

The Minnesota

Legionnaire



AMERICAN
LEGION
AND
AUXILIARY

Volume 100, Number 3

For God and Country

March 2018

Minnesotans lobby in D.C. for vets rights

A group of about 25 Minnesota Legion Family members gathered in Washington DC in February to lobby Minnesota Congress people about veterans issues.

Before going up on Capitol Hill to talk to each of the state's eight representatives and two senators, they went to the Commander's Call for an informational session.

Two Minnesotans were honored at the Commander's Call with plaques.

Diane Carlson Evans, who grew up in Buffalo and belonged to the Northfield Post 84 for many years, was given the Patriot Award for her work in creating the Vietnam Women's Memorial on the Capitol Mall and for

her continuing work in bringing recognition to women veterans.

With the help of The American Legion and other veterans groups, Evans almost single-handedly led the effort to create the Vietnam Women's memorial, which now stands on the Mall.

She talked about how she got support and advice from Past National Commander Dan Foley of Minnesota. And she gave credit to her home post at that time, River Falls, WI, for its early support.

"Minnesota and Wisconsin were a blessing. They had a vision," Evans said. "The Vietnam Women's Memorial has

contributed to our personal healing and is a shining beacon for all women."

Evans now lives in Montana.

Also honored was Dr. Amy Candy Heinlein, a doctor at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.

Heinlein began working at the Minneapolis VA in 2004 as a doctor in training and then joined the staff in 2008. Her patient satisfaction ratings are in the 99th percentile.

She had earlier been recognized as the Minnesota VA Physician of the Year.

The veterans at the Call also got to hear Secretary of the

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Vets on the Hill expecting big crowd

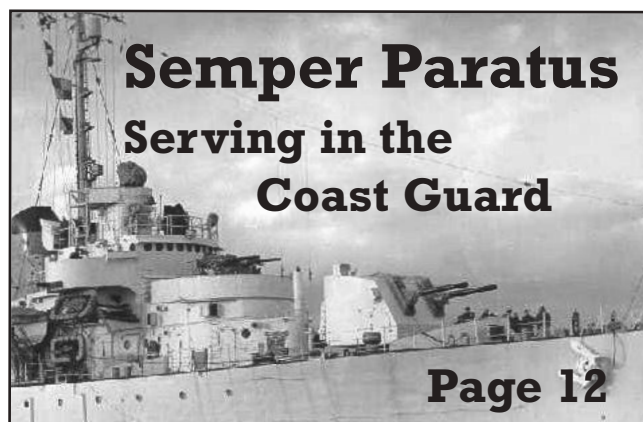
Veterans on the Hill Day will be held Monday, March 12, at the Minnesota Capitol.

The day will begin with a pre-rally breakfast and information session from 8-9:45 at the Veterans Service Building on the 5th Floor. The rally at the Rotunda will be from 10-11 a.m. and visits with lawmakers will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in regional rooms at the Capitol.

Buses will be available from all over the state and there will be park and rides in the Metro area.

The park and rides will leave from the Osseo Post 172 (763-425-4858), Bloomington VFW (952-854-1296, the Anoka Post 102 (763-227-8177), and the Roseville VFW (651-776-1145). Those who will be using this service should call the posts to reserve a seat and find out about departure and return times.

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Semper Paratus
Serving in the
Coast Guard

Page 12

First female commander visits Minnesota

National Commander Denise Rohan spent three days on the road in Minnesota visiting nine posts and nearly 700 Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL, Riders and guests.

"When I left the airport in Minneapolis, I saw something I hadn't seen in a long time," Rohan said. "My breath.

Rohan, and her aide and husband, Mike, have been traveling in warmer climes for some time, but Minnesota greeted them with a blast of arctic air and a couple of inches of snow at Worthington.

"It's refreshing to be back in Minnesota. It's, well, refreshing."

The tour this year was through the southern part of the state with stops in Bayport, Spicer, Fulda, Windom, Litchfield, Lake Crystal, Waseca, Wayzata and Osseo.

Her theme for the tour and for the year is "family first," and she spoke about "purpling up" along the way. She said the purple was not in deference to Minnesota, the land of the Vikings, but to the fact when you add all the colors of the military together, they make purple.

Rohan said the Legion family must also work together. "We need our family taking care of the nation's families."

And speaking of football, Rohan told the story about how during World War II when there was a manpower shortage, the Green Bay Legion post kept the Packers stadium running. "To this day, Post 11 in Green Bay is the only color guard allowed on the field at Lambeau Field."

Rohan told the story of a family whose father was deployed, and not long after a fire destroyed the family's kitchen and the water heater went out. The local post

Continued on Page 11



National Commander Denise Milton speaks at Windom on her tour of Minnesota in February. She visited nine posts in the state.

PNC Bock to speak at Testimonial

Past National Commander Thomas Bock of Colorado will be the keynote speaker at the testimonial for Department Commander Mike Schaffer.

Bock served from 2005-06 and is known for his dedication to veterans and his sense of

humor.

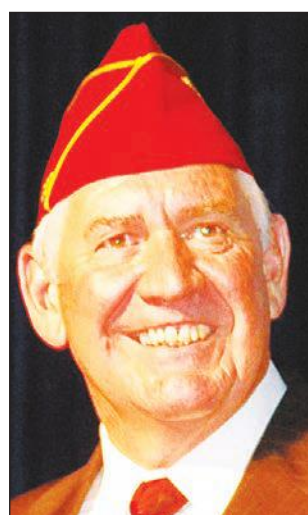
The testimonial will be held on Saturday, April 21, at Jackpot Junction Casino and Hotel near Redwood Falls.

Rooms have been blocked at the hotel and those attending can call 800-946-2274 or 507-697-8000 for reservations. Cost is \$87 per night.

Tickets for the event are \$30 and the meal will include smoked ham, two sides and a dessert.

Tickets can be obtained by sending names, address, phone number, post or unit or squadron, and total amount enclosed to Currie Post 322, Box 56, 121 Mill Street, Currie, MN 56123.

Cut off for ordering



PNC THOMAS BOCK

tickets is April 10. Tickets can be picked up at the door.

