

Citizen's Flag Alliance

Madam Commander Peggy, I would like to thank you for this appointment. It has been an honor to serve you and the Department.

A matter of special interest is a Flag Protection Constitutional Amendment.

I believe Joint resolutions to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States were again introduced in each the House and Senate earlier this year.

But as we know, the current government gridlock, is directly our affecting benefits and services as veterans and American citizens.

I would like to send a personal note all my friends in the American Legion. Due to a long hospital stay and recovery I will not be able to attend Legion functions for a long time.

John Bey

Chairman, Citizens Flag Alliance

Convention Corp.

The Department Convention Corporation committee has been busy as usual. We continue to strive to make your Department Conventions and Fall Conferences more enjoyable and informative. This past year we posted a questionnaire on the Department website and we will give you a summary of the replies we received at the upcoming Department Convention. Our convention and fall conference guidelines have been updated and are available to any post that is considering hosting a convention or fall conference. We are looking for a bid to host the 2017 Department Convention. If you are interested please contact your department adjutant or any member of the convention committee. Thank you to all the local committees that have hosted a recent or upcoming event.

Phil Bellefeuille

Chairman, Convention Committee

Employment

I am the Department Chairman of the Employment Committee. One of the duties as Employment Chairman is to give out the Employer of the Year Award for hiring veterans. In order to receive this award, there are some criteria that the employer must meet. 10% of the employers workforce must be Vets, have been in business for at least 5 years, and must be a private sector employer, which basically means not City, State or Federal.

Each year a letter is sent out to all 10 districts to call on employers who would meet the 10% Vets workforce. If an employer is found who meets those requirements, one is chosen and sent out to the National American Legion for approval. When that employer is picked, a letter will be sent to them explaining the award and a plaque is presented to them during our Department Convention in July.

The American Legion Washington Conference is held annually in our nation's capital gives organizations leadership a chance to meet with elected officials to discuss legislative initiatives and priorities important to Legion members and their families.

This year as Minnesota delegates we traveled to Washington DC on Feb. 23, 24, 25th. During that time we attended different meetings in regards to veterans and their benefits. I attended the Economic Commission meeting. What was discussed was employment for veterans. In that roundtable meeting discussion we centered on the federal governments Veterans Hiring initiative, Transition issues for service members and veterans licensing and certification, job training, veterans preference policies, and private-sector opportunities for veterans and their families. Other topics were on how we can cut down on homeless veterans, and how to make it easier for veterans to apply for Federal jobs. A good website for veterans to use is VA for Vets va.gov.

We listened to the National Legion Commander Michael Helm talk about better treatment for PTSD and TBI veterans. VA Secretary Robert McDonald talked about better health care at VA facilities across the country and what is new in the VA system. A couple of Senators who are on the Veterans Affairs Committee spoke on behalf of veterans issues. Questions and comments were asked after each presenter was done speaking.

This year we met with all the Minnesota Legislators in one room talking about veterans and their needs. I was able to sit down with some legionnaires and talk with Legislator Colin Peterson about our concerns. As the Veterans Employment Representative for the State of Minnesota, I asked for the support of the full funding for the DVOP and LVER programs. Other issues discussed were: Protecting the Armed Forces budget cuts from sequestration, Opposing increases in TRICARE fees, including prescription drug fees, Ensuring the stability of funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Reducing the VA claims backlog and modernizing the claims processing system, increasing employment opportunities for veterans in the private sector, Ending homelessness among veterans and their families by the end of 2015, and securing in state college tuition for student veterans from out of state. At the end of the Conference, American Legion department commanders met with Commander Helm and discussed any other issues that were not addressed at earlier meetings.

Dave Heidebrink

Employment Chairman

Energy and Conservation

It's nice to see that the U.S. military is now supporting green initiatives. For example, the Pentagon is replacing its fluorescent lighting with LED lights. Military forts and bases are promoting the recycling of paper, cardboard, glass, metal and cell phones. The Army is spending money on "green buildings"—structures that reduce their impact on the environment. Meanwhile the Air Force is exploring the use of synthetic fuels in its aircraft. We as citizens need to follow their example of replacing lights, recycling and exploring new energy resources.

A large part of the Department of Minnesota Energy and Conservation Program revolves around the sale of tree seedlings. Unfortunately, this year brought a dramatic drop in tree sales. 3593 tree seedlings were sold in 2014. This year our total sales were 2010. Tree seedlings were purchased in only eight of our ten districts. It appears we need to do a better job of getting information about the tree seedling sales to our members. A special thank you goes out to Cathy Sayward, our representative at the Itasca Greenhouse.

Thank you Commander Peggy Moon for this committee chairmanship.

Carl Hendrickson

Energy and Conservation Chairman

Family Hospital Association

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, it is my pleasure to report on this fiscal year's activities. I am reporting on all activities from the beginning of the fiscal year August 1, 2014 through May 31st, 2015. A complete fiscal year report will be provided to the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and the SAL at our annual meeting held at the Fall Conference. Application history from the beginning of the fiscal (August 1st, 2014) through (May 31st, 2015) can be seen below:

12 Applications have been received through 31 May 2015
10 of these Applicants received funds from the ALFHA
1 Application was disapproved
1 Applications did not meet the requirements to receive funds from the ALFHA

Listed below is the breakdown on the number of claims and amount of payouts by District:

District	# of Claims	Dollar Payout
First	2	\$ 2,680
Second	1	\$ 1,617
Third	0	\$ 1,204
Fourth	0	\$ 0
Fifth	0	\$ 0
Sixth	0	\$ 0
Seventh	0	\$ 0
Eighth	1	\$ 3,000
Ninth	4	\$ 5,807
Tenth	3	\$ 4,188
TOTALS	12	\$ 18,496

Listed below is the financial picture for the ALFHA as of the end of May 2015:

Total Assets:	\$ 248,879
Total YTD Income:	\$ 38,011
Total YTD Expense:	\$ 27,525
YTD Net Assets Gain:	\$ 10,486

Special thanks to Roger Myren and Laura Weber for all the work they do for the American Legion Family Hospital Association. Also thank you to the board members who have served this past year. They are: Marland Ronning, Jan Walker, Jim Kellogg, Dennis Blue, Nick Kakos, Peggy Moon, Chris Ronning and Dennis Henkemeyer.

A special thank you to the American Legion Family Hospital Association membership for allowing me the honor of serving as your President.

Marie Goede

President, American Legion Family Hospital Association

Finance

The Department Finance Committee met at the Quality Inn, St. Cloud on September 30, 2014 and set the budget for the American Legion department of Minnesota for the fiscal year 2014-15

The budget was approved as follows: total revenue \$1,210,610 and total expense of \$1,210,120, resulting in revenue exceeding expense budget by \$490.

Mileage for FY 2014-15 was set at 45 cents per mile and per diem to be paid at a rate of \$75 per day for 2 or more day meetings.

Revenue from USAA, LIT and other non membership sources remain very important in maintaining the budget as membership continues to decline.

The Committee wishes to extend a special thank you to Commander Peggy Moon, Adjutant Randy Tesdahl, Finance Liaison Laura Weber and all the office staff for the support they provided this year.

Members of the Finance Committee are: Chairman Tom Burau, Floyd Kuncrow, Ray DeZurik, Robin Pieray, Bill Goede, Commander Peggy Moon and Department Treasurer Richard Horn.

Tom Burau

Chair, Finance Committee

Fund for Hosp. Vets

The annual meeting of the Fund for Hospitalized Veterans Committee was held on 14 October 2014 at 10:10 a.m. at Department headquarters.

Members present were Mike Maxa, Wes Thompson, Gene Oswald Mark Dvorak, Carol Kottom. Also present were Chris Ronning Auxiliary Department President, Jeremy Wofstälter ADSO and Sandie Deusch Auxiliary Department Secretary. Sandie Deusch volunteered as secretary.

The financial report was approved for the 2014-2015 year which showed donations at \$14400.00 and a budget set at \$15300.00, expenses for the year were \$9508.84. We had a positive gain in the account of \$4891.16.

The annual budget for 2014-2015 was set at \$16,300.00.

