



# Legionnaire

Volume 97, Number 8

For God and Country

August 2015

## Legionville Camp survives mighty storm

By Al Zdon

It had been a beautiful Sunday at Legionville Safety Patrol Camp, but storm clouds appeared in the late afternoon.

"We heard that a storm was coming, and we could read the sky. But it came up fast, and it was much more than we expected," said

Camp Director Roy Kruger.

When it was over, 35 minutes later, the straight line winds of up to 80 miles an hour had downed hundreds of trees, knocked out the power and ended the week's camp experience almost before it began.

"The good news was that all 138 campers and 10 staff

were safe," Kruger said. "We got all the kids into the dorms 10 minutes before the storm."

Samantha Mueller, 17, is a counselor at Legionville and serves as the canoe instructor. "We saw this big, dark green cloud coming, and we got the kids into the cabins. The counselors made them sit in front so they knew where everybody was and to keep them calm."

Leaving other counselors in charge, Mueller then joined a colleague and Roy Kruger and his wife Nancy in the main educational building. "The wind started coming up super fast. The rain gutters were overflowing. Nancy said she could feel the walls shaking.

"I don't like storms, so I



A tree crashed down just outside a dormitory door during a massive wind storm that hit Legionville Safety Patrol Camp on Sunday evening, July 12. The camp was closed for that week, but was up and running the following week. No one was hurt during the storm.

### Donations at state convention top \$46,000

It began at the Department Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday of convention week at Redwood Falls.

Adjutant Randy Tesdahl held a phone up to the microphone and the exec committee was able to get a first-hand account of what was happening to the Legionville Safety Patrol Camp from Legionville President Wayne Gilbertson at the scene.

When the convention was over on Saturday, over \$46,000 had been raised for Legionville, the site of a

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## Kellogg elected Department Commander

Jim Kellogg, a longtime Legionnaire from Taopi and Adams Post 146, was elected Department Commander of the Minnesota American Legion during its annual convention at Redwood Falls.

Meeting at Jackpot Junction Casino, the delegates were able to elect the slate of officers by acclamation because there were no contested elections.

Kellogg has been the President of the Brain Science Foundation for many years, and has held many other Department level offices including vice commander, historian and sergeant-at-arms. He has served on the American Legion Family Hospital Association.

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

He has belonged to the Legion for 39 years, and he is a farmer. Kellogg is an Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War era.

He urged all Legionnaires to mentor a young Legionnaire this year. "That will become your investment in the future."

Kellogg's project for the year will be the Brain Science Foundation, and its research studies aimed at learning more about post traumatic stress disorder.

The new commander introduced Jim Lucas of Pine River as his Membership Director. Lucas said his theme this year

will center around trucking which was his former profession. The motto will be "Hauling in Membership and Securing the Future."

Lucas was the membership director of the Sixth District this past year, and won the Premier Race competition.

Other officers elected at the convention include:

-- Marland Ronning, Maple Grove, as National Executive Committeeman. Ronning, a past Department Commander, succeeds Ray Dezurik as NECman. DeZurik bid a tearful goodbye at the convention. He has held the position for six years.

-- Bill Barbknecht, Underwood, was elected Alternate NECman and will replace Ronning. Barbknecht is also a past Department Commander, and has headed the Legionnaire Insurance Trust Committee for many years.

-- John Milbrath, Elysian; Don Amundson, Blue Earth;

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Newly-elected Commander Jim Kellogg wears the badge containing all the names of past commanders.

### DEC abolishes trophies committee

The Department Executive Committee, meeting at the state convention in Redwood Falls, approved a resolution abol-

ishing the Trophies and Awards Committee.

The resolution came from the committee itself, with Mike Schaffer, Fulda, and Larry Ryan, Oakdale, serving as members.

For the past many years, fewer and fewer posts were participating in the depart-

ment's various contests. This year, there were 14 applicants for the nine awards.

The resolution calls for turning the various awards over to the committees where they would naturally fit.

The resolution did not

state which trophies and awards would go to which committees, nor did it state whether all the trophies and awards would be continued.

The resolution was sent on to the floor of the convention where it also passed.

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### Baltimore site of 2015 National Convention

Baltimore, Maryland, one of America's most historic cities, will be the site of the 2015 National Convention.

The convention proper will be held Sept. 1-3, but much of the business and programs of the national meeting will take place the weekend before.

The Minnesota Delegation will be housed at the Holiday Inn Inner Harbor Hotel. Reservations are handled through Department Headquarters.

The registration for Minnesotans will be at the Holiday Inn on Friday, Aug. 28, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. until noon.

The Minnesota caucus will be held at the hotel from 8-10 a.m. Monday.

Continued on Page 2

### Convention okays 10 resolutions

Ten resolutions were passed by the Department of Minnesota Convention at Redwood Falls, including one that will increase the dues for the Sons of the American Legion.

The SAL will increase its Detachment dues by \$2 per year effective with the 2016-17 membership year.

The SAL had passed the resolution at its convention in late June and forwarded it to the Department Executive Committee where it was also passed and sent to the convention.

Another resolution from the SAL that

was passed will clarify which SAL members will be re-imbursed for attending national meetings.

The Rehabilitation Committee also forwarded two resolutions that were passed on the convention floor.

The first one called for allowing transferability of educational benefits under the Post 911 GI Bill to those who have been medically retired from the Armed Forces. The second endorses the "Fit to Serve" initiative that would increase veterans' access

Continued on Page 7



**2015 CONVENTION SITE** -- The Baltimore Convention Center will be the location of this year's national American Legion Convention. It's about four blocks from the Minnesota hotel.

## Baltimore will host 2015 national meeting

Continued from Page 1

The Minnesota Party will be held on Monday, Aug. 31, on a cruise boat in Baltimore Harbor. The tour will include a harbor view of Fort McHenry, the site of the writing of the National Anthem.

Tickets for the party are \$72 per person and includes dining, dancing and the scenic cruise.

The National Commander's Banquet will be held Tuesday, Sept. 1, at the Baltimore Convention Center, also the site of the convention, at 6:30 p.m. The States Dinner will be held on Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the same location.

The annual parade will be held in Baltimore on Sunday, Aug. 30, at 4 p.m. The patriotic religious service will be held at the convention center at 11 a.m. Sunday.