Schaffer has been commander since this past July and will wind up his year at this year's Department Convention.

Lino Lakes student wins Oratorical

Emily Parker, a home-schooled senior from Lino Lakes, won the Department Oratorical Contest and will represent Minnesota in the national finals in April in Indianapolis.

Parker's prepared oration was called "The America We Are Meant to Be."

"Our veterans have put their lives on the line for the freedom and opportunities we have in this country, and we can honor their sacrifice by correctly understanding and applying the constitutional principles for which they courageously fought."

Parker takes classes at the University of

Northwestern in St. Paul. She is considering a degree in accounting, with a minor in music.

She is the daughter of
Continued on Page 14



EMILY PARKER

Longtime Adjutant Chuck Ferguson Dies

As this issue of the *Legionnaire* went to press, the newspaper was informed of the death of Charles "Chuck" Ferguson on March 3.

Ferguson served as Department Adjutant from 1978 to 1994.

A native of North Dakota, he was a Korean War veteran who earned two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars.

There will be a celebration of life at the Crosby-Ironton Post on June 9.

More information will be available in the April *Legionnaire*.

Endorsements

Ward endorsed for state vice commander

The Fighting 5th District and Minneapolis Post No. 1 endorse Dick Ward for the position of Department Vice Commander for the 4th and 5th Districts for Legion year 2018 – 2019.

He is eligible as an Army veteran of the Vietnam era.

At the Post level Ward is a Life Member and was Post Commander for several years. He has held Third, Second, and First Vice Commander positions. Served as President of the

Housing Corporation and a member of the Executive Board. Has been very active in all facets of Post operation, including the revitalization of the Minneapolis Post No. 1 Rifle Squad.

His District experiences include 5th District Commander 2011-2012, and three previous years in Vice Commander positions. Ward served as Adjutant, Chairman of the 5th District Oratorical Contest, and

multiyear member of the 5th District Executive Committee. While District Commander he was considered on the Department Executive Committee.

Ward is a member of Minneapolis Squadron No.1, Sons of the American Legion, a member of the 40 & 8 Voyager 414, and a member of the Fraternal Organization of Eagles Aerie 34.



DICK WARD

Michaels endorsed for Dept. Historian

District 4 and 3M Post 599 have endorsed Lou Michaels for Department Historian for 2018-19.

Michaels presently holds the historian position for both the post and the district.

He is also an active member of the Jewish War Veterans.

Michaels has been a photographer for over 50 years in the St. Paul area. He was the official photographer for the Minnesota Division I Baseball Tournament in St. Paul this past year.



LOU MICHAELS

Vets on the Hill

Continued from Page 1 Buses have been arranged for throughout the state, and the list includes:

Greater Minnesota Buses

St. Cloud Area Bus (Leaving from Waite Park American Legion)- To find out more information and/or reserve a seat contact Tom at 320-252-7880

Willmar Area Bus (Kandiyohi County Veteran Service Officer)- To find out more information and/or reserve a seat, call the CVSO.

Rochester (Preston, Zumbrota, Rochester)-To find out locations of the stops and/or reserve a seat please contact Dave at 612-396-6389

South Central Bus (Springfield, New Ulm, Mankato, St. Peter)- To find out locations of stops and/or reserve a seat please contact Windy at 507-327-3422

Northeast Bus (Duluth, Cloquet, Askov)- To find out locations for stops and/or reserve a seat contact Gary at 218-879-2746

Aitkin Area Bus- To find out locations for stops and/or reserve a seat contact Brad at 210-355-2113

Montevideo Area Bus- Leaving from the Montevideo American Legion Post 59. To reserve a seat or more information call Tim at 320-269-6419

Bemidji Area Bus- To find out more information and/or reserve a seat contact Tom at 218-281-3066

Crookston Area Van- To find out more information and/or reserve a seat contact Kurt at 218-281-3066.

The veterans will be bringing an agenda of veterans legislation to the Legislature including keeping surviving spouses in their homes, ending illegal predatory lending against veterans, and increasing access for outdoor programs for disabled veterans.

The rally will begin at the Veterans Service Building and then veterans will walk up to the Capitol for the rally in the building's Rotunda.

After the rally, the veterans will visit with their elected representatives. Unlike in the past where the veteran lobbyists had to go

to the office of each representative or senator, at this rally, rooms will be set up at the Capitol for different regions around the state. The legislators will come to these rooms to hear from their constituents.

Thank you

Thank you for the emails, phone calls, cards and memorials on the passing of my mother. She lived a full life to the wonderful age of 95. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Lori Skallerud, Past Department President, and family.

minnesotaveteran.org | 1-888-LinkVet (546-5838)

Help for veterans and families

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BY AL ZDON

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St. Louis park

Minnesota Historical Society

COMMANDER'S COLUMN

By Mike Schaffer



Seems March came in like a lamb, as for this farm kid, experience tell me look out for the end of this month. On top of that it's tournament time, always a most fun time of year. One never knows, but then I've seen one more than a few blizzards in March. But we Minnesotans are tough, right. Bring 'em on.

Veterans Day on the Hill is scheduled for Monday, March 12, and you are very much needed there at the Capitol to let our legislature know that there are veteran related issues they need be aware of. Among the issues we will be stressing is Veterans Courts which are a problem-solving court that serves veterans charged with a criminal offense that are dealing with addiction and mental illness.

This program is only in a few counties in Minnesota and has an 83% success rate of no repeat crimes. The intent is to take this Veterans Court system to every county in our state. Sounds like a really good thing to this Commander.

Next item will be the law that gives Veteran spouse survivors a 100% tax free exemption one time move, which in the current law allows only an eight year window to use it. The desire here is to make that a lifetime tax free, one time only move.

