

District Commanders

FIRST DISTRICT

**Roland Hanson
Commander**



My theme this year is Membership through Education. We need to educate our members, potential members and communities on the Four Pillars our organization was founded upon: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, Children and Youth.

If you would like to learn more about the Four Pillars please contact me at 507-438-6573 or e-mail me at rehan-son46@outlook.com to set up an appointment for our power point presentation.

My project this year is to raise funds for the Brain Science Foundation to keep the research going on PTSD and other diseases of the brain such as Alzheimers.

The District 1 picnic was a successful fun time. It was attended by the Department Commander (he deep fried turkey for us) and the Department President. Also special guest Denise Milton, who is campaigning to be Dept. Commander next year, attended.

First District is doing great on membership, number one as of this writing. I'm looking forward to a successful year and a fun time as we work together.

SECOND DISTRICT

**Ryan Hill
Commander**



No, I did not have a letter in last month's Legionnaire. District changeover was held on August 2, so I was just the First Vice Commander when the letter was due. But, I was out working with my Vice commanders on membership. We were able to get 2nd District off goose egg. My Vice Commanders did an awesome job for Jennifer Kafka, Membership Director. This will make 2nd District eligible for membership awards and trophies as they come along.

I met the Legion Riders Legacy Run when they came to the Luverne Veterans Home. The veterans at the home liked all the chrome on the bikes and the noise they made. Sully gave John, a veteran who lives at the Luverne Veterans home, a ride on his motorcycle-what a treat that was. He talked all day about that ride.

My theme for this year is "Fishing for Veterans." I have a hat pin out which I hand made that I am using to raise money for the Commander's and President's project at the Veteran's Home in Luverne. We plan to make the picnic area larger, so I'm asking for a donation of \$2.00 per pin toward this project.

The next District Rally will be held at Dundee Post 386 on September 26.

THIRD DISTRICT

**Don Skow
Commander**



Our rally at Faribault on August 17th got us off to a good start but we have a long way to go. The 50% cut-of date is September 9th, so all our posts should have at least 50% of their membership goal at Department before that date. I know we can get this done. Thank you for all your efforts.

The next rally will be September 11th at the Savage Post, please come and join us and bring a friend.

Does your Community have a Guard or Reserve unit? Now is a good time to pass out some "Why you should belong" pamphlets and membership applications.

We need more posts to participate in the "Oratorical Contest" this year. Watch for the information in the near future. Please consider sending a student to participate in the contest. If you have any questions contact Randy Maluchnik or Don Skow.

We also have some new awards and prizes for signing up new members. The Department of Minnesota has set three dates October 3rd, October 10th and October 17th for Legion training. This training will be very informative and every Post should try to send some members.

Our 3rd District County Veterans Service Officer (VSO) dinner will be held at Lonsdale Post 586 on October 13th, with social at 5:30 and dinner at 6:30. Dinner will be \$15. Please contact Linda Dvorak for tickets.

FOURTH DISTRICT

**Dan Williams
Commander**



September 16th is American Legion Day. What are your plans for the day? If you have nothing specific planned, allow me to make some suggestions. Start with prayer. Pray for our troops who are deployed. Pray for our nation to

remember and honor God. Pray for the health of families as well as those who are single. Pray that the children of this great nation will inherit a nation that we have guarded and used our strength to preserve for their future safe keeping. After you have completed your prayers and devotion implement a plan to contact a veteran in need of obtaining their VA Benefits for Support, Education or Vocational Rehabilitation and/or Health Care. Tell that veteran of the first Pillar of the American Legion. Perhaps, they are not aware of our more than 90-year history as a leading advocate for veterans. That veteran or their family members may not be aware of the many programs we have for Children and Youth.

Calendar: September 9th District Meeting Post 39; September 16th Shop, Ship and Share Meeting 6:30 PM - Post 39; September 20th VA Hospital Visitation 1:00 PM.

FIFTH DISTRICT

**Gary Martin
Commander**



Membership Director Ray Eiden and Vice Commanders Walt Lyndsley and John Austin will begin visiting Posts in September. They will be seeking information on how to improve membership and communications in the District.

"Looking Forward" we have many opportunities to improve membership renewal, retention and new member process on post and district levels. Get personal, "Ask Em."

Post involvement in the District Revitalization Program in October is high on our "To Do" list. The previous two Revitalization Programs were very fruitful and can even be more so with great volunteers manning the phones and making personal contact.

Our Fifth District American Legion Family Projects this year are the Minnesota Veterans Home-Minneapolis Adult Day Care Center and Fisher House.

Congratulations to the American Legion Riders on all their fund raising efforts. What a great group of Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL members who dedicate their time and energies supporting the Legacy Fund.

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

SIXTH DISTRICT

**Dewayne Collins
Commander**



I would like to say thank you to all the members who paid their membership early. Let's keep it up. As you know Camp-o-ree is just around the corner. Mark your calendars for 10-13 September. There are many things planned for the weekend. We will have a membership rally on Saturday afternoon. To the post with the highest membership turn-in, I would like to buy the delegates a round Saturday evening.