The national organization is planning several outings including a baseball game at Camden Yards and a football game at the Ravens' stadium. Tours of the area are also available. For more information, go to the Legion's website, click on programs, and click on National Convention.

The convention will conclude on Thursday with the election of officers. Minnesota's Al Davis of Princeton will be elected a National Vice Commander of the central division. Jim Copher will be elected National Historian.

Minnesotans are encouraged to bring their flags for the annual parade. Minnesota has traditionally done a massing of the colors in the parade



**MINNESOTA HOTEL** -- The Minnesota Delegation will be housed at the Holiday Inn Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore.

## Armed Forces Day held at Target Field



Commander Peggy Moon saluted the flag at Armed Forces Day at Target Field. She stood with Aaron Hicks.



Legionnaires greeted veterans on the concourse outside the ballpark.



Legionnaires carrying a banner were highlighted on the big screen at Target Field.

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# Endorsements

## Denise Milton endorsed for Commander

Denise A. Milton has been endorsed by the Ninth District and Bagley Post 16 for the office of Department Commander for 2016-17.

She is a 30 year member of the post. Milton was the first woman elected to be commander of her post, as well as the first woman Commander of the 9th District.

Additionally, Milton was district vice commander for 3 years and district vice commander-at-large for one year. On the department

level, she has served as the Department Chaplain, Department Membership Director and Department Vice Commander.

Milton is presently serving as District Commander, a position that she had previously held in 2004-2005. She also serves as finance officer of the Bagley Post.

In addition, she has held a variety of chairmanships on the district level. On the department level, Milton serves as the Blood Chairman and on the

national level she serves as a member of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Council.

Milton served for 28 years in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve in the medical field as a nurse, retiring in October of 2013. She served on active duty during the Vietnam War, Desert Storm and Enduring Iraqi Freedom.

Milton married Dennis Henkemeyer at the 2004 National Convention in Nashville, Tennessee.



DENISE MILTON

## Richard Wog endorsed for Commander

7th District and Spicer Post 545 have endorsed Richard Wog for Department Commander.

He has been a member of the post for 42 years. He served as an officer of all the chairs and served as Commander for three consecutive years (2008 through 2011) and is currently serving on the Executive Committee.

Wog also served as Seventh District Sergeant at Arms, Area C Vice Commander, Vice

Commander at Large, Membership Director, District Commander in 2011-2012, Department Chaplain 2013 - 2014 and currently, and is currently serving a five-year term on the Strategic Planning Committee. He was appointed to the National Americanism Council and attended the National Chaplain Conference.

Richard volunteered for the draft in 1959 and was honorably discharged in 1965. He enlisted in the

Minnesota Army National Guard in May 1973 and served until October 2001 when he retired as a Command Sergeant Major.

Wog is a member of Calvary Lutheran Church. He is currently with Henry's Foods where he has been employed as a sales representative for the past 46 years. He has been married to his wife Cheryl for 52 years and they have four sons, 13 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



RICHARD WOG

## Round Table announces slate; veterans needed

The Fort Snelling World War II History Round Table has announced its programs for the coming year. The Round Table is seeking veterans who served in various campaigns to sit on a panel during the programs.

Programs scheduled include:

Sept. 17 -- Blitzkrieg in the Pacific, island landings in the Pacific.

Oct. 8 -- Leaders of the Victory, giants of the winning strategy.

Oct. 22 -- Navy UDT Teams, the beginning of the SEALs.

Dec. 10 -- Early Naval Air Operations, after Pearl Harbor.

Jan. 14 -- Struggle on the Eastern Theater of Operations, the Eastern front.

Feb. 11 -- Liberation of German Concentration Camps.

March 10 -- Mobilization for the Industrial Machine of War.

March 24 -- Birth of the New Age of War at White Sands.

April 14 -- Southern Invasion of France.

May 12 -- Potsdam, agreement to settle the victory.

Volunteers are needed for the following programs:

Sept. 17 -- Army, Navy and Marine veterans involved in amphibious landings.

Oct. 8 -- Any veterans exposed to senior level World War II leaders.

Dec. 10 -- Naval aviators.

Feb. 11 -- Veterans who liberated concentration camps.

March 10 -- Workers in defense plants during WWII.

April 14 -- Veterans involved in the invasion of Southern France.

If you are interested in being a panelist, contact Don Patton at 612-867-5144.

The programs are generally on the second Thursday of the month, but check the schedule above. The Round Tables are held at the Fort Snelling Visitor Center.

A donation of \$5 will be accepted. Students are free.

The Round Table is also planning a tour to southern France next May and June that will visit landing beaches, drop zones, Greek and Roman sites, Avignon, Nimes, Pont du Gard and French resistance bases.

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## Fall Conference slated for Pequot Lakes Oct. 23-24

The 2015 American Legion and Auxiliary Fall Conference will be held at Breezy Point Resort near Pequot Lakes.

The event will be hosted by Pequot Lakes Post and Unit 49.

The annual "school of instruction" is open to all Legionnaires and Auxiliary.

Lodging has been set up at four area hostels: Breezy Point Resort. A standard room is \$97 per night and suites and lodges are \$139 per night. You can reserve online at [www.breezypointresort.com](http://www.breezypointresort.com) and entering group number 78864.

Leisure Suites of Breezy Point has standard rooms or suites, and those interested should call for pricing. 1-888-651-5300.

The AmericInn Lodge and Suites in Pequot Lakes has two queen or one king bed rooms. Rooms on Thursday are \$80.91 and rooms on Friday or Saturday are \$107.91. Call 1-888-568-8400.

The Nisswa Motel has standard rooms for \$62 per night with a two-night minimum. Single nights are slightly higher. The phone number is 1-800-254-7612.

Registration info will be in the next Legionnaire.

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## COMMANDER'S COLUMN

By Jim Kellogg



Our 97th convention is now history. Thank you for electing me your 98th Commander. I believe this year will be both challenging and productive. We start out in a year of review. Every five years we look at our mandates. These are the guidelines we have chosen to set our course of direction. Now is a time for all of us to take a good look at where we are and where we think we need to be headed. Please take time to look them over and, if you feel they need to be changed, write a resolution. Each District has a qualified chairman who can assist you. This is one way every Member has the chance to improve our Department.