Mail Call

Opportunity missed

To the Editor:

While the front page story on the location of the sunken USS Ward was valuable, it should have included the accounts of actual sailors serving from the Great Lakes to the Pacific. Those sailors were the first Americans to combat Japanese on December 7, 1941. Their heroic duty does not stop after Pearl Harbor, it continued as described by Richard Klobuchar in USS Ward book. Sailors tell their daily duties, in the book, and the life threatening challenges in the Pacific campaign. This includes the conversion of the USS Ward to an invasion destroyer, with Marines, in the island campaign having high risks of being sunk and large casualties. Japanese aircraft attacking the USS Ward were finally successful in destroying its operational presence in the war. Klobuchar tells the sailors fears arising from the close combat and the final costs in lives. The journey of these Minnesota sailors should be told. It is in the USS Ward book by Klobuchar.

James H Larson
Detroit Lakes

Boys State

To the Editor:

Minnesota Boys' Staters spend their week learning and living Minnesota's various levels of government. They also learn about flag etiquette. About a dozen of the guys present and retrieve the Colors at the beginning and end of each day. Folding and retiring flags are a couple of other areas addressed about the flag of the U.S.A.

Recruitment of attendees for this year's session (June 10-16) should begin. For those young men that express they have no interest in politics, remind them we need good people at all levels of government. Boys' State is a good place to learn and hone the skills to represent your constituents, to learn to become the politician you want your representative to be.

Neil Kruse
Spring Lake Park

Fort Snelling

To the Editor:

The Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) is in the process of seeking funds from the State Legislature for their "Historic Fort Snelling Revitalization Project." They have run ads in The Minnesota Legionnaire, soliciting support for the project. The readers of the Legionnaire need to know that the MNHS is subscribing to a politically radical agenda.

So instead of the Revitalization Project focusing on the fort – a military installation – it is primarily focused on the Dakota. The draft program overview which the MNHS has produced has 50 % of the points devoted to the Dakota, 12.5 % to slavery and freedom, 12.5 % to military and veterans, and 25% to others.

It is simply an insult to all veterans who have served, then and now, to be relegated to such an insignificant role at what is a military installation. While the Dakota need to be at the table, this specific story should focus on the fort itself

There are other issues, but to conserve space in my column. In short, I'm asking you to be there if possible.

Your Commander, State Adjutant, our NEC and a dozen others just returned from the Washington DC Conference. Our reason for going is to visit our eight U.S. Representatives and two U.S. Senators, bringing to their attention veteran related issues we would like to see action on at the federal level.

Among the things we talked about included Veterans Suicide prevention, which happens to be one of my Commanders Projects this year, electronic health records that will be accessible at the push of a computer button no matter where you are at, and vastly improved gender specific health care for women veterans at VA hospitals. Are you aware that the military is now about 20% female?

We also need end of service exams for all veterans whether Guard, Reserve or regular military which could possibly help catch some of the PTSD related problems, limit outsourcing of veteran care, and putting all outsourced care directly under the VA umbrella. There were 12 issues we talked about, making them aware that all are important to us in the veteran community.

Visiting our state and federal lawmakers is vitally important as I've stated, it's why and how we inform them of what is needed. Indeed strength in numbers is a huge help when talking to congress. It's where you can help simply by renewing your Legion membership each year. Trust me they pay attention when they see a large number of legion hats come walking in especially with this being an election year.

I'm asking each post to complete your Consolidated Post Report, which is used to inform our National American Legion & Lawmakers of just how big the involvement and benefit The American Legion is in our Communities.

In closing, if you've paid your dues, thank you, but if you know someone who hasn't or is not a member at all, take care of it with the help of your post members if need be.

and not on them. The Dakota's story at the fort is peripheral to that of the fort itself.

Indicative of the very radical nature of the MnHS proposal, they plan to establish a memorial to two Dakota who were convicted of killing whites during the U.S. – Dakota War of 1862 in Minnesota. The two – Shakopee and Medicine Bottle – were hanged at Fort Snelling on November 11, 1865. I feel that establishing a memorial to them, instead of to the 650 whites who were killed by the Dakota, is something akin to establishing a memorial to the 9/11 hijackers. Why in the world would the MNHS think that Minnesotan's want to go down that road?

I would urge the readers to contact their state legislators and the MNHS and let them know their thoughts on this.

Curtis Dahlin
Roseville

Legion history

To the Editor:

Your article in the February Legionnaire titled "The First 20 Years," was excellent in every way. People nowadays don't realize what The American Legion did in its history for the benefit of the American people, and still does. Just wanted to let you know, and thank you.

Maurice Bennett
Rochester

P.S. A history book should be printed on the various Post's of what they did. Thanks again

Flag etiquette

To the Editor:

I was watching the Parade of States in the opening of the Winter Olympics in South Korea. The U.S. had the most members with nice uniforms and caps. It bothered me a great deal to see them wearing the U.S. Flag on their caps backwards. In other words, they had the flag for the left side on the right side of the cap.

This is especially bad for an organization that belongs to a world wide membership. We need to know about flag etiquette.

Jim Finnes
Granite Falls

Honor a veteran

To the Editor:

I am reaching out to local veterans affiliated organizations to let you know of an opportunity to honor a veteran at Lake Bde Maka Ska next to the World War I Mast Memorial at the northeast end of the lake.

We are a grassroots nonprofit that manages a paver customization program where members of the public can purchase a customized paver that are installed two times a year in the spring and fall. Our next order by date is March 15 if you would like a Spring installation.

Please visit the People for Parks Gifts and Memorials page for more information:

<http://www.peopleforparks.net/paver-and-benches.html>
The 40-foot tall mast is from the USS Minneapolis,

Chaplain's Corner

By
Ralph Schneekloth



God is not a matter of Mood. We say that religion is a matter of mood; must wait until the mood strikes us. And then we often wait for years—perhaps until the end of our life—until we are once again in the mood to be religious. This idea is based on a great illusion. It is all well and good to let religion be a matter of mood but God is not a matter of mood. He is still present even if we are not in the mood to meet with him. We must learn God's language, laboriously learn it, and we must work at it, so that we will be able to talk with him. The morning prayer determines the day. Squandered time of which we are ashamed, temptations to which we succumb, weaknesses and lack of courage in work, disorganization and lack of discipline in our thoughts and in our conversation...all have their origin most often in the neglect of morning prayer. O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I plead my case to you and watch. Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

(Isaiah 53: 4-5) Surely he has borne our iniquities and carried our diseases; yet we account him stricken, struck down by God and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

(Matthew 20:26) Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.

