact time has not yet been determined.

The annual parade will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday. At press time, the local officials had not yet determined a parade route in Rochester. Following the parade, there will be hospitality rooms in Windsor Hall on the basement level of the Kahler hotels.

The district order for the parade and for seating at the Civic Center, from first to last, is Ninth district, Sixth, Third, Tenth, Seventh, Fifth, Second, Fourth, Eighth, First.

On Saturday morning, the Legion will hold its annual elections.

Peggy Moon has been endorsed by Zimmerman Post 560 and the Sixth District. She is an Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War era, and she is a 36 year member of The American Legion.

She has served as post and district commander, and on the Department level, she has served as Membership Director, and she has chaired the Employment, Children and Youth and Public Relations committees. She has served on the Internal Affairs, Convention Corporation, Post Development and Strategic Planning Committees.

On the national level, Moon is vice chairman of the Committee on Children and Youth, and is vice president of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

She and her husband, Carl, have two daughters and five grandchildren.

Mike Schaffer was endorsed by Currie Post 322 and the Second District. He is an Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War era. He served in Alaska and the Philippines. He has been a member of The American Legion for 42 years.

He has been both post and district commander, and on the Department level has served as Membership Director and Vice Commander. He has also served as Department Sergeant-at-Arms and has chaired the Trophy and Awards Committee and the Children and Youth Committee.

He has served on the Distinguished Guests Committee nationally, and has served as a sergeant-at-arms at many national conventions.

Schaffer and wife, Nina, have three children and four grandchildren.

In other elections, the five Department vice commander candidates are Glenn Mueller, Arne Gynild, Dennis DeLong, Mel Buesseler, and Carl Hendrickson. Richard Wog is running for a second term as chaplain, Gary Olson is running for historian and Clinton Burt has been endorsed for sergeant-at-arms. Joe Bayer is the candidate for a term on the Board of Publication.

Three candidates have notified Department Headquarters of their intention to run as a delegates-at-large. They are: Larry Ryan, Wes Thompson and Orv Otterness.

The Auxiliary convention will begin at 9 a.m. Thursday at the Kahler Grand Hotel and at 9:40 will hear from Vice President Steranka.

Auxiliary elections will also be held Saturday with Chris Ronning of Osseo running unopposed for Department President and Sandra Fredrickson of Glenville running unopposed for Department First Vice President.

