

Special 2015 Convention Issue

The Minnesota American Legion and Auxiliary

Legionnaire



Volume 96, Number 8

For God and Country

July 2015

Convention coming; Kellogg unopposed for state commander

Minnesota Legionnaires and Auxiliary members will conduct their annual business meetings at Redwood Falls from July 16-18.

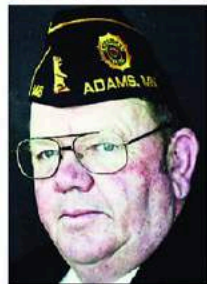
The Department Convention at nearby Jackpot Junction Casino will include the election of officers for the coming year.

Jim Kellogg of Taopi is running unopposed for Department Commander. None of the state offices this year has a contested election, unless there is a nomination from the floor.

For the Auxiliary, Sandy Fredrickson of Glenville will be elected President for the next year. Running for the Second Vice President

position are Jean Walker from Warren and Donna Arends from Raymond.

The Legion and Auxiliary Conventions are



JIM KELLOGG

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-

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Department Convention will deal with eight resolutions

Minnesota's 10 Legion districts contributed eight resolutions to this year's convention.

Committees will look over the resolutions and make recommendations to the entire convention.

The resolutions include:

-- Urging Congress to approve concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and VA service-connected disability pay. Congress has already approved concurrent receipt for those veterans who have 50 percent or more disability rating, and this resolution asks for concurrent receipt for those with less than 50 percent. Military retirees are the only federal retirees who cannot receive both their military retirement pay and their disability compensation pay.

-- Urging the American Legion to include the National Guard and the Reserves in its annual Spirit of Service awards for outstanding service presented at the National Convention.

-- Supporting copper-nickel mining in northern Minnesota.

-- Calling for the Baseball program to insure that all districts are represented in both the Division I and Division II tournaments.

-- Changing the Korean War eligibility ending date to "open" thus allowing thousands of veterans to join the Legion.

-- Urging the national organization to publish a booklet to promote the Constitution, military, faith and capitalism.

Two other resolutions endorsed candidates for Legion offices.

National Convention slated for Baltimore

The Minnesota delegation will be housed at the Holiday Inn Inner Harbor Hotel during the National Convention Aug. 28-Sept. 3 in Baltimore.

Room reservations must be made through Department Headquarters. All rooms are \$160.55 per day including tax. Parking is \$25 per day.

The state caucus will be at the Holiday Inn from 8-10 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 31.

The Minnesota Party will be a scenic cruise that same day with a boarding time of 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$72 per person.

Extra-curricular events for those who sign up include a baseball game at Camden Yards and various tours of Baltimore attractions.

More info at: www.legion.org/convention.

Minnesota Boys State



Boys Stater Christian Toronto advanced the colors on the opening night session at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall. Over 350 high schoolers gathered from across the state to learn about democracy and Americanism.

Last chance to enter the 2016 Legion Calendar Photo Contest

The 2016 Photo Contest deadline has been extended until July 21 to encourage more entries.

With the Centennial of The American Legion approaching, this year's calendar photo contest will have a new theme: historic post or unit or SAL pictures.

The contest will follow the centennial theme. The contest will be judged on the quality of a photograph from a post's immediate or

past history. Emphasis will be on both those photos that reach back into a post's history or to recent events.

An entry could be a post or unit or SAL event, a talent contest, a drum and bugle corps, a parade, a picnic, a charter signing or anything else that portrays the post's history in a serious or humorous way.

The winner will receive \$300 for first prize. The second place will be \$200 and third place will be

\$150. If the entry comes from the post, the post will win the prize. If it comes from an individual, that person will win the prize.

All 12 winners will have their photo in the 2016 Department calendar.

Entries are due by July 21.

Entrants can submit up to three pictures. Those entering must be a paid-up member in the American Legion Family: Legion,

Continued on Page 3

Minnesota Boys State elects officers at its session in Marshall

The 67th annual Minnesota Boys State was held at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall in June.

Anthony Rosa of Eden Prairie, was elected Boys State Governor. He is the son of David Rosa, and will be a senior this year at Eden

Prairie High School. He was sponsored by Buffalo Post 270.

Jarrett Heflin of Wayzata was named the Chic and William Zweiner Outstanding Boys Stater and will be going to Boys Nation as a senator from Minnesota. He will be a

senior at Wazata High School, and he is the son of Rebecca and Jay Heflin. He was sponsored by Wayzata Post 118.

Christian Toronto won the Myron and Dave Way Award and will be the other senator from Minnesota at Boys Nation. He will be a

senior at Andover High School and was sponsored by Anoka Post 102.

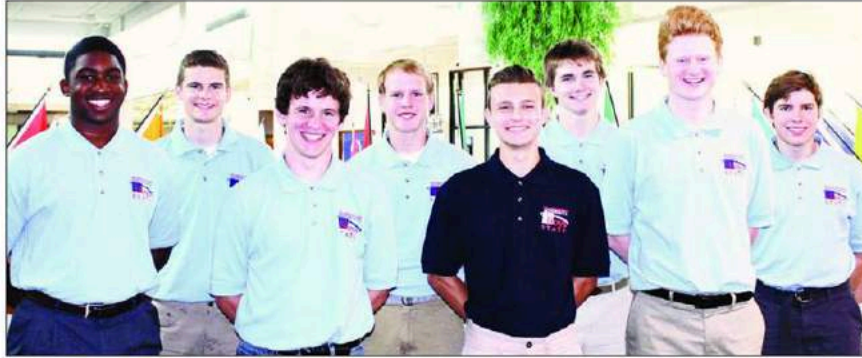
Samuel Swanson of St. Paul won the Lee Krough Award and will be an alternate senator. He will be a senior and Cretin-Durham Hall, and was sponsored by North End Post 474.

Isaac Logeman of St. Cloud won the Directors Award and will be the other alternate senator. He will be a senior at Apollo High School. Logeman was also the Samsung Scholarship Award winner.

About 350 boys from around the state attend the program where they learn democracy by electing their own governments, running party conventions, and hearing speakers from different government venues. Congressman Tim Walz spoke this year.



ANTHONY ROSA
Boys State Governor



BOYS STATE OFFICERS -- Elected this year at Boys State, from left: Brandon Banks, Secretary of State; Marco Prozzoli, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court; Wesley Biren, Lt. Governor; Logan Knorr, Chief Justice; Anthony Rosa, Governor; Carl Schaeffbauer, Attorney General; Isaac Logeman, Auditor; Samuel Gagnon, Associate Justice.

Department Convention

Continued from Page 1
10 p.m. Burgers and brats and French fries will be for sale for \$7.

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

The parade will start at Memorial Field on South Gould Street in Redwood Falls by the swimming pool. It will then go down Chesnut St. to Lincoln St. then north to 3rd Street and back to Memorial Field.

The post will provide a shuttle service from Jackpot Junction to the post home on Thursday from noon to 10 p.m. and on Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and again from 6 to 10 p.m.

A registration form is on Page 19 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 pre-ceeding the convention at 7 p.m. Wednesday on July 15.

