



DEC is told Marshall will be FC site

This year's Fall Conference will be held at (drum roll please)...

Marshall, Minnesota.

The conference had originally been slated for Brainerd, but after a visit from the Minnesota Convention Corporation, it was determined that the city did not have the facilities necessary for the conference.

Corporation Chairman Pat Logan told the Department Executive Committee meeting at Buffalo that contact was made with several of the large resorts in the Brainerd area,

Continued on Page 6

Olson gives update on 100th Convention

With the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis less than five months away, the Department Executive Committee heard a report from Convention Corporation President Jeff Olson about the big plans for this August.

Olson said 14 Minnesota high school bands have signed up for the convention parade, which will be held Sunday, Aug. 26, on the Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis.

It will be the most high school bands in a national parade in many years.

The parade will start at either 4 or 4:30 p.m. as the organizers try to not conflict with a Twins game that day at nearby Target Field.

Olson said he has been asked about bringing buses to the parade, and he said there is a lack of parking downtown. He asked that anybody who plans to bring a bus to the parade

Continued on Page 3



Building 22 was dedicated in March. It will have 100 private rooms and many amenities. A Spanish-American War cannon sits on the lawn outside the new Veterans Home in Minneapolis.

Minneapolis' \$113 million remake is done

By Al Zdon

Eight years ago, the Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis was at a low point, cited for numerous infractions, and providing facilities that by modern standards were sub-par.

With the completion of Building 22, the third phase of an ambitious \$113 million makeover of the Minneapolis campus, the veterans home is now the jewel of a very good system.

The new building, which will provide 100 industry-standard rooms, completes the makeover which began in 2010.

The Minneapolis home has a rich history of service to Minnesota veterans. The oldest buildings on the campus were built in the 1880s to serve the Civil War veterans.

Building 22 sits in the middle of a 53-acre campus that is bordered on one side by the Mississippi River and on the other side by Minnehaha Creek. A bridge over the creek is currently closed while it too is brought up to current codes in an \$8 million project.

The dedication brought out several hundred veterans and others who filled the two large common rooms that are part of the campus. The larger part of the crowd had

Continued on Page 7

New Prague Scout Eagle of the Year

Joseph Taylor of New Prague has been selected as Minnesota's American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year.

Taylor, who was eligible for the award through the service of his grandfather, John Baldwin, is a senior at New Prague High School. He is the son of Robert and Karen

Continued on Page 6



JOSEPH TAYLOR

Rochester gearing up for state convention

This year's Minnesota American Legion convention, the 100th annual, will be held at Rochester.

An official registration form is on page 2 of this Minnesota Legionnaire.

The convention will be held July 18-21 beginning with the Department Executive Committee meeting at 7 p.m., Wednesday the 18th. The convention itself will open on Thursday Mayo Civic Center.

The Auxiliary's 99th annual convention will begin the same day at the Kahler Grand Hotel.

The official hotels for the convention are the Kahler Grand, the Kahler Inn and Suites and the Marriott. Those attending must make their own reservations.

The conventions are the annual business meetings of the Legion and Auxiliary

Family Day at the Twins is July 13

The annual American Legion Family Day at the Twins will be Friday, July 13, vs. the Tampa Bay Rays.

Tickets are \$21 and are in the Home Plate view section.

Tickets can be obtained by contacting the Twins by phone (612-659-3400) or on their website. Ask for the spe-

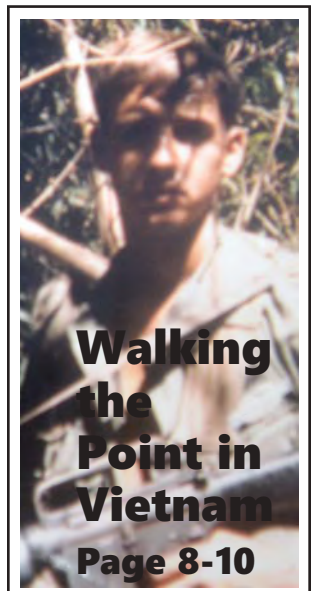


cial group rate for the Legion.

For special orders, or for further information, call Brian Bessler at the Twins at 612-659-4083.



VETERANS DAY ON HILL -- The Waite Park Post Color Guard led a group of several hundred veterans up the hill to the Capitol for the Veterans Day on the Hill event. Veterans later met with their legislators.



Walking
the
Point in
Vietnam

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New Navy chief part of the future of The American Legion

Boatswain's Mate Chief Petty Officer Chris Penn is a large man, soft-spoken and very skilled in what he does.

He is the rock and the future of the U.S. Navy.

And someday, he may be the rock and future of The American Legion – all because he went to church one day.

"I told him he was joining the Legion," said Department Vice Commander Dan Williams, who is also a pastor at Holy Christian Church in St. Paul. "Well, I may have said, 'Is that okay?'"

Williams said he recruited Penn because he knew him well. "I knew his parents, I knew his family, and I knew he had something to offer."

The Navy thought so too. Five months ago, they promoted Penn to chief

petty officer. He has served for the past 13 years.

Penn spent much of his growing up in the Dorchester area of Boston, but moved to St. Paul when he was a sophomore in high school. He was a star athlete, playing tight end in football and power forward in basketball at St. Paul Central.

As his high school career ended, though, he was up in the air about his future. "One day my mom took me aside and asked me what I was going to do after I graduated. I looked at her like a deer in the headlights. I didn't have an answer. She asked me if I'd thought about the military."

Penn was hoping to continue his sports career at college, but the offers he got in the mail came from places like South Dakota and Iowa. "They were col-

leges I never heard of."

One factor weighing in was that many of his relatives had served, it was kind of a family tradition.

One day at high school, he spotted a couple of recruiters checking in at the front desk. They were wearing their dress whites. "I liked that uniform and I went up and talked to them. I pretty much recruited myself. I was sold on the Navy."

He signed up on a delayed entry program, and after he graduated from high school he headed for boot camp at Great Lakes in Chicago.

His first duty was aboard the USS Duluth, LPD-6, an amphibious warfare ship. After one cruise, they decommissioned Duluth, and Penn was assigned to the USS Denver, LPD-9.

He didn't have a rate early on, but he gravitated towards being a boatswain's mate because of what they did on the ship. "I liked the variety of work, running the cranes, doing underway replenishments, working different jobs on the deck. I liked the responsibility."

In 2008, he was assigned to recruiting duty in the Twin Cities and he stayed for three years. "It was a good time to be home. My grandmother died during that time, and I got to spend some time with her. And I met my future wife while I was here."

In 2011, he was stationed in Hawaii, and was

married there. He is now stationed in San Diego at Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Training and Evaluation Unit One. He operates the vehicle and boat shop for the training center.

Five months ago, Penn was made chief.

He and his wife,

Meseret, and their two children, Christopher III and Emnet, live in San Diego. "I call Emnet my 'chief baby,' because she waited to be born until the day after I made chief."

Penn is a member of 3M Post 599. With his Navy duties, it might be a while before he can contribute

much to the post.

But that day will come, Williams said. "We have to bring in members like Chief Penn," said Williams. "And we have to do it now."

"Here's the future of The American Legion. No matter where he is, he'll be a leader."



DAN WILLIAMS AND CHRIS PENN

**OFFICIAL REGISTRATION
AMERICAN LEGION & AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
2018 DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA CONVENTION**

I am registering as a representative of: (check only one and write in number)	I am registering as a: (check only one)
<input type="checkbox"/> American Legion Post #: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Delegate
<input type="checkbox"/> Auxiliary Unit #: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternate
<input type="checkbox"/> Guest	<input type="checkbox"/> Delegate at Large (Auxiliary Only)
District #: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Guest (No Vote Allowed)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

A \$15 registration fee and separate registration form is required for every person registering to attend the convention. If you are registering as a **voting member** of both the American Legion & American Legion Auxiliary, a separate registration form and \$15 fee is required for each organization.

REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN JULY 15, 2018.
Same day registration will be \$20.

Mail registration forms and payment to: The American Legion Wm. T. McCoy Post #92 403 East Center Street Rochester, MN 55904	Make checks payable to: POST 92 CONVENTION FUND (credit cards not accepted)
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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.

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>Posts of Distinction (\$5,000 and up)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merton-Dale Post 80 North St. Paul Post 39 Rudolph Priebe Post 172 | <p>Posts of Patriotism (\$1,000 to \$2,499)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Austin Post 91 East Grand Forks Post 157 Ecklund-Holmstrom Post 117 Everett H. Hale Post 68 Fairmont Post 36 Frank Lundberg Post 282 Ham Lake Post 2000 Hamline Post 418 Hinkley Post 388 John Bridges Post 15 Marshall Post 113 Minneapolis Post 1 Nelsan-Horton Post 104 North Branch Post 85 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audubon Post 339 Aviation Post 511 Backus Post 368 Beatty-Humphries Post 323 Becker Post 193 Bellingham Post 441 Bigelow Post 496 Billie Brown Post 627 Boyd Post 198 Bruno Post 563 Buffalo Post 270 Caledonia Post 191 Clinton Post 258 Charles Borak Post 45 Cold Spring 455 Coon Rapids Post 334 Currie Post 322 Dan Patch Post 643 Deer Creek 283 Dovin-Wilcox Post 313 Eden Valley Post 381 Eugene Earley Post 121 Falldin Post 555 Flensburg Post 136 Foster-Bernhardt Post 373 Franklin Post 308 Glenville Post 264 Gonwick Post 304 Gopher Post 440 Graceville Post 297 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Ironton Post 443 Janesville Post 281 Jeffers 401 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 Lewiston Post 90 Lismore Post 636 Madison Lake Post 269 Mc Veigh-Dunn Post 60 Melvin Daskam Post 38 Middle River Post 444 Monticello Post 260 Mountain Lake Post 389 New Germany Post 601 |
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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@mlgion.org.



How will you pay for expenses that Medicare doesn't cover?

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Endorsements

Hanson endorsed for Chaplain

Buffalo Post 270 has endorsed Bonnie Hanson for Department Chaplain for 2018-2019.

Hanson is a Vietnam Era U.S Marine Corps veteran. She is a 37 year member of the American Legion starting out in Montgomery and then moving to the 2nd District where she was a 2nd District Vice Commander for two years moving then to the 10th District where she was Buffalo Post Commander for two years and then a 10th District Adjutant, 10th District Membership, 10th District Vice Commander and then the 10th District Commander 2016-2017.

She is currently the Buffalo Post's Chaplain and is also part of the Honor Guard. She has been very involved in many things pertaining to the American Legion, Post, District and Department.

Hanson has one daughter and three grandchildren and is a member of Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rockford.



BONNIE HANSON

100th Convention

Continued from Page 1 or other convention functions to contact him a jeff-tal1208@gmail.com.

After the parade, there will be an event at the Minneapolis Convention Center in the craft brewer's part of the building. It is hoped there will bands from several states performing.

There will be no Minnesota Party this year.

Olson said there is a lot of interest in the National Commander's Banquet this year, and he urged those who wish to attend on the Aug. 28 event to send a payment when information goes out in June. The cost is

\$48 per person, and the entertainment will be Three Dog Night.

He said Minnesota will be housed at the Hyatt Hotel with a cost of \$160 a night. Shuttles will be available from all the hotels.

Registration for Minnesota delegates and guests will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Hyatt. The caucus will be held at the hotel from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Monday.

He said volunteers may still be needed for various functions including stuffing the gift bags for the delegates, the parade and other events.

Family photo contest held

The American Legion Family of Minnesota photo contest has begun, sponsored by the PR Committee. Photos must include the entire Legion Family (Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, Juniors and Riders).

The caption should include all the names, plus a description of what they are doing, or what event.

Prize will be \$100. Deadline is July 19. Send photo to americanlegiondepartmentmn@gmail.com.

Any questions, contact jennifer.havlick@outlook.com.

HOT OFF THE PRESS!