The Fund for Hospitalized Veterans was established many years ago. The purpose of the fund is to provide assistance to veterans in VA Hospitals. The Fund for Hospitalized Veterans meets annually to determine what assistance the fund will provide to the VA Hospitals. This fund was moved to the Minnesota American Legion Foundation to make it easier for posts to donate gambling funds. Donations from the Posts, Units, Squads and individuals are the only source of income for the fund. Funds are expended to help make our veterans stay in our VA Hospitals a little more comfortable.

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank all the Posts, Units, Squads and individuals who have donated to the fund. I also would like to thank you in advance for any other donations received. Thank you for helping our veterans. One hundred percent of your donations go to the Hospitalized Veterans at Minneapolis VAMC, St. Cloud VAMC, Sioux Falls VAMC, and Fargo VAMC.

Mike Maxa

Chairman, Fund for Hospitalized Veterans

Law and Order

Law and order committee is responsible for selecting the outstanding Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the year. This year the committee received 4 nominees for Law Enforcement Officer and 2 nominees for Firefighter. In April the committee met to review and discuss the applications. This year the committee selected the nominee submitted by North End Post 474 of the 4th District for Law Enforcement Officer of the year. Sgt. Mark Piccadenti a 30 year member of the Saint Paul Police Department. Firefighter of the year nominee was submitted by Clear Lake Post 354 of the 6th District. Captain Barry Schuldt a 35 year member of the Clear Lake Fire Department.

The Law and Order Committee would like to thank all the American Legion Posts who took the time to select and nominate these outstanding individuals for their respected communities. Also a Thank you to the members of the Law and Order committee, Richard Abraham and Jeff Brokaw for their part in the selection process.

Tom Conway

Law and Order Chairman

Legion Riders

Greetings from the American Legion Riders Department of Minnesota. We are happy to report that as of June 1st, 2015, we have verified over 65 established Chapters in the State of Minnesota, and over 500 Chapter members. We hold our annual elections, and convention at the "Romp" in September. At that time we will have a more accurate count of Chapters, and members.

We would like everyone to remember that we are a growing program, and with that comes growing pains. We are working on communication between the Chapters, the Districts, and Department. There are always a few speed bumps along the way, but we will get there.

Our 6th Minnesota Legacy run will be the first two weekends in August. The kickoff party for the 1st weekend "Southern Minnesota" will be in New Ulm on the 30th of July, and the kickoff for the 2nd weekend will be in Duluth on the 6th of August. We would appreciate all of the support you can give us.

Thank you Commander Peggy Moon for this appointment.

Paul Hassing

Liaison, American Legion Riders

Legionnaire Insurance Trust

LIT is now offering free \$5,000.00 worth of accidental death life insurance to all Legionnaires. This insurance is in effect while on official American Legion business.

Every Legionnaire receives \$1,000.00 accidental death insurance if registered. Please register today by calling 1-800-235-6943 or visit the web site thelit.com.

LIT also offers vehicle insurance with GMAC Insurance. Call 1-877-7701 to check out their rates. It is a very good company.

You must register for this benefit by calling 800-235-6943 or going to thelit.com.

If you have any questions on any of the LIT products, please feel free to contact me at 218-770-6264.

Bill Barbkoch

LIT Chairman

Legionville

I'm glad to report that the progress on the education building has progressed well. The walls have all been painted, drop in ceiling installed, most floors have been completed, cabinets have been installed in several rooms, counter tops have been installed. The bathroom fixtures are on site and will be installed in the next several weeks. We have started to hang pictures in the reception area. I'm sure when you see the completed project you will appreciate what has been accomplished.

I'm happy to report that the AAA Sponsorship has been completed. They presented a check for \$25,000.00 at the spring meeting and will present another check for \$25,000.00 in January of 2016. In addition a new sign was approved at spring meeting at a cost of \$7,000.00, and this will be paid for by AAA.

The paver project is an ongoing project and we continue to order pavers and get them engraved. Roy has started the installation of the pavers and we hope to have all that have been ordered installed by our dedication.

Legionville Camporee will take place September 10th – 13th, 2015. This is a chance for everyone to come up and check out the progress on the new building. The American Legion Riders Romp will be held September 25th – 27th, 2015.

I would like to thank Commander Peggy Moon for taking Legionville on as your project this year. I would like to thank President Chris Ronning for her generous donation to Legionville. With everyone's help we will have the new education building completed this year.

6th District Commander Carl Moon's project was to raise enough money to purchase a snow plow for the pickup truck this year. We had the plow installed this past fall and it cut down on the time to clear the roads at Legionville. Instead of taking hours to clear, Roy can clear all areas in an hour now.

I would like to thank all the Districts, Posts, Auxiliary Units, and Squads that donated money this past year to help with the completion of the new building.

Roy Kruger has put in countless hours working to get the education building completed. Without his knowledge and time we wouldn't be where we are today. Thanks Roy for all your time and efforts.

I appreciate the people that took time out of their busy schedule to help with various projects at Legionville this past year.

The representatives on the board are: 1st District – Carroll Hill, 2nd District – David Hanson, 3rd District – Eugene Leiffeld, 4th District – Joe Jensen, 5th District – Dennis Delong, 6th District – Vignette Giberson, 7th District – Bob Himer, 8th District – Richard Zahn, 9th District – Tom Conway, 10th District – John Torma, Legion Representative – Roger Myren, Department Commander – Peggy Moon, Department Adjutant – Randy Tesdahl, Department Finance Officer – Dick Horn, Department Auxiliary President – Chris Ronning, SAL Representative – Dennis Henkemeyer, School/Safety Chair – Jim Blakesley, 40 & 8 Representative – Bruce Harms, Finance Liaison – Laura Weber, and Legal Counsel – Tom Lannon

Wayne M. Gilbertson

President, Legionville

I would like to invite everyone to attend the new building dedication on September 12 between 1 and 2 p.m.

Legislative

The Legislative Committee is chaired by Robert Hart and assisted by Past Department Commander Mike Ash, Bill Brockberg and Gary Larson. The American Legion works with 8 other federally chartered veterans' organizations and the Minnesota department of Veteran Affairs as part of the Commanders Task Force. I am pleased to report that the American Legion Commander Peggy Moon was elected to Chair the CTF this year.

The Commanders' Task Force has crafted a legislative agenda which was vital yet pragmatic.

Special challenges faced us this year. With 2015 being a budget year significant differences in political priorities, hence competition for funding was fierce.

We are pleased to report that our primary objective of fully funding the Health Care priorities of the MDVA was realized in the final hours of the session.

Additional progress was made on Veterans Preference issues and we are grateful that both sides of the aisle are supportive of these efforts. The length of this report does not allow for the complete itemization of the progress for this year but the June issue of the Legionnaire details the range of issues in which we prevailed.

One of the frustrations we had to deal with this year was the lack of public hearings on the fiscal issues of concern to us. Most of these were

conducted in closed-door meetings and we had a hard time getting a read on where things stood. We found in this case that emails and phone calls were more critical this year in lieu of public presence. This may also be the case in the coming year.

The Vets Day on the Hill in March was very well attended despite the Capital building construction. The event was held at the nearby Army and was well attended by veterans and lawmakers alike.

In addition to action at the State level, the American Legion Washington DC Conference was well attended in spite of very challenging weather related travel issues for our members and Congresspersons as well.

Our priorities at the national level included protecting Veterans and DOD from harmful cuts due to sequestration.

We seek to improve the disability claims process to eliminate the VA Claims backlog.

VA Disability compensation should not be offset from retired pay regardless of the VA rating percentage. Nor should the survivor benefits from military Survivor Benefit Plan. We oppose any further increases in TRICARE Fees, including prescription drug fees.

We feel the nation should provide quality education through a Post 9/11 GI Bill which could include using funds in the GI Bill for loans for small businesses and farming.

We continue to fight the Disabled Veterans Tax and the Widow's Tax. And the American Legion continues to support legislation to safeguard our nation's flag from physical desecration.

This year instead of breaking up our delegation and going door to door to visit the Congress people, we held a luncheon/reception at the Library of Congress which drew representatives and/or Aides from 7 of our 8 congressional districts. We had the undivided attention of our guests and all the tables were fully engaged in the task at hand.

Smaller delegations met with both Senators in the afternoon.