I am asking that those District Delegates going to national convention to report to their post and share the great information they learned about the programs and activities throughout the National Convention. This will be my first National Convention, I am excited for this experience and the opportunity to learn more about the great programs and efforts of the American Legion in the legislative issues.

The 6th District School of Instruction will be set for the late part of September or the first half of October. We are working on the agenda and are excited to provide the post with relevant and current information to move the programs and efforts of the American Legion into the future.

Our next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 11 in Park Rapids at Post 212. A notice will be sent out at the end of September. Please bring a guest to the meeting. I believe in an open forum and in being inclusive.

If any of the post have special events you would like me to attend please contact me at dcollinsr@yahoo.com or 218-829-7620.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

**Karen Welander
Commander**



I would like to recognize the hard working members and friends of the American Legion Family at Walter Tripp Post 29 in Morris for a job very well done in hosting the Legacy Run for breakfast on their northern route. Watching all those bikes traveling from town to town is an awesome site.

The district is great but we need to step it up and let every veteran and veterans' family members know why it is so important for all veterans to become a member of the American Legion Family. The numbers are not about making a post larger - it's about having the strength to stand strong before Congress and letting them know what our fel-

low veterans need.

The membership is slowly getting turned in. When you ask someone to join the American Legion and they ask you "what's in it for me" just tell them all the benefits. Remember to tell them that the main thing is pride. The same pride they had when they served our great country. Work together with your fellow Auxiliary and SAL membership directors to remind those snowbirds at your posts to renew now to avoid the projected Legion price increase coming in January.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

**Jennifer Haylick
Commander**



Legion Family -- what's that? The Legion family consists of the American Legion, the Son's of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and their juniors and the American Legion Riders. Like any family we are stronger when we work together. It is with this in mind that the 8th District family working hand in hand will embark on a year of revitalization starting with our membership. We have three revitalization events tentatively schedule in the district so far. There will be more information to follow in coming months. I encourage you to do these revitalizations as a Legion Family. District and Department have resources available to assist with these events. If your post, son's squadron or auxiliary unit is interested in having a revitalization event please contact one of your district officers and we will be happy to assist you. The future of all our organizations depends on membership and generations of veterans and their family rely on the American Legion Family and their programs so let's secure the future of our organizations. If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact me. If I don't have the answer I will find the answer. God Bless and I hope to see you all soon.

NINTH DISTRICT

**Denise Milton
Commander**



We will no more than return from National convention and we are off to Legionville for the annual Fall Camp-O-ree, which will include the first rally of the year-the Fall Rally. Every member of the Legion family is welcome to attend this fun event for a nominal fee. There are activities for all ages and lots of comraderie around the campfires. So please join us for a day or the weekend.

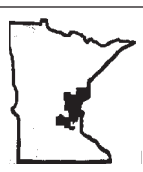
The beginning of a new fiscal year is soon upon us and a new budget will soon be implemented-now is the time to contact your respective congressmen and senators to urge them to support no cuts in funding for our military or veterans' health benefits.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention our Legion Riders. They just completed a two weekend run raising money for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. I had the pleasure of attending the wrap-up in Monticello and what an awesome turn-in, a total of \$90,000 dollars. They are a dedicated, selfless group of people that I am proud to know and had the opportunity to ride with them.

Calendar: Area II rally in Oklee on 26 SEP at 2:00pm and 6th & 9th joint rally in Bagley on 10 OCT starting at 10:00am. See you all there.

TENTH DISTRICT

**Bill Johnson
Commander**



The next two months look to be very busy for the 10th District. Starting with the National Convention we will also be working at the State Fair Booth, then onto the Legionville Camporee the first two weeks in September will keep us running.

In October the 10th District will be hosting a Department Post Officers training seminar at the Clearwater Legion on October 3. Following that we will be holding a District Revitalization, on October 6th, 7th, and 8th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. If you could, the 10th sure could use your help. Please contact me by phoning 763-424-2229, or e-mailing me at billdtm@yahoo.com. Finishing the month off, we will be conducting our own Post Officer training for each of our Sub-Districts.

Also Jim Kellogg has appointed our good friend from the 4th, Dan Williams and myself to be subject matter experts to the other districts to help with their revitalizations. So if would like some help, give us a call. I have already committed to helping the 1st, and 9th Districts with theirs.

Next month I hope to give an update on how our revitalization went.

Listening Post

News from around the State



OKLEE HONORS ELMER -- Oklee Post 159 honored Elmer Hanson for 60 years of service in The American Legion. He also received a cake.