War Stories III is available. 31 stories of Minnesotans who went to war. Hundreds of photos and maps. You can also order online at mnlegion.org

Send to Department HQ Room 300A, 20 W. 12th St., St. Paul, 55155

Name _____

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All books are \$29 each including shipping.

Amount enclosed \$ _____

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1

ADVOCATE FOR THE FORT

Urge your state legislators to fund the Historic Fort Snelling Revitalization Project, and thank Gov. Dayton for including this project in his 2018 capital budget recommendation. Take action at mnhs.org/HFS2020.

2

USE YOUR DISCOUNT

Veterans and active military always receive **discounted general admission** at MNHS historic sites and museums around Minnesota. Visit soon!

3

EXPLORE OUR LIBRARY RESOURCES

Research military service records and over 150 years of military history with our in-depth resources. Explore online at libguides.mnhs.org/military, or visit the Gale Family Library at the Minnesota History Center, St. Paul.

4

EXPANDED HISTORY AT THE FORT

We're making changes! Visitors soon will be able to learn about not only the 1820s fort, but also about veterans and their families from the Civil War, WW I and II, Vietnam, and the Gulf War. Our broader focus will include stories of African Americans, Buffalo soldiers, and Japanese American soldiers who served in WWII. **More at mnhs.org/fortsnelling.**

5

FIND TRUE STORIES OF THE GREATEST GENERATION

Learn about a remarkable group of Americans when you visit the **Minnesota's Greatest Generation** exhibit at the Minnesota History Center, St. Paul. Explore even more stories of the era at mnhs.org/mgg.




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COMMANDER'S COLUMN

By Mike Schaffer



At long last, Minnesota, it's spring. The only problem is that as I write this it's still snowing. I guess someone forgot to tell Mother Nature enough already.

It's time to finish up renewing those last few members you were waiting on. You've sent letters, renewal notice cards, maybe even called and left messages, so, Legionnaires, it's time to go knocking on doors. That time tested, face to face, is to me still the best means to sign up those unpaid members. Get a few members together and divide up the list of unpaid and get in some behind the wheel time. Same thing works for new members. Just be prepared to answer their questions because they'll want to know what's there for them, what The American Legion does as an organization and in your community.

Best way to attract a veteran to become a member of your post is to be a post that's active in your community, sponsoring an event, such as a blood drive, or a fund raiser for some cause. It attracts the non-member who see your post making a difference for someone in need. While you're at it how about asking those non-members of all ages to help out with the event?

Just a few thoughts on the now completed "Vets Day on the Hill" held on March 12th. But first I need to thank all that arranged those Park & Ride locations, lined up the buses, and in general made this event the best attended and

Mail Call

Fort Snelling

To the Editor:

Historic Fort Snelling is our state's first National Historic Landmark and the right place to talk about Minnesota's proud military tradition. The Minnesota Historical Society's vision for revitalizing the fort includes expanded programming and sharing more stories of Minnesota veterans. Our plan is to share military history from the fort's 200 years on a daily basis, moving beyond telling only about the fort of the 1820s.

With expanded programming, we won't wait for a milestone anniversary to talk about Minnesota's extraordinary participation in the Civil War or how, in the twentieth century, what had been the northwestern-most outpost of the U.S. military became the portal through which hundreds of thousands of Americans entered global conflicts.

New interpretive stations, exhibits, and demonstrations highlighting veteran stories from multiple eras will be a part of programming every day, and special events like the Military History Living Timeline on Memorial Day will highlight the importance of the military in our history.

It is also important to share other historically significant stories related to the fort. The fort is on Dakota homeland and is closely linked to the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862; two Dakota leaders were hanged there. Failure to note this event would be an historical omission and loss of an interpretive opportunity.

History can be complicated. During the 1862 war in Minnesota, Dakota men were among the 25,000 Minnesotans who enlisted to fight for the Union in the Civil War. Since then, Native Americans have had the highest proportion of military service of any ethnic group in the country. Our goal is to ensure that we present their historical relationships to the site and honor their distinguished record of service in the military, along with all who serve.

It's crucial that we also share the history of African Americans who lived and served at Fort Snelling, including Harriet and Dred Scott, whose lawsuit for freedom was a catalyst for the Civil War, and the hundred or so African Americans who enlisted from Fort Snelling to fight in that war. We will also talk about the many immigrants who came to the fort as soldiers or settled in Minnesota first and then joined up at Fort Snelling. It's an opportunity to tell the story of 6,000 mostly second-generation Japanese American soldiers who trained in the Military Intelligence Language School that was housed at Fort Snelling from 1944-46; nearly a thousand of those veterans would make Minnesota their home.

These are all important stories. None should be overlooked. We need to share them in addition to an enlarged military history. Expanding the broader history will not shortchange military history. In fact, we will expand the military stories we share. We have heard from many veterans that this is the right approach.

We appreciate the support from the veteran community

organized event I can remember. You filled that Capital Rotunda and then some. Believe you me, those legislators noticed when we marched from the Veterans Service Building to the Capital Rotunda. Well done Minnesota.

Why do we do the "Day on the Hill" in the first place you may ask. It's because we as an organization were founded to my thinking, on the principle of caring for those that bore the battle and the care of the children of those that paid the ultimate price. Some of the items we talked to our legislators about include these: Lifetime Homestead Market Value Exclusion, Military benefits pay & Benefits protection, Veterans Courts and Reduced or free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses for disabled veterans, and that's just in Minnesota. We as veterans need to take care of ourselves and our survivors.

Do you remember my theme, "Learn, Mentor, Prepare?" Well it's time to put that into practice when your post has those election of officers in April. Please be prepared and please offer to assist the new officers of your post. Maybe you've held that office for a good many years and want to step down. Thank you for giving of your time and talent, but you need to help that next leader. It's the best thing you can do for them and your post, period.

Consolidated Post Reports are a great way to let politicians see what we accomplish in and for those communities we call home. Please fill ours out and send it in.

Remember my soon to be here testimonial will be held on April 21st. Come one, come all to the roast to end all roasts, or so I'm promised. It's how we celebrate the accomplishments and our year so far. February and March had information on ordering tickets to attend. Social hour starts at 3 and the dinner is at 6 p.m. Come on down and join in the fun.

Although the official deadline has passed for Boys State applications, I understand there are still slots to fill. Every post in the state should have a boy at Boys State. Please make contact with your local high school to find that talented young man who could benefit so much from this tremendous program. Contact Jennifer in our office to get the details.

and will continue to work with you on new programs that tell about your vital service and the sacrifices of your families.

D. Stephen Elliott
Director and CEO, Minnesota Historical Society

Boys State Website

To the Editor:

The American Legion Minnesota Boys' State website (www.mnboysstate.org) is up and running. Encourage young men finishing their junior year in high school to look it over to get a flavor of the week. Registration information is also located on the site.

Delegates from previous years from your post can be great recruiters. Those from five or more years ago might have longer term perspectives for prospective delegates to consider. We are striving to increase enrollment over last year's attendance and thank you for your efforts toward achieving that goal.

Neil Kruse
Spring Lake Park

Rights Infringed Upon

To the Editor:

In the midst of allowing his students to exert their First Amendment rights to discuss the issue of gun violence in schools, Jeffrey Erickson, Principal of Minnetonka High School, tread on the rights of taxpayers who fund his public school, the taxpayers. In an email of March 12, Erickson stated, "Please be advised: to maintain a confident level of security on our campus, access to this student-led event will be restricted to students and staff only. Parents, families and others should not plan to come to the high school to join the event as they will not be allowed access to the areas where students are congregating." He also stated that the protest would be occurring "outside of the West Entrance" of the high school, i.e. outdoors.

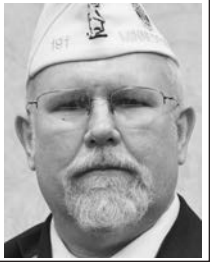
I responded to his email stating, "As a taxpayer and a disabled military veteran who fought to maintain the hard won freedoms of our nation's citizens, I strongly encourage MHS to provide the taxpayers, especially parents of the students, the right to attend this event, especially as it's occurring on public property. If you do not, First Amendment rights will be denied."

While I understand his concern for the security of his students, there were police present at the protest and the protest occurred in the outdoors, outside a publicly-funded building. Erickson's actions were an obvious infringement of my rights and those of other citizen taxpayers who may have wanted to attend and peaceably to assemble. As a veteran, it's unsettling that leaders in our public schools are acting to limit the rights that veterans have fought and died to provide and protect.

Bill Johnson Jr.
Excelsior Post 259

Chaplain's Corner

By
Ralph Schneekloth



Greetings, my fellow American Legion family members. This month is the beginning of "The power of we." It is very appropriate, especially in this year of the family, to talk of this at length, and how we are a family, a brotherhood and sisterhood, encompassing all. I read once that we serve as equals, though some are called to positions of greater responsibility. This statement, along with the concept of our American Legion family, our own families along with building and developing effective teams at the various levels to work cooperatively to the common goals of The American Legion to be successful have to be a main concern.

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America... This is an awesome opening statement and leaves no doubt of our *raison de etre*, or our main reason for being.

How do accomplish this along with the rest of our mission? As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:4, "There are diversities of gifts, but the same spirit." And we are one body with many parts, we all belong and serve in distinct roles. This follows from Galatians 6:4, "It remains therefore, that these gifts render a mutual service, that the one, with his gift, sustain the burden and what is lacking in the other." Now then, the big Question is... How best to build our team and family to be effective, while respecting each others gifts and talents? We need to rethink and tweak the existing paradigms and move away from so readily accepting mediocrity and strive for excellence and importantly to inculcate a "Culture of growth."

In the Book of Numbers it speaks of the twelve scouts that Moses sent to recon Canaan, from which the people mostly believed the negative reports that ten of the twelve gave, some complained bitterly and even asked to go back to Egypt and get their old slave jobs back. Only Joshua and Caleb still had the confidence that they could carry out the task: "Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, 'We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it'" (Numbers 13:30).

This certainly speaks of fearless leadership along with confidence in our mission. I see the beginnings of the "servant leader" coming forth, the fact that no matter the level, the leader strives to remember that they are servants still and "Who you are, and Whom you serve" along with a certain amount of humility. Our Centennial, as we together move forward towards our "Second Century of Service" let us as a family, a team, truly be united in word and deed, remember all those who have come before us along with building on their legacy to make our American Legion's best days to come.

Finally, I offer an invitation to all eligible veterans to come join us. We are strongest when united. Membership is a reflection of the overall health of the organization. Let there never again be a Post Commander who after reaching their 100% goal, ever have the temerity to say, "Well, that's it, come back after July when we'll need you then..."

We must serve from the heart if we want to be successful, dream big, it doesn't cost anything, and might actually work. In closing, a quote from Henry David Thoreau, "What lies behind us and what lies ahead of us are tiny matters compared to what lives within us."

The Minnesota Legionnaire

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

Al Zdon, Editor

First published in 1920 as the Hennepin County Legionnaire, the Minnesota Legionnaire is now in its 99th year of publication. It is published monthly by The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, Room 300A, 20 West 12th Street, St. Paul, MN 55155-2000. Periodicals postage is paid at St. Paul, MN, and at additional mailing offices. The Legionnaire is a member of the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the National American Legion Press Association.

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

PHONE: 651-291-1800, 866-259-9163, **FAX:** 651-291-1057

ADVERTISING RATES: Contact Al Zdon, 651-291-1800

E-MAIL: azdon@mnlegion.org

WEBSITE: www.mnlegion.org

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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

Boys State

Slots are still available for Boys State. Posts should contact their local high school for candidates. For more information, contact Jennifer in the Legion HQ. The Boys State website has been updated: www.mnboysstate.org.

Free Legal Clinics

The Minnesota Assistance Council for veterans has planned a series of free legal clinics for low-income veterans. The clinics will include housing, employment, benefits, debt collection, expungement, and family law.

The list includes:

- Worthington, Tuesday, May 22, 8 a.m. to noon, Nobles County Government Center.
- Mankato, Wednesday, May 23, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mankato Armory.
- Marshall, Tuesday, May 22, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Lyon County Government Center.
- Minneapolis, Tuesday, April 10, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., VA Medical Center, Flag Atrium Balcony Room.