(Philippians 2:3) Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.

Lent is a season of repentance, of contrition, reflection on ourselves and our sins and shortcomings. For the believer, it shows all that Jesus did and had to do by dying on Calvary to be the atoning sacrifice and payment for the sins of the world.

Finally, I would like to address "Volunteerism" or what is a volunteer in my eyes. In German, volunteer is translated as Freiwillige, or free will. How is this in our hearts, and spirit? I am seeing more often than not, unfortunately, that there are those who are using inflamed rhetoric and thinly veiled threats to convey their desire for volunteers, or 'real workers'. If we as an organization not only allow this, but by our silence tacitly condone it, we are just as wrong as they are. What is in your heart, why do you serve? By your actions, some of you clearly are in the look at me club. Revisit your heart and check your true motivations about why you do what you do.

which was part of the United States Navy fleet from 1894 to 1921. It was installed near the northeastern shore of Lake Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska in 1930 as a memorial to people who served in the Navy and Marine Corps during World War I.

Please let me know if you have any questions and thank you in advance for considering sharing this information with the veterans you serve and love. 612-927-2750.

Chris Joyce
Minneapolis

The Minnesota Legionnaire

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Al Zdon, Editor

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POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to The Minnesota Legionnaire, 20 W. 12th Street, St. Paul, MN, 55155-2000. (USPS No. 013-679.) (ISSN No. 1644270)

What's Happening

Legal Clinics

Free drop-in legal clinics for veterans are being hosted by the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans. The clinics will cover housing, employment, benefits, expungement, wills, debt collection family law and child support.

-- A clinic will be held at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center on Tuesday, March 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Flag Atrium Balcony Room.

-- A clinic will be held at the St. Cloud VA Medical Center on Tuesday, April 17, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Auditorium, Building 8.

Hoaxes and scams

A series of scams involving veterans are being reported. One involves a caller saying they are calling from The American Legion on behalf of the Century Club. Do not give this called information.

Veterans and others are cautioned about all contacts from whom you are not expecting a message, if it doesn't seem professional, if it sounds too good to be true.

DEC and Rally

The Department Executive Committee will meet at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 10, at the Buffalo Post 270. The Appreciation Rally will follow with membership turn-in beginning at 3 and the dinner at 5, with the program to follow.

Caribbean Night

North St. Paul Post is sponsoring a Caribbean-inspired evening on Saturday, March 24 with social hour at 5 and dinner at 6. Tickets are \$18. Please prepay at the post by March 21, or by email at flipflops55025@gmail.com. All proceeds go to veterans projects.

Free tours at Ft. Snelling

Group tours will be available at Fort Snelling on May 19. The tour will take 45 minutes and highlight many of the important military events at the fort. It will be followed by refreshment and conversation about the upcoming revital-

ization of the fort.

To reserve a time for your group, contact Caitlin McGowan at caitlin.mcgowan@mnhs.org. Tours begin at 10 a.m. and continue through the day. Veterans will have free admission to the Fort on Memorial Day.

Round Tables

The second meeting of March for the World War II History Round Table will be Thursday, March 22, at 7 p.m. at the Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center. The program will be "One Woman's Covert War" with author Ann Todd. There is a \$5 admission.

The St. Croix Valley Civil War Roundtable will meet Monday, March 26, at the Lowell Inn in Stillwater. The program will be "The 4th Wisconsin Infantry/Cavalry" with speaker Mike Martin. This is a dinner meeting, and information can be obtained from Steve Anderson by calling 715-386-1268.

Discharge Upgrade

The VA has a website for those seeking to upgrade their discharges. Veterans can go to www.vets.gov/discharge-upgrade-instructions. DoD rules for upgrades for PTSD, TBI and mental health changed in 2014 and for sexual harassment and assault in 2017. If a veteran applied previously and was denied, he or she may want to see if the new rules apply.

Sinai now eligible

The tax credit for military service in a combat zone has now been extended to the Sinai Peninsula for June 9 to Dec. 31, 2015. If you served during that time in the Sinai you are eligible for the Minnesota refundable credit for military service in a combat zone (form M99). The credit is \$120 for a full or partial month.

For more information go to the website of the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

Traveling Wall

The Traveling Vietnam Wall will be in Austin from May

17-19. It is an 80 percent scale, the largest one that travels. It will be at the Mower County Fairgrounds. For more information, call 507-437-4563.

Bemidji Clinic operational

The new Bemidji VA Clinic, located at 1217 Anne Street in Bemidji, is now fully operational and open to veterans. All appointments will take place at the new clinic. For information or appointments, call 218-755-6360.

Camp Ripley Run

The annual Camp Ripley Motorcycle Run will be held June 30. The route will go from the Jenkins VFW Post to Camp Ripley. Registration starts at 9 a.m. with kickstands up at 11:30. Donations for riders is \$15 and passengers, \$10. The camp's military museum will be open for viewing. For more information call Jim Hesselgrave at 612-599-9149 or email at vfwmn.aol.com. All proceeds go to the disabled vets turkey and deer hunts.

Vietnam Vets Program

The 11th annual Vietnam Veterans Day program will be held Sunday, March 25, at the Forest Lake Post 225 at 2 p.m. Stan Turner will be the emcee, and will interview two veterans about the role of the tunnel rats in the war. The event is free and open to the public.

Outdoor events

The schedule for this year's outdoor events for veterans has been announced.

-- The Disabled Veterans Turkey Hunt will be held May 1-3 at Camp Ripley.

-- The Disabled Veterans Deer Hunt will be Oct. 9-11 at Camp Ripley.

-- The Disabled Veterans Ely Fishing Program will be May 21-24 at the Veterans on the Lake Resort.

-- The Trolling for the Troops Fishing Program will be held at Camp Ripley and Lake Mille Lacs from May 31-June 1.

Application forms can be found on the Legion's website, mnlgeion.org.

American Legion Riders

By Chuck Stone
Department Director



Greetings American Legion Family.