Kellogg is a member of Adams Post 146 and the First District. He is an Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War era and has been a member of the post for 39 years.

He was a district commander and adjutant.

At the Department level, Kellogg has served as Sergeant-at-Arms, Historian and Department Vice Commander.

He served on the Minnesota American Legion Family Hospital Association, and for many years has been the chair of the Brain Sciences

Foundation. At the national level he has served on the Foreign Relations and National Security Commission.

Elections for the Legion are scheduled for Friday at the close of session and Saturday before the beginning of the session.

Don Hayden of LeCenter has been endorsed for a delegate-at-large position to the national Convention.

There will be a Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation meeting at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, July 15, in Crossed Arrows, Section C. Each district should have a representative, but all delegates are invited to attend.



GHOST FLAGS -- Gerald Rafevold, a member of Little Falls Post 46, shot this photo of the parade of flags at the Memorial Day program at the Minnesota Veterans Cemetery near Little Falls. Rafevold has no explanation for the whitish outline around the flags. It was raining during the event.

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Help for veterans and families

Endorsements

DeLong endorsed for Department Historian

Minneapolis-Richfield Post 435 has endorsed Dennis DeLong for the position of Department Historian for the 2015-2016 year.

DeLong has served as the Post 435 Adjutant, Finance Officer/Chairman Property and Finance Committee for 2012-2014 and as a member of Minneapolis-Richfield Post 435 Holding Corporation.

He also served on the Post 435 Executive Board for 2011-2014. He held the

position of Post 435 2nd Vice Commander and Gambling Committee Member for two years.

DeLong is currently serving as Department Vice Commander, Legionville Board of Directors 2013-2015, American Legion Foundation Member 2013-2016, he also served as Department Historian 2013-2014, 5th District Commander 2012-2013; 5th District Vice Commander 2009-2012 and Membership Chairman

2011-2012. He was 5th District Adjutant 2008-2009, 5th District Executive Board Member 2007-2009, 5th District Finance Committee and Employment Committee Chairman.

DeLong has been a member of the American Legion since 1975. He served his country as a Disbursing Clerk 2nd Class Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam era on the USS San Jose.



DENNIS DeLONG

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Photo contest deadline extended

Continued from Page 1

Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion.

As in past years, entrants should not submit the original photos. They should be scanned. No photos will be returned.

All photos that are submitted electronically should have a resolution of at least 200 dpi. The technical quality of the photograph will be part of the judging.

The winners will be announced in the August issue of the Legionnaire.

The rules include:

1. All photos must concern the history of a specific post, unit or squadron. Family members can submit photos from an immediate family member, as long as the person submitting is a current member of the Legion, Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion. For instance, a Legion Family member can submit a photo taken by a grandfather several decades ago. Photos can be submitted by a current member, even though the photographer is unknown. Photos can be submitted directly from the post, unit or squadron.

2. Photos may be entered by mailing them to the Department: Room 300A, 20 West 12th Street, St. Paul, MN 55155. Or they can be entered by emailing to azdon@mnlegion.org. Again, do not mail original photo-

graphs. Photos will not be returned. Please mark the outside of the envelope or the subject line as "Photo Contest."

3. Entries will be judged not only on the unique quality and interest in the photo, but also by its technical merit.

4. All entries must be postmarked by July 21, 2015, or have been emailed by July 21, 2015.

5. All photos must be original and copyright free and be available to be printed in the calendar without legal encumbrance.

6. All entries must contain as much relevant data as possible, such as who, what, where and when. If there's a story that goes with the photo, please send it along.

7. Photographs may be from any time frame, but older photos will be given priority judging.

8. The limit per person or post is three photographs.

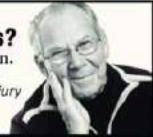
9. Those submitting must include their name, which Legion organization they belong to, their Legion, Auxiliary or SAL ID number, their address, and their contact information including phone or email.

10. The person who took the photo should be identified if possible.

Any questions, please call Al Zdon at 651-291-1800 or 1-866-259-9163. Or email: azdon@mnlegion.org.

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Tomah incident sparks Legion statement on use of opioids

As allegations that Tomah (Wis.) Veterans Affairs Medical Center staff overprescribed opioids to patients continues to surface, The American Legion is actively advocating on behalf of veterans like Marine veteran Jason Simcakoski, who tragically died at the facility last August.

Recently, The American Legion had a strong presence both in Tomah and on Capitol Hill following an announcement earlier this month from the Department of Veterans Affairs stating that improvements would be made at the Tomah VA.

During a press conference hosted by Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., on June 24, Ian de Planque, director of the Legion's Legislative Division, discussed the proposed Jason Simcakoski Memorial Opioid Safety Act.

He gave the audience, including members of Simcakoski's family, a snapshot of the testimony he planned to present to Congressional members following the event.

He also urged lawmakers to explore alternative solutions that would steer medical professionals away from prescribing high quantities and doses of medications.

"Medications in and of themselves are tools – not necessarily good, not necessarily bad – you want to make sure you're using the right tools in the right situation," de Planque said.

"There are other tools that are available. Some complementary and alternative therapy might work better for particular veterans or for veterans that may have circumstances that are particularly exacerbating."

Baldwin also noted that the VA has been complacent with the way it has handled the situation, becoming "overly reliant" on its ability to prescribe opioids to veterans battling severe pain and other compounding issues.

"That has resulted in getting our veterans hooked, rather than getting them help," she said.

Simcakoski's father, Marv, said that he realized his son didn't stand a chance after looking back at the situation. He recalled times when doctors continued to prescribe pain medications even though they knew his son was addicted to them.

As his voice slightly wavered, the father talked about moments he shared with his son, reminiscing on how he would pick Jason up after he completed VA inpa-

tient programs and his son would be slurring and delirious.

Jason told his father that he did not want to live a life of addiction.

In testimony before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee later that afternoon, de Planque praised Baldwin's leadership in the Tomah crisis.

He stated the importance of "working with VA to establish clear, clinical guidelines based on medical principles to ensure no other families have to suffer the way Mr. Simcakoski has."

The American Legion also supported legislation backing more accountability within the VA and expansion of the caregivers program to include families of veterans who served prior to the post-9/11 era.

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by Tom Seamon
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COMMANDER'S COLUMN

By Peggy Moon



July is already here, and I can't believe that this is my last article as your Commander. Although our membership year will not conclude until December 31, my year is coming to an end. The new membership cards are being distributed as I write this, and the new District teams are working hard to get them distributed to all the Posts.

Please support your District by getting your Post off the goose egg immediately. This is an easy task, and one that should be handled as soon as you receive the new cards. Make the Department of Minnesota a leader.

This has been an exciting year in Membership. We still are not at goal, but it has been fun, especially watching the competition between the 4th and 6th Districts. Who would have guessed this outcome? Commander Dan and Membership Director Mickey have done an outstanding job, and deserve to celebrate their accomplishments. To Commander Carl and Membership Director Jim, I know you are both still working hard to unseat them. To all, your dedication is inspiring.