Stand Down

MACV is also sponsoring a Stand Down for veterans at the Fergus Falls Armory on Wednesday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The free services include meals, VA benefits,

Taps

Debates, Edwin A., 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died March 3, 2018. He was a member of Adrian Post 32.

Wohlenhaus, Lyle, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 22, 2018. He was a member of Wheaton Post 80.

Pangerl, James F., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died March 4, 2018. He earned a Purple Heart. He was a member of Pine City Post 51.

Utecht, Joseph J., 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 22, 2018. He was a member of Eden Valley Post 381.

Riesgraf, Severin R. "Buddy," 97, Army veteran of World War II, died Feb. 22, 2018. He was a corporal in Battery A of the 167th Anti-Aircraft Gun Battalion. He was a member of New Prague Post 45.

Hickey, Milo J. "Bud," 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 14, 2018. He was a member of Pine Island Post 184.

Thiry, Robert G., 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died Feb. 23, 2018. He was a member of Pine City Post 51.

Arnold, George III, 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died March 8, 2018. He was a member of Eden Valley Post 381.

Johnson, Leonard, 94, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died March 12, 2018. He was a member of Wheaton Post 80.

Sether, Gerald, 75, Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, died Feb. 22, 2018. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Noeser, Russell C., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 24, 2018. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Gregor, Michael R., 71, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died Feb. 25, 2018. He was a crew chief on a C-130 stationed in Taiwan and flew into Vietnam and other countries. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Gerdes, John W., 70, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died March 1, 2018. He was a member of Bertha Post 366.

Stenson, Herbert Clark, 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died March 4, 2018. He served with the 752nd Anti-Aircraft Gun Battalion as a radar crewman in California. He was a member of Granite Falls Post 179.

Holien, Duane Ernest, 76, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died March 10, 2018. He served in Germany. He was a member of Granite Falls Post 179.

Zeuhlke, Donald H., 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died March 12, 2018. He was a member of Parker's Prairie Post 219.

Murray, James W., 90, Army veteran of World War II, died March 5, 2018. He was a member of Benson Post 62.

Symalla, Aloysius, 86, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died March 20, 2018. He was a member of Cold Spring Post 455.

Larson, Kenneth, 81, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died March 15, 2018. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Luehman, Robert K., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died March 6, 2018. He was an SP3. He was a member of Jackson Post 90.

Beenken, Clarence F., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died March 16, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Bednar, Benjamin J., 89, Army veteran of the Korean

War, died March 13, 2018. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Military Ball Slated

The 14th annual Military Ball will be held at Spring Grove on Saturday, April 21, in the Fest Building.

The evening will include dinner, ceremony, entertainment, displays and photo portraits. Dr. William Reese will speak on PTSD.

Attire is Sunday best, and military uniforms are encouraged. Cost is \$27 per person. The dinner is pork and chicken. Social hour is at 4:30 p.m. and the dinner will be a 5.45. The Cheers Big Band will play.

Contact Gary Buxengard at 507-498-3461 for more information. Or email, gnjlbux@springgrove.coop.

Round Tables

The World War II History Round Table at Fort Snelling will have a program on Thursday, April 12, on "The Greatest Field Commander: Lucian Truscott" with author Harvey Ferguson and veterans.

The program is at 7 p.m. at the the Fort Snelling History Center. Admission is \$5.

The St. Croix Valley Civil War Roundtable will be held

War, died March 13, 2018. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Spoden, Robert, 84, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died March 10, 2018. He was a member of St. Augusta Post 621.

Waldvogel, James, 79, Army National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died March 3, 2018. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Kivi, Russell H., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 20, 2018. He served on the House Committee of Litchfield Post 104.

Rupert, Randall James, 65, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died Feb. 23, 2018. He was a member of Keewatin Post 452.

Piekarski, George Peter, 99, Army veteran of World War II, died March 6, 2018. He was a member of Keewatin Post 452.

Bruce, Charles H., 84, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died March 5, 2018. He served as a radio operator and air crew member of the 306th Operations Squadron stationed in Morocco. He was a member of Redwood Falls Post 38.

Oja, Lyle, 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died Feb. 17, 2018. He was a tail gunner on a PBY. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Dargon, Rayton E., 78, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died March 10, 2018. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Albright, Dr. Ronald Lyle, 88, Army Reserve veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 21, 2018. He served in Korea and Japan with the 666th Medical Detachment. He stayed in the Reserves until 1962. He was a member of New Ulm Post 32.

Christian, Harry, 84, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 10, 2018. He was stationed in Louisiana and served as a policeman, achieving the rank of Airman First Class. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Brei, William, 94, Air Force veteran of World War II, died Feb. 2, 2018. He was a radio operator and waist gunner on a B-25 serving in Europe with the 340th Bomb Group, 486th Squadron. He received seven Air Medals. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Drexler, Richard, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 4, 2018. He was with the 369th Engineer Amphibious Regiment training replacements. He was a member of the Honor Guard of New Ulm Post 132.

Sempaur, Albert, 79, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died March 7, 2018. He was a member of Lonsdale Post 586.

Bass, Donald, 71, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died March 10, 2018. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Bean, Sharon J., 78, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died March 13, 2018. She was a dietician. She was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Schelhaas, Bertus H., 85, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died March 7, 2018. He was a radar operator stationed in New York. He was a member of Edgerton Post 42.

Oberlin, Laurence Francis, 90, Army veteran of World War II, died March 2, 2018. He was in Company A, 52nd Armored Engineer Battalion, Sixth Armored Division. He was a member of Glencoe Post 95.

Donnay, Kenneth William, 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died March 2, 2018. He was stationed in

Monday, April 23, and the program will be "Fort Snelling and the Civil War" with Steve Osman. It is a dinner meeting at the Lowell Inn in Stillwater. For more information, call Steve Anderson at 715-386-1268.

Commander's Testimonial

The testimonial for Commander Mike Schaffer will be at the Jackpot Junction Casino near Redwood Falls. Rooms are still available by calling 800-946-2274. Tickets are \$30 and the meal includes ham, two sides and a dessert.

Past National Commander Tom Bock will speak. Those attending should send their names, address, phone, post, unit or squadron, and total amount enclosed to Currie Post 322, Box 56, 121 Mill Street, Currie, MN 56123.

National College

Applications for American Legion National College are now being accepted. Candidates should be in the Lebanon-Grenada era or more recent.

Candidates must have completed the American Legion Extension Institute.

Deadline for nominations is July 1. For more information contact Adjutant Randy Tesdahl at 651-291-1800 or rtesdahl@mnlegion.org.

Virginia. He was a member of Glencoe Post 95.

Bonnema, Eugene E., 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 21, 2018. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Hughes, Claude J., 93, Army veteran of World War II, died March 4, 2018. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Brouwer, Lester, 93, Army veteran of World War II, died March 6, 2018. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Vlaminck, Lucien L., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died March 9, 2018. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Taylor, Glenn E., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died March 1, 2018. He was a member of Middle River Post 444.

Leyk, Maynard, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died March 12, 2018. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Fennell, Donald J., 84, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 17, 2018. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 218.

Norman, Francis J. "Chink," 94, Army veteran of World War II, died March 24, 2018. He served in the Pacific. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Savage, Thomas J., 93, a Navy veteran of World War II and the Korean War, died March 14, 2018. He was a pilot who flew seaplanes. He was a member of Hutchinson Post 96.

Stanke, Steven E., 73, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died March 21, 2018. He served as an electrician. He was a past commander of Janesville Post 281.

Obits must be recent

Updated: February 2006

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

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

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

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

The Legionnaire reserves the right to edit all obituaries for style and brevity.

American Legion Riders

By Chuck Stone
Department Director



Congratulations to the American Legion Riders on receiving a special day designated in the state of Minnesota as American Legion Rider Day. Each year the Riders get bigger and better. As the Riders grow so grows the American Legion Family. Hopefully we can reach that magic membership number so Department Membership Director Larry won't have to wear a Green Bay Packer uniform to the Wisconsin delegation at National Convention. I can not think of very many things in life that would be worse then wearing the Packers uniform.

Thank you to Kevin and Matt for all the hard work they put in organizing the Riders booth at the Donnie Smith Bike Show. There were a number of volunteers that put in an hour or two manning the booth. This helps get the word out that we are out there and the causes we are working for. Hats off to Kevin, Matt and the rest of your team for the work you have done.

The Legacy Ride for 2018 is starting to come together. The first weekend is pretty much established with the second weekend needing a few adjustments here and there. It is the hope of the Legacy Ride Team to be ready to release a full schedule of stops with overnights and hotels next month. Until then Chapters keep up the great work raising funds for the Legacy and other causes.

The MNALR is structured somewhat like the Legion. The Legion has various committees which handle the day-to-day business. The MNALR is close to that structure except the we refer to the committees as teams. Teams are made up of volunteers that work together toward the accomplishment of a common goal. Anyone can be a member of a team, all they have to do is ask and volunteer. An example would be Kevin and Matt and the work they do.

If you know of a member of the National Guard or Reserve Unit in your area, please talk with them. Items to be of utmost importance is how are they doing, have they been deployed and are their records up to date. If any answer is no, get them to their local VSO and they can assist with taking of any of these issues. It is the job of the VSO to assist with the complicated process.

Keep the chrome side up and the rubber side down.

DEC Spring Meeting

Continued from Page 1

but that they were all booked for the Fall Conference dates in late October.

The corporation began contacting other potential sites, and found that Marshall, which hosted the Fall Conference two years ago, would be accommodating.

Logan noted that some of the logistical problems involving the Auxiliary at the 2016 conference would be solved.

He also said that Brainerd will be considered for a future conference, and that Cragun's Resort has expressed an interest in being a host.

In other business, the DEC:

-- Created a new ad hoc committee this year that will be made up of younger Legion members and will address the issue of attracting younger members to the Minnesota Legion. The committee will work with the Strategic Planning Committee. No members were appointed at the meeting. It will be chaired by a member of the SPC.

-- Another motion was passed to mandate the Education and Training Committee to set a date for Department-wide training prior to this year's state convention. Mike Maxa said that it would be preferable not to hold it in conjunction with the membership materials pick-up meeting as it was last year.

-- Past Department Commander Dennis Henkemeyer

recommended that a long-range calendar, listing Department events for several years out, be a permanent part of the Department's website

-- LIT Committee chairman Bill Barbknecht said that LIT is now offering \$5,000 accidental death and dismemberment to Legion members for free. If a Legionnaire has already signed up for the AD&D, they will automatically be eligible for the \$5,000 policy.

-- Legionville President Wayne Gilbertson said the bog that has settled in front of the camp's swimming beach has now been surrounded with logs and chains, with hopes that when the ice goes out, the wandering bog can be towed to the east where it came from. Gilbertson also said work is being done on the dining hall facility using the state money granted by the Legislature this past year. He said all the kitchen equipment has been removed and that the ceiling area is being worked on. He also said that a shed that held equipment will now become a junior shooting sports area at the camp.

-- Membership Director Larry Ryan said that Minnesota was fourth place in the nation, first in the Northwest region, and was leading the Big 12 states in percentage of goal. He said overall, the state was down about 3,000 members from last year, and he urged posts to renew their fallen away members.

Top Eagle Scout selected

Continued from Page 1

Taylor.

He has maintained a 3.996 grade point average and is ranked 11th in his class of 307 students.

He received his Eagle Award in 2015 and has four palms.

At school he has participated in cross country, concert band (trumpet), German Club, Jazz Band, National Honor Society, Pep Band, Speech Team, where last year he was the captain, and YMCA Youth in Government.

He was in Boy Scout Troop 9323 in New Prague, and he said he most enjoyed the outdoor activities. His responsibilities included Senior Patrol Leader and Bugler.

His Eagle Scout Project involved constructing, staining, transporting and placing three large cedar benches at the Memorial Park in New Prague in the summer of 2014. He enlisted 19 volunteers who contributed 172 hours of service, and he got materials from local businesses.