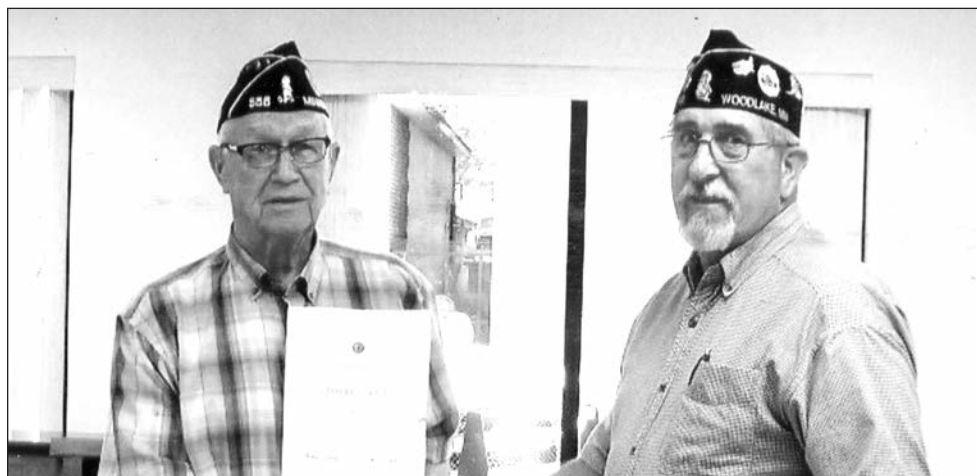
RIDERS AT PRESTON -- The Minnesota American Legion Riders paid a visit to Preston Post 166 during its Legacy Run across the state. The Riders collected over \$90,000 on the north and south runs.



BACKUS REST STOP -- When the American Legion Riders were on its Leech Lake Area Ride for Vets they stopped at the Backus Post for a breather. The post treated them to a hotdog and a soda.



SGT. COOPER -- Part of the Rider's group in the Leech Lake Run was Jim Larson, an Air Force veteran from Prior Lake. His dangerous sidecar buddy was Sgt. Cooper, a golden retriever.



WOOD LAKE HONOR -- Harold Jeseritz, 88, got a 60 year certificate from Wood Lake Post 556 Commander Larry Peterson. Jeseritz serves on the post's firing squad, and he is a past post and county commander.



SPRING GROVE MILITARY BALL -- Hosted by the American Legion, the annual Military Ball at the Fest Building in Spring Grove drew 187 veterans, military and guests. The oldest and youngest received flag cases from Ball official Gary Buxengard. At left is Francis Murphy, 89, of LaCrosse, who was also the only Coast Guard veteran present. At right is Keven Pohlman, 24, of Caledonia.



BOBCAT HONORS BAILEY -- Mike Bailey of Bobcat Post 504 received an award for his longtime service to the post and the Legion in general.

Taps

Blakesley, Leo James, 97, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 15, 2015. He served in the field artillery and at the Army depot in Los Angeles. He was Sixth District Commander in 1986-87. He was a founding member of the Aitkin Post 86 color guard, and he was a volunteer at Legionville and the Minnesota Veterans Cemetery at Little Falls.

Borgstrom, Darrell Arthur, 89, Navy veteran of World War II, died July 29, 2015. He was a member of Rush City Post 93.

Weis, James F., 89, Navy veteran of World War II, died July 17, 2015. He served in Carrier Aircraft Service Unit 31 and 6. He was a past commander of Glencoe Post 95.

Hoffart, Robert Keith, 90, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 21, 2015. He was a member of Morris Post 29.

Totusek, Milton J., 89, Navy veteran of World War II, died July 31, 2015. He was a past commander and chaplain of Silver Lake Post 141.

Nowak, Louis J., 82, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 15, 2015. He was a member of Silver Lake Post 141.

Theis, Marcellus, 93, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Aug. 15, 2015. He was a member of Cold Spring Post 455.

Sadlovsky, Frank, 93, Army veteran of World War II, died July 20, 2015. He served in Germany and was a light truck driver. He was a member of Long Prairie Post 12.

Teisler, Glen A., 78, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 27, 2015. He was a member of Ellsworth Post 196.

Cruser, Bernard F., Sr., 74, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 24, 2015. He served in German in the Signal Corps. He was a member of Granite Falls Post 69.

Kolander, Martin Arthur Louis, 87, Army veteran of World War II, died July 20, 2015. He served in Japan in the occupation forces. He was a member of Lakefield Post 4.

Nepsund, Harlan L., 82, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 22, 2015. He was a member of Paynesville Post 271.

Grochow, Wallace, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 13, 2015. He was a member of Browton Post 143.

Thompson, Sylvester Lawrence "Sal," 96, Army veteran of World War II, died July 29, 2015. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Grover, Lois V., 97, Women's Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died July 23, 2015. She was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Thorn, Donald LeRoy, 90, navy veteran of World War II, died July 2, 2015. He served on the USS Lunga Point, CUE-94. He was a member of Madelia Post 19.

Rhoda, Herbert H., 82, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 23, 2015. He was a member of New London Post 537.

Railson, Wayne Richard, 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 1, 2015. He was a member of New London Post 537.

Uzlik, Graham R., 90, Army veteran of World War II, died July 22, 2015. He served in Germany and earned the Bronze Star. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Bisek, John L., 73, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 13, 2015. He served in the military police in Germany. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Kriese, Roger Allen, 72, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 20, 2015. He was a member of Monticello Post 260.

Ehkle, William C., 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 4, 2015. He was a member of Arlington Post 250.

Grahn, Jack W., 87, Navy veteran of World War II, died

July 11, 2015. He served in the SeaBees 31st Battalion, and was involved in the cleanup of Nagasaki, Japan, following the atomic bombing. He was a member of Warroad Post 25.

Bouman, Henry, 97, Army veteran of World War II, died July 1, 2015. He served in the Philippines as part of the 2nd Battalion, First Infantry Regiment, Company G, 6th Division. He volunteered for the assault squad. He earned a Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster and a Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster. He was a charter member of Holland Post 534.