All Congress people and Senators received not only a one page talking point list, but the expanded background papers as well.

Lastly, Most of the delegates attended the American Legion Commander testimony before Congress the next day. His comments were supported by two of the finest publications on American Legion imperatives that I have seen and I applaud the National Office for the fine work on this.

I thank Commander Moon for the confidence placed in me this year and this concludes my report.

Robert Hart
Legislative Chairman

Membership

Batter Up!

The proposal was to come up with a 5-Year Membership Plan for the Department of Minnesota, a Membership Budget and a Membership Theme that would excite the American Legion 2014-2015 Membership Team.

Pitch the Proposal:

A briefing was held with Randy Tesdahl, Misty Padilla and Laura Weber to find out what was needed to have a successful Membership Year.

Randy provided guidance for the 5 Year Plan, Misty consulted on my "BASEBALL" theme and graphics and Laura supplied 2013-14 Budget Proposal as a guide for my 2014-15 Membership Budget. Like any other good manager, we tweaked and revised the proposal to make it acceptable. Jennifer Kelley provided valuable program information (scouting report) and Al Zdon served as the "media relations guru." (publicist and photographer)

As State Membership Director, I reviewed the 5 Year Membership Plan that was in place, revised and added several pages that would fit my theme for the Department of Minnesota Membership Plan for 2014-2015. This plan was presented to the Commander and full-time Department Staff and approved.

Randy Tesdahl, State Adjutant, led a team consisting of the Minnesota Department Commander Peggy Moon, myself - State Membership Director and Minnesota Department Vice Commanders to National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Membership Team attended a 3-Day Seminar provided by National Headquarters.

The 2014-15 Plan was presented and reviewed by the National Membership Committee. After several questions and explanations, the Committee approved the 5-Year Plan.

The Game Plan:

In selecting my Membership theme, I wanted it innovative, exciting, and fun. What could be more appropriate than "BASEBALL," America's National Past-Time.

My Membership League consisted of the 10 American Legion Districts. Each District had it's own Membership Team.

In order to inspire the TEAM, each member was furnished an American Legion Customized BASEBALL JERSEY sporting their name and favorite number on the back and a sleeve "Membership Patch" especially designed by Misty and myself.

The focus is on the American Legion TEAM, with "penman races" to create healthy competition. The challenge for each district was to concentrate on re-signing and obtaining new members - with the RALLY TALLY designating the top performers.

Rally Time:

Each Rally that was held included "Baseball Balloons", popcorn, peanuts and Cracker Jacks (with baseball cards), and Killbrew Root Beer to build the spirit. On cue, "Take me out to the Ball Park" was sung at the "seventh inning stretch" to keep the team atmosphere "swinging."

The following are arranged by Rally, Date, Theme, Award Winners, and Prize:

Harvest Rally, 9/6/14, "Take me out to the Ball Game." The Entire MEMBERSHIP TEAM, Team picture taken by Al Zdon, Personalized Jerseys with number on back.

Pearl Harbor Rally, 12/6/14, Tony Oliva Day, KAISERSATT DERBY WINNER, Cmdr. Jennifer Kafka, 2nd District (highest number of membership points), HOME RUN HITTER AWARD: Membership Director Jim Lucas, Cmdr. Carl Moon - 6th District (84.33%), Benchmark Presentation: Commander Wayne Ganton, 5th District, #3 Jersey Presentation: Dan Ludwig, Past National Commander, Kaisersatt; signed framed plaque, Signed Tony Oliva Bat, Baseball Stool, Personalized Jersey.

Sweetheart Rally, 2/7/15, "The Voice of American Legion World Series Baseball," Guest Speaker - Dick Jonckowski, HOME RUN HITTER AWARD: Membership Director: Jim Lucas, Cmdr. Carl Moon - 6th District (92.75%) Seventh Inning Stretch Award: Membership Director Jason Huza, Cmdr. Tom Norgaard - 9th District (91.90%) Baseball Bat, American Flag, (miniature bats), Basket of "TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLPARK" items.

Appreciation Rally, 3/7/15, Kent Hrbek Day & "All-Star Bobble Heads," Music provided by Tim Williams, HOME RUN HITTER AWARD: Membership Director: Jim Lucas, Cmdr. Carl Moon - 6th District (95.50%), Drawings: Signed Kent Hrbek Bat, Logan's Heroes playing cards.

Spring Roundup Rally, 4/25/15, "It Ain't Over Til It's Over" - Yogi Berra Theme, Happy Birthday Celebration, HOME RUN HITTER AWARD: (1st) Membership Director Mickey Ostrum, Cmdr. Dan Williams - 4th District (97.57%), Double Header Award: (2nd place) Membership Director: Jim Lucas, Cmdr. Carl Moon - 6th District, (97.22%), Hitting Streak Award: (3rd place) Membership Director Bill

Johnson, Cmdr. Tom Sanders - 10th District (96.98%), Benchmark Presentation: Commander Wayne Ganton, 5th District, Display case with signed "Yogi Berra" Baseball and Card, Display case with Statue and signed Yogi Berra Card, Framed Yogi Berra Print, Baseball Stool

Department Convention, 7/16-18, GRAND SLAM AWARD: (1st), Winner of Premier Race: Membership Director: Jim Lucas, Cmdr. Carl Moon - 6th District, Double Header Award: (2nd), TBD, Hitting Streak Award: (3rd), TBD, Regulation sized Baseball Bat Flag, Kent Hrbek signed memorabilia, Framed Tony Oliva signed 1987 World Series Team Picture, Appeal Play/Revitalization for the Membership Year 2014-2015.

The 10th District with Bill Johnson started the ball flying with lining up the 1st Revitalization at Osseo Post 172, on December 2-5th 2014. Rolanda Herron, National Assistant Membership Director for the American Legion led the Team Training to make this Revitalization a success.

Second Up, the 4th and 5th Districts held a dual Revitalization competition on March 26-28, 2015.

The Districts used a baseball theme to start the competition with the 4th District representing the American League and the 5th District being the National League. This revitalization was led by American Legion National Vice Commander Paul Sanford along with National Membership Assistant Directors, Rolanda Herron and Dave Baughman. The 4th District won the competition by less than 1% point.

At their respective District Conventions, the 4th District was awarded an "American League #1 Jersey" and the 5th District was awarded their "National League #1 Jersey."

"Batting Clean-up", the 6th District held the final Revitalization at Brainerd Post 255 on April 9-11th, 2015. District Commander Carl Moon and Membership Director Jim Lucas called in the Big Gun from National to "hit a home run" - Billy Johnson, American Legion National Headquarters Membership Director. With the guidance of Bill Johnson, we utilized volunteers from Little Falls Post and we impressed our National representative by setting up a Membership Table at Camp Ripley at the Camp Exchange Building.

ROAD GAMES:

The National Commander Tour (sharing his 4 X 4 Plan GOAL Exceeded) took place February 2-5, 2015. It was an honor to accompany National Commander Mike Helm, along with Department Commander Peggy Moon and Legionnaire Publicist Al Zdon, visiting 12 posts in four days.

BATTING AVERAGE:

As of 6/11/15, Minnesota American Legion ranks high in National percentage @ 95.602% of Goal - currently achieving 12th in the National Membership and 2nd in the Midwest Region - with our total number of actual members remaining near the highest in the Nation. But remember, "It's Not Over Til It's Over" - extra Innings can always Win the game and bring Minnesota higher in the rankings

Designated for Assignment:
Along with my 10 District Membership Team, I want to thank the Front Office Staff:

General Manager (GM) RANDY TESDAHL
Player Personnel Manager MISTY PADILLA
Player Personnel Chief Financial Officer LAURA WEDER
Administrative Scout and Liaison Officer JENNIFER KELLEY
Player & Staff Photographer AL ZDON
Player & Staff Media Specialist LUCAS JOHNSON
I am honored to have been your Department Membership Director (Coach).

A TEAM is a group effort - alone we can do so little, together, we can do so much!

Thank you, Keep Swinging for the Fences!
Patrick W. Logan
Department Membership Director

National Security/ Foreign Relations

The planning and instructional meeting for the District Commanders, NS/FR Department Committee and District NS/FR Chairs was held on September 26-28, 2014 at Camp Ripley. The Department Committee members in attendance were: Jay Beebe, Don Amundson, Jane Ellefson, Richard Gosse and Curtis Norenberg.