Taylor has also been very involved in Civil Air Patrol, and has been a cadet commander since last year. He is also the bugler for the CAP.

He has been active in the local Lutheran Church and has provided music for many services and events.

His main interest is flying and he took his first flight lesson in 2016 and soloed on his 16th birthday, achieving his goal of flying an airplane before he got his driver's licence. He has since passed his private pilot's test. He hopes to become a commercial pilot.

This fall, he plans to attend the University of North Dakota and major in commercial aviation.

Taylor will be invited to the Department Convention at Rochester in July, and will automatically compete for the The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year, which includes a \$10,000 scholarship. For winning the Minnesota Eagle of the Year, he earned a \$1,000 scholarship.

Sons of the American Legion News

Commander Shawn Davis
salshawndavis@gmail.com

Adjutant Doug Bible
saladjmn@gmail.com

www.mnsal.org

Sons of The American Legion

By
Shawn Davis



April is Children and Youth month for the American Legion family. April has been formally designated as Children and Youth month since 1938, and it is an opportunity to focus on issues related to our nation's child health and safety along with Family support that children need. What are your plans for this month? Please let me know what you are doing to support the children of our nation?

We just had our Spring Conference over the weekend of March 16, 17 at the Chaska American Legion. Thank you to Chaska Squadron 57 for your hospitality. We had a great time and a very productive meeting. We also had the honor of having SAL National Commander Danny Smith attend our meetings. From what he said he had fun, and learned a lot. Thank you Commander Smith for joining us.

We continue to do well on membership striving for that all time high of 12,000 members. I know membership is slowing down, but that means we should have time to reach out to those who have not renewed and work with them to rejoin. And do not forget to keep recruiting members into the Family. At the Buffalo Membership Rally it was announced that Jeremy Christenson of Delano had recruited over 40 members into his Post family. And Lane Stunkel of the 4th District has over 20. Recruiting 5 new members into the family does not seem so hard now, does it?

Thank you to all the Squadrons, Districts, and members who have donated to my project. 5 for Minnesota is not just about recruiting. It is also about fundraising to help education and each other. A donation to my project will be distributed to the American Legion Legacy Scholarship, The American Legion ROTC Scholarship and The Minnesota American Legion Hospital Association. So keep up the great work.

And let's hope spring arrives soon.



NATIONAL COMMANDER -- At the Sons of the American Legion Spring Conference, National Commander Danny Smith spoke. Also at the head table were Department Adjutant Doug Bible and Commander Shawn Davis.

Membership chart

District	2017 Total	2018 Goal	Total	% of goal	Rank
1	1884	1976	1541	77.99%	9
2	1309	1373	1222	88.99%	2
3	1920	2014	1682	83.53%	4
4	379	398	369	92.65%	1
5	414	435	349	80.24%	7
6	1425	1495	1306	87.37%	3
7	1007	1057	879	83.19%	5
8	563	591	436	73.75%	10
9	812	852	698	81.91%	6
10	1726	1810	1425	78.72%	8
11	9	0	8	0	
Detachment	11450	12001	9915	82.62%	

Updates

Children and Youth Month

Last month we featured the premier fundraising program nationally for the Sons of The American Legion...the Child Welfare Foundation. April is American Legion Children and Youth month. Children and Youth is one of the Four Pillars of The American Legion.

Children & Youth is guided by three main objectives: to strengthen the family unit, to support quality organizations that provide services for children and youth, and to provide communities with well-rounded programs that meet the physical, educational, emotional and spiritual needs of young people.

The Legion Family strongly supports traditional family values, assistance for at-risk children, and activities that promote their healthy and wholesome development.

They also address media violence. The American Legion supports appropriate state and federal legislation to restrict the excessive use of violence, vulgarity and immoral expressions in movies, television programs, news, video games and the internet.

Drug Abuse. The American Legion fully supports adequate funding for all border, state, federal and military drug-trafficking prevention programs to keep illegal substances from reaching our nation's young people.

Child Sexual Exploitation. Can you see how your Squadron can support this core pillar? How can you promote these causes?

Consolidated Squadron Report Form—Take Credit for all you do. Check out our Detachment website at www.mnsal.org. Here you can find many forms that will help you organize and record all of your efforts. One of the forms is the Consolidated Squadron Report form. This spreadsheet provides areas you can fill in for donations, hours worked, causes supported in your community and for the Veterans in your area that you may have helped this past year. Even if you don't have an active program, please send in an electronic version of this form or a paper version. Send it to our Adjutant at saladjmn@gmail.com or to the Department of Minnesota Headquarters in St. Paul.

Web Master Wanted: Are you saavy working online? Can you work within the popular web templates? Our Detachment is looking for someone to invest a few hours each week updating provided content, forms and news on our website. Compensation is negotiable. Please email your qualifications to joe@axtoninnovations.com

Building 22 dedicated

Continued from Page 1

to watch the ceremony on close-circuit television.

“It’s been an eight-year journey to modernize,” said Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Deputy Commissioner Douglas Hughes. “They are all private rooms. Building 22 is amazing.”

Hughes noted that Building 22, as with the other two new buildings that have risen on the campus, will feature large spaces for veterans and their families and friends to spend time.

The building also includes a fitness center, a dining hall, balconies, a courtyard, a walking path, and a putting green. In all, it offers veterans 136,000 square feet of space.

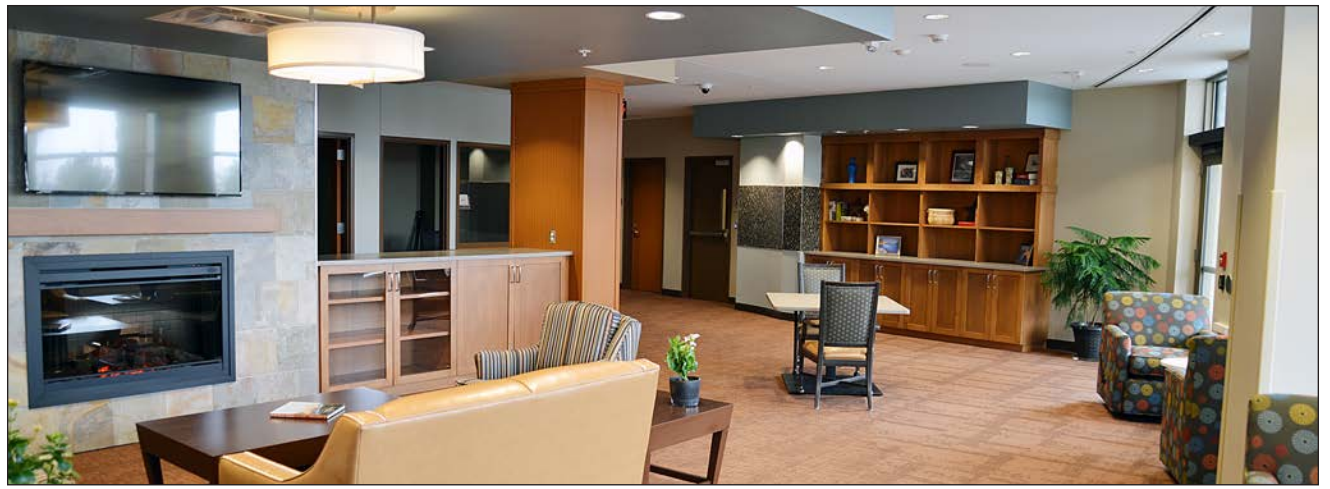
Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey praised the new building and said it will be one of his major initiatives to end veterans homelessness in Minneapolis. He said a recent study showed there are still 371 homeless vets in the city.

He said that even beyond the humanity of taking people off the streets, ending homelessness is a good fiscal option. “It costs government three times as much for a homeless person than it does just to find them a home.”

Gov. Mark Dayton, who did not attend the ceremony, said in a press release that, “This new nursing center will help ensure Minnesota veterans receive the care they need and deserve.”

While the old facility usually had two persons per room and a clinical setting, Building 22 will have one bed and a private bathroom and tub in each room. Many of the rooms will be equipped with motorized lifts built into the ceilings to aid the veteran in getting around.

The ambiance of the facility will be that of a neighborhood, and the common spaces are filled with soft furniture, private areas, and fireplaces. The building is five-stories high and the views from the upper floors are impressive.



The new building features lounge and quiet spaces where the veterans, family and friends can gather.

The first phase of the eight-year project was completed in 2012 and included a skilled nursing facility with 100 private rooms and a building that featured a greenhouse, barber and beauty shops, and a town square. It cost \$29 million. The second phase, completed two years ago, also had 100 private rooms, a commercial kitchen and therapy space. It cost \$33.5 million.

Phase three brings the total of beds at Minneapolis to 300. It cost \$54 million.

The keynote speaker for the event was Navy Vietnam War Nurse Kay Bauer.

There was a large delegation of Legionnaires and Auxiliary at the event, led by Department Commander Mike Schaffer, Past National Commander Dan Ludwig, NECman Marland Ronning, and Department President Donna Arends.



A putting green is one of the new amenities built into the revamped Minneapolis home.

Appreciation Rally at Buffalo



National Vice Commander Byron Callies of Watertown, South Dakota, was the featured speaker at the Appreciation Rally. He was introduced by NECman Marland Ronning, left.



President Donna Arends spoke as Commander Mike Schaffer and Membership Guru Larry Ryan listened.

District Vice Commander Awards

- 1st Scott Ihrke
- 2nd Brad Pagel
- 3rd Joe Tappainer
- 4th Tom Burns
- 5th John Austin
- 6th David Anderson
- 7th Lew Roberts
- 8th Carl Hendrickson
- 9th Lowell Philip
- 10th Jerry Whitcomb

Photos by Shawn Davis and Lou Michaels



Riders Director Chuck Stone and Legacy Ride Director Steve Sullivan showed off a resolution by Legislature declaring Legion Riders Day in the state.

Minnesota Legion membership as of March 22, 2018

District	2018 Goal	Total 2017	Total 2018	Weeks Gain	Total Posts	Goal Posts	% Of Goal	
District 1	8,953	8,895	8,279	28	58	13	92.47%	8,627
District 2	7,272	7,188	6,597	23	84	24	90.72%	7,078
District 3	11,712	11,647	10,830	54	65	12	92.47%	11,275
District 4	2,420	2,402	2,177	6	18	4	89.96%	2,289
District 5	2,486	2,464	2,209	11	22	4	88.86%	2,349
District 6	11,811	11,740	10,966	30	71	25	92.85%	11,431
District 7	6,398	6,322	5,872	33	76	19	91.78%	6,155
District 8	4,252	4,212	3,843	25	40	4	90.38%	4,083
District 9	6,729	6,664	6,204	48	65	24	92.20%	6,490
District 10	10,066	10,012	9,187	53	54	9	91.27%	9,664
District 11	401	2,358	1,992	15	2	1	496.76%	2,273
Totals	72,500	73,904	68,156	326	555	139	94.01%	71,714

Same Date

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MP2772 1/12

Walking the point in Vietnam

By Al Zdon

As a youth, Tom Newman had a motorcycle. It was a fast motorcycle.

"After I got my seventh speeding ticket, the judge told me that he was going to take my license away until I was 21."

Newman, who had graduated from high school a month earlier, talked with the judge about what would happen if he joined the service.

"The judge said that if I signed up and brought him back the paperwork, the court would forget the whole thing."

A few months later, Newman was walking the point in Vietnam.

Newman was born in Minneapolis and grew up in Brooklyn Center, attending Robbinsdale High School. He was active in sports, both wrestling and gymnastics, and after school he worked at a local car detailing shop.

He approached the Army recruiter after his trip to the court, and told him he wanted to join the Army and become a paratrooper. "He told me, 'You've come to the right place.'"

When he was questioned about joining the Army, he said his response was, "Our country is at war, isn't this what we're supposed to do? I was of that generation that remembered John F. Kennedy so clearly. You know, 'Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.'"