Gloeger, James, 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 6, 2015. He was a member of New London Post 537.

Lindner, Doug, 67, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 5, 2015. He was a member of New London Post 537.

Carles, Vernon, 86, Army veteran of World War II, died July 23, 2015. He served with the 325th Infantry Regiment. He was a member of North Branch Post 85.

Grong, Robert, 85, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died July 13, 2015. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Deutz, F. Ted, 81, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 23, 2015. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Keating, Richard James, 85, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 7, 2015. He served in the Army National Guard for 22 years. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Monsoor, Raymond John Sr., 90, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 8, 2015. He served on the USS Coffer. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Lorenz, Ervin Theodore, 97, Army veteran of World War II, died July 16, 2015. He was stationed at the Panama Canal and later served with the 42nd "Rainbow" Division in Europe. The division liberated the Dachau Camp. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Frier, Darrel Frederick, 78, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died July 19, 2015. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Lupkes, Elmer Enno, 89, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 6, 2015. He was a member of Wheaton Post 80.

Henkemeyer honored

The Sons of the American Legion honored outgoing Detachment Commander Dennis Henkemeyer, Bagley, by naming him Executive Director Emeritus. He is the first to receive that honor. It is a lifetime position.

CONCRETE WORK

by Tom Seemon

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Membership Chart As of Aug. 19, 2015

District	2016 Goal	Total 2015	Total 2016	Percent of Goal	Same Date '14
1	9,627	9,569	4,666	48.47	4,739
2	7,779	7,695	3,150	40.49	3,231
3	12,165	12,100	5,567	45.76	5,437
4	2,561	2,537	1,232	48.11	1,233
5	2,829	2,806	1,288	45.54	1,372
6	12,485	12,414	5,069	40.60	5,572
7	6,997	6,919	2,759	39.44	3,071
8	4,630	4,589	2,153	46.50	2,281
9	7,332	7,167	3,489	48.24	3,555
10	10,964	10,910	4,768	43.49	4,855
At-large	3,734	2,661	1,429	38.27	1,474
Totals	81,000	79,367	35,570	43.91	36,820



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The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 16-1

President Sandy Fredrickson

August 2015

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

The President's Column

By
Sandy
Fredrickson



The Department of MN held their organizational meeting the weekend August 8 & 9, 2015.

Members of the Auxiliary, "we," have an enthused and energized department executive board and a great group of women as program chairmen, along with their committees to move our organization in a "new" direction.

This year our main focus will be on the units and unit members. The task of organizing the year, putting the budgets together, membership rosters, leadership training, and on and on will all be passed on to each Unit. All information sent are tools for everyone to use. This information is not to stay in an envelope or just used by the President. Pass it on—

Before we go further, I ask—let's take a moment to remember why we signed up as Auxiliary members: It is my hope; we can answer; to honor and serve America's veterans, our military and their families. We are members because we love the American Legion Auxiliary, we believe in its mission and we enjoy the friendship and camaraderie and fun it brings to our lives. With this being said; and a culture of good will is being used, why then wouldn't we share this with others? Why wouldn't we promote what we do and why we do it? Why then, have we not asked others to join our organization? Planting a seed to grow can be so contagious! It is this attitude, making changes in dealing with people and within our organization that will help us succeed. People will come to us and want to be a part of our organization. People like you and me, will be able to reach out and ASK another to become a part of our organization—signing one member at a time.

At this organizational meeting, we, all committed to membership chairman Jean Walker—we will "all" work membership—one member at a time. I ask, will you each join in and make a commitment to sign a new member?

There are great incentives for members this year. Please read the membership booklet and be aware of the "cash" prizes. Who knows—you could be the member that wins the PUFL at the end of the year! Membership is everyone's job. Can we count on you to join in and help us turn the slide???

Another thing this year is to look at changing your Unit meeting. Have you ever tried a joint session with your counterpart The American Legion and/or SAL? Have you ever had a "working" meeting, cleaning the kitchen or drawers or maybe even washing a wall? Have you ever worked jointly with your counterparts and took on a community project? Maybe raking, mowing, cleaning up an area in your community that desperately needs help? Unit meetings do not "always have to be the same way we have always done it!" I challenge the 400 plus Units in the Department of Minnesota to try something different. I ask you to forward it to the Public Relations Chairman, Michelle Leonard, and a copy to me. We can even try to send it through to National to promote Minnesota in our American Legion Auxiliary magazine.

September is Junior Activities Month. It is our hope you will do something special to recognize the Juniors in your Unit. They need to know we care about them and want them to learn about the American Legion Auxiliary. They need to know what we do and why we do it! Also, know it would be greatly appreciated if your Unit would recognize our Honorary Junior President Bryce Soltis. A monetary donation can be sent to Department for her project (finishing a mural at the cemetery located near Camp Ripley). Make sure you earmark your check to where the donation is to go.

"Let my words, like vegetables, be tender and sweet, for tomorrow I may have to eat them" -- Author Unknown

'Serving those who served' chosen as this year's theme

Department President Sandy Fredrickson has chosen "Serving Those Who Served" as her theme for this year of service to our veterans, our communities and our nation through the programs and activities of the American Legion Auxiliary. Her symbol is an eagle. She asks every Unit to make your programs and activities meaningful to those we serve as well as to your members.