The judging and selection of winners from the 11 nominees for the Outstanding Guard and Reserve Persons and planning of activities was done on the first day by the Department NS/FR Committee. Winners included two from the Army National Guard, one each from Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, Marine Reserve, and Navy Reserve.

The Saturday and Sunday morning meetings were attended by eight District Commanders and nine of the District Chairs plus the Department Commander Peggy Moon and invited guest speakers for the program. The Post Commander gave a brief on the mission and status, and gave us an update on the use of small drones. A guided tour was given of areas of interest on Post that included: Val Halla Residence, military museum, automated rifle ranges, flight simulators, village combat training area, observed ROTC field training and state of the art distance education facilities. The Sunday morning session included duties and responsibilities of NS/FR that included: Beyond the Yellow Ribbon and family support, Outstanding Enlisted Award Program, Civil Air Patrol, ROTC, National Security/Foreign Relations, POW/MIA activities, and liaison with Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

The Outstanding Enlisted Award winners and their families, plus Post and unit commanders, numbering over 20, were hosted at a reception at the Fall Conference at the Mahonmen Casino on October 23-25, 2014. Winners were awarded a plaque with other nominees award framed certificates. The five Civil Air Patrol scholarship winners were also announced. The Conference concluded with a presentation by Chief Master Sergeant James Gibson, North Dakota Air National Guard, on the mission of the Predator controlled out of the Air National Guard at the Fargo, North Dakota Hector Airport.

The Washington, D. C. America Legion Conference was attended on February 22-25, 2015 by committee delegates Don Amundson and Richard Gosse along with Curtis Norenberg on the National Commission. Support is appreciated from all Department Posts and the American Legion Family that is given to NS/FR programs and the outstanding support of our Minnesota men and women that serve in our military. There continues to be a shortage of contributions for the Senior ROTC Scholarship funds.

Curtis Norenberg
Chairman, National Security and Foreign Relations

Operation Post Home

This year I had the opportunity to see Operation Post Home program in action. Operation Post Home is a program through which The American Legion Posts are open to citizens of the community, especially veterans, in need of regularly scheduled educational, recreational, and social activities. Since some posts do not have a home but help out veteran in other ways such as doing honor Guard for fallen vets with no families or helping out

new veterans coming home with chores.

This program became an official program when Resolution #12 was adopted at the NEC spring meeting of 1978. This action came about after a successful pilot program at Post 71 in Duluth and an additional program in Minneapolis at the Gopher Post. This committee falls under the close watch of the VA&R program.

This gives each post an opportunity to recognize that one special individual who goes the extra mile and gives without any thought of what they get in return. While I have seen many acts of kindness and helpfulness in all of our members and I have heard of many community members helping out vets also, I have not gotten any applications but the award will be given out at our department convention in Redwood Falls.

Commander Peggy Moon, I want to thank you for allowing me to serve in this capacity during your year of leadership.

Glenn Mueller
Chairman, Operations Post Home

Pheasant Dinner

The 73rd Annual Hospitalized Veterans Pheasant Dinner Program was a great success. There were over 237 Posts, Units, Squads, Voltures and other donations contributing this year. These figures reflect Legion donations only. Contributions came from all areas of the state and a few from outside Minnesota.

Over 1500 pheasants were used to feed the veterans in 14 hospitals and/or Veterans Homes involved which are: Minneapolis and St. Cloud VAMC's, Sioux Falls SD and Fargo ND VAMC's, Minnesota Veterans homes in Minneapolis, Fergus Falls, Hastings, Dresbach, Silver Bay, and Luverne, the veterans in St. Peter, and Good Samaritan Society Nursing Home in Brainerd, Post Home 167 - Wilmar and Post Home 602 - Hillman.

The American Legion Home taken in this year was \$45,646.75 (The VFW is a joint sponsor of the dinners only). After expenses the remaining funds are placed into the American Legion Hospitalized Veterans Dinner DEDICATED FUND which was established 35 1/2 years ago. The DEDICATED FUND is administered by the department and can only be used to benefit hospitalized and disabled veterans.

At the Department Convention in Morton, we will have a booth with sheets listing donations. Pheasant pins will be awarded to each Post, Unit, and Squadron that contributed.

I wish to thank Annie Trost, Art Rosin, Robert "Fuzz" Martin, the Pheasant Committee, Department and District Officers, the staff at the Department office, THE MINNESOTA LEGIONNAIRE and to everyone in bringing this year's program to a successful conclusion and to all who helped make this year's Pheasant Dinner Program another successful year.

Chuck Stone
Co-Chairman, Hospitalized Veterans Pheasant Dinners

Post Development

The Post Development and Revitalization Committee met at the Legionville Rally Camporee for its organizational meeting. Bill Stein was elected chairman and Carroll Partridge was elected Secretary. Discussions of the post problems that may arise throughout the Department of Minnesota were discussed.

One reason for getting familiar with the post problems are so the committee can be ready to assist the posts with their problems when needed. Our Department committee can only be reached by a call from a Post or District asking for help with a post at the beginning of a problem. Please don't wait until it's too late to rescue a post. We can help but our Department committee needs to be asked, so call me, Bill Stein, Chairman at H- 952-955-2135 or C- 952-212-7789.

Full Conference was held in Mahonmen where we had a round table discussion on what might cause or begin post problems. We came to the conclusion that the lack of communication is one of the major problems for the Posts. Post Development is what helps posts obtain positive activities and make sure everyone in your post is included in this process.

If your post or if you know of any post that would like to speak to anyone in the committee or the committee as a whole, please contact any of us. Thank you to members, Thomas Norgaard, Carroll Partridge, Chuck Kruger and David Ecker.

Bill Stein
Chairman, Post Development

Public Relations

The Public Relations (PR) Committee continued to support the Social Media outreach for all 10 Districts. Throughout the year we've provided ad hoc training or support for whoever had questions from the district level, to post level, or even personal level. Each District Facebook page has increased its reach each month during the year.

The Facebook pages are going strong and have really helped keep everyone connected between events. Committee members have seen an increase in activity notifications across the Districts, even inviting other district members to socialize and support larger events in a hosting district. We hope this trend increases in the coming years.

We continue to work within the professional sports arena, making sure that the American Legion has a presence during their events. We also continue to provide promotional ads during Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

A request from the current Membership Director at the beginning of the 2014-2015 Legion year spurred the PR Committee into building four "PR Toolkits" to be used in promotional capacities around the state. An informal meeting with the incoming Commander, Jim Kellogg, produced some ideas for implementing videos promoting the American Legion Programs such as Legionville.

The PR Committee's mission is to help our Veterans, assist Posts in their membership programs and to get the mission of the American Legion out to as many people as possible by as many media sources throughout the State of MN. We are a dynamic organization with varied backgrounds and strengths. Together, we will continue to help make the American Legion Family the best it can be.

Lisa Ghylin
Chairman, Public Relations

Rehabilitation

The Minnesota American Legion Standing Department Rehabilitation Committee is a five-member committee comprised of organizational members with a background, knowledge, or professional experience related to the delivery of VA benefits, programs, and services. Committee members are appointed by the Department Commander to a five-year term or to the remaining portion of the term of a resigned member. Past and present Rehabilitation members have been former directors or administrators of VA Medical Centers, state Veterans Homes, County Veterans Service Officers, Vet Center Team Leaders, American Legion Sr. Organizational Leadership and Department Service Officer all with a working knowledge of the VA, MDVA, legislative process and the American Legion.

Currently our committee consists of Jeff Johnson, Don Smith, Luke Weinand, Darrel Redepenne, and Wilson Sepce. We work very closely with Tom Newman, our Department Service Officer, and Jeremy Wolfstetter, our Department Assistant Service Officer. We also work with the District Rehabilitation Chairmen and your Post Service Officer.

Together we make up the Minnesota Rehabilitation. Each segment of the Minnesota Rehabilitation has an important roll in providing services to each Minnesota Veteran, and protecting the well-earned benefits provided by the US and Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.