Speaking of leaders, we have a new Boys State

Governor. Congratulations to Anthony Rosa, who was sponsored by The American Legion in Buffalo. What a great week it was, and I truly enjoyed the time I spend with them in Marshall.

This has been a wonderful year working with our Department President, Chris Ronning. I truly never know what she is going to say. She has kept me on my toes. I have also enjoyed working with SAL Commander Dennis. What a fantastic job he and Membership Director Paul have accomplished this year. Congratulations on your All Time High, on forming new SAL Squadrons, and raising an unbelievable amount for The Fisher House. It's certainly a job well done.

What have I learned this year? Amazingly, a Commander does not command. A Commander does not dictate. A Commander listens, coaches, educates, and cheerleads. Above all else, the Commander is a servant and constantly needs to be available to this membership. I hope I have fulfilled these goals this past year.

I'll end with a summary of the "new car." As you know, we purchased a new car in August as Carl didn't feel the old one was up to the coming task. We purchased the car in August, and my first outing was to ride along with the Minnesota American Legion Riders on their northern route. When I arrived in Little Falls, I had 75 miles on it. Today, the mileage is 37,500. I've had monthly oil changes, two tune ups, deflated two tires, and today I'm heading to the dealership to order a new tail light. It seems that when I was leaving to attend a function at the Minnesota Veterans Home, I, unfortunately, and accidentally, ran into our own garbage can at the end of the driveway...

For me, and the car, it is time for my year to end. Thank you for the hospitality, the encouragement, and the support. I am a very lucky person to have so many people I can call "friend." Thanks for the memories!

Chaplain's Corner

By Steve Klinkner



The Department Convention is this month and am currently preparing for the Veterans Memorial program which is always a humbling event. As I reflect on this year as Department Chaplain, which is almost over, and the last Department Convention in Rochester when I was elected Chaplain, I remember feeling what an honor to serve the Veterans through this Department assignment. If it wasn't for my Second District friends' encouragement, I would not have agreed but you all know you don't say "no," or "I can't because" or "I don't want to" to your friends. The Legion needs people to step up when asked; it is an honor and an opportunity to make a lot of good and new friends. As you go to the District and Department rallies you will always meet new people that are committed to supporting the veterans and the veteran programs.

The dictionary defines a "friend" as "a person who has a real liking for and confidence in another person." The term "Friendship" is found only once in the New Testament (Jas. 4:4). It comes from the Greek word "philia" which is akin to "philos" which is translated "love." This suggests it includes the idea of "loving as well as being loved."

Everyone has friends of some kind. Some have many friends while others have few. Some have good friends while others have bad friends. All people, especially Christians, need to stop and consider the importance and the impact those friends have on one's life.

Sadly, some whom we think are our friends are not good friends. For one to be a good friend he must not only be good to us but also good for us. We need to be careful in choosing. We must not choose a friend like Jonadab who led his friend Ammon, David's son, astray (2 Sam.13:1-14). We must choose friends who will be good examples to us and others. We must select friends who respect God and things spiritual. We must not be deceived into thinking that we can choose otherwise and not be affected. As stated by the Apostle Paul, "Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits" (1 Cor. 15:33). In that light, choose friends who have good morals, are modest, can bridle their tongues, are honest, and are law-abiding.

The Bible contains examples of friendship; the most classic example is that of the friendship of David and Jonathan. "Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul" (1 Sam. 18:1). Their love for and confidence in one another is a lesson all who would be and have friends should learn. The Apostle Paul and Timothy developed a friendship for and a confidence in one another. Friendship means the same today. Our close friends are those whom we love and are dear to us. They are those in whom we have confidence that they hold us dear.

We need the love our friends have for us. Life is more pleasant when we have those who care about us and our welfare. We need to know there are those who love us no matter what may come our way or theirs. A friend loves at all times.

As I say farewell, for this is my last message, I say thank you to all veterans and many great friends for letting me serve as your Department Chaplain.

For God and Country.

Editorial

VA struggles

There was some hope after the scandal at the Phoenix VA Medical Center this past year and the resignation of the VA Secretary that the VA was heading in a positive direction.

That was an illusion.

Instead, the Department of Veterans Affairs seems headed in the opposite direction. Consider:

-- The new boss at the VA got off on the wrong foot in February by telling a veteran he had been in Special Forces when he had not.

-- The waiting list for veterans, already a national disgrace, is getting worse rather than better.

-- The VA's overuse of opioids and other painkillers is having a serious negative effect on veterans rather than helping them get well. The situation was brought to national attention by the death of a young veteran at the Tomah VA hospital.

-- And now we find that the VA system is \$2.5 billion in the hole because of increased use of the facilities across the country. Moreover, the VA leadership has known of this deficit for some time, but did not speak out until reaching this crisis situation.

As long as we had soldiers on the ground fighting America's wars, there seemed to be solid support of the VA and the need for the nation to take care of its veterans. Now that the wars are basically done (or are they?) you can expect that support to erode as those short-sighted members of Congress move on to other priorities.

But just because the wars are over, it does not mean that

the needs of veterans have gone away.

We are facing a two-fold increase in fulfilling the nation's promise of taking care of its veterans. First, the Vietnam era vets are reaching an age when they will have more medical problems and more need for the VA health system. Secondly, our hospitals and clinics are still filled with young men and women suffering from traumatic brain injury and PTSD from the recent wars.

If America cannot afford to take care of its veterans, it had better quit creating them. In the meantime, the obligation is there.

There will be a major push in the near future for shifting veterans care away from the VA system to private institutions. This is the wrong way to go. You can't make the VA system better, more responsive and cut those waiting lists by further eroding its funding. The VA system is uniquely qualified to deal with veterans and their special health needs. Other medical systems are not.

Don't get us wrong. The VA is not going to hell in a handbasket. It is still a superb medical system for the most part with a dedicated staff. But it is facing some critical problems that will be difficult to deal with as Congress looks to other national needs.

Strong leadership is needed in Congress and in the VA. Without the wars, the needs of veterans may not be a popular cause in our national and state governments.

We look back to the time when Sen. Paul Wellstone of Minnesota became a national leader in veterans issues because he was fearless and dedicated. We need more Wellstones right now in the Minnesota delegation.

members for 2015.

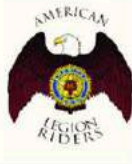
100% of the money we raise (including our membership dues) goes to helping veterans and their families primarily in our local area. Our first ride of the year is always The Jodi Ride, which was started to help out the children of one of our original 8, Jodi Spitzack. His children are now grown so we use that ride to raise money to support other children in our community.

We sponsor rides to benefit the Veterans on the Lake Resort, Operation Minnesota Nice, and The Grace House which is a homeless shelter in Grand Rapids where 2 out of 10 are Veterans. We have added a new ride to raise money to be used by the Itasca County Veterans Affairs Office to help with paying heating bills, buying groceries, etc. We donate money to the Silver Bay Veterans Home, and participate in many of the local parades. Our biggest ride is in September for POW/MIA day, where the money is used to buy or replace POW/MIA flags for the local businesses that fly them and to educate people about the need to continue to search out and to repatriate the remains of our POW/MIAs.