He was sent to Fort Campbell, the home base for the 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles, for basic training and then did Advanced Infantry Training at Camp Crockett in Georgia.

"Most of the advanced training in the army in those days was still to fight a ground war and tank war in Europe, like World War II. But at Camp Crockett, we were off in the woods and they had set up little villages, just like in Vietnam."

Next stop was Fort Benning for jump school. "The theory was that when you're standing in the door of the airplane and looking down at the ground thousands of feet below you, you'll either be apprehensive or scared to death. You do what you have to do not to be scared."

Newman said that there were 1,100 soldiers at jump school when he was, and only 500 made it through.

"Yes, I remember my first jump well. I was so pumped up. There was the wind, the noise, and then you step out and you're floating and you see the misty horizon and it's quiet. It's absolutely amazing. I loved it."

By February 1968, Newman was on a commercial airliner making stops at Hawaii and Guam on its way to Vietnam.

Stepping off the plane at Cam Ranh Bay was a shock to the senses. "I remember the heat, the humidity and musty smell. They said that us northern boys had a tougher time getting used to the temperatures than the southern guys. The humidity was extreme. I remember during the monsoon season one time it got down to 60 degrees and you could see your breath."

The first week was spent in training to get the replacements used to the climate and the new life they would be living. Then, it was an air hop to Fu Bai, in the far north of South Vietnam, where a sergeant looked at his orders and determined that Newman had been sent to the wrong place.

The 101st, however, was mired in the final stages of the Tet Offensive at the time, and the sergeant simply changed Newman's orders to report to the "1st of the O-Deuce" or, in regular lingo, the First Battalion of the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment.

His first duty station was LZ Sally, but he was immediately sent up to the An Lo Bridge, across the Perfume River. The Seabees were rebuilding a bridge there and the 101st was their protection.

Newman was first a grenadier, and then was tried out as an RTO, or radio operator. "But I was too small for that. You had to carry a 90-pound pack."

Then one day his squad was ambushed and everyone was killed except for Newman and the sergeant, Scotty. "He said to me, 'You know what this means?' I said it meant that we would need a lot of replacements. He said, 'No, it means that we need a new point man, and you're it.' I asked him who would train me, and he said he'd keep an eye on me."

Newman had no problem with his new duty, which meant being in front of the squad anywhere from 25 yards in the jungle to 200 yards in the rice paddies, as they forayed into the countryside.

"I was good at it. I had the right skill set for the job. One of the skills was anticipation."

As things quieted down from the Tet Offensive, the local population began to move back to An Lo, and set up their local businesses again. One of the shops had a local barber who cut the troopers' hair.

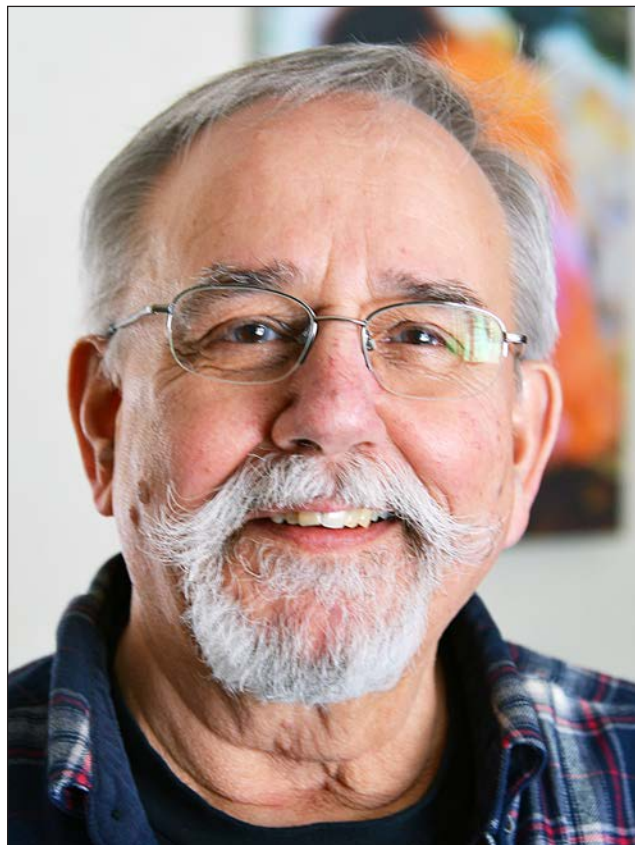
One night, Newman's squad set up an ambush for the Viet Cong, and caught six of them in a blaze of gunfire. In the morning, they looked at the bodies and one of them was the local barber.

Tom Newman figures there were 26 times during his year in Vietnam where he should have been killed or seriously wounded. None of them happened. He attributes it to divine intervention.

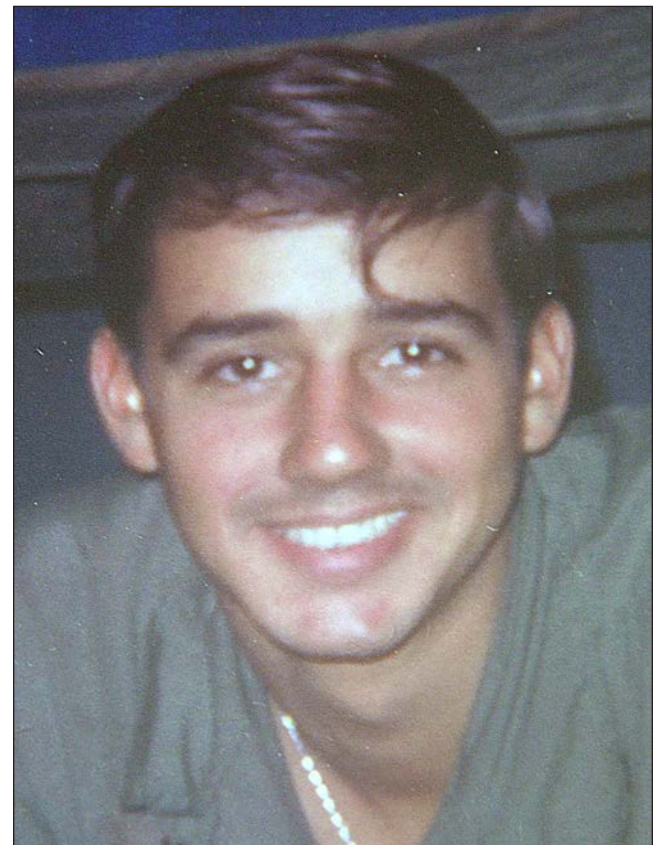


On one outing in the A Shau Valley, Newman was walking the point. "Someone started shooting at me, and I hit the ground. Just then a mortar round hit about five feet away. It knocked me unconscious, and all the guys thought I was killed.

"I woke up about 10 hours later, and I was all by myself."



TOM NEWMAN
At home in Eden Prairie



TOM NEWMAN
in Vietnam

It was lonely and terrifying. I figured the squad had to be back down the path we had been traveling, so I followed it.”

When I walked into the position, the guys thought they were seeing a ghost. That’s when they started calling me ‘Lucky.’”

The nickname stuck. By his own count, Newman said there were 26 times while he was in Vietnam where he should have been killed or severely wounded. “But somehow I escaped every time. I began to look at war as divine intervention and luck.”

After Tet, the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army were decimated, Newman said. The NVA began to adopt the tactics of the Viet Cong and used smaller units. They would do a quick attack on a village or base. We called them ‘shoot and scoot’ attacks.”

The general schedule for his team, Newman said, was 30 days out in the country and then two days’ rest back at a base camp. When patrolling, he would take the point every third day. He said the life expectancy of a point man was about 11 days.

Newman said that on patrols, the Americans would often find shallow graves filled with Vietnamese people from a local village. “The Viet Cong would kill the teachers, the politicians, the doctors, anybody they thought might organize the people against them.”

He also learned of what they called North Vietnamese recruiting. “They would come into a village and shoot the chief’s youngest child. Then they’d tell the villagers that unless all the young men joined them, that’s what would happen to their families. They took everyone 14 and older.

“It was about this time that I came to realize that what we were really fighting was evil.”

As Newman was slogging through the jungle in the A Chau Valley one day, he and his comrades came across an orphanage. “I went inside, and a little girl took my hand and led me into a back room. She brought me a book, and by this time there are 15 kids sitting there. It was a Vietnamese book, and I just tried to sound out the words. After about a half hour, the lady running the orphanage said it was time for the kids to go to bed. She asked me where I had learned to speak Vietnamese. I said I couldn’t. If I ever spoke in tongues, I guess that was that day.”

One day, Newman was walking point and the column had reached a river, and the troops were backed up a ways. Two enemy machine guns opened up on the American troops.

“I was already in the water, and I turned around just in time to see my buddy get shot in the mouth.”

Newman took a LAW (an M-72 light anti-tank weapon) out of his rucksack and fired at the machine gun nests and silenced them. He was later put in for a Silver Star for his actions by his commanding officer, but the request was denied because according to war conventions the LAW was only supposed to be used for tanks and not in the open.

After crossing the river, the Americans encountered a copse of 2-300 trees. They tried crossing through them, but kept meeting resistance. “We pulled back and then we tried again. But there were too many of them so it was decided to shell the woods.”

The three point men in the company were sent to three sides of the woods to observe the shelling and prevent anyone from trying to get away. Newman was at the top of the woods as the rest of the troops withdrew.

“One of our shells came tumbling along heading right for me. It was just tumbling end over end and it finally landed about 15 feet away from me and splattered mud all over me. And it didn’t go off.”

Newman said he came to a reckoning after that incident. “I said, ‘Lord, this has nothing to do with me, this is all in Your hands.’ It was a turning point. After that I figured I was bullet proof until they brought me home.”

Newman said he saw terrible instances of friendly fire in Vietnam where whole platoons of soldiers were wiped out by their own artillery. “Friendly fire was way under-reported in the war. There isn’t a combat vet over there that hasn’t seen it.”

The closest Newman came to dying, and he says he did die, was not from enemy fire but an attack by mother nature.

“We were going to check out this village and they sent us in the Hueys (attack helicopters) in whisper mode. That’s where they would flatten the rotors on the chopper so you couldn’t hear them coming in.

“My buddy was in front of me, and he brushed a wasp nest with his rifle, and all the wasps came after me. All the insects in Vietnam are larger. The centipedes are like a foot long. These wasps were as big as your finger.”

Newman was stung eleven times around his face and neck. “I’ve never experienced that kind of pain in my life.

“They called for a medic, and he wanted to call in the dust-off (medical helicopter) but first we had to finish our mission in the village.”

Meanwhile the wasps’ poison worked in Newman’s body.

“Finally, I was taken back to LZ Sally. By that time I had no facial features anymore because my head was so swollen. I was lying on the table and they were working on me and I completely flatlined. I had stopped breathing and I was in complete cardiac arrest.”



Newman, lower right, had his picture taken with members of his unit.



Newman served with the 101st Airborne.



Newman spent a year in Vietnam, usually walking the point or doing tunnel rat duty. He had so many close calls that he figured God was keeping him alive.



A smoke break along the way was a moment of peace in a dangerous place.

Newman said he had an out-of-body experience.

"My spirit and soul left my body and I was in the operating room above while they worked on me. I just watched. I was 100 percent conscious, and I couldn't figure out why I could see them and they couldn't see me."

The doctors got his heart going again, and Newman said he returned to his body. But he knew the experience was real, and so he asked one of the orderlies, "Tell me why you were taking blood out of one arm and putting blood in my other arm."

"The orderly looked at me with wide eyes. 'How the hell could you know that? You were gone.'"

The war even had some humor now and then.

"When we were at An Lo Bridge providing security, we were supposed to be getting one beer and one Coke every day as part of our ration. But the Seabees who were building the bridge were intercepting our Cokes and selling them by the case to the mama-sans. Then the kids would come by and sell us Cokes for a dollar apiece."

Then one day, An Lo came under attack and the paratroopers were called in to help. "They radioed that we needed to come on the double, but our officer got on the radio and said we would love to come and help but we couldn't because we were too thirsty."