The first Unit mailing of the year will soon be on its way to all Unit Presidents. It should be in the mail around September 15. It contains a wealth of information you need to develop your plans and get them underway. Information was included for many of your program chairmen as well as special instruction sheets that should be helpful to your Unit Secretary and Treasurer. Presidents, when you receive these mailings, please distribute the information to the appropriate people. Unit mailings are for all your Unit members and are not the property of any one person. Your Chairmen are waiting for ideas and suggestions so they may develop their programs in a meaningful manner for your Unit.

Also remember that you may choose to receive your Unit mailing via email, all you need to do is contact the department office with your email address. Keeping in mind that if receive it via email you can in turn share it with more people in your Unit. All Unit Mailings will be posted on our ALA website. The address is: www.mnala.org and any member can pick and choose articles to download and print.

Further program suggestions and specific what to do and how to do it will be forthcoming in the Unit Guide. Program planning and execution of your Unit's plans are critical not only to the success of our Auxiliary programs, but serve to attract and retain active members. President Sandy has asked each Chairman to come up with an article regarding their program in the month the program shares. Programs should be carried on throughout the year, with special emphasis placed on each program during its special month. The program calendar for the year is:

August - Start of the New Auxiliary Year - Plan Your Activities

September - Junior Activities

October - Education - Constitution and Bylaws

Kottom endorsed for Dept. President

Buffalo Unit 270 and the 10th District Executive Committee have endorsed Carol Kottom for the office of Department President for the year 2016-2017.

Kottom has been an active member of Unit 270 for 32 years. Her eligibility is through her husband Bruce, a veteran of the Vietnam War.

At the Unit level, she has held many positions including President. She is cur-

rently Secretary/Treasurer.

On the District level, she has served in 17 different positions (some more than once) including 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President and 1999-2000 District President.

On the Department Level, Kottom has served in Americanism, Membership, Girls State Director, VA&R, Historian, Gift Shop, Finance Committee, Leadership,

November - Past Presidents Parley; American Legion Auxiliary's 94th Birthday

December - Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

January - National Security; Legislation

February - Americanism

March - Community Service; American Legion Birthday

April - Children and Youth

May - Poppy

June - Girls State

July - Department Convention

Thank you to all who are giving of your time, talents and enthusiasm as you assume the responsibility for a program in your Unit and/or District. The success of the programs is up to you. By working together the Auxiliary will have a successful year not only for those we serve but for our own members as well. Let's really step up for our Veterans this year and help our Department Chairmen make all of these programs a success.

PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

Our Department President Sandy has chosen the following as President's projects for the 2015/2016 year. She will work on raising funds to provide funds for the Minnesota Creative Arts Program. She would like to donate \$7,500.00 each to the Minneapolis VAMC and St. Cloud VAMC. She will also be raising funds of \$5,000.00 to go to the Emergent Needs Fund at the Minneapolis VAMC and \$5,000.00 to go to the Journeys Program at the Minneapolis VAMC. This is an intensive treatment program for outpatient PTSD patients.

President Sandy would like each of the 10 Districts to put together care packages to support 2-3 families during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. You should contact your County Veterans Service Officer to see how you can help these families in need. She would also like to make sure all Units support our Honorary Junior President Bryce Soltis' project. She is looking for donations to help complete the mural at the cemetery near Camp Ripley. If each Unit would send just \$5.00 towards this, what a difference it would make.



CAROL KOTTOM

Walker endorsed for Second V. President

Warren Unit 27 and the Ninth District have endorsed Jean Walker for Department Second Vice President 2016-2017.

She has been an active member of Unit 27 for 22 years. Her eligibility is through her late father, Joseph Penk, a World War II veteran.

At the Unit level, she has held many positions including President. On the District level she has been

District President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, chairman for several of the committees including, Membership, Americanism, Education, Finance Chairman, Past President Parley.

On the Department level, Walker has served as Memory Book Chairman, Americanism Chairman, Leadership Chairman, and Girls State Counselor. This year she will be serving as

Membership Chairman. Jean has attended many District, Department, and National Conventions. She has also attended a Mission Training Conference.

She and her husband, John, have been married 23 years and live in Warren. They have one son, and a granddaughter.

Walker is the office manager at Evergreen Implement Company.



JEAN WALKER

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

PRESIDENT'S VISITS

If you would like to have our Department President attend a function or meeting of your Unit, please invite her. She has dedicated this year to serving the American Legion Auxiliary, its programs, and working with you, our Unit members, in a meaningful and helpful manner. President Sandy would like the opportunity to work with each of our Units and Districts and is more than happy to join you, schedule permitting.

Invitations should be directed to the Department President and sent to Sandie Deutsch, Department Secretary, American Legion Auxiliary, State Veterans Service Building, 20 W. 12th St., Room 314, St. Paul MN 55155. Please do NOT send invitations to her home address. An invitation form will be included in the first Unit Mailing.

SOARING TO THE TOP

Under the leadership of our Department Membership Chairman Jean Walker, we will continue on that National race to a million members by 2019. We are in the third leg of the journey and have work to do. Jean has an exciting and fun membership program for this year.