Each year we begin with appointing our various Committee Chairman at our Posts, Districts, and Departments. As Committee Chairman it becomes our duty to carry out the work through the year assigned to that Committee. This is our opportunity to also promote each assigned activity. I also see this as a time for mentoring new members to become involved. As time goes we are all only here a short while. We all have had a mentor in the past who has made a difference in our lives. So I challenge all of our chairmen at Post, District, and Department to seek out a member to mentor this coming year. It will become your

## American Legion Riders

By Scuffy Paulson  
President



Greetings brothers and sisters.

I hope everyone is getting plenty of wind therapy this summer. ALR members are busy this time of year participating in multiple benefits, parades, legacy runs and community events bringing awareness to our veteran issues and giving back to our communities, state and nation.

Please continue to support your local Rider groups and if you see a riders vest, go up and talk to them. You might even like them. LOL. I am proud to announce the 1st District ALR held its 1st annual tour of the District "Legacy Run" they raised over \$11,000 and are not done yet. Great job 1st district ALR.

A big shout out to the 1st district Legions, Auxiliaries and SAL for all the donations and putting on some wonderful hospitality. If your post is interested in donating, contact Steve Sullivan "10th District Rep" and he will let you know where to meet.

Legacy Fund donations can come out of your post gambling account. The check must be made out to the Legion Foundation, with Fund 84 in the memo.

All Legion Family members are invited to our 3rd annual MNALR Romp at Legionville, September 25-27. We will have our annual meeting at noon on Saturday, Sept. 26. This is a great time to meet your district reps. Also we will have biker games Saturday morning and a ride following our annual meeting. Cost is \$75 per person or \$100 per family.

If you bring a hotel receipt from any Legacy runs we will knock \$50 off. Any questions feel free to give myself or Jody Hassing a call. My number is (507) 450-8493. Lodging is included. Bring your own pillows and sleeping bags. We have live music Friday and Saturday night. Food and drink is available on site. We look forward to a great turnout this year. Hope to see everyone there.

Keeper between the ditches.

## Mail Call

### Solidarity To the Editor:

On 16 July 2015 we lost five of your military veterans to a shooter in Chattanooga, Tenn.

I am asking all veterans to wear their military colors, unit hats, ship hats and fly your unit flags, as a show solidarity to our brothers and sisters who are -- by wearing the uniform -- are in harm's way and to those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. You are not forgotten. We are with you 100%.

Let's show America, our cities, our malls and our streets that we will stand with our fellow brothers and sisters who have taken the oath to protect and to serve. Thank you and

investment in the future.

Our American Legion Family Riders have once again taken up the torch and are on their Legacy Ride. The Legacy rides have shown us what a joint Family effort can accomplish. This Legion year I want to emphasize the American Legion Family. Just as our families are the cornerstone of our lives the American Legion Family is the cornerstone of our organization. As Legion family members we need to promote more family events at our Posts. These days our young veterans have precious little family time. We need to show these veterans that the American Legion is a full service family-oriented organization they would want to be part of. Auxiliary President Sandy and SAL Commander Gene have committed to this cause.

Your Department Membership Director Jim Lucas has planned a busy and fun year for us. I look forward to his leadership and ask that each of you assist in any way you can. Membership is the largest program in all of our Posts. It is the lifeblood of our organization. We can all take part and make a difference.

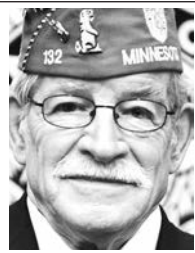
My project this year will be directed toward the American Legion Family Brain Science research Foundation. The research that has been done there has had a positive impact on the lives of many veterans and continues to do so. One of their primary areas of work is in the area of PTSD. We have all seen what an impact this has made on the lives of many of our veterans. You will be hearing more about their research and application of it this coming year. Truly a work we can be proud as Minnesota Legionaries to be part of.

Our National Convention in Baltimore will soon be here. I encourage all Delegates to bring your American flag and be part of the Minnesota Delegation in the Convention parade. This has become a tradition our Minnesota American Legion family is proud of.

As I begin this year I ask your continued support. I wish you safe travels and may God bless.

## Sons of The American Legion

By  
Gene Olswold



As I sit here this morning at my desk, I asked myself where do I begin. We have just completed our 97th Minnesota Department Convention at Jackpot Junction in Morton hosted by the Redwood Falls Post 38.

So this would be the time to congratulate our newly elected officers for 2015-2016: Department Commander James Kellogg and Department Auxiliary President Sandy Fredrickson along with myself, Detachment Commander Gene Olswold.

All three of us will be working close together stressing The American Legion Family this coming year.

At the Sons of the American Legion Convention held at Legionville on June 26-27, you elected me as your new Detachment Commander for the coming year.

I take this office very humbly and seriously and I know with my Membership Director Cliff Teigland we are going to have another great year in membership and other events throughout this wonderful state of Minnesota.

At this time I want to thank each and every one of you Sons for your faith in me in electing me as your new Commander. I plan on having an "open door" policy during my term so at any time you feel you need to contact me, feel free to do so.

Teigland is putting together a challenging but yet achievable membership program with many incentives throughout this year. It is hard to say what all we have up our sleeves for this coming year, but it will all be unveiled at our Organizational meeting in Anoka on the 22nd of August.

may God bless.  
Jim Prechel  
Stewartville

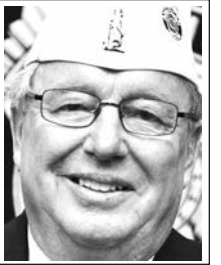
## Reunion

The 304th Signal Operations Battalion, all years, will meet Sat. 15-17 in Kansas City, Mo.