But, of course, the 502nd did respond. "They told us to fix bayonets because all the fighting would be hand to hand. And that's exactly what it was, all bayonets and rifle butts."

As the fighting went on, Newman said he suddenly realized that he was surrounded by five VC, all standing right in front of him. "The next thing I remember is walking back up the hill through the underbrush. To this day, I have no idea what happened. I have no idea how I got out of that situation."

The 502nd beat back the attack and saved the Seabees. "We were never in want of our rations of Coke and beer again."

On a mission near Hue, Newman and another point man were moving through the hedgerows when Newman came upon a two-story pink-stucco house, a rarity in that part of Vietnam. Newman checked out the house, while the other soldier moved ahead. A sudden explosion told Newman that his companion had tripped a booby trap. "I raced down the sidewalk, and he was all torn up. I yelled for the medic, and I started trying to stop the blood flow."

"But when the medic got there, he said there was too much blood and he couldn't see anything. He said he needed water. I said there was a rain barrel by the house, and a trooper grabbed three or four helmets and headed back down the sidewalk. He hit a booby trap and it took both his legs off."

"That was the same sidewalk I had just come down. Both of those guys died."

In the end, Newman spent 278 days in combat, much of it as a point man. When he wasn't on the point, he also worked as a tunnel rat, a job that no one wanted. When a tunnel was located, it was his job to go underground.

"I only weighed 125 pounds, and my face and arms were brown for being outside all the time, and my hair was black. The theory was that the Viet Cong wouldn't shoot me because I looked just like them."

A problem was that taking his M-16 into the tunnels was clumsy, but the Army would not give him a pistol. "I even wrote my dad to send me a pistol. But then one day we killed a Chinese officer and he had a 9 millimeter. I used that revolver for the rest of the time."

As his year's tour in Vietnam wound down, one day while on a rest break, Newman was called in to see the commanding officer. "He said that he was looking at my record and that I'd been over 250 days on line and had never taken an in-country R&R. I said that was correct. He said that he could see that I'd never taken my out-of-country R&R. I told him that was correct."

"He looked at me and said, 'Trooper, you've done enough.'"

Newman was given R&R in Hawaii, and when he returned he was assigned to the base for the last 45 days of his tour. "It was my job to train the new guys and tell them what Charlie was up to."

In his year at war, he had participated in 76 helicopter insertions, 54 of them into hot landing zones. He earned two Bronze Stars and an Air Medal.

He was sent home again on a commercial flight that went from Vietnam to Japan to Alaska to Connecticut. "When I got to the Connecticut airport, they sent me to the USO lounge. They said that uniforms were not welcome at the airport. So I spent six hours in that lounge waiting for my flight to Minnesota."

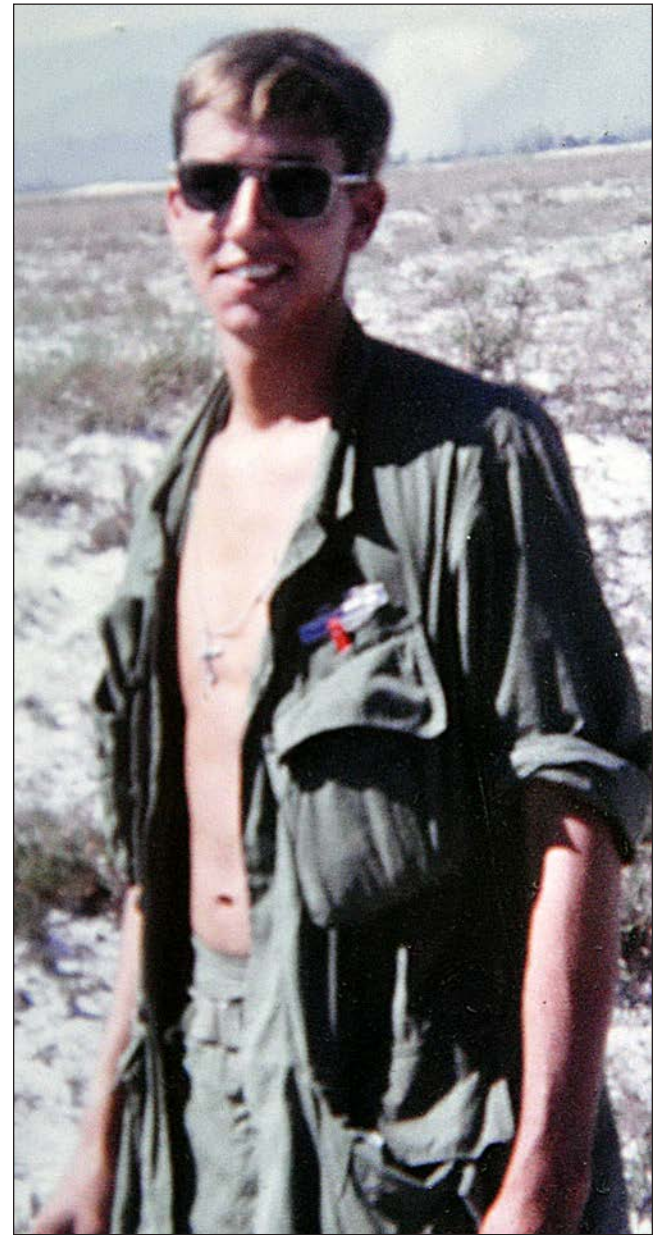
He completed his final 18 months at Fort Bragg as the non-commissioned officer in charge of operations. He enjoyed jumping out of airplanes so much that he did 35 additional jumps during the year and a half. "I was filling out the muster sheets, so if a guy didn't show up, I'd just take his place. The sergeant in charge of the jumps would see me and say, 'Well, who are we today?'"

Back home, he earned a degree in psychology from the University of Minnesota. "I had a quest to find answers in my life, but I didn't find it there."

He became a manager at the Cork and Cleaver restaurant, and when that closed, he took a job as the corporate food service manager for Super Valu. "I showed them how to make good food in their delis."

He retired six years ago. He was married and divorced, and has two adult children.

Along the way he has written three books, two of them about the history of the Bible and one of them a memoir of his experiences in Vietnam called *Just War*. Newman has also written a screenplay of *Just War*. He is now working on



Newman was 125 pounds of paratrooper.

a fourth book about God's anointing of America.

He is a frequent speaker around the Twin Cities, and he says he has received a great deal of feedback on his book from veterans who said it helped them.

"I came back from Vietnam an angry man, but I didn't want to be angry. Writing the book helped me. I don't have PTSD because I tell my story. And I think I can help others."

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

By
Jeremy Wolfsteller



Disabled vets automobile benefits

I'm going to share my recent frustrations purchasing a vehicle and trying to apply Federal VA and Minnesota State automobile benefits. In sharing this, my attempt is to provide a learning experience for anyone who may go through this process in the future. To really understand what led to my frustrations that took me, a veterans advocate, about five months to reconcile you should know about the benefits first.

Let's go over the Federal VA side of things. I'll provide an overview of Title 38 USC Sec 3902 (VA Automobile and Adaptive Equipment Allowance). The VA administers a couple of automobile grants that certain veterans are eligible for. Let's cover the one-time automobile allowance first since most of the time veterans need to be approved for this before they can receive the adaptive automobile grant, which I'll cover briefly next.

To be eligible for the one-time automobile allowance of not more than \$20,577.18, for the purchase of a new or used vehicle, a veteran must have acquired one of the following disabilities as a result of their service; Loss or permanent loss of use of one or both feet, hands, permanent impairment of vision to a certain level, severe burns or ALS.

This grant is paid directly to the seller of the automobile. Once the VA has determined the veteran is eligible for the allowance, they also approve of the adaptive automobile grant which is specific to the veterans disabilities. If a veteran wants to apply the adaptive grant to the purchase of a vehicle, they must fill out a separate application and submit it to the VA Medical Centers Prosthetics Department for approval and the VA fiduciary letter.

Unlike the automobile one-time allowance, the VA adaptive automobile grant can be continuously applied to two vehicles at once over a 4-year period. When a 4-year period falls off then the veteran can reapply for adaptive auto grant to be applied to another vehicle. Veterans can also be found eligible for this grant if they have ankylosis (immobility of the joint) of one or both knees or hips that VA recognizes as being service-connected or treats as if service-connected under 38 U.S.C. 1151.

Uff da, now that we got through that I'll get into some specifics of the adaptive portion of the grant that's based on veterans disabilities. VA issues reimbursements to veterans for certain standard equipment that is considered adaptive. The Veterans Health Administrations (VHA) Directive 2011-046 explains the reimbursable amounts for standard equipment like automatic transmission, power brakes, power steering, power windows etc. when applying the adaptive auto grant towards the purchase of a vehicle. This payment is made directly to the veteran from the VA once the vehicle is purchased.

Now here comes the problem area. In Minnesota, legislation was passed that amended Minnesota State Statue 297A.67 (General Tax Exemptions) to include Subdivision 11 (automobiles; disabled veterans). This sounds good right? Well it would be only if both the car dealerships (Title Department) and the Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Department where familiar with the MN State statute. Subsection 11 reads automobiles or other conveyances are exempt if the purchaser is assisted by a grant from the United States in accordance with United States Code, title 38, section 3902 (Veterans Affairs). Now recall the previously discussed reimbursable amounts for standard equipment?

This is the part that makes a veteran tax exempt under MN State Statue 297A.67. On the application for title under section D it lists exemption codes 1-10 which #6 reads, a disabled veteran purchased vehicle with funds provided by the Veterans Administration, must submit letter from the VA. The issue is that you'll find dealerships that never processed this sales tax benefit through their title department and will tell the veteran they can't withhold the sales tax and that the veteran must pay it up front and file for

reimbursement from the DMV.

This is wrong, and why would you wrap sales tax at 6.5% into your 5 year loan at 4% interest rate when you should be exempt upfront? I recommend you show the title person at the dealership on the PS2000-44 (Application for Title) that under Sec D you're exempt and you have the letter from the VA for them to submit to the DMV.

Now the next problem is that most front-line individuals working at the DMV that receive the PS2000-44 forms are not familiar with tax exemption code 6 and send it back to the dealer. The dealer then calls you and request that you pay sales tax because the DMV denied it after you already purchased the vehicle otherwise you won't receive your plates and the vehicle will not be registered.

This happened to me 5 months after purchasing my vehicle. I learned of this by not receiving an updated temporary sticker for my car. I went in to get another 60-day sticker and they said the DMV denied me being eligible for the tax exemption and that they can't issue me another window sticker till I pay the sales tax of approx. \$2,000.

I became very upset at this point and told them to provide me with all the documentation they sent to the DMV and that I was going to go there myself, mind you with the all the paperwork and State Statue in hand. Within 30 minutes at the local DMV working with a supervisor they approved of my tax exemption and called the dealership and asked for them to send the paperwork to their location for approval and then to send up to the State.

It's important to understand that under MN State Statue 168.031 registration tax and fees are also exempt when applying your VA adaptive auto benefit. This means the veteran does NOT have to pay for annual tabs for the vehicle for as long as they own it.

My suggestion is never allowing the dealership to wrap the sales tax into your loan and request from the DMV a reimbursement. If you need representation on applying the automobile allowance or adaptive automobile grant to a vehicle, please give me a call.

jwolfsteller@mmlegion.org

District Commanders

FIRST DISTRICT

Les Shaunce
Commander



It was great to see such a good turn out at the annual Department Appreciation Rally. The Vice-commanders deserve the recognition for a job well done. Buffalo Post 270 was a great host.

Veterans Day on the Hill was a huge success. The new format really worked well. It worked a lot better to have the lawmakers come to us instead of us going to them. I think the attendance was the largest in years.

It was a busy month visiting posts, honoring the Legion's 99th Birthday. Everyone is looking forward to the 100th.

April seems to be a slow month except for Testimonials. Plan to attend your related testimonials to show your appreciation for the job your Legion team has done.