Rehabilitation is one of the four pillars on which the American Legion was founded and holds the roof above the head of all Legionnaires. Because of the roll we play in Minnesota, it is very important to keep the Minnesota Rehabilitation Committee very strong and functioning for twelve months a year. Our members attempt to meet with every VA Medical Center who treats Minnesota veterans and every Minnesota Veterans Home. We also visit VA Vet Centers, VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs), and Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) facilities. We advocate to the US and the Minnesota Legislatures for the facilities contacted, and provide the Legion family with information gleaned from our facility visits.

The Rehabilitation Committee is a hard working Pillar of the American Legion for the State of Minnesota American Legion. We are honored to serve on the committee and the veterans of Minnesota.

Wilson W. Spence III
Chairman, Rehabilitation Committee

Resolutions

The Resolutions Assignment Committee is comprised of three (3) members, Chairman Jeff Olson, Stillwater; Don Schroedl, Minneapolis and Bob Hirmir, Marshall. The responsibilities of the committee include the review of all resolutions submitted to the department convention for consideration. After the review of all resolutions the committee assigns them to a committee for action. During the convention each committee chair reports the actions of the committee to the gathered delegates who have the final authority on all resolutions. The resolutions assignment committee completes a final report on the actions taken on the floor of the convention on all resolutions.

We would like to thank Department Commander Peggy Moon for appointing us to this committee. Also, many thanks to the Department staff who assist so greatly in getting all resolutions properly completed prior to presentation to the delegates at convention.

Jeff Olson
Chairman, Resolutions Assignment Committee

Sons of the American Legion

The Sons of the American Legion have reached an All Time High with 11,063 members. Congratulations, way to go guys, a great job! We had 2 new squadrons in the Second District and 2 new squadrons in the Sixth District chartered for the 2014-2015 year. With more to be chartered soon.

The Minnesota S.A.L. continues to do an excellent job in supporting the Legion Family Child Welfare Program at the National level.

The Spring and Fall conferences are well attended, with informative reports coming from members attending. The P.U.F.L. membership continues to grow.

The Commanders project for this year is the Fischer House. So far over \$28,000.00 has been collected. Thanks for the great response for this project. Legion Post and Auxiliary Units may also donate to this project. Donations may be sent to Doug Bible, Adjutant.

The annual Campout convention at Leigonville is always the last full week-end of June. All Legion Family members and families are always welcome. Great food is prepared by the S.A.L. members and their wives.

A special Thank You to Walt Fofendorf in the North area and Brian Medinnus in the South area for doing a great job in assisting the S.A.L. Thanks to all the Department staff for their assistance. Thank You Commander Peggy Moon for asking me to chair this important program of the American Legion.

Raymond D. Ozmun
Advisor, The Sons of the American Legion

Sports: Baseball

Greetings from the Minnesota Baseball Committee: Current members are Mike Perry, State Director, Vice Director Division II Al Davis, District Directors 1-Jarvis Anderson, 2- Vern Kitzberg, 3-Bruce Young, 4- Gail Kalata, 5- Jim Larson 6- Wes Thompson, 7-Mike Gort, 8- Dave Kunz, 9-Jeff Miller, 10- Gene Berg and Junior Director Jim Peck.

This past year, we welcomed to the committee Steve Nelson from Chaska as vice director Division I. We also offer a special note of thanks to the supporting posts, baseball associations and part time administrators who contribute to Minnesota Legion Baseball and make it the most elite program in the country.

In 2015 at the Division II level, we will introduce a nine team pool play state tournament in Morris. A team from Districts 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, 4, 5 (composite of districts 4, 5, and 10) and host Morris will comprise the nine teams.

State Tournaments for 2014 were held in Eagan-Division I with Lakeville North emerging as state champions and St Cloud Chutes as Runner-Up. Division II was held in Luverne with Plato the Champion and St. James as the runner up. Apple Valley hosted the Junior Tournament with Excelsior the Champion and Wayzata the Runner Up.

Sites for the 2015 State Tournaments will be Chamblussen hosting Division I, Morris Division II and Apple Valley the Junior Tournament. During our Division I banquet we will induct Jim Donohue from Edina in the Hall of Fame. Bert Marth from New Ulm will be inducted in the Hall of Fame at the Division II banquet. Other award recipients will be Wade Adamson from Willmar as Graduate of the Year and at the Division II banquet Luverne will receive the Post of the Year Award.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Al Zdon, Laura Weber and Gail Kalata for their work throughout the year, which enables our baseball committee to function effectively.

Mike Perry
Director, American Legion Baseball

Sports: Bowling

Thanks to the Osseo-Maple Grove Post 172 for hosting the 2015 State Bowling Tournament. It was a great success, we were up 30% from 2014. The 2016 Tournament will be hosted by the Albert Lea Post at the Holiday Lanes. The Tournament will start the 3rd week-end in February and run 8 week ends with Easter weekend off. We have not received any bids for 2017, if you want to bid, the forms have to be in to me, by Oct. 10th. We vote on the site at Mid-Winter Meetings. We had a total of 525 singles, 277 sets of doubles, 140 teams for the Legion side--Aux. side we had 89 singles, 32 sets of doubles, 14 teams. The Auxiliary was up only about 10% this year. We need to work on getting more Aux. to come out and bowl. Trophies will be awarded to all winners in each division, singles, doubles, team, and all events. The winning teams will receive their trophies at the State Convention. The rate for next year will be the same as this year. We

will be having our annual meeting at Mid-Winter on Friday at 12:30, place to be decided. Thank you to all that attended the Tournament this year, hope everyone had a great time.

Bob Mace
Chairman Bowling

Strategic Planning

Strategic Planning Committee started the year at full steam by reviewing open items from the previous year. The Department call-in structure was discussed in length and our initial action was to assign two committee members to meet with the Department Commander and members of the Finance Committee. The expected results are to narrow the recommended changes to those most beneficial for cost savings. Review of the list of committees and need for consolidating or realigning is an open item that will continue as changes are being done at National. The need for Committee Job Descriptions was discussed along with who should be responsible for the maintenance and availability. This is an important but large task that will stay a priority issue as the information will enhance participation and effectiveness of committee members. Training was a top priority and will continue as a priority. National provided an outlined guide for Departments to create their own American Legion College training. National is also providing this information to National American Legion college students. The idea of starting an alumni group of American Legion college graduates was discussed and would be a valuable asset. This is a great opportunity to thank all those who attended the focus group meeting we held in December. The exchange of experiences and ideas from all who attended was overwhelming and provided valuable information that our committee will continue to use. This committee will continue to grow to be a valuable resource for our Dept. and our leaders.

Tom Fernlund
Chairman, Strategic Planning Committee

Trophies and Awards

Your Trophies and Awards Committee of the Department of Minnesota met on July 17, 2014 at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, Minnesota. After considering all briefs and yearbooks presented, the following awards were made:

Father L.J. Fortin Trophy

To the Post which contributed the most outstanding record in promotion of The American Legion's "Back To God" movement

Joe Smith Post 468, Minneapolis

Lindell Community Service Bell

To the Post accomplishing the most outstanding single piece of community service work during the year

Chaska Post 57, Chaska

Frank J. Ring Boy Scout Trophy

To the Post with the most outstanding Boy Scout program during the year

Silver Star Post 428, Waite Park

Levi M. Hall School Patrol Trophy

For outstanding School Patrol activity

Edward B. Cutter Post 102, Anoka

Joseph W. Finley Trophy

To the Post with the best all-around program of Post activities

Silver Star Post 428, Waite Park

Stafford King Conservation Trophy

To the Post or individual with the best conservation program

East Grand Forks Post 157, East Grand Forks

Americanism Trophy

To the Post with the best Americanism program

3M Post 599, St. Paul

Nate V. Keller Civilian Defense Trophy

To the Post with the best Civilian Defense program
NO ENTRIES

Lloyd Grossnickle

To the Post with the most outstanding single Children & Youth project

Silver Star Post 428, Waite Park

Hanson Education Trophy

To the Post contributing most to the field of education

Edward B. Cutter Post 102, Anoka

We continue to have low participation with the entries to this program. I have and will continue to encourage our Posts to submit reports on all the wonderful things they do in their communities that qualify for the many categories within this program. It's a shame that our Posts are hesitant to receive credit for all their hard work. This committee is always receptive to any and all entries.