Our local communities know that Chapter #1 is always there to support the veterans. We are called upon to stand in flag lines at military funerals, escort the remains of our returning heroes and we participate in the Memorial Day cemetery tours and ride in the Deer River Veterans Day Parade. If you're ever in the northland, stop into the Deer River Vets Club and check us out.

American Legion Riders

**By Ross "Hognuts" Hogate
Director, Chapter 1**



Hello to everyone, My name is Ross Hogate, most know me as "Hognuts," and I am the Director of ALR Chapter 1 from Deer River. We are a proud group made up of Legionnaires, Auxiliary & SAL members.

Here's the story of how we became the first ALR in Minnesota. In May of 2002, Vietnam Vets Rob Burgess, Dave Cronin and Ken Beadeau took part in "Rolling Thunder." On their way back from D.C., they made a stop in Garden City, Michigan, where the ALR all started.

During that summer these guys worked at getting the approval of the Deer River Post 122 and began recruiting more members. The first meeting was convened by Rob Burgess that fall. The first meetings were attended by the guys who we refer to as the "Original 8." These eight guys then helped other posts to start ALR Chapters. With their help and others we have become who we are today.

Our Membership continues to grow with over 50 paid

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.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The American Legion, 20 W. 12th Street, St. Paul, MN, 55155-2000. (USPS No. 013-679.) (ISSN No. 1644270)

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What's Happening

Legion Baseball

Minnesota American Legion Baseball will hold its two state tournament at the end of July.

The Division I 90th annual State Tournament will be held at Chanhasen. The banquet will be held on Thursday, July 30, and the games will begin Friday, the 31st, at four fields in the Chanhasen area: Chanhasen High School, Chaska Athletic Field, Round Lake Park in Eden Prairie, and Edina Braemar. The tourney will conclude at Chanhasen on Monday, Aug. 3, with the championship game at 1 p.m.

The Division II Tournament will be held at Morris with the banquet on Thursday, July 30, and the games beginning on Friday. The championship game will be on Sunday, Aug. 2.

Two Division I winners will go on to the Central Plains national regional at Bismarck beginning with a banquet on Aug. 4. The Division II Central Plains will be hosted by LeSueur-Henderson. The banquet will be Aug. 5 with the tournament play beginning on Aug. 6.

Spiritual Support Groups

The Minneapolis VA Medical Center is doing research on spiritual support groups for veterans who are trauma survivors. Groups will meet at religious and community centers for eight weeks and will be led by specially-trained clergy. Participants can be paid up to \$200 for participating in assessments relating to the study.

For more information, call Rachel Dubke at 612-467-5737.

Heartsaver CPR

Veterans and active duty members of the Armed Forces qualify for free Heartsaver CPR and First Aid Classes. For more information go to www.freedomhousecpr.com or email: heartsafe51@gmail.com.

Pets Loyal 2 Vets

Pets Loyal 2 Vets provides highly trained dogs free of charge to veterans with PTSD and TBI injuries. Come to our open house and see our new facility by Prior Lake, MN on August 8 and visit our display at the Redwood Falls American Legion Convention on July 15-17, 2015. For more information go to www.petsloyal2vets.org or call Jeff LeBaron at 612-396-3369.

Fargo show needs volunteers

The Fargo AirSho, slated for July 25-26, is seeking volunteers to work food tents, beer tents and park cars. All volunteers get free admission, free food and drink, and parking. The Airsho will feature a C-17 cargo plane, aerial acts,

the Navy Band, Navy Seals parachute team, and the Navy Blue Angels. For more information, contact Gary Olson at garylholson@702com.net or call 218-233-5130.

Vets Appreciation

The Southern Minnesota Veterans Appreciation Event will be held Aug. 20-23 at Watonwan County Fairgrounds in St. James. The tribute will feature the American Veterans Traveling Tribute, which will be on display 24 hours a day.

Other events include a Freedom Flight hot air balloon, a fun run and walk, dedication of the St. James Veterans Memorial, a Vietnam Veterans reunion, orchestras and bands, and Rockie Lynne. The event is free.

Go to www.mybtyr.org for more information, or follow the event on Facebook at Beyond the Yellow Ribbon of Watonwan County.

Vietnam Exhibit

The Minnesota Military History Museum will open a new exhibit, "Minnesota Voices from the Vietnam War" at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 18, at Camp Ripley. The exhibit tells the stories of men and women serving in the Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War.

Lunch from food vendors will be available at noon, and from noon until 5 p.m. there will be an exhibit on special weapons of the war.

The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through September. For more information, go to www.mnmilitarymuseum.org.

Saluting Marine

Tim Chambers, the Saluting Marine who stands for up to four hours at the Rolling Thunder event in Washington DC, will be coming to Minnesota from July 31-Aug. 2.

He will be at AmVets Post 1 in Mendota from 5-9 p.m. on July 31. On Saturday, Aug. 1, a small version of Rolling Thunder will begin at 2 p.m. on Highway 13 near the post followed by a pig roast and live music.

On Sunday, Aug. 2, Chambers will be the guest at the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel at the 11 a.m. service. The chapel will be honoring the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

For more information, call Patricia at 651-699-6536.

Radar Reunion

The 756 Radar Squadron Vets of the Finland Air Station will meet on July 11. The reunion will be held from 1-5 p.m. at the Silver Bay Lounge, and the base will be open for a self-guided tour in the morning. For more information, call Marvin at 402-320-2980 or email at mdrcrawford@earthlink.net.

Mental Health Summit

A Community Mental Health Summit will be held on July 21 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in St. Cloud. The summit will promote awareness and use of VA mental health resources, and will help veterans gain access to local services.

There will be special break-out sessions on collaboration, homeless programming, and family issues.

For more information or to register, contact Julie at Julie.wolf@va.gov.

MACV Clinic and StandDown

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans will stage a legal clinic for veterans and a Standdown. The events include:

-- A Free Drop-In Legal Clinic for Veterans will be held Tuesday, July 14, at the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be held in the Flag Atrium Balcony Room. The Legal Clinic will feature attorneys, MACV staff, County Veterans Service Officers, child support officers and information on housing, employment, benefits, wills, debt collection and family law. For more information, call 651-200-4750.

-- The StandDown for Veterans will be held on Aug. 4-5 at the Boy Scout Base Camp at 201 Bloomington Road at Fort Snelling. It will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, and 8-4 on Wednesday.

Services included free meals, info on benefits, clothing, housing, haircuts, chaplaincy, photo IDs, employment assistance, counseling. There will be a legal clinic on both days. Please bring your DD214.

For information, call 612-726-1327.

St. Cloud Legal Clinics

The St. Cloud VA Medical Center and other partners are presenting ongoing legal clinics and consultations with veterans. A clinic is held at the St. Cloud VA in Building 28 on the first and third Thursdays of every month from noon to 2 p.m. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are accepted. For more information, call 320-253-0138.