We had our Jr. Conference Saturday, March 17th. Very poor turn out. We as leaders have to make sure we give these young ladies all the help and support they need to be successful. If we want them to stay in the family we need to mentor them.

SECOND DISTRICT

Randy Olson
Commander



Spring is here and with that a renewal in excitement for our American Legion Family. As I look to the future of our great organization, I ask you all to help build our Family. A Legion Post has a better chance of staying a vital part of every community if it has a strong membership, has a strong Auxiliary and a strong Sons of American Legion. Thus, think of all the posts who do not have an SAL or Legion Riders Charter. Is this what the missing links are to becoming the force of veteran support we need? I invite all Posts to actively take part in a new spring to rebuild our Family.

I'm saddened by the loss of a few of our Veterans recently to suicide. When you need to talk call 800-273-8255(talk) & then press 1. All Veterans mean the world to me and it's not acceptable to lose any one of you. Please remember that.

Veterans Day on the Hill was very productive & was very well represented. Thank you to all who gave of your time for our veterans.

The District Convention is approaching fast & Hotel reservations need to be made soon for Rochester. I hope to see everyone there.

The 2nd District Family Testimonial will be held on May 5th at 209 South Main in Blue Earth, Mn. at Hamilton Hall, 5:00 Social Hour & Meal at 6:00. Call for tickets.

THIRD DISTRICT

Eugene Leifeld
Commander



April is now upon us and there are several testimonials to thank all those Legionnaires who are in leadership positions for their dedication and hard work throughout the last year. Everyone please check your rosters and ask who is eligible to be members of the American Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion. Let us reach out to those whose memberships have expired and find out why they are expired.

There are many unit deployments forthcoming this year. Let us all join together and help out getting to know soldiers and their families. As American Legion members, let us all work together on the different ways that we can help these veterans and their families during deployments. When the National Commander Denise Rohan was here visiting posts in February, she mentioned "Legion families must work together" we need to take care of our veterans.

The time has come to do Post Consolidated Reports (CPR) and submit reports for Boys Scouts, Firefighter of the Year, and Law Enforcement Officer of the year. This is the time to start preparing for the CPR and the reports for your posts.

FOURTH DISTRICT

Lane Stunkel
Commander



As of Bulletin 37, the 4th District membership is at 89.71%, we are only 3 percentage points behind the 1st and 6th Districts, and that number is getting smaller, let's keep the pressure on. Next month let's make it 2 points or better. Please reach out to your Vice Commanders and

Membership Director Mickey; they are available to work with you on membership, we are all here to help out. Congratulations to Business & Professional Post 450 and Arcade Phalen Post 577 for making goal. Let's work hard to find new members and retain our existing members.

It was a pleasure to attend the Department Oratorical Contest in Anoka, what an event; all of the contestants were outstanding, congratulations to the winner Emily Parker from Lino Lakes.

April 11th - RCCC - 7PM - N St Paul Post 39 - Please plan on attending this special RCCC meeting.

April 15th - VA Hospital Visitation - 12 Noon

April 20th - 4th District Joint Testimonial, Tickets \$15 - 5:30 Social Hour, Dinner at 6:30, Program to follow - Arcade Phalen **Please contact myself or Auxiliary President Lynn Olson for testimonial tickets.

April 21st - Department Commander's Testimonial - Jackpot Junction

April 28th - Department President's Testimonial - Willmar

God bless each and every one of you of the 4th District American Legion Family and please think of our ailing members in your prayers.

FIFTH DISTRICT

Walt Lyndsley
Commander



It is the time of the year that some people dread..the tax man cometh and the annual consolidated post reports are due. Even though you have nothing to report, just sign, date and forward it. Our 5th district project this year is to provide art work for the new building at the Minneapolis Veterans Home. Wold Chamberlain was kind enough to prepare a spaghetti dinner with the proceeds going to the project. Thanks Chef Joe Bayer and the rest of their post and auxiliary for the contribution. Membership chairman, John Austin, did a great job of wrangling up some old memberships. Four of our posts are at 100%. Yay team. Our testimonial dinner is Saturday, April 14th at Post 1, which is located at 2507 25th Ave So. in Minneapolis. Roast beef, mashed potatoes, vegetable, salad and dessert are on the menu, all for a mere \$15.00. Please come. Cocktails at 5, dinner at 6. Poppy time is right around the corner and we need to actively participate by educating the public about the meaning and purpose of the beautiful poppy.

SIXTH DISTRICT

Ken Johnstone
Commander



March was a busy month as always with District and Department activities. I attended eighteen different functions, starting with the Department Executive Board and Post meetings. On March 10th, we had the Department Executive Board and the Appreciation Rally in Buffalo. We accomplished a lot at the Executive Board, but the Appreciation Rally could have been better for the membership turn-in. I felt the number was really low. It was great to see and meet, after the rally, with the other District Commanders. It is amazing what can get done in a few minutes, if you try. I am looking forward to see you all again at Commander Mike's Testimonial.

Regarding membership, Sixth District is still in first place, but not by much. There is a long way to go for all of us, if we are to get the Department of Minnesota to 100 percent by the National Convention.

We cannot forget April 1st, when we have both Easter and April Fools Day at the same time. Who is going to fool who? Stay safe in your travels and keep our troops in your prayers.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

Richard Wog
Commander



I want apologize for last newsletter. I said it was the 100 year anniversary and it is the 99th year. I was thinking they meant it was Paris in 1918 when they formed an organization to take care of world war veterans. Also, I got so involved in the birthday I forgot to say thank you to Litchfield Post 104 and Spicer Post 545 for hosting the national commanders' tour. Both posts did an outstanding job; the meals were wonderful and the service and respect given to all those who attended was second to none. I was able to attend both events and Commander Denise Rohan did such an outstanding job. She gave a different speech at each post, but the topic was the same, family first and let's take care of our veterans.

Now all the rallies are done, but that does not mean we

stop looking for members. There are some of our post members who have not paid their 2018 dues. Let's go and get them, call them, go to their homes and invite them to the post, but do something to bring them back. I was at a meeting and we were talking about membership. I was told about two young veterans that were asked to join. They said what is in it for me. Think about that and have an answer. We as a district are a little behind and we need to get caught up. We need to get to the next level of 95% or higher soon and 100% would be better. Put the pedal to the metal and put it in passing gear.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

Donovan Goblirsch
Commander



To all Posts: it is time to finish up the membership. Contact the snow birds that are coming home from their warm winter escapes and pick up their membership dues. Also remind them of the many meals that your local posts sponsor during the week. This is a good reason to visit the posts weekly.

Note: The 8th District will not have a testimonial this year. The Auxiliary and the Post have a very busy time, so this year we will forego this event.

Note 2: We, of the 8th District and the Auxiliary, will not have an Hospitality Room at the Department convention in Rochester.

I would like to pay tribute to our District Adjutant Carl Hendrickson. Carl received an appreciation award at the March 10th Department meeting in Buffalo. It surely makes the district run smoothly when you have an Adjutant like Carl.

Remember the district project at the Silver Bay Veterans Home. Give a donation to this great home for our Vets.

I want to give a special tribute to the Dover Air Force Base Funeral staff that prepare the military dead for going home to their families. This staff, often on their own time, take care to present the deceased military member in a way that family members can connect with. The staff will reconstruct a deceased soldier's hand destroyed in battle, so that the mother can hold her son's hand one last time.

NINTH DISTRICT

Tim Haugen
Commander



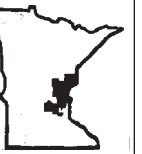
What a busy March: Department Appreciation Rally in Buffalo (Congrats to Lowell Philp as the 9th District Vice-Commander of the year), Membership/Homemade Donuts Rally at the Fergus Falls Veterans Home on St. Patty's Day, American Legion's 99th Birthday Dinner's at Bagley Post 16 and Moorhead Post 21 where we recognized our 50, 60 & 70 year continuous member's and had two special guests, Michael Schaffer, Department Commander & Jean Walker, Auxiliary First Vice-President.

We continue to push membership and met the National target goal for the 8th straight month. We've made great strides and are currently in 4th place, but we are closing the gap on the 6th District and trail by only 0.65% and the 1st & 3rd District by 0.27%. We're only 189 away from the April 11th Target Date (95%) and I'm feeling pretty good about making this goal.

Consolidated Post Reports (CPR's) and Post Officer Reports (POR's) are soon coming due, so start collecting and computing your data to get credit for all you do for our veterans, community and children. As soon as you have your elections please send in the POR so we have the current information on Post Officers for next year.

TENTH DISTRICT

Paul Hassing
Commander



I have a question. How many of you have taken advantage of the free American Legion Boot Camp course? It used to be called the extension course, and it was available, but you had to pay for it. It is now free for all members. Please take the course. It will not only teach you a lot about The American Legion, but it will renew some of the feelings you once had about belonging to the largest veterans service organization in the world. It has great history, and program information. It helps when you are talking to eligible veterans about joining.

This is a great organization that can be better. We currently do a lot of great things. We can do other great things that haven't been thought of yet. New members bring in new ideas, and more hands to lighten the load.

All of you do so much for veterans and their families, and I am so proud of all of you. Keep up the great work, and we will continue for 100 more years.

World War II History Round Table

OSS woman used black ops to fight the war

By Al Zdon

The Office of Strategic Services, America's spy network during World War II, went to extraordinary lengths to help win the war.

Ann Todd, a historian from Texas, told the March World War II History Round Table about one woman's effort to affect morale in the Japanese Army and homeland.

Todd, who has worked with National Geographic and the National Museum of the Marine Corps, is the author of *OSS, Operation Black Mail, One Woman's Covert War Against the Imperial Japanese Army*.

Todd gave a brief history of the OSS and its creator and director, William Donovan, a Wall Street lawyer and World War I Medal of Honor recipient.

She gave several descriptions of OSS operatives. "But

my favorite description of an OSS agent is 'A PhD who could win a bar fight.'"

Donovan had many enemies in the military, but he had one strong supporter in President Roosevelt. "FDR loved all things covert and cloak and dagger."

Elizabeth "Betty" McIntosh started her career as newspaper woman, working for her father at the Honolulu Advertiser. She was assigned to the sports desk, which she hated. "She tried to get out of that assignment by purposely misspelling the name of Hawaii's hero, Duke Kahanamoku."

As a young woman, she became fluent in Japanese by living with an older Japanese couple.

When the war started, she got a job for Scripps-Howard as a war correspondent covering Hawaii. She soon found, though, that little of her reporting got through because of military censors.

"Then she found out that her husband, Alex, was one of the Navy censors who was destroying her writing, and that's when the mother of all marital squabbles erupted."

She was recruited into the OSS because of her knowledge of the Japanese language and culture, Todd said.

"It was a new branch of the OSS called Morale Operations. They did what they could to demoralize the enemy."

Todd called McIntosh "a psychological warrior," and she used a variety of methods to get inside the enemy's head. She got poems inserted in Japanese newspapers that called for surrender. She had messages inscribed on Japanese matchboxes that could weaken morale.

"The Japanese valued everything aesthetic in ordinary life, and so each matchbox or fake writing had to have the right paper, the right inks."

In 1944, she was transferred to the OSS operations in China and worked with such people as Julia McWilliams, who later became the popular American chef, Julia Childs.

One of McIntosh's schemes was to intercept postcards the soldiers and families were exchanging and change the message through skilled forgery.

"A postcard home from a soldier to his wife might say 'Don't believe the government. We are losing the war. And, by the way, I'm leaving you for a native woman.'"

A postcard from a wife to her husband might be changed to say, "I am sleeping with a local official so I can get more rations for the children."

She authored a fake surrender order that was widely distributed in Burma, and Japanese soldiers who surrendered

were carrying the fake document with them.

Todd said the OSS tried everything it could think of. "Usually, they never knew if it worked."

She said McIntosh also had a few quirks, like having a dog no matter where she went. "She inherited one dog that had become an alcoholic. When McIntosh came home from a hard day's work in China and had a martini, the dog did too."