Contact Eber Janzen  
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Email: BudSmart1@yahoo.com

## Chaplain's Corner

By  
Richard Wog



I said this before my closing prayer at this year's convention. Thank you for letting me serve as your Chaplain for this coming year. As you know I wanted to serve last year, but the rules said I could not succeed myself. That is when Chaplain Steve Klinkner stepped forward. Chaplain Steve has done a wonderful job. I really enjoyed his letters. Steve, I know you are reading this. I want you to know our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

I want to offer my congratulations to our new Department Commander Jim Kellogg and to his staff of new officers. I know the Minnesota American Legion will have another great year. I would be remiss if I didn't say to past Department Commander Peggy Moon what a great year you and your officers had. Thank you for your leadership, your time and miles. I am sure that new vehicle is broken in by now. Also thanks to the Department Chaplains of the Auxiliary and SAL. What a wonderful memorial service at the convention. It was a truly wonderful tribute to all of our veterans. A lot of time was put into the service. So on behalf of all Chaplains' Department Auxiliary, SAL and all Legion members, we say thank you. However, I can't stop there. Redwood Falls Post 38, once again you did another outstanding job. I am sure you are looking forward to the next time. The food service was wonderful.

A year has gone by and it was fast. I know there are only so many days, weeks and months in a year, but I question where they went. What happened in our lives? If we take the time out of our busy life to reflect on it, there are bad times, but the good times outweigh the bad. I also know that for some that may not be the case. They may have lost a loved one or a close friend. It hurts for a long time. The memories will never leave us. Aren't we lucky or should I say we should be grateful for one of the gifts God gave us? The memories. We will never forget the ones we love who played such a big role in our lives.

Sometimes I talk about membership and some may think or say that is not a Chaplain's job. But I think membership is so important in any organization. Without it we would not have what we have today. It is the same with churches without members. The church would be gone, and where would we be today? Without faith or belief we are lost. Think about what our young veterans would do without the American Legion, plus other organizations. They would be lost. That is one big reason we need to keep pushing membership, to keep us alive and growing. The main reason the American Legion was started was to take care of our veterans. We cannot let them down. It is up to each of us to do our part. Let us do our share for the veterans that did it before us. I was asked why I was running for Chaplain again since I was Chaplain a year ago. My answer to you; I waited ten months for someone to step forward and no one did, so I did. The answer I shared with every member when I went to each caucus was, I want to serve my country. I want to serve my God and I want to serve the Legion.

Please keep the families of our fallen service members killed in Tennessee in your prayers. These men gave the ultimate sacrifice just for wearing the uniform that makes us so proud. May God bless them and their families and comfort them during this difficult time.

For God and Country.

## The Minnesota Legionnaire

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

Al Zdon, Editor

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

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

**PHONE:** 651-291-1800, 866-259-9163, **FAX:** 651-291-1057  
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**BOARD OF PUBLICATION MEMBERS:** President Jim Kellogg, Taopi; Vice President Don Amundson, Blue Earth; Secretary Randy Tesdahl, Elk River; Treasurer, Richard Horn, Melrose. Board Members include: Bob Locker, Fridley; Clinton Burt, Slayton; Joe Bayer, Minneapolis; Pat Logan, Bloomington; Virgil Persing, Columbia Heights; Sandy Fredrickson, Glenville, Carol Kottom, Buffalo.

# What's Happening

## State Fair Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to staff The American Legion booth at the Minnesota State Fair. Volunteers are specifically needed for Thursday, Sept. 3, and Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7, but may be needed for other days.

Volunteers receive a fair t-shirt and a ticket for the fair. Please contact Al Zdon at 651-291-1800.

## Field to be Renamed

The athletic field at Aitkin will be re-named and dedicated "Veterans Field" on Sept. 11, 2015. The ceremony will take place before the football game that night. All veterans are invited to sit in the end zone for the dedication.

The Legion and VFW will provide color guards, and a permanent banner will be permanently displayed. The dedication is being done by the students and faculty at Aitkin High School.

## Deer Hunts Planned

Two deer hunts have been scheduled for October:

The 2015 John Zgoda Disabled Deer Hunt sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion will be held Oct. 2-4 at Legionville. Applications are being accepted for this year's hunt. Contact Bill Stein, 952-955-2135. There is room for four hunters and two alternates.

The Annual Disabled Veterans Deer Hunt will be held at Camp Ripley from Oct. 6-8. Applications are available through MN Veterans Outdoor Programs, Box 953, St. Cloud, MN 56302 or email: mn.service.orgs@gmail.com or call 320-380-4569.

## Free Urns for Veterans

The Free Urns for Veterans group is a Minnesota non-profit organization. The founders made urns out of quality oak wood and offer them to veterans families free of charge. Each urn has the veteran's name, rank, life dates, and military service seal. More information is at [www.freeurns-forveterans.org](http://www.freeurns-forveterans.org).

The organization relies 100 percent on donations. It is run by volunteers with no paid staff. You can email at [free.urns@gmail.com](mailto:free.urns@gmail.com).

## Chili Feed Kaput

The annual 10th District Chili Feed at the Legionville Camp-O-Ree will no longer be offered. The district, however, will still be having a pig roast with pulled pork sandwiches.

Camp-O-Ree will be held the weekend of Sept. 12.

## MACV Events

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans has announced a series of events for veterans:

-- There will be free drop-in legal clinic on Aug. 25 at the Anoka County Government Center from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Present will be MACV staff, county veteran service officers, and legal experts. Veterans can gain help on housing, employment, benefits, debt collection and family law and legal forms. For more information, call 651-200-4750.

-- A StandDown for veterans will be held Thursday, Aug. 20 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Backus Community Center in International Falls. There will be a legal clinic and StandDown for veterans. The event will include meals, VA benefits, clothing, housing, legal assistance and much more. For more information, call 218-722-8763. There will be a welcome ceremony at 11:30 a.m.

-- A StandDown for veterans will be held on Friday, Aug. 21 at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center in the Edmund Fitzgerald Room. There will also be a Legal Clinic and StandDown Court. For more information, call 218-722-8763. The event will be held from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. with a welcoming ceremony at 11:30 a.m.

## Disabled Fishing

Disabled veterans are welcome at Veteran's Lake in Ramsey on Wednesday, Aug. 5, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. There will be lunch, fishing, and entertainment provided. All equipment is provided and no fishing license is necessary.

Veterans should RSVP by emailing [Enstrom06@msn.com](mailto:Enstrom06@msn.com) or calling 763-441-4086.

The event is held on a private lake in Ramsey.

## Paynesville Memorial

A committee has been planning a new veteran's memorial at the Paynesville American Legion Post. It is being done as an Eagle Scout project.