I would like to thank everyone for all the hugs, cards prayers and condolences on the passing of my dad. The American Legion Family in Minnesota in one

true blessing I am thankful to belong to.

The Donnie Smith Bike show is coming up March 24 & 25. If you are going stop by the ALR booth and say "Hi." If you have a few free hours that weekend

maybe you can spent a little bit of it in the ALR booth and share our story. Kevin Wells and Matt Berens would be glad to hear from you if you would like to help set up, take down the booth or sit in it for a while.

The 2018 Legacy Ride Committee is hard at work getting this year's rides mapped out. The first weekend is just about ready to go to press with the second weekend needing a little more attention. Keep in mind the ride is subtitled Weekend 1 and Weekend 2. The next meeting is March 17th in Chaska. This is not a closed meeting.

Those of you that are wondering what to do the end of August, the 100th National Convention will be in Minneapolis. The National Legacy Ride will be ending at Anoka Post 102. It would be nice to have a large number Minnesota Riders there to welcome the National Ride to Minnesota. You may also wish to take part in the National Parade down Nicollet Mall. The Department of Minnesota is know for having a large number of participants carrying the American Flag in the parade. Do you have one mounted on your bike, or better yet how about having a passenger hold one. Hopefully you can come, take part in this once in a lifetime event.

Keep the chrome side up and the rubber side down.



Please Join the Posts Below in Supporting the 100th National Convention

The National Convention Corporation of Minnesota would like to thank the Posts below for sponsoring our convention and invite those that aren't on the list to consider participating. Contributions to the convention will be directed towards the Minnesota Convention Corporation's hosting responsibilities and other ways to make this the best convention yet.

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Ham Lake Post 2000
Hamline Post 418
John Bridges Post 15
Marshall Post 113
Minneapolis Post 1
Nelson-Horton Post 104
North Branch Post 85

Supporting Posts

(Below \$1,000)

Aitkin Post 86
Alvarado Post 35

Anoka Post 102

Argyle Post 353
Arlington Post 250
Aviation Post 511

Beatty-Humphries Post 323

Becker Post 193

Bellingham Post 441

Bigelow Post 496

Billie Brown Post 627

Bruno Post 563

Caledonia Post 191

Clinton Post 258

Charles Borak Post 45

Cold Spring 455

Coon Rapids Post 334

Dan Patch Post 643

Deer Creek 283

Dovin-Wilcox Post 313

Eugene Earley Post 121

Falldin Post 555

Flensburg Post 136

Foster-Bernhardt Post 373

Glenville Post 264

Gopher Post 440

Graceville Post 297

Grand Meadow Post 140

Gust F. Holden Post 253

Hackensack Post 202

Harris Post 139

Hastings Post 47

Hawley Post 382

Hills Post 399

Hopkins Post 320

Hugo Post 620

Janesville Post 281

Joseph A. Gates Post 78

Kaleb E. Lindquist Post 24

Karlstad Post 445

Kramer Berg Post 507

Lake Crystal Post 294

Lamberton Post 41

Le Center Post 108

Lee Goldsmith Post 201

Lee-Osborn Post 59

Madison Lake Post 269

Mc Veigh-Dunn Post 60

Melvin Daskam Post 38

Monticello Post 260

Mountain Lake Post 389

New Germany Post 601

Nicollet Post 510

Northrop Post 522

Northside Post 230

Norwood Young Post 343

Jeffers 401

Peter Leuze Post 420

Prior Lake Post 447

Prudent Van Risseghem 395

Public Safety Post 449

Richard Howard Ferrell 46

Richmond Post 292

Rush City Post 93

Sherburn Post 356

Silver Star Post 428

Spicer Post 545

St James Post 33

St. Paul Post 8

Truman Blakesley Post 432

U of M Post 548

Underwood Post 489

Waldorf Post 587

West Duluth Post 71

White Bear Lake Post 168

Wm. T. Lewis Post 12

Wold-Chamberlain Post 99

Woodbury Post 501

We ask posts that want to give to make a check out to the National Convention Corporation of Minnesota and send to MN American Legion State Headquarters : Third Floor, Veterans Service Building: 20 W. 12th Street, Room 300A : St. Paul, MN 55155-2000.

Do you know a company that may financially support the 100th National Convention through sponsorship or advertising?

There are sponsorship and advertising opportunities for businesses. We want to thank the companies below for supporting the convention through sponsorships. If you know of a company that may want to participate through a sponsorship or advertisement in the Legionnaire, please contact Michael Davy at (612) 247-9960 or mdavy@mnlgeion.org.



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or www.goodshep-rushford.org

Rally at North St. Paul



Sons of the American Legion Membership Director Dave Vulcan announced the SAL results as Legion Membership Director Larry Ryan, Auxiliary President Donna Arends and Auxiliary Membership Chair Mary Kuperus look on.



National Executive Committeeman Marland Ronning gave the national report at the rally.



Despite the weather, a good crowd came to participate in the Sweetheart Rally.

About 200 hearty members of the Legion Family braved a major snowstorm to attend the Sweetheart Rally in North St. Paul in February.

Districts that came out on top included:
 -- SAL, 2nd District, 83.17 percent. The Sons ranked 13th in the nation in membership.

-- Auxiliary, Sixth District at 82.57 percent. The Auxiliary is 11th in the Nation and third in the Northwest Division.

-- Legion, Sixth District at 90.25 percent. The Legion was ranked third in the nation.

Membership Director Larry Ryan said Minnesota's high ranking was great, but more work is needed. "We need to keep doing what we're doing, but press a little harder."

Earlier, Commander Mike Schaffer had promoted his testimonial on April 21. There have been rumors that Schaffer will need to get an animal permit to take home his gifts from the testimonial.

SAL Director Chuck Stone rose from the floor to ask the commander a question. "What came first, the chicken or the egg?" Schaffer thought for a moment and responded, "I've always felt that you have to have a chicken before you can get an egg."

"Okay," Stone replied. "If that's what you want."



Grandson Ryland Felmlee joined 10th District Commander Paul Hassing and 10th District President Jody Hassing at the rally.