We have seen very simple ones and very elaborate ones but the most important thing is submitting a report. It's a great opportunity to have your Post recognized at the Department convention and give your volunteers a pat on the back. Please take the time to read over the categories and see how many fit your Post and let us know what YOU do. The American Legion Posts across our state continue to make a big difference in all our communities and we would just like to give credit where credit is due.

Michael Schaffer
Chairman, Trophies and Awards

Helm responds as a flag is burned in NY

American Legion National Commander Michael D. Helm and Citizens Flag Alliance (CFA) Chairman Richard Parker have news for members of Congress who resist support of a U.S. flag protection amendment on the grounds that no one burns flags anymore. Wednesday evening in Brooklyn, N.Y., an anarchist group that wants to strip the New York Police Department of its authority and weapons, burned a U.S. flag and a confederate flag that the protesters described as "symbols of oppression." "First of all, it is within the rights of this admittedly anti-American group to burn our flag in protest, thanks to a highly unpopular Supreme Court ruling in 1989," Helm said. "It may be within their rights, but that does not make it right. As a veteran, I am disgusted by it, as I am every time I learn of intentional desecration of the American flag. And it's more than a little

ironic that the flag they are destroying symbolizes the freedom they have to do so, without fear of arrest. This is not free speech. It's stupid behavior. And it's an insult to the men and women who gave their lives fighting under the colors of our nation." "The physical desecration of the American flag in Brooklyn today was an act of cultural terrorism," said Richard Parker, a Harvard law professor and chairman of the CFA, a coalition of more than 140 organizations that wants Congress to pass a constitutional amendment to prohibit U.S. flag desecration. "It was an attempt to equate the American flag with the confederate battle flag - to redefine it as, according to their words, 'a symbol of oppression and genocide.'" "In our campaign to restore the power of Congress to protect the American flag - a power taken away by a 5-4 Supreme Court decision - we've been told that no one burns the flag anymore," Parker continued. "We've been told it needs no protection, that its place in the hearts and minds of the American people is secure, that the sentiment it has long evoked, the bonds among us that it has long affirmed, are deep-rooted in our shared culture. "But symbols can be redefined," Parker said. "Cultural values can disintegrate. Sometimes it happens so slowly as to be almost unnoticeable. Sometimes, though, it happens quite suddenly. Suddenly, one feels homesick at home. Yet those are the times when our people - rising above a multitude of differences - can be shocked into action, to resist what we see happening, to defend values that bind us together, despite everything. This is such a time." The American Legion supports House Joint Resolution 9, introduced by Rep. Steve Womack, R-Ark., in January.

OFFICIAL CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION

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

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

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

Legion Post # _____ SAL Sqdn. _____ Auxiliary Unit _____
District _____
Name _____
Address _____
City, State _____ Zip _____

- Delegate Alternate Guest
 Delegate at Large (Auxiliary)
(Please check one of the above.)

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

Please, only one registration blank per person.

Listening Post

News from around the State



NEWEST ALR CHAPTER -- Maple Lake Post 131 recently chartered a new American Legion Riders Chapter, the newest in the state. Officers and Legionnaires gathered for a photo. From left, front: Megan Boe, Daryl Rossberg, Casey Huro, Carla Huro, Bob Wold, Mike Huro, Richie Johnson, Chris Johnson. Back row: Mike Hankee, Tom Mooney, Curt Maxson, Gary Jude.



WILLMAR FLAG FOLDERS -- Five members of the Willmar Post 167 provided a flag folding demonstration at the Bethesda Pleasant View Nursing Home in Willmar in recognition of Flag Day. They also did several readings. From left: Gayle Larson, Allan Simon, Larry Haglund, Darrell Modica, and DuWayne Underthun.



BARNUM FLOAT -- Members of Barnum Post 415 created a float and used in in both the Memorial Day and Spring Fever Days parades.



STORDEN HONORS MEMBER -- When the member couldn't come to the post, the post went to the member. Storden Post 391 Commander Steve Halland, right, presented a 70-year membership certificate to Arnold Polk at his home in Bloomington recently.

Mankato recreates, re-dedicates Civil War Boy in Blue statue



BLUE EARTH COUNTY DEDICATION -- In 1893, Blue Earth County dedicated a "Boy in Blue" statue that paid tribute to Civil War veterans. Storm damage and vandalism took its toll on the statue, and it was taken down in 1927. A group of county people, with Mankato Post 11 in the forefront, collected money and recreated the Boy in Blue statue. It was dedicated in May. Above, a color guard marches by Civil War cannons. The statue is located in Lincoln Park in Mankato.



MANKATO BOY IN BLUE -- Over \$180,000 was raised in Blue Earth County to replace the Boy in Blue Civil War statue that had been taken down in 1927

Listening Post

News from around the State



TRACY LONG TIMERS -- Tracy honored its long time members with 60 and 70 year certificates of continuous membership. They included: Jack Von Bokern (accepted by Jans Visker), Harold Halfmann, Otto Nyquist Jr., Elgin Schmidt, Arthur Marben (accepted by arrell Carlson), Melvin Klein (accepted by Bonnie Ludeman), John Shoeman, Elmer Klein, Ken Drever, Jay Bosacker (accepted by Dave Bosacker), W. David Abernathy (accepted by Melvin Hubbard).



MORA HONORS MEMBER -- Mora Post 210 Commander Al Skramstad presented a certificate honoring 70 years of continuous membership to Lee Goldsmith.



DENT QUILTERS -- Post members taking part in the Dent Post 148 Memorial Day service received quilts from members of the Ottetail Quilters Embrace organization, part of the National Quilts of Valor.



WELLS COLOR GUARD MEMBERS -- At age 93, Ray Rock and Don Kauffmann are still active in the Wells Post 210 Color Guard.



BLUE EARTH GRAVESTONES -- Members of the Blue Earth Post and Unit 89 Harold and Lorraine Hassing helped in restoring two gravestones to the Schermerhorn Cemetery, near Easton. The cemetery was abandoned many years ago, but local people have been working to restore it. The Faribault County Veterans Service Office procured the new gravestones for these veterans. Thaddeus Smith, originally from New York, was a veteran of the War of 1812. He was born before Washington became president. George C. Schermerhorn was a Civil War veteran who came to Minnesota to be close to his family after he lost a leg in the war. He died in 1867.



ORATORICAL CHAMP -- Minnesota's Oratorical Champion Caroline Donaldson made it to the semi-finals in the National Oratorical Contest. She is flanked by National Commander Mike Helm and Americanism Commission Chairman Richard Anderson.



BACKUS SCHOLARSHIPS -- Twelve Pine River-Backus High School seniors received \$500 scholarships from the Backus Post 368. From left: Dale Ford, Mikayla Hudak, Shannon Osier, Taylor Sawyer, Jessica Hanneken, Madison Welte, T.J. Lukanen, Austin Orth, Tasha Worcester, Megan Felthaus, Austin Smith, Henry Krecklau.



MORRIS DEDICATES MEMORIAL -- A memorial to the war dead of Stevens County was dedicated in Morris on Memorial Day. Participating were Erv Krosch, Morris Post 29 commander, and Ted Storck, VFW Post commander.



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 15-12

July 2015

President Chris Ronning

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

The President's Column

By
Chris Ronning



As I am writing my last article for the Legionnaire, my emotions are running high. Last July when my year started I set some high goals for myself, not knowing if these goals could be reached. But thanks to the American Legion Family, my goal went well over. Yes, we reached almost \$33,000.00 for my project and everyone was able to get more than we had planned. The Fisher House project, wow, thank you, thank you, thank you. Thousands of dollars were donated, household items, personal items, gift cards, gas cards, store cards and so much more were given to the Fisher House.

June was busy with Installations, Conventions, Testimonials and my week at Girls State. Yes I was the Shirt Shack lady and I peddled those Girls State items, the best job on campus. It was amazing to see these young ladies grow that week, they learn so much about our Government and also about themselves. They make everlasting friendships and bring a lot of knowledge back with them to their communities.

I had the honor, along with husband Marland, Department Chaplain Erma and Department Commander Peggy to be part of the Time Capsule Ceremony. Some of our items made it into the Capsule, but I don't think we will be around in 50 years to see it opened, unless we find the fountain of youth. I don't think the odds are in our favor.