Anyone interested in donating should call John Rothstein at 320-548-3209, Brockton Vavra at 320-492-3085. Information is also available through the Paynesville Post, 320-243-4982.

## 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](http://www.freedomhousecpr.com) or email: [heartsafe51@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.petsloyal2vets.org) or call Jeff LeBaron at 612-396-3369.

## Vietnam Exhibit

The Minnesota Military History Museum opened a new exhibit, "Minnesota Voices from the Vietnam War" recently 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.

The exhibit is part of the larger museum which has displays and information about all the wars that Minnesotans have fought in.

The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through September. For more information, go to [www.mnmilitarymuseum.org](http://www.mnmilitarymuseum.org).

# Taps

**Flancher, Albert William**, 73, Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 11, 2015. He was a member of Rush City Post 93.

**Johnson, James Richard**, 68, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 20, 2015. He retired from the Army after 20 years. He was a member of Rush City Post 93.

**Nachtsheim, Ralph**, 87, Army Reserve veteran of the Korean War, died June 9, 2015. He was a member of Post 451.

**Henkel, Leroy J.**, 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 20, 2015. He was a member of Sandstone Post 151.

**Fredrickson, Roland W.**, 93, Army veteran of World War II, died June 8, 2015. He served in the Signal Corps with duty in London, during the bombing, and Paris. He was a member of Roseau Post 24.

**Jorgensen, Raymond Jr.**, 73, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 13, 2015. He was a member of Brainerd Post 255.

**Schienenbein, Frederick C.**, 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 23, 2015. He was a member of Brainerd Post 255.

**Mack, James P.**, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 4, 2015. He was a member of Brainerd Post 255.

**Jahns, Daniel C.**, 71, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 6, 2015. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

**Schultz, Earl V.**, 98, Army veteran of World War II, died June 13, 2015. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

**Ferley, Lemour**, 93, Marine Corps veteran of World War II, died July 5, 2015. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

**Hormann, Roy**, 80, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 1, 2015. He served in Germany. He was a member of Wheaton Post 80.

**Butkofski, Wilfred J.**, 92, Army veteran of World War II, died June 28, 2015. He served overseas and earned three Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart. He was a member of Paynesville Post 271.

**Huschle, Lawrence J.**, 94, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died July 1, 2015. He was shot down over Germany and spent nearly two years in Stalag 17. He earned a Purple Heart. He was a member of Eden Valley Post 381.

**Vosberg, Luverne Jon**, 69, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 26, 2015. He was a member of

Granite Falls Post 69.

**Cummings, Warren E.** 84, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died June 18, 2015. He was a member of Preston Post 166.

**Manot, Albert D., Jr.**, 69, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 10, 2015. He was a member of Winger Post 200.

**Mack, John E.**, 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 1, 2015. He was an ammunition supply specialist. He was a member of Elysian Post 311.

**Behrens, James H.**, 69, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 3, 2015. He retired as a colonel after 31 years. He was a past commander of Marietta Post 156.

**Ganje, Bernard J. "Bennie,"** 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 13, 2015. He served as a training officer. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

**Henkel, LeRoy John**, 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 20, 2015. He served in the 47th Signal Corps and was cook. He was a member of Sandstone Post 151.

**Clark, George L.**, 92, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II. He served in the 1731st Squadron of the 452nd Bomber Group. He was a member of the Minnesota Post at large.

**Bonnett, Wesley B.**, 88, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died July 11, 2015. He was a member of Amboy Post 276.

**Lyddon, Marvin**, 82, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died July 6, 2015. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

**Simon, Milton C.**, 89, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died July 6, 2015. He was a member of Lonsdale Post 586.

**Kieffer, Leonard C.**, 82, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 6, 2015. He was a member of Hackensack Post 202.

**Dorn, Raymond John "Red,"** 84, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died June 13, 2015. He served on the USS Ajax. He was a member of Winona Post 9.

**Frank, Edward E.**, 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 16, 2015. He was a member of Fairfax Post 205.

**Friton, Paul E.**, 79, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died June 21, 2015. He was a member of Fairfax Post 205.

**Dupre, Craig Allen**, 64, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 14, 2015. He was a member of Hackensack Post 202.

**Webster, Thomas Allen**, 51, Marine Corps veteran of the Lebanon/Grenada War, died July 10, 2015. He was a member of Gaylord Post 433.

**Gamradt, Leonard J.**, 74, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 9, 2015. He earned the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

**Gardner, Paul D.**, 84, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 20, 2015. He was a member of St. Paul Park Post 98.

**Rasmussen, Ruth M.**, 90, Coast Guard veteran of World War II, died July 18, 2015. She was in SPARS. She was a member of Spam Post 570, Austin.

**Klemenhagen, Orville A.**, 89, Army veteran of World War II, died July 14, 2015. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

**Fransen, Robert J.**, 90, Army veteran of World War II, died July 17, 2015. He was a member of Willmar Post 9.

**Schweiss, Raymond W.**, 79, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 18, 2015. He was a member of Fairfax Post 205.

### Correction

An obituary in the July issue stated that Kenneth Iverson received the Silver Star. He received the Bronze Star.

## Obituary Policy

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

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

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

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

# District Commanders

## THIRD DISTRICT

Don Skow  
Commander



Greetings Thundering Third,

The 2015-2016 American Legion year is off and running. We had a great Department Convention hosted by Redwood Falls Post and Unit 38. Thank you for all your efforts.

Membership will again be our priority the next few months and with everyone's help we can have our goals reached by the first week of January 2016.

Our Legion programs are very important in the lives of thousands of people every day so we need to remind ourselves of the opportunity to make a positive difference, in those lives whenever possible.

We need to do a better job of getting our reports in on these programs and projects at the local level. If your Post needs help with this please contact you're Vice-Commander or myself or any Third District Officer. We will be glad to help. We need to, as an organization, let everyone know who we are and what we do for our veterans, our communities and our entire country, and it starts at the post level.

The theme or slogan for this year is "Attitude is Everything." Together we can do it.

I am looking forward to working with the new and repeat officers in the coming year. We can make a difference.

## FOURTH DISTRICT

Dan Williams  
Commander



Our State Convention was a success. The final credentials report listed the Fourth District with a total of 24 posts, 7 registered posts, 16 persons and voting strength of 32.