Jean is focusing her program on taking one membership at a time. She stresses that all Units need to make membership a "fun" program. Everyone should work together to bring in membership. Think of new ways to make your Unit exciting. Have a membership rally in your Unit or at one of your Unit meetings, take a few minutes, have everyone grab their cell phone and call unpaid members and ask if there is anything they can do to get their membership paid. Stress the benefits the organization has to offer by being a member as well as assisting our Veterans who gave up so much for each of us.

This year you will be able to pay your dues online. Go to the National website and login in to the member section and pay your dues. You can print out a temporary card, take that to your Unit membership chairman and she will give you your permanent card.

Target dates for our membership race are: 1) 25% of goal by September 12 at the Harvest Rally, 2) 55% by October 1, 3) 65% by Fall Conference on October 23, 4) 75% by the Pearl Harbor Rally on December 5, 5) 85% at Sweetheart Rally by February 6, 6) 90% at the Appreciation Rally on March 5, 7) 95% on April 29 and 7) 100% on July 8, 2016 Let's win the race to 100%.

2016 MEMBERSHIP PACKETS

Every Unit should have received its 2016 membership packet. It was sent to your 2015-16 Unit Membership Chairman (Unit Treasurer if no Membership Chairman was listed), as reported on your Unit's 2015-16 officers' list. If your Unit has not received its 2016 membership packet, please check with the Department office. All membership packets that the Department Office didn't receive officer lists were given to the District Membership Chairmen who will be in contact with you.

FALL CONFERENCE

Fall Conference will be held Friday and Saturday, October 23-24 hosted by our Pequot Lakes American Legion Family #49 in the Sixth District. It will be held at the Breezy Point Resort. Housing and pre-registration information are included in this issue of the Minnesota Legionnaire.

This year's format will be unique to anything that has been done before. Our Department President and Department Commander, along with the Sons of the American Legion and Legion Riders will be holding a joint Fall Conference in the areas of shared programs. Our leadership is focused on The American Legion Family and is confident this is a step to make it happen! A more detailed program will be in the next Legionnaire.

Fall Conference is a time for each of us to become better informed about our programs. It is for all members, not just the officers. We hope every Unit will be represented at this Department school of instruction. All members are invited to attend. There will be training sessions on Thursday, October 22 for EIN and 990 submissions, Social Media usage and also the Veterans History Project. The session will begin at 7:00 p.m. There will be signs to tell which room the training will be held. Please make sure and attend - it is such a wonderful time to learn about our programs.

SILENT AUCTION

A silent auction will be held at our Fall Conference with the proceeds going to support the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. This has become a tradition at Fall Conference, giving each of us the opportunity to help. The Chairman is asking for new or gently used items to be used in the Silent Auction. All items will be very welcome. We are looking for the very popular Theme Baskets again this year from Units, Districts, TAL, SAL or TLR's. The baskets bring in a tremendous amount of donations for our program. There will be an "Eagle" District donation wall along with a bake

sale. Remember bidders can be all members of The American Legion Family. All items should be brought Thursday evening or early Friday morning. Bidding will be on Friday only from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Be sure to attend and place your bids - the items last year were simply wonderful.

We need to continue to support the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. What better way than the "silent auction" at our Fall Conference. It is our way of helping our own members who find themselves in need.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Each year we hear many comments about the number of programs and projects the Auxiliary undertakes that require monetary donations. Many Units find themselves in financial straits as they are supporting a number of projects that are not part of the Auxiliary's program for the current year.

The Department Executive Committee has approved the following solicitation of funds by our Department Chairmen for this year:

- Auxiliary Emergency Fund
- American Legion Auxiliary Foundation
- Forgotten Children's Fund
- Legionville
- Armed Forces Service Center
- American Legion Family Hospital Association
- Department Scholarship Fund
- Past Presidents Healthcare Scholarship Fund
- American Legion Auxiliary Hospital Prog.
- American Legion Auxiliary Girls State
- Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
- Minnesota Creative Arts Program
- \$5.00 Dollar Bill Shower
- Brain Science Foundation
- Gift Shop
- Military Children of the National Guard
- Department President's Project
- Department Honorary Junior President's Project
- Child Welfare Foundation
- Fisher House
- TFA (Temp. Finance Assistance)
- American Legion Legacy Scholarship
- Legionville Storm Damage Fund

Support of your District President's Project is also needed. Those donations need to be sent directly to your District President.

No other financial solicitations will be made of the Units from the Department unless the Department Executive Committee approves something at some future date. Units should review their budgets to make certain the above programs are included. Units should please note that some programs they supported in the past are no longer being solicited for. Units should support our own Auxiliary programs with their funds. Give your time, talents and energy to other organizations.

Remember all donations should be sent to the Department Office earmarked for the program(s) of your choice. A donation sheet will be included in the first Unit Mailing.

Donations may be included in one check with a note indicating how you want the donations credited and the amount to each program. Make your checks payable to the American Legion Auxiliary. Your help is appreciated.

If your Unit wishes to make a donation to a program that is not on the list above, the Unit must send that donation directly to the organization they are supporting, NOT the Department Office.