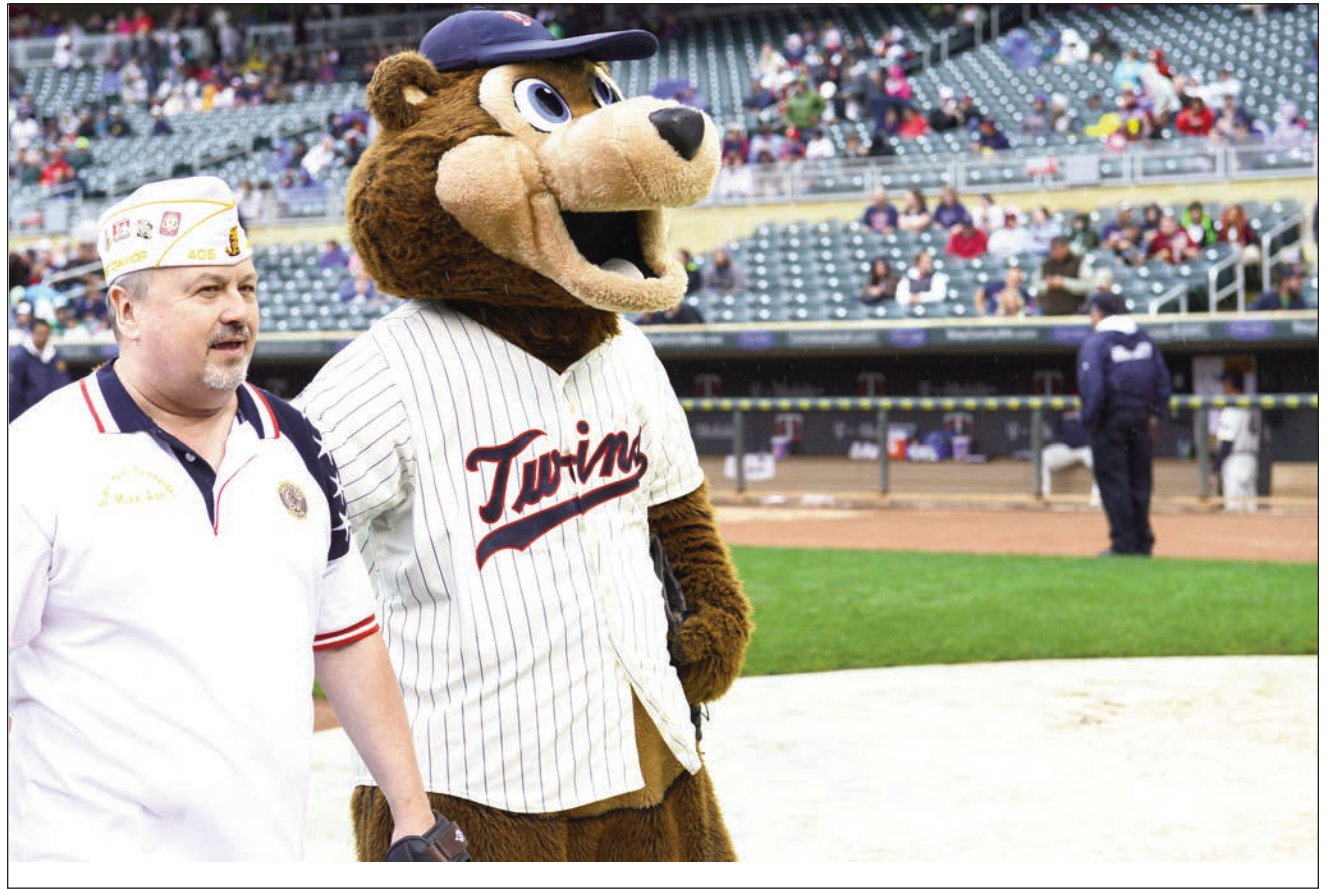
The Kahler Grand Hotel and the Kahler Inn may still have rooms available. Delegates and others must make their own reservations. There is complimentary parking at the Kahler Grand and Center Street parking lots.

A registration form is on page 5 of this issue.

Rochester Post and Unit 92, the hosts for this year's convention, will have shuttle service throughout the convention from the post to the convention sites to the hotels. There will be karaoke or a band at the post on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday beginning at 7 p.m. Lunch and dinner are available at the post.

There will be a reception for the winning candidates at the post following the close of the conventions.

Legion Day at the Twins



Commander Mike Ash was escorted by TC Bear after throwing out the first pitch at Legion Day at the Twins.



Lynn Nottage of the Fifth District and a young helper raised the Twins Territory flag before the game.



Lisa Ghylin of the Fourth District and the Public Relations Committee was chosen as the veteran who raised the U.S. Flag before the game.

Trolling for the Troops



The fishing was good at the annual Trolling for the Troops day at Camp Ripley in June. Veterans fillet their catch at the camp.



Cabella's Woodbury presented a \$1,000 check to Trolling for the Troops.



Professional angler Mark Courts vehicle, sponsored by the veterans service groups, was proudly on display at the event.



Boys Staters listen intently to a speaker during a session at Boys State held in June at Southwest State University at Marshall. Over 350 boys attended the week-long program where the high school juniors create their own government at various levels.

BOYS STATE



Counselor Tom Johnson points out some instruction to an elected official.



Boys State staff meet frequently to talk over the progress of the week. From left: Jeff Bible, Director Mike Bredeck, Drew Hood, Ryan Lorsung and David Way.



Last year's Boys State Governor Simeon Toronto hands off the gavel to this year's Governor Tucker Pearson. Toronto went on to become Boys Nation president.



A citizen concentrates while taking test.



Boys State participants wait in line to ask questions of a speaker.



Secretary of State Mark Ritchie addressed the Boys Staters.