Thanks to everyone who made the convention from the District. Several posts within the District and the District as a whole received several awards. Each will be mentioned at our next District meeting.

One very pleasant surprise was The Fabulous Fourth was awarded first place for the parade consideration. This was based on the judging of spotters along the parade route. Membership, membership, membership.

Thank you, Fourth District for your hard work and great results in meeting our membership goals. By the time you read this article you will also note we have stopped the back sliding and are now the first District within the state to turn in more membership than last year. We have stopped the downward spiral. You continue to prove, day in and day out why the Fourth is Fabulous. Remember annual dues will increase next year. Therefore, it's a very good idea to get membership in now at the current rate.

Congratulations Commander Jim Kellogg on your election to the top position within the state, Department Commander. Commander, count on the Fabulous Fourth to give 100% effort to our programs and services during your year. We are here to serve veterans, their families and our current service members. Have a great year Jim.

Calendar: August 12th District Meeting 7 p.m. - Post 599; August 16th VA Hospital Visitation 1 p.m.

## FIFTH DISTRICT

Gary Martin  
Commander



On behalf of the Fighting Fifth District, congratulations all newly elected Department, District, County and Post Officers. Congratulations also to the newly elected Auxiliary, Juniors and SAL Officers.

It's time to start working on membership, concentrating on programs, activities and helping our fellow Veterans.

"Looking Forward," high on the agenda are enhancing communication within the District, program and activities reporting on the Post and District level. These are elements to a successful year.

Our next District Assembly will be September 8, at Minneapolis Post #1, Executive Committee at 6:45 p.m., General Session at 7:30.

District Vice Commanders, Ray Eiden (Membership Director), Walt Lyndsley, John Austin and myself are available to assist any Post when asked. Each Vice Commander has been asked to visit their assigned posts throughout the year.

October 15-17 will be the Fourth and Fifth District's Membership Revitalization program. Again this year we will have a little competition between the Districts. We are looking forward to working with our neighbor District across the Mississippi.

May the Lord protect those who protect our great country. As always, "Keep It Positive."

## SIXTH DISTRICT

Dewayne Collins  
Commander



First, thank you to all Legionnaires that attended the 6th District Convention in Brainerd. Also thank you for electing me as the 6th District commander for this coming year. I have some big shoes to fill. I received a lot of good advice and guidance from the past officers. This wisdom will guide me through the next year.

My theme for this year "Those who show make a difference." My 6th district commander project this year is Legionville. There are many needs to keep this great school safety patrol camp program going. It is the only one in the nation. Please help in any way you can, whether in time volunteering, supplies or donation. Your gambling funds can be used towards my project, please earmark it for the 6th District commander project on the memo line.

Talking about Legionville, mark your calendars for Camp-o-ree, September, 11-13. It is a good time for the entire family. Hope to see you there.

As I write the month's column just before the deadline I returned from the Department convention. We had a great team to lead us through the next year. It will be great working with them. We are working on setting up two training sessions for new officers at the post. I will send a letter with the time and location. If you would like save some money, pay your dues early. National and district will be raising dues as of Jan 1, 2016. The first membership rally is Sept 12th at Legionville. Let's put 6th District in 1st place.

I am in the process of planning out my yearly calendar. I ask that all post and organizations within the post provide me with the dates of their special events so that I can deconflict and set aside the dates. You can send me an email at [dcollinsr@yahoo.com](mailto:dcollinsr@yahoo.com) or call me at (218) 821-7314.

I am honored to be elected as your commander and look forward to working with all of you.

## SEVENTH DISTRICT

Karen Welander  
Commander



First I would like to thank the 7th district for their confidence in giving me the opportunity to serve as the commander for 2015-2016. I look forward to the coming year. Congratulations and thank you Victor Gades on his year as commander of the mighty seventh.

Thank you to the people of Redwood Falls for a great convention, but it is now time to get down to work for the next year. There are a lot of items on the agenda and I am looking forward to working with all members of the district and department to enhance the lives of all veterans and their families.

We need to update all of the email addresses for all district members who have email. Consider making an email address that the post adjutant and post commander share and advertise it to get feedback from your membership and the district. This will attract younger members and is an important link for membership. The membership packets have been delivered and we will meet the challenge of making goal at each post by always asking if they are a veteran and then if they are a member of The American Legion.

Our first executive board meeting will be in New London on August 15, 2015 at 10 AM. This will be our district organizational meeting and all 78 posts are invited to attend to find out what is planned for the year.

I look forward to serving you this year and making it a great year for The American Legion.

## EIGHTH DISTRICT

Jennifer Havlick  
Commander



There is no greater organization advocating for our fellow veterans than The American Legion.

No organization has more programs across a wider spectrum of need than The American Legion.

For decades members of The American Legion have operated and funded programs that benefit veterans and their families. Today, American Legion posts across Minnesota and the nation are saying goodbye to (hundreds) of veterans as they pass to our Post Everlasting. Hundreds more veterans from WWII and Korea are unable to participate at the level they have for years. Perhaps more trou-

bling is that our Vietnam War veterans are disengaging and Gulf War/War on Terror veterans show little interest in joining. What does this mean? Well, it means that we have fewer veterans available to operate programs that are vital to the success of The American Legion mission. In order for this organization to survive we need to reach out to our Gulf War/War on Terrorism veterans and find how we can get them and their families to join the American Legion, Sons of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. We also need to be willing to make the necessary changes to make that happen. It is with this in mind that the 8th District will be focusing on Post Revitalization this year. Any 8th District Post interested in a Post Revitalization event please contact me.

## NINTH DISTRICT

Denise Milton  
Commander



Greetings to the Roaring Ninth. I want say thank you for your support at district convention, I promise no activations this time around. I am looking forward to an exciting, productive year working with the entire district. I will be retiring this fall and will have lots of time. Please call or email me anytime.

"Renew and Retain for the Cure" is my motto. We need to continue renewing and most importantly retaining our members. Rallies this year will not only be for collecting membership, but a time for training, sharing what works at your post and discussing programs that fall under the four Pillars of the American Legion.