2016 POPPY ORDERS

Orders for the 2016 Poppies are now being accepted. An order form will be included in the first Unit mailing. Prices in effect for this year: Small Poppies - \$20.00 a hundred for orders of 500 or less and \$18.00 a hundred for orders of 501 or more. (Small poppies must be ordered in lots of 100 only); Large Poppies are \$18.00 a dozen. Just a reminder, the Department Office no longer offers Poppy Cards. There is a shipping charge schedule on the order form. Our Department Chairman Donna Redepinning is working very hard to make this a very successful year.

UNIT GUIDE

The Unit Guide for 2015-16 will be sent to each Unit the as soon as we receive them from the printer. We are hoping to include one to each Unit in the October Unit Mailing which will go out the end of September. Additional copies may be purchased from the Department Office. Price is \$5.00 each. You may order now. We will send them out as soon as they become available. We will also have them available at Fall Conference.

JUNIOR FUN WEEKEND 2015

The 2015 Junior Fun Weekend was held August 1-2 at Legionville. Junior Activities Chairman Robin Dorf, Department President Sandy Fredrickson and Department Honorary Junior President Bryce Soltis kicked off the weekend with 40 Juniors and 25 Seniors in attendance. Chairman Robin reported that everyone had a great time and also did a lot of work at Legionville. With the big storm hitting Legionville a few weeks prior to Junior Fun Weekend, there was much clean-up still to do. Our Juniors

jumped right in and piled branches and planted many, many flowers. Plan on attending next year - what a great way to spend time with your daughters and/or granddaughters and learn about our wonderful country, along with enjoying the Legionville facility and all it has to offer.

CHAIRMEN CORRECTIONS

Department Secretary Sandie wants to extend her apologies to Karen Thygeson who was appointed the Constitution and Standing Rules Chairman for 2015/2016. Her name was omitted from last month's list of President Sandy's appointments. This is Karen's second year as Chairman and she has done a simply marvelous job creating this new official program of the Auxiliary.

AUGUST WORKSHOP

The 2015 August Workshop was held August 8th & 9th at the Osseo American Legion Post 172. On Saturday morning all of the Department Chairmen met for an all day training and learning session. The meeting was called to order by President Sandy Fredrickson and the work began. New information for the year, program information and resource information was the topic of the day. Chairmen worked on their budgets, met with the Finance Committee and made their plans.

On Sunday morning, the Executive Committee met at the Osseo Post 172 and each of the Department Chairmen presented her program and solicitation requests. There was also a meeting of all of the District membership chairmen with Membership Chairman Jean Walker. In the afternoon these two groups joined their meetings to cover the plans and awards for the 2016 Membership year.

All of the Chairman have come up with new and exciting plans and ideas for this Auxiliary year. President Sandy stressed the need of civility and good will to all chairmen this year. Everyone needs to work together to grow our organization. Everyone needs to bring ideas and comments forward but must learn, when in disagreement to let it go and not spread ill-will or rumors against other members.

MINNEAPOLIS VAMC

Mary Ann Davis is in need of heart and neck pillows at the VAMC in Minneapolis. Please make sure and contact Mary Ann before delivering anything to the facility.

SECRETARY SANDIE'S NOTES

Under the helm of President Sandy Fredrickson, we made it through our first major Executive Meeting without a hitch. It will be a fun and interesting year as Sandy is "changing things up" quite a bit. We will need cooperation from those who "have always done it that way" to be able to go with the changes. Who knows, some may have very good ideas that were never brought forward before because "we have never done it that way". It was really great to hear the new Chairmen go over their programs at the August Workshop. The new and fun ideas that they will be promoting, hopefully will be used by all the Units. I was really impressed with Membership Chairman Jean Walker and the ten District Membership Chairmen. They were gung ho and ready to go. They want this to be a very successful membership year and get Minnesota to the top. By the time you read this I will be back from the National Convention in Baltimore. It is a long 8 days to be away from home but I genuinely encourage more of our Minnesota members to attend in the future. You really get a big picture of what our organization does and what it plans to do in the future. You meet so many new people from throughout the country as well. Also, please plan on attending Fall Conference in Pequot Lakes at the Breezy Point Resort - this too will be new, fun and refreshing. As always, I just can't wait for the Silent Auction - the items for bidding are beautiful and my husband just "can't wait" to see what I bring home. I just love to "win" items at a silent auction. The Theme Baskets always catch my eye and my checkbook! Everyone have a wonderful month and hopefully the bad weather will hold off until March! On a personal note, we did get our son married off and I didn't have a nervous breakdown, some tears but Kleenex took care of that. I hope all of you are as blessed as Shorty and I have been with such wonderful children and grandchildren - we couldn't have asked for better and the people they have all married are simply the best.