I addressed the SAL Delegation at their Convention at Legionville. They are such an important part of our organization, what would we do without them? Detachment Commander Dennis, it is always a pleasure to see you and I want to congratulate you on a job well done. Good luck in your future endeavors.

I am looking forward to our Department Convention in Redwood Falls, this is my last hoorah, but do not fear, I am not going away. I had such a wonderful year, working with the American Legion Family, visiting Units in different Districts, meeting members and seeing what each Unit does for the good of the Auxiliary, Minnesota rocks.

Your hospitality and the courtesy that you have shown to my husband Marland and myself, I cannot thank you enough; it made my year one that I will never forget. We traveled together all year and we actually still speak to each other. But I think both of us are due for some R&R.

We accomplished a lot this year and I want to thank all of you for renewing your membership this year. But as I always say, the year is not over yet and we need to find our lost members that have not renewed yet. If we don't find them, they will be lost forever. So please help Membership Chairman Judy to bring our renewals in, we do not want to forget about them.

I can hardly wait to go to the National Convention in Baltimore. I have never been there and I think we will have a lot of fun. Marland and I will be taking a few days afterwards to visit some friends in Delaware.

Detachment Commander Dennis and Denise, thank you for being part of my year. I can say we had a great year.

Commander Peggy, what a great lady. She has been great to work with and I want to congratulate her on a great job as she led Minnesota as your Commander. Thank you to you and Carl for your friendship, Marland and I will always cherish it.

To my Unit, these ladies have been there for me all the way and I want to thank you for that. Erma for traveling with me, when Marland couldn't. Sharon and Warren for always watching our little Chico when we were gone. To my kids, that didn't see much of us this past year, thank you for understanding. But guess what...WE ARE BACK.

The 10th District, thank you for supporting me all this time and understanding if I couldn't always be there.

So long, auf wiedersehen, good bye, until next time...

Sarah Burch, Lindstrom, is 2015 Girls State governor

The 69th session of the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State ended on Friday, June 12th. Singing together the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State song one last time, the 362 citizens, once strangers now friends, to last over the years have formed. It was a week of intense study and learning all about our government, at all levels city, county and state, and the history of our great State of Minnesota. We hope that the girls left with an appreciation and understanding of Minnesota government.

The 2015 American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Constitutional officers are:

Governor - Sarah Burch, sponsored by Lindstrom Unit 83

Lt. Governor - Grace Dokken, sponsored by Rochester Unit 92

Secretary of State - Sydney Nygaard, sponsored by Big Lake 147

State Auditor - Claire Christensen, sponsored by Apple Valley Unit 1776

Attorney General - Madeline Schwappach, sponsored by Buffalo Unit 270

Chief Justice - Zeinab Hussen, sponsored by Hopkins Unit 320

Supreme Court Justices -

Brianna Goodchild, sponsored by St. Michael Unit 567

Grace Jacobson, sponsored by Wayzata Unit 118



SARAH BURCH
Girls State Governor

Minnesota's entry into National competition for the Samsung Scholarship - Taylor Nelson, sponsored by St. Paul Park Unit 98.

The Spirit Award was won by Alaina Baggenstoss sponsored by Atwater Unit 375.

The Ed Viehman Award was won by Grace Dokken sponsored by Rochester Unit 92. Daniel Viehman was on hand to present the award at the Thursday Inauguration Ceremony.

Girls Nation Senators were chosen:

Senior Senator - Katarina Christanson, sponsored by Chanhassen Unit 580

Junior Senator - Louise Lungstrom, sponsored by New London Unit 537

The President of the Senate - Hannah Davis, sponsored by Chanhassen Unit 580

Speaker of the House - Rylie Marcotte, sponsored by White Bear Lake Unit 168

Senate Chaplain - Paige Pederson, sponsored by Warren Unit 27

House of Representatives Chaplain - Amanda Hawkinson, sponsored by Paynesville Unit 271

There are many highlights to the week at American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State, the wonderful visiting speakers throughout the week, the Thursday night Inauguration ceremony with Associate Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court Wilhelmina Wright presiding over the Oath of Office, the flag disposal ceremony and many others.

Thanks to all of the Unit American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Chairmen for the work that you have done to bring all of these girls to this wonderful program. And to all of the fantastic volunteers that spent the week at the University of St. Thomas with the girls, this program cannot function without you. And finally to our 2015 American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Director Peggy Tesdahl, who came on board just a couple of weeks

before the session. Director Kris Nelson had resigned, with regret, because of health reason and Peggy stepped in and did a marvelous job. Chairman Marie Goede, Education Director Bethany Dickert, Americanism Chairman Joanne Joachim, Committee members Donna Arends and Sharon Thiemecke. Thanks for another great year at American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State.

The American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Project this year was to donate \$1.00-\$5.00 to the Minnesota Fisher Houses. As usual, our Units and Citizens came through with flying colors and the total donated came to \$3,332.00. Thank you for your generosity. Our Veterans truly do appreciate everything our organization does for them.

YOUNG "LAWYERS"

The following article appeared in the June 22, 2015 issue of Minnesota Lawyer publication. It is an article on Kathy Kimmel, Attorney-at-Law, who has assisted our Girls State citizens on Minnesota Government.

At a conference known as Girls State, girls who have been chosen by the American Legion spend lovely June days "trying" cases, "running" for office or passing "legislation". The girls in the court group had the assistance of a group of attorneys assembled by Kathy Kimmel of Oppenheimer, Wolff & Connelly who explained the procedures and answered questions about the practice of law. Kimmel's team, consisting of Oppenheimer lawyers Liz Pato, an associate and Laura Stecker, a partner, as well as Lori Oleson who works with Blue Cross compliance and Barbara Jones of Minnesota Lawyer, led the girls in a discussion of civics and law by answering their questions. Some of the questions were hard, such as "was there ever a time where you thought you could have done more and problems remained" (answer yes, of course); and some were fun, such as whether law school resembled Legally Blonde in any way. When asked about the craziest thing that we'd ever done in our jobs, Pato came up with a hilarious story. I can't repeat it but it was really funny. Kudos to Kimmel, who has done this job for 16 year and to the girls of Girls State.

JUNIOR FUN WEEKEND

Junior members are invited to participate in the 7th Annual Department Junior Fun Weekend, held Friday July 31 thru Sunday August 2nd at Legionville near Brainerd. All current 2015 Junior members and their Advisors/Chaperones are invited to attend. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Junior members must be between the ages of 3 - 18 and do not have to be from an active Junior group. The cost is \$20.00 per person and is non-refundable. This includes all meals and activities. Registration forms and fees must be received in the Department office no later than Monday, July 20, 2015. No refunds will be given. Registration information was mailed to ALL units in May. Call the Department office if you need registration forms. They are also posted on our website. Go to the home page, calendar, click on Junior Fun Weekend and it will take you right to the registration forms. Please make sure and have our Juniors attend. This is a fun-filled, very inexpensive week-end and teaches our future leaders what we are all about along with giving them a chance to make many new friends. Come and see all the changes and improvements that have been made at Legionville.

PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

This year Department President Chris' project was to give the Minneapolis Veterans Home Adult Day Care Center new outdoor patio furniture and grills. She also wanted to make donations to the St. Cloud VAMC and Minneapolis VAMC for the Minnesota Creative Arts Program. If there were any funds remaining, it would go to Legionville. President Chris had such a tremendous outpouring of support for all of the Units and Districts that she was able to accomplish all of her goals along with providing a new piano/keyboard to the Minneapolis Veterans Home. Thank you all so much for your support.

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

2015 -2016 DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

Our Congratulations to the ten District Presidents-Elect who will be serving their respective Districts for the 2014-2015 year:

- 1st District – Patricia Miner, Adams, Unit #146
- 2nd District – Darlene Breamer, Minnesota Lake Unit #287
- 3rd District – Karla Otterness, Winstead Unit #407
- 4th District – Connie Anderson, St. Paul Unit #542
- 5th District – Julie Martin, Minneapolis Unit #440
- 6th District – Lynn Spilman, Park Rapids Unit #212
- 7th District – Cheryl Schuman, Cosmos Unit #126
- 8th District – Joylan Detlefsen, Two Harbors Unit #109
- 9th District – Linda Gibson, Moorhead Unit #21
- 10th District – Dawne Juhl, Excelsior Unit #259

UNIT OFFICERS' LIST

All Units should have held their elections for the 2015-2016 Auxiliary year by now. Your incoming secretary and Membership Chairman should be appointed and ready to assume their duties.