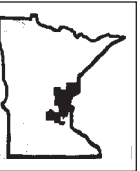
My project is "2 Bits for NEF." In other words 25 cents for each member in our district. The National Emergency Fund is a wonderful program for individuals and posts that have been touched by disaster. NEC Spring meetings have doubled the amounts. Now available are \$3,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for posts. Our district has had several recipients of this wonderful program in our time of need.

I am very passionate about Veteran's health care and benefits. Recently the VA has forwarded a letter to Congress to Act & Transfer Funds for Veterans Care, to authorize the use of up to \$ 2.5 billion from the Veterans Choice Fund for Veterans Care in the Community programs and up to \$ 500 million for the Hepatitis C pharmaceutical expenses in FY 2015. If this amendment to the Choice Act (legislation passed August 2014) isn't acted on by the end of the month in all probability VA faces the possibility of shutting down hospital operations in August if these program funds aren't restored. The shortfalls are largely due to the increased number of VA authorized medical care in the private sector. In the past year over 3 million authorizations were made, an increase of 41% from previous years. Increasing numbers of Baby Boomer Veterans are receiving care for Hepatitis C that was more than likely contracted 30-40 years ago and veterans are now becoming sick.

If this amendment isn't passed it is likely that Care in the Community and Hepatitis C treatment will be deferred till October 1, the beginning of a new fiscal year. Can we afford to wait that long? No. Call your congressman/senator and demand that they act now.

## TENTH DISTRICT

Bill Johnson  
Commander



Greetings from the 10th District,

As we begin our year, I have chosen the theme of "ONE" for my year as Commander. Restated, "One Member, One Post, One District, One Legion, makes all the difference. We as a District will emphasize the individual members, who give of their time and talents. They make the Legion work.

To accomplish our mission, the District will focus on two key areas, membership, and organizational development.

Starting with membership, the District will be conducting a membership revitalization early in October, for Itasca, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Wright Counties. In February of 2016, we will contact members whose membership has expired. As part of our effort, we will be forming an ad hoc committee of younger veterans to better define their needs. Finally, we will be looking to develop a new Post in the District.

To aid the District, we will be conducting training at both the District, and Post level. At the Post level, training will be conducted on administrative tasks, with emphasis on membership processing, and processing reports. Sessions will be held for all Post Officers, on membership recruitment, Post Service officer education, and Legion Programs.

As Commander, I know this is an ambitious program, but I am fully committed to making it work with the help of our District Officers and Chairs.

# Kellogg elected at state convention.

Continued from Page 1

Carroll Partridge, Oakdale; Art Tobkin, Bagley; and Darrel Redepenning, Fridley, all elected as Department Vice Commanders.

- Richard Wog, Willmar, Chaplain.
- Mark Dvorak, Le Center, Sergeant-at-Arms.
- Dennis DeLong, Bloomington, Historian.

In addition, Roger K. Olson of Hutchinson and Wayne Gilbertson of Zimmerman were elected delegates at large to the national convention in Baltimore.

The convention was held at the Jackpot Junction Casino near Morton, and the parade was held in nearby Redwood Falls. The Redwood Falls Post and Unit 38 sponsored the

## Resolutions passed at the convention

Continued from Page 1

to hearing aid specialists.

Both resolutions will be forwarded to the National Convention in Baltimore in early September.

Other resolutions passed by the Minnesota Convention included:

- Resolution 3: Urging concurrent receipt of retirement pay and disability pay for retired military.
- Resolution 4: Urging that the Spirit of Service award given at the national convention be extended to Guard and Reserve personnel.

— Resolution 5: Supports copper and nickel mining in northern Minnesota.

— Resolution 7: Changes the Korean War eligibility dates to allow more veterans to join The American Legion.

— Resolution 8: Supporting an American Legion booklet.

— Resolution A, passed by the Department Executive Committee: Abolishes the Trophies and Awards Committee.

Rejected by the convention committees and also rejected on the convention floor was a resolution that would have changed the baseball playoff system, and a resolution that changed the wording in the Minnesota Constitution regarding district officers assuming their office "at the close of the

convention.

A highlight of the convention was a speech by former Minnesotan Richard Neville. Neville moved to North Carolina several years ago and has served as that state's Department Commander. He is currently a National Vice Commander.

At total of 282 delegates attended the convention, representing 143 posts.

On the Auxiliary side, Sandy Fredrickson, Glenville, was elected Department President, and Carol Kottom, Buffalo, was elected Department First Vice President. In a contested election, Donna Arends of Raymond defeated

department convention" to "no later than the next Department Convention."

Two other resolutions endorsing candidates were received and filed.

## DEC meets at Redwood

Continued from Page 1

The disappearance of the committee took place with the close of the convention.

In other business, the DEC:

-- Membership Director Pat Logan reported that Minnesota was at 95.98 percent of goal at convention time.

-- Legionville President Wayne Gilbertson reported via phone from the camp about the windstorm that struck on the Sunday prior to the convention. Gilbertson thanked the staff at the camp for doing a terrific job. No campers or staff were hurt.

-- Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl reported that Minnesota may be in danger this year of not making the number of rooms promised at the Baltimore Convention. The Department can be penalized for that failure. Tesdahl said the Department must set aside the rooms two years out, and it is difficult to determine what the housing will be from convention to convention.



DEC MEETS -- Members of the Department Executive Committee doff their hats at Redwood Falls.

## Centennial planning begins

The Minnesota 2018 National Convention Corporation met during the state convention, and plans were discussed for the Minneapolis convention which will mark The American Legion's 100th annual meeting.

Plans include display areas in the convention hall, re-enactors of World War I doughboys, encouraging bands and drum and bugle corps from Minnesota to march in the national parade and providing drivers for Legion dignitaries and others.

Fundraising for the event was also discussed, along with the possibility of creating a non-profit corporation to make it easier for donors. The possibility of professional fundraising was discussed.

Planning was also advocated for making sure there there is state media attention on the Minneapolis Convention.

# Notes from the 2015 Department Convention in Redwood Falls

The Department of Minnesota Convention was held in July at Jackpot Junction near Redwood Falls.

News from the convention included:

— Patrick Kelly, director of the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, reported that the Mankato CBOC has been renamed the Lyle Pearson Clinic to honor the World War II pilot. He also said that the eye clinic at the Minneapolis VA has been expanded and will be able to add 80 more appointments each day. Kelley said 58 units of veterans homeless housing will open soon at Fort Snelling.