Legal consultation is provided on the third Friday of every month from noon-2 p.m. for veterans at the Montevideo Community-Based Outpatient Clinic. For more information, call 320-403-1051.

Air Expo

The Air Expo at Flying Cloud Airport in Eden Prairie will be held on July 11-12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids.

The World War II History Round Table will be sponsoring a series of symposiums each day on World War II, Vietnam and other military air subjects.

Sons of The American Legion

By
Dennis Henkemeyer



Well, this is my last article for the Minnesota Legionnaire as the Detachment of Minnesota Commander. The official swan song before they head me out to pasture. So now where do I begin? I have to start by thanking my father John Henkemeyer, whose brave service in the United States Navy during World War II in the Pacific Theater with the United States Navy gave me the opportunity to join the Sons of The American Legion. I love you Dad.

I have so many other people to thank, but I don't know where to start and where to end. Also, I am very fearful of forgetting someone. But let's give it a try and see what happens. I need to thank Irvin Blix Post and Squadron 16 for your belief in me by endorsing me for the high office of Detachment Commander. The same goes for the 9th District as well. I want to thank the members of the Detachment of Minnesota for the faith you placed in me by electing me your commander. It has been a very exciting year and one that I will never forget and always cherish. I want to thank the detachment officers and chairmen for committing all of their hard work this past year in making our programs such a success. Also, to Paul Spyhalski, our Detachment Membership Director who accepted a challenge that many said was unrealistic and unobtainable; instead with the hard work of every SAL member in Minnesota and Paul's motivation, he brought us our first ever 11,000 member year and our earliest All Time High on Record. Also, a huge thank you goes out to Past National Commanders Doug Bible and Joe Mayne for your guidance and direction throughout the year. Without your help, none of this would have been possible.

I want to thank Department Commander Peggy Moon

and Department President Chris Ronning and Honorary Department Juniors President Jules Efta for all of the great times that we shared this year. It truly shows that The American Legion Family is alive and well in Minnesota.

I would be remiss if I did not thank my wife Denise Milton, who so often during the year was my navigator, photographer and biggest supporter. I love you sweetheart.

As for the detachment commander's project, what can I say? I owe The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion a huge THANK YOU. By the time that we head to our detachment convention/campout, we will have surpassed \$35,000.00 in donations for the Minneapolis Fisher House. That is absolutely unbelievable.

I want to wish the new slate of detachment officers the very best of luck this upcoming year.

Thank all of you for your friendship, hospitality and love over this past year. With that, may God Bless You, may God Bless America and may God Bless Our Troops.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

By
Tom Newman



An often unquantified benefit to our veterans and communities come from our fellow members. One of the more impactful observations I've made during my time as Dept. Service Officer has been that we're a much stronger and more capable organization when our members have been provided an opportunity to pair their individual talents and abilities with that of a particular program, or effort, of The American Legion. When you attend your next Legion function, or other special event, take a careful look around

and it's likely you'll see for yourself what I'm talking about, if not already. Maybe you'll see that Veteran with a knack for conversation and a certain personability who is making themselves available to help newcomers attending their first Post meeting feel welcomed, or it's that member with a knack in informational technology who is helping the Post develop its website, or that Veteran with knowledge of accounting and is sharing that experience in the capacity of finance officer for a particular program of the Legion, or perhaps it's that Veteran who is a skilled musician and is playing taps at a memorial service in honor of a Veteran being laid to rest, among the many other instances which could be observed.

Rockers, poets, artists, problem solvers, communicators, handymen, journalist, outdoor experts, photographers, the list goes on and on. What's evident is that each and every one of our members, as well as for those already involved, all has something valuable to offer. Some very real successes in our organization exist when you see firsthand Veterans using their talents as members with their local Post, or program, and this perfect melding takes form! I'll get asked on occasion what it might take to get our newest generation of Veterans involved, which I'll add is a generation with tremendous talents, so that our tradition of serving our fellow Veterans and communities can continue long into the future in the sort of ways we all would hope. My answer is simple as I don't think that today's newest Veterans are all that much different from those of earlier eras, other than their possible interests. Bluntly put, find out more about the interests and talents of all your Veterans and members, to include those of our OIF/OEF/OND era. It's helpful and may be worth the extra effort to assist them identify ways that allow our members a manageable opportunity to share them for the betterment of our fellow Veterans, to include an explanation for how, if they should choose, it fits within existing or emerging programs of The American Legion.

Newman@mllegion.org

Legion

Convention Program

97th

The 97th Annual Convention of The American Legion - Department of Minnesota
REDWOOD FALLS, MINNESOTA, July 16-18, 2015

THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 16, 2015

- 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 – Jackpot Junction, Dacotah Exposition Center
CALL TO ORDER: Peggy Moon, Department Commander, St. Joseph
ADVANCEMENT OF THE COLORS – 2014 Champions – New Prague Post 45
POW/MIA FLAG: Richard Gosse, NS/FR Committee, Wabasha
Clinton Burt, Department Sergeant at Arms, Slayton
INVOCATION: Steve Klinkner, Department Chaplain, Madelia
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
"THE PREAMBLE" – Recital by Commander and Delegates
GREETINGS: Denny Prescott, President, Lower Sioux Indian Community
The Honorable Corey Theis, Mayor, Redwood Falls
Jerome Ludwig, Commander, Melvin Daskam Post 38, Redwood Fall
Jennifer Kafka, Second District Commander, Blue Earth
Jim Mertens, General Convention Chairman, Redwood Falls
- 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: Tom Lannon, Department Judge Advocate, Prior Lake
GREETINGS: Larry Shellito, Commissioner, MN Department of Veterans Affairs
Patrick Kelly, Director, Minneapolis, VA Health Care System
Darwin Goodspeed, Director, Sioux Falls, VA Health Care System
Other Veterans Service Organizations
David Anderson, President, Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers
RESPONSE: Arne Gynild, Department Vice Commander, Willmar
"REPORTING NATIONALLY" – Ray DeZurik, National Executive Committeeman, Breezy Point
- 10:00 a.m. REPORT: Legionnaire Insurance Trust, Bill Barbknecht, Chairman, Battle Lake
- 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
- 10:30 a.m. REPORT: Bill Barbknecht, MN State Director, Selective Service System, Battle Lake
- 10:35 a.m. VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION: Wilson Spence III, Dept Rehabilitation Chairman, Duluth
- 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 – Jackpot Junction, Dacotah Exposition Center

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 16, 2015

- 1:00 p.m. MEETINGS OF ALL CONVENTION COMMITTEES.
- 2:00 p.m. GAMBLING SEMINAR, Jackpot Junction, Dacotah Exposition Center
Moderator: Robert Hart, Legislative Committee Chairman, Stillwater

FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 17, 2015

- 7-8:00 a.m. CAUCUS OF ALL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES BY DISTRICTS —
- 8:30 a.m. CALL TO ORDER: Peggy Moon, Department Commander, St. Joseph
INVOCATION: Steve Klinkner, Department Chaplain, Madelia
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. REPORT: Jim Kellogg, President, Brain Science Foundation, Taopi
- 8:55 a.m. REPORT: Mike Perry, American Legion Baseball Director, Minnetonka
- 9:00 a.m. REPORT: Katy Ryan, Director, Voluntary Services, Minneapolis VA Health Care System
- 9:10 a.m. REPORT: V4V, Mariand Ronning, Maple Grove
- 9:20 a.m. REPORT: Wayne Gilbertson, President, Legionville Corporation, Zimmerman
- 9:30 a.m. GREETINGS: Chris Ronning, Department President, American Legion Auxiliary, Maple Grove
Sandie Deutsch, Department Secretary, American Legion Auxiliary, St. Paul
- 9:40 a.m. REPORT: Chuck Stone, Chairman, Veterans Pheasant Dinner, Owatonna
- 9:50 a.m. AWARDS PRESENTATIONS:
Marie Goede, President, American Legion Hospital Assn., Plainview
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
Denise Milton, Blood Chairman, Bagley
Michael Schaffer, Trophies and Awards Chairman, Fulda
Gary Olson, Yearbook and Narrative History Books, Moorhead
Bob Locker, Community Service Chairman, Fridley
Glenn Mueller, Operation Post Home, St. Charles
Robert Hart, Legislative Chairman, Stillwater
Bob Mace, Bowling Chairman, Waite Park
- 11:15 a.m. PRESENTATIONS BY:
David Heidebrink, Employment Committee Chairman, Hutchinson
GREETINGS: Scott Mills, Director Veterans' Employment and Training (DVET)
- 11:30 a.m. NATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICE AWARDS:
Ray DeZurik, National Executive Committeeman, Breezy Point
Wilson Spence III, Rehabilitation Committee, Duluth
"PAT" CLIFF AWARD to Outstanding Post Service Officer
- 11:45 a.m. CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS
- Noon RECESS

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 17, 2015

- 1:30 p.m. CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS
- 1:45 p.m. YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES:
SAL REPORT: Dennis Henkemeyer, SAL Detachment Commander, Bagley
BOY SCOUT OF THE YEAR, Tom Hallett, Boy Scout Chairman, Mankato
2015 LEGION BOYS STATE REPRESENTATIVE
2015 ORATORICAL CONTEST WINNER, Tess Davis, Chairman, Princeton
- 2:00 p.m. CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS
- 2:30 p.m. FINAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS: Pat Logan, Department Membership Director, Bloomington
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 JACKPOT JUNCTION FOR ONE HOUR FROM TIME OF RECESS

FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 17, 2015

- 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 18, 2015

- 8-9 a.m. Voting at JACKPOT JUNCTION
- 8:30 a.m. CONCERT: Ninth District Band
- 9:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER: Peggy Moon, Department Commander, St. Joseph
ADVANCEMENT OF THE COLORS: 2015 Color Guard Winner
THE NATIONAL ANTHEM - Led by Ninth District Band
INVOCATION: Steve Klinkner, Department Chaplain, Madelia
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
"THE PREAMBLE" - Recital by Department Commander and Delegates
"CONVENTION MEMORIAL SERVICE": Steve Klinkner, Department Chaplain, Madelia
- 9:15 a.m. REPORT: David Bode, Parade Coordinator, Nicollet
FINAL REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
REPORT AND PRESENTATIONS: Peggy Moon, Department Commander, St. Joseph
- 9:30 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 Peggy Moon's Family
Presentation of Miniature Department Colors to Retiring Commander
Mike Ash, Past Department Commander, St. Paul
- FIVE DEPARTMENT 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
- INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS ELECT — (to be announced)
BENEDICTION
RETIREMENT OF THE COLORS
ADJOURNMENT

Auxiliary Convention Program

96th

Department Convention
July 16 - 18, 2015

Jackpot Junction Casino/Hotel, Redwood Falls, Minnesota

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

10:00 a.m. Department Strategic Planning Committee Meeting - Sales & Catering Room
11:00 a.m. Department Audit Committee - Tatanka 1 Room
12:00 a.m. Department Finance Committee Meeting - Thunderbird Room
1:00 p.m. Department Girls State Meeting - Tatanka 4 Room
1:00 p.m. Department Executive Committee Meeting - Tatanka 2 Room
District Presidents-Elect are invited to join the Department Executive Committee Meeting
5:00 p.m. Registration Opens - Redwood Falls American Legion Post 38

THURSDAY, JULY 16

7:00 a.m. Registration Opens - Grand Eagle Hallway
7:30 a.m. Briefing and Rehearsal for the Processional - Grand Eagle Ballroom
8:00 a.m. District Caucuses
8:00 a.m. Convention Credentials Committee Meeting - Sales and Catering Room
8:00 a.m. Convention Rules Committee Meeting - Thunderbird 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 - Chris Ronning, Department President
Invocation - Erma Redden, Department Chaplain
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag - Joanne Joachim, Americanism Chairman
The National Anthem - Joanne Joachim, Americanism Chairman
Preamble to the Constitution - Karen Thygeson, Constitution and Bylaws Chairman
9:20 a.m. POW/MIA Remembrance - Wanda Anderson, National Security Chairman
9:30 a.m. Welcome to Redwood Falls
Jeannette Mertens, Auxiliary Convention Chairman and President
Redwood Falls Unit #38
Vida Bacon, 2nd District President
Jerome Ludwig, Post #38 Commander
Jennifer Kafka, 2nd District Commander
Gene Olswoold, 2nd District SAL Commander
Jim Mertens, The American Legion Convention Chairman Post 38
9:30 a.m. Response to Welcomes - Sandy Fredrickson, Department First Vice President
9:35 a.m. Greetings - The Honorable Corey Theis, Mayor of Redwood Falls
9:40 a.m. Presentation of Distinguished Guests
Chris Ronning, Sandra Fredrickson, Carol Kottom, Shirley Frederick, Raleen Tolzmann, Lori Skallerud, Evelyn Starr
Kris Nelson, Marie Goede, Carol Barbknecht, Norma Tramm, Tamara Opland, Peggy Tesdahl, Carol Holmgren, Ella Dokken, Joyce Olson, Beverly Ottersness
10:00 a.m. Response for the Distinguished Guests - Shirley Frederick, National Executive Committeewoman and Northwestern National Division National Security Chairman
10:05 a.m. Greetings - Larry Shellito, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs
10:15 a.m. Preliminary Report of Convention Credentials Committee - Carol Holmgren, Chairman
10:20 a.m. Reading of the Call to Convention - Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
10:25 a.m. Reading of the 2014 Department Convention Minutes - Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
10:30 a.m. Report of the Convention Rules Committee - Annette Bray, Chairman
10:30 a.m. Nominations of candidates for:
Department President
Department First Vice President
Department Second Vice President
10:35 a.m. Remarks by candidates for Department Offices
11:00 a.m. Nomination of delegates-at-large
11:05 a.m. Announcements - Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
11:10 a.m. Recess
11:15 a.m. Memorial Service - The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion Daotah Exposition Hall