Each Unit was asked to return their officers' list for the coming year to the Department office by June 15th. A second request was sent out this week and to date we are still missing 154 of those lists! We will be making calls to those Units who haven't responded.

These lists are very important as we develop our mailing lists for the year from them. NO 2016 membership cards/packets will be mailed to your Unit until we have received your 2014-2016 list. You can download the form on our website mnala.org to your own computer, fill it out and email it in to us. It is as simple as that.

2016 DUES NOTICES

The National office will send out the first dues notice for the 2016 membership year on September 15th. It will be sent to Senior members only. Ask your members as soon as possible after the Department Convention to pay their 2016 membership dues. They do not need a dues notice to be able to pay their dues.

2016 MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Very soon we will be kicking off the new membership year. The 2016 membership information will be sent out to all Units who have submitted their 2015-16 officers list. These will be sent out to the Unit Membership Chairman as soon as we get all of the information from National. If you have no Membership Chairman listed, they will be sent to the Unit Treasurer.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The 96th Annual Department Convention will be held in at the Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel near Redwood Falls, July 16-18th with the Redwood Falls Unit and Post 38 serving as hosts. Department President Chris Ronning will call the Convention to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 16th. The delegates will conduct the business of the Auxiliary, hear reports from our chairmen and elect our 2015-16 Department Officers. We hope that your Unit plans to be represented. All Auxiliary sessions will be held on the second level of Jackpot Junction.

The following members have declared their candidacy for Department office:

- Department President – Sandra Fredrickson, Glenville Unit 264
- Department 1st Vice President – Carol Kottom, Buffalo Unit 270
- Department 2nd Vice President – Jean Walker, Warren Unit 27
- Department 2nd Vice President - Donna Arends, Willmar Unit 167

Nominations for Department officers will be held Thursday morning. A secret ballot will be used for any office where there is more than one candidate. Balloting hours will be in the convention rules. Where there is but one candidate the vote will be by acclamation. There will be nominations for delegates-at-large to the National Convention, and election by secret ballot if there is more than one nomination. The same rules used for election of department officers will apply.

District caucuses will be held on Thursday at 7:30 a.m. prior to the opening of the Convention. The Convention will convene at 9:00 a.m.

There will be two Poppy contests at the Department Convention this year. The first is to design a Butterfly Garden Basket and the second is a Bouquet in a Vase. The criteria for both contests is in the Trophy and Awards booklet and also on our website; www.mnala.org.

Let's have some fun and use our imagination with poppies. Any and all members may enter either or both of the contests and there is no limit to the number of entries. All entries must be at the Department Convention by 9:00 a.m. on Thursday the 16th. Tables will be set up in the Display area for your entries. Winners will be announced during the Poppy report on Friday.

Please see the complete convention program printed elsewhere in this issue of the Minnesota Legionnaire.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Our 2015 National Convention will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, August 28 - September 3, 2015. All Auxiliary Delegates and Alternates elected at the District Conventions will be receiving their information on housing, registration, States Dinner, Woman of the Year Luncheon, etc. shortly.

Registration on housing requests must be sent to: The American Legion, State Veterans Service Building, 20 W 12th St #300, St. Paul, MN 55155. If for any reason you are not planning to attend, yet were elected a Delegate or Alternate, please notify the Department Secretary immediately and prior to our Department Convention. There will be packets available at the Department Convention for those At Large Delegates and Alternates elected at the Convention.

All registrations, housing requests and reservations for the States Dinner, Women of the Year Luncheon must be received by July 27st. The credentials and housing lists as well as reservations for dinner and luncheon must be finalized and forwarded to our National organization.

SECRETARY SANDIE'S CORNER

We are almost through another Auxiliary year and what a memorable one it has been. My office is fully staffed now with 2 great ladies, Jan Lauby and Julie Deneffe. It has been a little trying at times, trying to finagle accounting, my own job and training but with these two gals, it has been smooth going. Thank you all for your patience. We are hard at work getting ready for Jackpot Junction and Baltimore, Maryland. I look forward to both events. It seems that the summer is flying by so fast and I haven't had time to enjoy much of it. My son's upcoming wedding in Texas is the highlight of my year - I just can't wait. I did buy stock in Kleenex as he is my baby and it will be tough on old mom. As always - this is your office - call whenever you need help. Have a great summer and hope to see you



Lt. Governor Tina Smith posed with Minnesota Department President Chris Ronning at the annual Girls State held at St. Thomas University. Smith was a featured speaker at the week-long event.



Katarina Christianson was chosen as senior senator at Girls State and will represent Minnesota at Girls Nation.



Officers chosen at the 2015 Girls State included, from left, front: Brianna Goodchild, Supreme Court Justice; Zeinab Hussen, Supreme Court Chief Justice; Sarah Burch, Governor; Grace Dokken, Lt. Governor; Sydney Nygaard, Secretary of State. In back: Grace Jacobson, Supreme Court Justice; Claire Christensen, State Auditor; and Madeline Schwappach, Attorney General. (Photos by Michelle Leonard)



Louise Lungstrom was chosen as the Junior Senator and will attend Girls Nation representing Minnesota Girls State.



President Chris Ronning addressed the Girls Staters at inauguration night at St. Thomas.

June 16, 2015, Auxiliary Membership

District	Goal	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year
One	5,847	5,065	86.63%	5,227
Two	5,693	4,916	86.35%	5,114
Three	5,019	4,394	87.55%	4,501
Four	870	759	87.24%	781
Five	1,019	862	84.59%	961
Six	7,072	6,026	85.21%	6,311
Seven	4,565	3,993	87.47%	4,099
Eight	1,956	1,652	84.46%	1,753
Nine	5,060	4,295	84.88%	4,542
Ten	6,022	5,245	87.10%	5,394
1982	174	131	75.29%	151
Totals	43,297	37,338	86.24%	38,834

Canadian Islands

August 23-September 2, 2015

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 10 Nights accommodations and 19 Meals
- Gaming at the CASINO DE CHARLEVOIX
- Guided tour of the Beautiful Island of Coudres
- Guided tour of Montreal & Quebec City
- Visit to picture-perfect BAIE SAINT-PAUL in Charlevoix
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Holiday Branson

November 16-20, 2015

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 4 nights accommodations and 7 meals
- Branson Trail of Lights
- Steamboat Arabia Museum
- 6 shows: Six Christmas Show, The Bretts, The Dutton Family, Clay Cooper, and the Hughes Brothers Holiday Show

Double \$719.00 per person

Autumn in New England

September 29-October 7, 2015

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Sue Barber
- Flights between Minneapolis and Boston
- 8 Nights quality accommodations and 15 Meals
- City Tour of Boston, Portland, Hyannis, and Martha's Vineyard
- Tour of the House of Seven Gables
- Visit the resort town of Kennebunkport, Maine
- Ride the Cog Railway to Mt. Washington Summit

Double \$2,599.00 per person

Smoky Mountains

October 5-12 2015

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 7 nights hotel accommodations and 13 Meals
- Shows include: Grand Ole Opry, Blackwoods Variety Show, Country Tonight, Smith Family and Smoky Mountain Opry
- All day guided tour of Smoky Mountains National Park
- Dollywood Theme Park
- Free time in Historic Downtown Gatlinburg
- Gateway Arch in St. Louis, MO

Double \$1,059.00 per person

New York City Theater

November 11-15, 2015

Tour Includes:

- Escorted by 4-Seasons Tour Director, Larry Alvey
- Flights from Minneapolis to New York City
- 1 night pre-departure hotel accommodations in MSP
- 3 nights accommodation at The Hotel at Times Square
- Lunch at Carmine's on Broadway
- Manhattan Island city tour
- Broadway performance, "Finding Neverland"
- Rockettes Christmas Spectacular
- 9/11 Memorial and Museum
- Harbor Cruise with lunch

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