Sons the American Legion News

Updates

Sons of The American Legion

By Shawn Davis



Greetings from your Sons of The American Legion. Membership, membership, membership.

It is that time of year when you may hear many people harping on where is your membership. And understandably so, 2018 memberships are due by January 1. By February 1, you risk losing your continuous year and eligibility for the membership benefits that are available for the paid up members.

So for those of you that are reading this article, check with your squadron, and verify that they have mailed all the membership they have received, into Department. Do not wait for everyone to pay. Membership should be sent in monthly. Be sure to include the proper transmittal form, and a check in the proper amount for the membership amount being sent it. If you have questions, reach out to your Post, District, or Detachment officers for help. We are only a phone call or email away.

And we are doing well. We are ahead of where we were last year. And if we can keep this momentum up, we will achieve that all time high of 12,000 members. That would be a great thing going into the National Convention coming to Minneapolis.

This is also the time to find the next generation of new officers for the Sons of the American Legion. Elections are coming soon, and have you reached out to your Squadron membership to see who would like to be nominated for a role at the Squadron.

This is also time to gather a record of all the activities, and donations that your squadron has done in the past year. Consolidated Squadron Reports (CSR's) will be mailed out and we would like every squadron to complete one. Even if the Squadron did not do anything, or make any donations, indicate that with a '0' and mail it in. 100% participation would be a great way to show what the Detachment of Minnesota SAL is doing to the National organization.

Lastly, I am looking at forming an ad-hoc committee to plan a golf outing as part of the National Convention this year in Minneapolis. If you have a love of golf, and are willing to help organize this event, please contact me to discuss further.

Thank you for all you do. Keep up the great work you do.

5 for Minnesota.

Child Welfare Goals for Detachment of Minnesota

The premier fundraiser for the Sons of The American Legion is the Child Welfare Fund (CWF). The SAL first got involved in the program back in 1988 and continues to be the largest donor to the program. To date we have donated \$7,493,071.68. In 2016-17 we raised \$594,413.91 nationally. Last year the Detachment of Minnesota donated \$4,817.00 which was far short of our goal with a per capita of \$.133. The Detachment goal for 2018 is \$13,302.05. Please remember this worthwhile project when your squadrons and districts consider your 2018 donations.

National Commander to visit SAL Spring Conference in Chaska

National Sons of The American Legion Commander Danny Smith from Nebraska is set to visit the State Detachment Spring Conference on 3/16 and 17.

The Conference will be held at the Chaska Legion Post. Smith is the first-ever S.A.L. National Commander from Nebraska. He is a 44-year continuous member of the Sons. His eligibility is through his father, a Korean War Air Force Veteran. The Commander wants to pull closer together with other branches of the Legion Family tree. "We're all brothers and sisters in this organization," said Smith. "I would really like to see us come together as an organization and work together with those common goals we all share. We can do it. I want every member of the Sons to pause and remember that we're all privileged to be a member because someone served and sacrificed."

Vets on the Hill

Veterans Day on The Hill--March 12th 2018-- All Veterans and Supporters are invited to rally in support of Veterans Legislation. This includes keeping surviving spouses in their homes, ending illegal predatory lending against veterans benefits and increasing access to the outdoors for our disabled veterans. Check out details at www.davmn.org. Free pre-rally breakfast and info 8-10 a.m. (5th floor of Veterans Service Building).

Rally in Rotunda 10-11 am. Regional Rooms for Lawmakers 11:30-1:30 p.m.

SAL Detachment of Minnesota Membership As of Feb 21, 2018

Dist.	2017 Total	2018 Goal	Current at Dept	% of goal	Rank
1	1884	1976	1492	75.51%	6
2	1309	1373	1160	84.48%	1
3	1920	2014	1585	78.72%	4
4	379	398	332	83.36%	3
5	414	435	330	75.87%	5
6	1425	1495	1251	83.70%	2
7	1007	1057	767	72.59%	9
8	563	591	423	71.56%	10
9	812	852	635	74.52%	8
10	1726	1810	1357	74.96%	7
11	9	0	0	0	
Det.	11450	12001	9332	77.76%	

District Commanders

FIRST DISTRICT

**Les Shaunce
Commander**



The National Commander's Tour is over for another year. I was unable to attend but I understand that the only stop in the 1st District, Waseca Post 228 had a very good turnout. Thanks to everyone who attended.

The Sweetheart Rally at North St. Paul Post 39 turned out well except for the trip home. The snow made for an interesting trip. The ladies were happy though, each receiving a little Sweetheart treat.

March 10th will be our Department Appreciation Rally at Buffalo Post 270. Department Executive Board will meet at 1 p.m. with membership turn in from 3-4:30 p.m., Dinner at 5 p.m. with meeting to follow. Please plan to attend and bring lots of memberships. This is one of the biggest rallies of the year. Let's meet the challenge from the 6th District.

March 12th is Veterans Day on The Hill. There are a few changes to the program this year. First they are adding a breakfast at the Veterans Service Bldg. from 8:00-9:45. We will then rally in the Rotunda of the Capital from 10-11 a.m. We will then go to regional rooms where you can meet with your local legislators. Please plan to attend, we need as many people there as possible. This is how we put the pressure on our legislators to listen to our agenda.

SECOND DISTRICT

**Randy Olson
Commander**



We had a tremendous attendance for the National Commanders Tour. I want to thank National Commander Denise Rohan for making 3 stops in the 2nd District. She gave a phenomenal speech. I invite everyone from the Legion Family to try and listen to her message.

I would like to ask everyone to find a new member for the Legion, Auxillary, SAL, & Riders and sign them up.

Vietnam veterans, I'm proud of you all. Thank you all for your service and invite those that are not members for what ever reason, to join The American Legion. It's my personal invitation to you.

We will have multiple deployments coming up in the near future and I would like to be able to help our service men and women before, during, & after. Get to know them, help them with whatever needs they may have, keep in constant contact with them, and help them, showing them just how wonderful our Legion Family is. We need to be visible and I believe in being proactive. Let's all jump start our membership and be active in our programs. Show the world what we are made of.