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 16

2:00 p.m. Meeting of the Convention Committees -
2:00 p.m. Gambling Seminar - Daotah Exposition Center

FRIDAY, JULY 17

7:00 a.m. Registration Opens- Grand Eagle Hallway
8:00 a.m. District Caucuses (10) meet - Consult Room Assignment Sheet
9:00 a.m. Daily Roll Call of District Presidents - Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
9:00 a.m. Call to Order - Chris Ronning, Department President
Invocation - Erma Redden, Department Chaplain
Supplemental Report of Convention Credentials Committee - Carol Holmgren, Chairman
9:10 a.m. Presentation of the District Presidents
Michelle Weaver, Vida Bacon, Michelle Leonard, Connie Anderson, Cari Lamb
Jessie Hoppe, Sandy Wersal, Zandra Kessler, Margee Keller, Robin Dorf
9:25 a.m. Response for the District Presidents
Michelle Leonard, Third District President
Recognition of the Department Office staff - Chris Ronning, Department President

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

10:00 a.m. Children and Youth - Raleen Tolzmann, Chairman
10:05 a.m. American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State - Marie Goede, Chairman
10:10 a.m. Greetings from Sarah Burch - 2015 Governor of Minnesota Girls State, sponsored by Lindstrom Unit 83
10:15 a.m. Junior Activities - Patti Coleman, Chairman
10:20 a.m. Greeting from Jules Elfta, 2014-2015 Department Honorary Junior President, Argyle Unit 353

FAMILY SUPPORT POD REPORTS

10:25 a.m. Americanism - Joanne Joachim, Chairman
Announcement of Americanism Essay Winners
10:35 a.m. Community Service - Mary Hendrickson, Chairman
10:40 a.m. Education - Norma Tramm, Chairman
10:45 a.m. Memorial - Erma Redden, Chairman
10:50 a.m. Report on The Brain Science Foundation - Judy Samuelson
10:55 a.m. Report on The American Legion Family Hospital Association - Marie Goede, President
11:00 a.m. Presentation - Don Walser - Auxiliary Judge Advocate,
Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
11:10 a.m. Announcements, Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
11:20 a.m. Recess
11:30 a.m. Past Department Presidents' Luncheon
1:30 p.m. Call to Order - Chris Ronning, Department President
1:35 p.m. Report on Legionville, Wayne Gilbertson, President, Legionville Corporation
1:40 p.m. Report on Convention Corporation, Phil Bellefeuille, Chairman
1:45 p.m. Presentation - Auxiliary Bowling Trophy - Bob Mace & John Torma, Legion Bowling Chairman

ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT REPORTS

1:50 p.m. Convention Committee Report - Constitution and Bylaws, Karen Thygeson, Chairman
1:55 p.m. Convention Committee Report - Resolutions, Phyllis Mealey, Chairman
2:00 p.m. Convention Committee Report - Finance, Patricia Swanson, Chairman
2:10 p.m. Convention Committee Report - History, Donna Redepening, Chairman
2:15 p.m. Convention Committee Report - Past Presidents Parley, Linda Kropuenske, Chairman
2:20 p.m. Presentation of the Past Department Presidents - Chris Ronning, Department President
2:30 p.m. Response for the Past Department Presidents - Kris Nelson, Past Department President
2:35 p.m. Memorial Service for Past Department Presidents - Linda Kropuenske, Chairman

VETERAN/MILITARY SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY REPORTS

2:45 p.m. Convention Committee Report - Legislation, Sandra Fredrickson, Chairman
2:50 p.m. Convention Committee Report - National Security, Wanda Anderson, Chairman; Paula Davis, Armed Forces Center Representative
2:55 p.m. Convention Committee Report - Poppy, Mary Kuperus, Chairman
3:00 p.m. Announcement of the Poppy Contest Winners - Mary Kuperus, Chairman
3:10 p.m. Convention Committee Report - Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation,

3:20 p.m.

3:30 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

3:45 p.m. Report on the Auxiliary Emergency Fund - Jean Horack, Chairman
3:50 p.m. Convention Committee Report - Leadership, Jean Walker
3:55 p.m. Convention Committee Report - Judy Ackeman, Chairman
4:00 p.m. Department President Convention Committee Report - Public Relations, Diane Hayes, Chairman
4:05 p.m. Announcements, Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
4:10 p.m. Recess
4:30 p.m. Musical Extravaganza "Our Veterans of Wars Past and Present" - Daotah Exposition Center, Director Jean Forbord

FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 17

7:00 p.m. Parade Time - Downtown Redwood Falls (shuttles available)

SATURDAY, JULY 18

7:00 a.m. Registration Opens - Grand Eagle Hallway
9:00 a.m. Daily Roll Call of District Presidents - Dept Secretary Sandie Deutsch
9:00 a.m. Call to Order - Chris Ronning, Department President
Invocation - Erma Redden, Department Chaplain
9:05 a.m. Supplemental Report of Convention Credentials Committee - Carol Holmgren, Chairman
9:10 a.m. Presentation of The American Legion, Commander Peggy Moon and Adjutant Randy Tesdahl
9:15 a.m. Presentation of Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Dennis Henkemeyer and Adjutant Doug Bible
9:20 a.m. Ninth District Band, Vernon Kuhn, President
9:30 a.m. Final Report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee - Karen Thygeson, Chairman
9:35 a.m. Final Report of the Resolutions Committee - Phyllis Mealey, Chairman
9:40 a.m. Presentation of Department President's Memory Book - Jill Mueller, Chairman
9:45 a.m. Presentation of the Department Convention Chairman and Committee
Jeannette Mertens, Auxiliary General Chairman
Special introductions and thank yous, Chris Ronning, Department President
9:50 a.m. Unfinished business
9:55 a.m. New business
10:10 a.m. Final Report of the Credentials Committee - Carol Holmgren, Chairman
10:20 a.m. Election of Officers - Report of the Election Committee, Darlene Wondra, Judge of Elections
Judge of Elections, Department President
Department First Vice President
Department Second Vice President
Delegates at Large
Ratification of alternates elected at District Conventions
Alternates at Large
Retirement of Department and Past National Presidents' Colors
Installation of Incoming 2015-2016 Department Officers and District Presidents - Karen Thygeson and Kris Nelson
Presentation of Department President's Pin to Newly Elected Department President - Chris Ronning, Retiring Department President
Presentation of Past Department President's Pin - Karen Thygeson
Benediction - Erma Redden, Department Chaplain
Retirement of All Colors
Adjournment of 2015 Department Convention - Chris Ronning,
Post Convention Executive Committee Meeting - Immediately following adjournment of the Convention

2015 Resolutions

RESOLUTION 1

The following Resolution originated from the Charles Borak Post 45 in New Prague and was adopted by the 3rd District and is submitted for consideration by the 2015 Department Convention, to be held in Redwood Falls, Minnesota, July 16-18, 2015.