Aug. 31, 2015, Auxiliary Membership

District	Goal	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year
One	5,847	5,096	87.16%	5,258
Two	5,693	4,931	86.62%	5,130
Three	5,019	4,413	87.93%	4,520
Four	870	759	87.24%	783
Five	1,019	863	84.69%	962
Six	7,072	6,069	85.82%	6,369
Seven	4,565	4,010	87.84%	4,109
Eight	1,956	1,656	84.66%	1,757
Nine	5,060	4,315	85.28%	4,562
Ten	6,022	5,262	87.38%	5,434
1982	174	132	75.86%	157
Totals	43,297	37,506	86.62%	39,041

Autumn in New England

September 29-October 7, 2015

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Sue Barber
- Delta Airline flights roundtrip between Minneapolis and Boston
- 15 Meals
- City tours 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
- Visit Rock of Ages Quarry and Hope Cemetery
- Tour Hildene (home of Robert Todd Lincoln)
- Visit the Norman Rockwell Art Museum
- Tour the Mayflower Replica Ship and view Plymouth Rock

\$2,599.00
Per Person Double Occupancy

Hawaii Tour & Cruise

February 1-14, 2016

Oahu, Maui, Hawaii, Kauai including five days in Waikiki Beach

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Larry Alvey
- Round trip Delta flights from Minneapolis Honolulu, Hawaii
- Accommodations for four nights at Aston Waikiki Beach Hotel
- Daily continental breakfast at the hotel
- Circle Island Tour of Oahu
- Lei greeting upon arrival in Honolulu
- Transfers between hotel, airport and pier
- 8-Day Cruise aboard the PRIDE OF AMERICA
- All meals and entertainment while onboard
- Onboard Service Charges

Starting at **\$4,229.00**
Per Person Double Occupancy

Panama Canal Cruise

February 17-March 4, 2016

FULL TRANSIT including Central America, Panama City, South America and the Caribbean

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Sue Barber
- Roundtrip Delta flights from Minneapolis to Los Angeles and return from Ft. Lauderdale to Minneapolis
- All transfers to and from the airport, hotel and pier
- 1 pre-cruise night at the Marriott in Los Angeles
- All meals and entertainment while aboard the ISLAND PRINCESS
- Visiting 7 ports of call
- Onboard ship gratuities

PASSPORTS REQUIRED

Starting at **\$4,679.00**
Per Person Double Occupancy

Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame

October 29-November 2, 2015

Tour Includes:

- Escorted by a 4-Seasons Tour Manager
- Hosted by KATE/KAUS Radio personalities Darrel Amundson and John Wright
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 4 nights accommodations
- 4 breakfasts, 2 dinners
- Cleveland, Detroit and Chicago
- Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame
- Guided tour of Motown
- Henry Ford Museum
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- All transfers to and from the airport, hotel and pier
- Cruise Gratuities

PASSPORTS REQUIRED

Starting at **\$2,249.00**
Per Person Double Occupancy

Holiday Branson

November 16-20, 2015

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud
- Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation
- 4 Nights accommodations
- 7 Meals
- Branson Trail of Lights
- Steamboat Arabia Museum
- 6 Shows: Six Christmas Show, Presley's Country Jubilee Christmas Show, The Bretts, The Dutton Family, Clay Cooper, and the Hughes Brothers Holiday Show
- And much more!

\$719.00
Per Person Double Occupancy

Western Caribbean Cruise

January 16-24, 2016

Cozumel, Mexico - Roatan, Honduras - Belize City, Belize

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Larry Alvey
- Roundtrip Delta Airlines flight from Minneapolis to Houston
- 1 pre-departure stay at the Houston Airport Marriott
- 7-Night Cruise on the CARIBBEAN PRINCESS
- All meals and entertainment while onboard ship
- All transfers to and from the airport, hotel and pier
- 3 hour tour of Houston following the cruise
- Cruise Gratuities

PASSPORTS REQUIRED

Starting at **\$2,229.00**
Per Person Double Occupancy

Monuments of Washington D.C.

April 8-12, 2016

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Jenny Gilbertson
- Roundtrip Delta Flights from Minneapolis to Washington D.C.
- 4 nights accommodations in the Washington D.C. area
- 4 continental breakfasts, 4 dinners
- Evening Guided Memorial and Monuments Tour
- Admission to George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens
- Two full-day guided tours of Washington D.C.
- WW II Memorial, Capitol Hill, Embassy Row, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Smithsonian, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, and much more!

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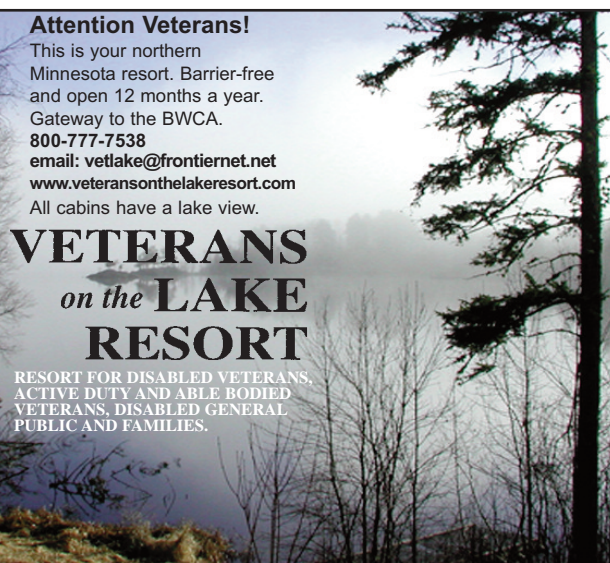
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