Veterans Day on The Hill is March 12th. Please make an effort to participate. We need representation to secure benefits for our veterans.

Boys State & Girls State are right around the corner. Help send our youth to participate. If we have any youth that wants to go but doesn't have a sponsor, I will find them one. The cost is \$300 again this year for Boys State.

THIRD DISTRICT

**Eugene Leifeld
Commander**



I want to thank everyone who attended the 3rd District Mid-Winter Conference at Le Center Post. Thank you to everyone for all the work on membership and let's continue working with membership. When we meet or know those veterans who are eligible and ask them how they can make a difference, ask them to join the American Legion Family. Remember, our deployed soldiers and those preparing to deploy. These soldiers need the support of Veterans organizations. Department of Minnesota Bulletin 33 shows the 3rd District at 89.63%. Let's continue with revitalizations, open houses and let those veterans know we need their memberships.

The American Legion Family Appreciation Rally is coming up on Saturday, March 10, at Buffalo American Legion Post 270. So please bring memberships. March is the American Legion Birthday. This is the time in 1919 when the first American Legion Caucus was held by members of the American Expeditionary Force convened in Paris. March 15 is the date when The American Legion came to life. Each year American Legion Posts hold events to commemorate this anniversary. This is a time when Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion (SAL) come together to celebrate what they have accomplished and thank veterans for their service.

As we continue to move forward let's remember to ask the good Lord for his guidance and blessings with this year's membership and American Legion programs.

FOURTH DISTRICT

**Lane Stunkel
Commander**



As of Bulletin 33, the 4th District membership is at 86.86%. We are only 4 percentage points behind the 1st and 6th Districts. That number is getting smaller. Let's keep the pressure on and next month let's make it 3 points or better. Please reach out to your Vice Commanders and Membership Director Mickey; they are available to work with you on membership, I am also here to help out. We have several posts that are within 4 memberships of meeting goal. Let's work hard to find new members and retain our existing members.

March 10th - American Legion Family Appreciation Membership Rally - Buffalo Post 270, 3PM

March 12th - Veterans on the Hill, Breakfast 8-9:45AM, Rally in the Rotunda 10-11AM

March 13th - MACV is hosting a legal clinic for Veterans - Minneapolis VA - 9AM - 2PM

March 14th - RCCC - Arcade Phalen - guest speaker, Jeremy Wolfsteller - Department Service Officer

March 16-18th - SAL Spring Conference - Chaska

March 18th - VA Hospital Visitation

March 24th - Caribbean Night - N St Paul, Social Hour 5PM, Dinner 6PM, cost \$18

April 11th - RCCC - 7PM - N St Paul Post 39

April 20th - 4th District Joint Testimonial - 7PM - Arcade Phalen

FIFTH DISTRICT

**Walt Lyndsey
Commander**



Greetings and salutations from the fighting fifth. We had gallantly met the month of January with colds, flu, sneezes, long underwear, warm hats, Super Bowl 52 and are now on our way to flying kites, hiding Easter eggs and the enjoyment of fresh air that isn't below zero. Every time I get the car washed, it's time for more snow to fly. On the 15th of February we enjoyed a venison luncheon at the Minnesota Veterans Home which was sponsored by the Order of the Cooties. What a fun time and it's always wonderful to meet and greet new faces from our Gopher state. I turned 80 years old on the 18th of February. Most days I don't feel like I'm getting up there, and some days I feel 100. I guess it all averages out.

SIXTH DISTRICT

**Ken Johnstone
Commander**



As I write this article, the month of February is half over, and I am looking forward to attending the different functions throughout my District. If not for the Post members, the Legion could not function. Most of the Department and District functions for the month of February are done. I just wish I could have been able to spend more time visiting all the Legion members at the Sweetheart Rally. With the weather conditions that day, I arrived at the last minute to turn in my collected memberships. Yes, the Legionnaires of my District, as well as my membership team, came through for me, keeping the Sixth District in First Place and winning the Rally. Words cannot express my gratitude for everyone's fine and successful efforts.

Looking into March, there remains much to be accomplished. I continue to travel around my District and talk to Posts, County Councils, as well as attend District and Department functions. Don't forget Daylight Savings time on March 11th, Saint Patrick's Day on the 17th, and the first day of Spring on the 20th of March. It will be interesting to see what Mother Nature has in store for us this year. Finally, I look forward to meeting with all the other nine District Commanders on March 10th for the Appreciation Rally and Executive Board Meeting.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

**Richard Wog
Commander**



Happy birthday American Legion. One hundred years is a long time and it is worth celebrating so let's make it a big birthday and let the community celebrate it with us. If your post has anything special planned that's good; if not please do something. Ask your local news media to put something in the paper or do an interview with the radio station. Our mission then is the same as it is now, taking care of our vet-

erans. We need to tell people what we do and about all the programs we have and what we have to offer our members.

Now is the time to be working on CPR reports and also to submit your scout of the year as well as firemen, soldier and lawmen of the year. We all have them in our community. I know there are a lot of other reports that your post will be asked to submit. Membership has been doing very well. We are not in first place so we just need to keep the pedal to the metal and catch the leader and pass them. I know it is slow fight. Now is the time to go hunting for the members we have lost for one reason or the other.

I was very happy with our midwinter. I got to meet other members of the district and a big thank you goes to Al Zdon. His presentation was wonderful and he sold nineteen books. I think that was great. Happy belated to the Coast Guard.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

**Donovan Goblirsch
Commander**



March is upon us and many programs are in the works. Lent is here and Easter will soon be upon us. Easter is Sunday, April 1, this year. Let's hope that the bitter cold will just be a winter memory by then.

Let's get the flags ready for the national convention that is coming in August. Let us all carry our wonderful United States flag with dignity and love. Many veterans died for what that flag represents and to keep our country as the greatest in the world. When you stand straight and tall, you can feel the love of our great land. Yes, we have a few problems but we all are making this land the number one in the world.

Spring rallies are here and district conventions and testimonials. The state convention is in Rochester.