RESOLUTION FOR DEPARTMENT SGT-AT-ARMS 2015-2016

WHEREAS, the Third District, Department of Minnesota has a qualified candidate for the office of Department Sgt-At-Arms for 2015-2016, and

WHEREAS, the candidate has the qualifications to uphold the Office of Department Sgt-At-Arms, and

WHEREAS, this Legionnaire would be honored in serving The American Legion Department of Minnesota as a Department Sgt-At-Arms, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Mark J. Dvorak is hereby endorsed for the position of Department Sgt-At-Arms for the American Legion Department of Minnesota for the year 2015-2016, and be it finally

RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to The American Legion Department of Minnesota Convention to be held in Redwood Falls on July 16-18th 2015 to be received and filed.

RESOLUTION 2

The following Resolution originated from the Adam-Stierlen Post 311 in Elysian and was adopted by the 3rd District and is submitted for consideration by the 2015 Department Convention, to be held in Redwood Falls, Minnesota, July 16-18, 2015.

RESOLUTION FOR DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER 2015-2016

WHEREAS, the Third District, Department of Minnesota has a qualified candidate for the office of Department Vice Commander for the First District and Third District for 2015-2016, and

WHEREAS, the candidate has the qualifications to uphold the Office of Department of Vice Commander, and

WHEREAS, this Legionnaire would be honored in serving The American Legion Department of Minnesota as a Department Vice Commander, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that John Milbrath is hereby endorsed for the position of Department Vice Commander for The First District and Third District American Legion Department of Minnesota for the year 2015-2016, and be it finally

RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to The American Legion Department of Minnesota Convention to be held in Redwood Falls on July 16-18th 2015 to be received and filed.

RESOLUTION 3

The following Resolution originated from the LeCenter Post 108 in LeCenter and was adopted by the 3rd District and is submitted for consideration by the 2015 Department Convention, to be held in Redwood Falls, Minnesota, July 16-18, 2015.

CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF MILITARY RETIRED PAY AND VA SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITY PAY

WHEREAS, we reaffirm our support of veterans who have served our country as career military men and women, and

WHEREAS, these retired veterans were injured or disabled as a result of their service, and

WHEREAS, military retirees have devoted more than 20 years to defending our country and democracy, and

WHEREAS, military retirees are the only federal retirees who pay out of their own pocket for their service connected disability compensation, and

WHEREAS, military retirees with 50% or greater service connected disabilities are able to receive both military retired pay and VA disability compensation, and

WHEREAS, all other federal retirees receive both retirement pay and disability compensation, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that The American Legion strongly support U.S. House Resolution 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act, which would end the unfair policy of forcing many military longevity retirees to forfeit some of their retired pay in order to receive equal amounts of disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), for those retirees with less than 50% service connected disability, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to The American Legion, Department of Minnesota Convention to be held July 16, 17 and 18, 2015 in Morton MN for

concurring action, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to The American Legion National Convention to be held September 1, 2 and 3, 2015 in Baltimore, MD for concurring action.

RESOLUTION 4

The following Resolution originated from The American Legion Post 50 in Wabasha and was adopted by the 1st District and is submitted for consideration by the 2015 Department Convention, to be held in Redwood Falls, Minnesota, July 16-18, 2015.

SPIRIT OF SERVICE AWARDS FOR NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of War Time Veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of Community, State and Nation, and,

WHEREAS, this service is performed through the American Legion's 4 Pillars, Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, and,

Whereas, the make of the actual forces deployed to meet these threats are up of a high percentage of National Guard and Reserve members and,

WHEREAS, members of the active duty forces are annually recognized by the Department of Defense for their community service through the Spirit of Service Awards at the American Legion National Convention, and,

WHEREAS, the members of the National Guard and Reserve who are performing the same duties deserve the recognition accorded the members of the active duty Armed Forces, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American Legion recommend that the Department of Defense include the members of the National Guard and Reserve in its Spirit of Service Awards, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minnesota American Legion, Department Convention in Redwood Falls, July 16 - 19, 2015 for concurring action, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to The American Legion National Convention in Baltimore, MD, September 1-3, 2015 for concurring action.

RESOLUTION 5

The following Resolution originated from Lozar-Mrace-Loushin Post 248 in Ely, MN and was adopted by the 8th District and is submitted for consideration by the 2015 Department Convention, to be held in Redwood Falls, Minnesota, July 16-18, 2015.

SUPPORT OF COPPER-NICKEL MINING IN NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA

WHEREAS, Minnesota American Legion Post 248 is one of 41 Minnesota 8th District Posts; and

WHEREAS, many Minnesota 8th District Posts are located in Northeastern Minnesota communities; and

WHEREAS, economic development and job growth in Northeastern Minnesota communities lags behind the rest of the state; and

WHEREAS, the development of proposed copper-nickel mining projects and the expansion of iron mining operations in Northeastern Minnesota will stimulate economic development and provide employment for Minnesota military veterans and their families, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Ely Post 248 supports the environmentally friendly and safe development of copper-nickel mining projects and the expansion of ferrous mining operations that will provide jobs for Minnesota military veterans and their families; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Resolution is to be forwarded to the Minnesota Department Convention for concurring action in 2015; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this Resolution of support for the development of copper-nickel mining projects and the expansion of ferrous mining operations in Northeastern Minnesota is to be presented to our elected officials, both State and Federal.

RESOLUTION 6

The following Resolution was adopted by the 5th District in convention on June 6th, 2015 in Bloomington, MN and is submitted for consideration by the 2015 Department Convention, to be held in Redwood Falls, Minnesota, July 16-18, 2015.

MINNESOTA LEGION BASEBALL RESOLUTION: 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, sponsor 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 Baseball Committee, effective for the 2013 and 2014 baseball seasons, changed the format for qualifying for the State tournament by establishing 15 zones and seeding the host team. These 15 zones crossed District boundaries and effectively eliminated the Department's District competition, and

WHEREAS, the new 15 zone format resulted in three Districts not being represented in the 2014 State 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 the opportunity to qualify to participate in a state tournament, youngsters who need the opportunity the most, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Minnesota American Legion's Districts are a vital part of the Department's structure for all of its successful programs, the ten Districts should have the right to participate and be represented in a State Tournament if they have qualified teams, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Department Commander and Executive Committee direct the Department Baseball Committee to include and offer all Districts seeded representation in all Division I and

OFFICIAL BALLOT

The American Legion, Dept of Minnesota
Election of Officers 2015-2016

To Vote, Make an X in the box next to your choice

Like This:

Department Commander (vote for _____)	
James Kellogg	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write in _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Department Vice Commander (Vote for 5)	
John Milbrath	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don Amundson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carroll Partridge	<input type="checkbox"/>
Art Tobkin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Darrel Redepenning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write in _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write in _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

NECman (vote for one)	
Marland Ronning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write in _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Alt NECman (vote for one)	
William Barbknecht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write in _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Chaplain (vote for one)	
Richard Wog	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write in _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historian (vote for one)	
Dennis DeLong	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write in _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sergeant-at-Arms (vote for one)	
Mark Dvorak	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write in _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Board of Publication (vote for one)	
Virgil Persing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write in _____	<input type="checkbox"/>