Kelly also told the audience that the Veterans Choice program has not been working well and is costing the VA more than expected. The program allows veterans who live more than 40 miles from a VA facility or who have appointments more than 30 days out to use their Choice card to get care at non-VA facilities.

— Ray DeZurik reported at his final state convention. He is stepping aside after six years as the National Executive Committeeman from Minnesota. Prior to that, he was the alternate for four years. He thanked his family and the Legion Family. "It was one heck of a 10-year run, and I wore that hat with pride."

— Bill Barbknecht, chairman of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust Committee, said LIT provided the department with about \$105,000 in revenue this year. He said the accidental death and dismemberment policy, which is free to Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members, will no longer have an expiration date. The only time you need to renew would be if you changed addresses. The LIT number is 1-800-235-6943.

— Lloyd Ricker, chair of the Minnesota Legion Foundation, said a new brochure is available that contains information on the Foundation and the correct code numbers for those donating charitable gambling funds.

— Barbknecht came back to the microphone as the newly appointed director of the Selective Service in Minnesota. He noted that the last draft, for the Vietnam War, ended in 1973. All males, though, must still register to be eligible for various government programs and loans.

— Baseball Director Mike Perry said that Minnesota still has the largest American Legion Baseball Program in the nation. He urged Legion posts to stay connected or reconnect with their teams.

— Paul Hassing, American Legion Riders liaison, said that there were 65 chapters in the state with a total membership of over 500 Riders. Last year the Minnesota Riders gave \$87,000 toward the Legacy Scholarship, the most of any state. He said the goal this year is for over \$100,000. He said that if anyone beats Steve Sullivan's challenge, Sullivan would appear in a pink tutu.

— Chuck Stone, chairman of the Pheasant Dinner Program, said over \$40,000 was raised and 1,700 pheasant dinners were provided at 14 state and federal veterans facilities. He said the pins for those who donated had not arrived

yet.

— Special guest speaker Richard Neville of North Carolina spoke at the convention. Neville is the National Vice Commander for the Southeast Division. A former Minnesotan in the Bayport Post, he recalled his early years in Minnesota. He said teamwork was the key to accomplishing goals. "It's amazing what we do and what we accomplish." He said that Minnesota continues to be one of the leading departments in the nation. He urged those attending the convention to work hard for Legion programs and projects. "By the next department convention, I hope you don't say, 'I could have done more.'"

— This year's Employer of the Year was McNeilus Steel Company from Dodge Center. Employment Chair Dave Heidebrink said the company employs from 40-50 veterans.

— A motion on the floor to raise money by social media for Legionville was passed.

— SAL Detachment Commander Dennis Henkemeyer reported that the SAL had reached 11,300 members this year, which is first in the Central Region. The detachment has hit all 11 membership goals and formed four new squadrons this year. In addition, he said his commander's project to raise money for the Fisher House had reached \$35,000.

— Lee Tallakson gave a report on Boys State and urged posts to send boys to the program. He said many boys say they cannot attend because of commitments to Legion Baseball. "But they can play baseball the rest of their lives, but they only get to go to Boys State once." He said the Boys State committee will be considering options from Minnesota colleges on where the program will be held in the future.

— Pat Logan, Membership Chair, gave his final report and presented awards to the best districts. He thanked his wife, Rebecca, for her help during the year. John Lenvik of Apple Valley Post 1776 was the top recruiter of the year with 71 new members. Silver Brigade winners were David Anderson of Park Rapids Post 212 with 41 members and Robin Kunkel of Forest Lake Post 225 with 26 members. Sixth district won the Premier Race, and Fourth District finished with the highest percentage of goal. The Sixth District had the most new members with 450.

-- The final report of the Credentials Committee:

District	Posts	Persons	Voting strength
1	20	39	109
2	18	29	67
3	19	42	90
4	7	16	32
5	10	18	44
6	19	41	127
7	13	24	56
8	5	6	29
9	11	17	56
10	21	50	111
<b>Totals</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>721</b>

-- Americanism winners announced at the convention included:

- District 1, Rushford Post 94
- District 2, Storden Post 391
- District 3, Bayport Post 491
- District 4, Hamline Post 418
- District 5, Viking Post 493
- District 6, Walker Post 134
- District 7, Olivia Post 186
- District 8, Keewatin Post 452
- District 9, Fergus Falls Post 30
- District 10, Chisago City Post 272

Hawley Post 382 won the Certificate of Distinguished Service and St. Paul 3M Post 599 won the Certificate of Meritorious Service.

-- Waite Park Color Guard won the Department Color Guard contest in the annual parade and will be the Department's official color guard for the next year. Coon Rapids Unit 334 was second and New Prague Post 45 was third.

The Ninth District Band was first for bands. Windom Post 206 was first for patriotic units, Nicollet Post 510 was second and Lake Crystal Post 294 was third. The Fourth District won the overall parade competition followed by the Second and Third districts.

-- First place winners in the Blood competition were:

- 1 -- Adams Post 146
- 2 -- St. James Post 33
- 3 -- Montgomery Post 79
- 4 -- North St. Paul Post 39
- 5 -- Minneapolis Richfield Post 435
- 6 -- Melrose Post 101
- 7 -- Spicer Post 545
- 8 -- Cloquet Post 262
- 9 -- Warren Post 27
- 10 -- Anoka Post 102

-- The Meritorious Service Awards, given by the national VA&R Division to post service officers included:

- 1. Leslie Hinrichs, Bagley Post 16
- 2. Ned Jones, Round Lake Post 461
- 3. Ed Mlynar, Lester Prairie Post 463
- 4. Heidi Schmidt, Arcade-Phalen Post 577
- 5. No submittal

- 6. John Miller, Richmond Post 292
- 7. No submittal
- 8. Marvin Hill, Virginia Post 239
- 9. No submittal
- 10. Frank Menter, Anoka Post 102

Menter also won the Pat Cliff Award as the top service officer in the state.

-- Convention dates for the future include Rochester in both 2016 and 2018 with all other years open.

Fall Conference venues include: 2015, Pequot Lakes; 2016, Marshall; 2017, Willmar. All future years are open at this point.