Keep sending memberships as they come in. Our district is doing very well. The snowbirds will be coming home. Let's contact those who haven't sent in their memberships.

Remember Veterans on the Lake for your summer break. A great place to vacation with your family. I take my family and grandkids there. It is also the 8th District project.

NINTH DISTRICT

**Tim Haugen
Commander**



Well it looks like March will be another busy month. We start out with the Appreciation Rally on March 10th in Buffalo and then the following Saturday, March 17th (St Patty's Day) we will be holding a District membership rally at the Fergus Falls Veterans home (and for the 3rd straight year the American Legion Family will make homemade donuts for the veterans) and continue to bring in memberships. March is also the American Legion birthday month and hopefully you have a celebration planned which includes recognizing our longtime continuous members.

I want to congratulate our Vice-Commander of the year Lowell Philp for the fantastic job he has done this year.

As of February 21st, we've 19 posts that are at 100% and 24 posts that have made the March 14th 90% cut off. At the time of writing this newsletter, the 9th district was tied for 5th place in the Department at 89.45% and need only 27 renewals/new members to make the National target of 90%.

Consolidated Post Reports are soon coming due, so start collecting and computing your data to get credit for all you do for our veterans, community and children.

Remember applications for Scholarships, Law & Order, and Boy's State Pre-Registration are due to Department on April 1st.

TENTH DISTRICT

**Paul Hassing
Commander**



You are all doing a great job with membership, but we need to reach out to those whose membership has expired. Find out why they haven't renewed. Finding out why someone isn't renewing can be just as important as finding out why they joined in the first place.

We had a great time with National Commander Denise Rohan at Wayzata, and a great dinner at Osseo. The posts really went all out, and made the 10th district proud.

We need to remember her theme of "Family First." We need to take care of our veterans, and their families. That is the main reason we exist.

Don't forget that March 12th is Veterans Day on the Hill. There are park and rides available at Osseo, Bloomington, Anoka, and Roseville as well as other parts across greater Minnesota.

Keep up the great things you are all doing. I am so proud of all of you.

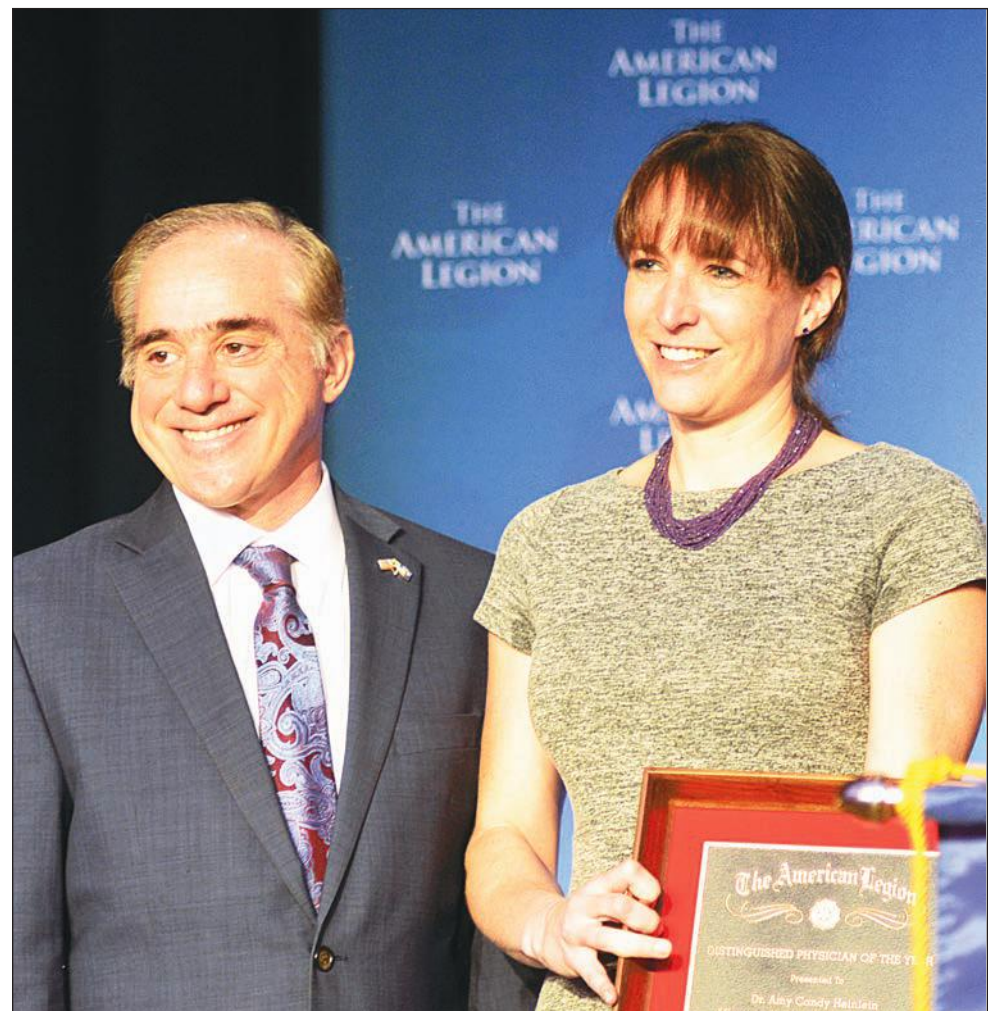


Diane Carlson Evans, who grew up on Minnesota and was the organizer for creating the Women's Vietnam Memorial on Capitol Mall in Washington D.C., received the Legion's Patriot Award during the Washington Conference. Carlson spoke at the Commander's Call, a meeting to prepare Legion lobbyists before they went up on Capitol Hill to meet with their Congressional officials.

Washington Conference



Past Department Commander Bill Barbknecht, who is the Selective Service representative for Minnesota, had a chance while in Washington to talk with Donald Benton, the director of the U.S. Selective Service System.



Dr. Amy Candy Heinlein of the Minneapolis VA received The American Legion's award for Outstanding Physician in the national VA system. She was presented the award at the Washington Conference by VA Secretary David Shulkin. She was nominated by the Department of Minnesota.