McIntosh later worked for the State Department, the Voice of America and the CIA, bringing her skills to the post-war era. She also wrote a book called *Undercover Girl* after the war.

She lived to be 100 years old, and Todd came to be her friend during the last years of her life.



AUTHOR ANN TODD



OSS AGENT BETTY McINTOSH

Minneapolis VA study looks at opioid use

By Ralph Heussner

Minneapolis VA Public Affairs Officer

A yearlong study published in the March 6, 2018, issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association by a team of Minneapolis VA researchers offers strong evidence against using prescription opioids for chronic pain.

The study involved 240 patients suffering chronic pain from 62 Minneapolis VA primary care clinics who were assigned to use generic versions of opioids or nonopioids for a year. Follow-up ended in 2016.

Chronic pain was defined as nearly-daily pain for 6 or more months.

The results likely will surprise many people "because opioids have this reputation as being really powerful painkillers, and that is not what we found," said lead author Dr. Erin Krebs, a physician and researcher with the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Health Care System's Center for Chronic Disease Outcome Research.

In patients with chronic back aches or hip or knee arthritis, opioids worked no better than over-the-counter drugs or other nonopioids at reducing problems with walking or sleeping. And they provided slightly less pain relief.

Opioids tested included generic Vicodin, oxycodone or fentanyl patches — although few patients needed the most potent opioids. Nonopioids included generic Tylenol, ibuprofen and prescription pills for nerve or muscle pain. The study randomly assigned patients to take opioids or other painkillers. That's the gold standard design for research.

Among the 240 patients, 234 completed the trial. There was no significant difference in mean pain-related function over 12 months between the two groups, but nonopioid patients reported a slightly better score. Pain intensity was also better — this time, significantly so — for the nonopioid group over 12 months.

Study results support federal guidelines against routine use of opioids for chronic pain.

In 2016, U.S. government guidelines said opioids are not the preferred treatment for chronic pain. Guidelines recommend non-drug treatment or nonopioid painkillers instead. Opioids should only be used if other methods don't work for chronic pain, the guidelines recommend.

About 42,000 drug overdose deaths in the U.S. in 2016

involved opioids, including prescription painkillers, heroin and fentanyl. Many people get hooked while taking opioids prescribed for injuries or other short-term pain and move on to cheaper, more accessible illicit drugs like heroin.

According to Krebs, the strongest evidence from other studies shows that physical therapy, exercise or rehabilitation therapy works best for chronic pain. And she noted that there are a variety of nonopioid drugs to try if one type doesn't work.



REPORT AUTHOR -- Dr. Erin Krebs is the lead author of the opioid report. She is physician and researcher with the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Health Care System's Center for Chronic Disease Outcome Research. (Photo by April Eilers)



GRADUATE OF THE YEAR -- Jerry Terrell, former Twins player from Elysian, was the winner of the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year Award. He lives in Missouri.



CENTENARIAN -- Lloyd Dawley, who served as a tank mechanic in World War II, got his 70-year award from Baudette Post 217. He is 100 years old.

Ferguson memorial service will be held in Ironton June 9

Minnesota lost one of its longest-serving Department Adjutants in March when Chuck Ferguson, who held the post from 1978 to 1994, died from complications stemming from dementia.

Ferguson, 85, served in Korea, earning two Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts.

"I never knew anyone who was more dedicated to The American Legion and the cause we serve," said Dan Ludwig, Past National Commander who served as Department Commander while Ferguson was Adjutant.

"He was a humble man, but he knew what our mission was and he never wavered. He had a pure heart and he was a good man," Ludwig said.

Ferguson was born in 1932 in Brampton, N.D., the second of eight children. He joined the National Guard at Cogswell, N.D., in 1949.

He taught for a year in a one-room schoolhouse before his unit was called up to fight in Korea.

The story of his military service was told in the first *War Stories* book. He arrived in Korea in 1951 and served with the First Cavalry Division.

He was wounded by a sniper on Hill 334, north of Seoul, not long after he arrived. After recovering, he rejoined his unit which was stationed on the Main Line of Resistance.

The day before Thanksgiving in 1951, Ferguson's unit was sent back to Hill 334 for routine guard duty.

The Chinese picked that night to attack and sent thousand of artillery shells into the hill and then attacked with overwhelming numbers.

Ferguson was hit in the chest by a bullet early on, but continued to oppose the enemy by guarding a nearby trench. The enemy captured the top of the hill and began lobbing hand grenades at the U.S. soldiers below.

Ferguson was able to kick four grenades out of the

trench, the the fifth one exploded and sent shrapnel up both of his legs and on the side of his face.

He passed out, and two hours later he woke and he and another soldier tried to make it back to the American lines. Ferguson, crawling on hands and knees, found himself caught in the barbed wire with a Chinese soldier standing over him.

The soldier shot at him and missed, and then shot again, hitting Ferguson in the right hand. Ferguson rolled over and played dead, and the soldier left him alone.

He passed out, and woke up sometime later when he heard a voice saying, "Hey, sarge, this one's still alive."

He had lost eight pints of blood, and spend six months recuperating in hospitals. His 48-man unit on Hill 334 earned three Distinguished Service Crosses, 12 Silver Stars and a Medal of Honor during that battle.

He returned to college and taught math for 21 years, the last 17 at Crosby-Ironton. Along the way, he became increasingly active in The American Legion.

He was Sixth District Commander in 1965-66, Sixth District Adjutant in 1976-77, and Department Vice Commander from 1974-75.

He joined the National Legion staff as a Children and Youth Assistant Director in Indianapolis, and then returned to Minnesota to become the Department Adjutant.

"He was a joy to work with, and he taught me a lot," Ludwig said. "He always gave good advice. He was right on, all of the time."

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy, and his partner, Joanne Momsen. He is survived by two sons and two daughters and several grandchildren.

The memorial service is planned for June 9 at the Ironton Post. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked the donations be made to Minnesota Boys State.



CHARLES 'CHUCK' FERGUSON
1932-2018

National Legacy Run route will go from Kansas to Minnesota

The route for the 2018 American Legion Legacy Run, a cross-country motorcycle ride that raises scholarship funds, will both provide opportunities to honor fallen veterans and Legion Riders to interact with members from several American Legion posts coming up on their 100th birthday.

The Legacy Run will leave Hutchinson, Kan. – where Post 68 will host kickoff events – on Aug. 19 and arrive in Minneapolis for the 2018 National Convention. The ride will make stops in Missouri, Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin before finishing Aug. 23 at Anoka Post 102 in Minnesota.

At various stops along the way Legion Riders will take part in wreath-laying ceremonies at various memorials and cemeteries, as well as make lunch and dinner stops at Legion posts whose charters all date between 1919-1921.

Riders also will visit the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library, the Indian Motorcycle Factory and the Spam museum.

Check back at www.legion.org/riders or at the National

American Legion Riders Facebook page for updates and registration information.

The Legacy Run raises money for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, which provides college assistance for the children of U.S. military personnel killed on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, as well as children of post-9/11 veterans with a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or higher.

The 2017 Legacy Run raised a record \$1,224,653 – the fourth straight year the ride raised more than \$1 million. In 12 years, the Legacy Run has now raised more than \$8 million.

The Minnesota Legion Riders are also planning their annual two-weekend state run, but have not yet announced the official route. That announcement is expected in the next few weeks.

Last year, the Minnesota Riders raised \$200,000 for the Legacy Scholarship, the most by any state.

This year, the goal has been set for \$250,000 to be presented at the 100th annual convention in Minneapolis.

Mackedanz event April 21

A remembrance service will be held on Saturday, April 21, to honor Lyle Mackedanz, Hutchinson, who was part of a five-person crew that disappeared in Vietnam 50 years ago.

The event will be held at the McLeod County Veterans Park in Hutchinson, and it will begin at 2 p.m.

In a special salute, a vintage Huey helicopter will be flying in and landing at the site.

Tax deductible donations for the event can be sent to Box 251, Kandiyohi, MN 56251.

Those attending should bring lawn chairs. For more information, call Ron Mackedanz, 320-894-7840.

Annual Department Financial Report

INCOME STATEMENT

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

Department Income

Department Dues Income	\$754,290
Less: MN Legionnaire Portion	\$(221,208)
Revenue Enhancement	\$164,998
Grants	\$150,085
Investment Income	\$138,641
LIT Insurance - (Royalties)	\$120,169
Donations / Contributions	\$1,332
In-Kind Rent	\$78,082
Miscellaneous Income	\$15,178
Total Department Income:	\$1,201,567

STATEMENT OF BUDGET EXPENSE

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

Headquarters Exp.	Budgeted	Disbursed
Administration Sal.	\$308,000	\$305,758
FICA Expense	\$23,600	\$22,770
FUTA Expense	\$400	\$308
SUTA Expense	\$380	\$334
Gp. Health & Life Ins.	\$62,500	\$64,817
Employee's Ret. Fund	\$30,300	\$31,405
Unbudgeted Expense	\$0	\$0
Audit Expense	\$8,440	\$8,741
Invest. Mgmt Fees	\$6,716	\$7,876
Furniture & Fixtures	\$1,000	\$999
General Office Exp.	\$47,900	\$51,350
Elect. Eq., Maint & Md.	\$26,500	\$26,316
Insurance (Other)	\$10,891	\$10,891
Program Promotions	\$0	\$0
Travel Expense	\$12,300	\$16,005
Emergency Fund	\$500	\$0
Telephone	\$8,200	\$8,733
Misc. Expense	\$0	\$31
Prior Year Voided Cks	\$0	\$0
In & Out		\$2,666
Total HQ Expense	\$547,627	\$559,000

Unbudgeted Ann. Exp.

Depreciation Expense	\$0	\$22,288
Rent Expense	\$0	\$78,082
Total	\$0	\$100,370

Special Budget

Citizens Flag Alliance	\$0	\$0
Nat. Emer. Funds Dis.	\$1,000	\$1,000
Legal Expense	\$1,000	\$247
Oper. Com. Warrior	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total	\$3,000	\$2,247

Rehab Expense

Salaries	\$106,750	\$102,625
FICA Expense	\$8,170	\$7,851
FUTA Expense	\$200	\$84
SUTA Expense	\$200	\$156
Group Health Ins.	\$19,500	\$16,750
Employee Ret. Fund	\$10,085	\$10,325
General Office Exp.	\$8,000	\$5,962
Claims Office Expense	\$8,000	\$6,691
CVSO Travel & Train.	\$12,000	\$11,571
Hospital & Vet Ass.	\$6,500	\$3,414
Veteran Event Support	\$8,000	\$8,919
DSO & ADSO Travel	\$12,500	\$17,154
Rehabilitation Comm	\$10,000	\$7,789
Total Rehab Expense:	\$209,905	\$199,291

Committee Expense

Americanism	\$6,800	\$5,407
Blood Program	\$250	\$0
Chaplain's Fund	\$600	\$606
Child. & Youth Comm.	\$3,000	\$1,284
Commander's Budget	\$31,000	\$31,000
Convention Corp.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Dpt. Conv. Comm.	\$4,000	\$3,775
Dpt. HQ Conf. & Conv.	\$28,000	\$24,522

Department Treasurer	\$3,600	\$3,600
Employment Comm	\$1,300	\$1,300
Energy & Cons. Comm.	\$250	(\$26)
Executive Committee	\$31,000	\$27,433
Exec. Cm. Contg. Fund	\$1,500	\$0
Finance Committee	\$4,300	\$4,238
Fund for Hosp Vets	\$0	\$0
Historian	\$1,000	\$995
Ins. Trust Committee	\$1,000	\$511
Judge Advocate	\$1,000	\$0
Law & Order Comm.	\$650	\$172
Legislative Committee	\$6,000	\$4,291
Membership (Vice Cdr.)	\$45,000	\$36,669
Dept Color Guard	\$3,000	\$3,000
NEC	\$4,000	\$4,000
Nat'l. Conv. Delegates	\$35,000	\$34,300
Nat'l. Sec./Foreign Rel.	\$8,500	\$6,237
Operation Post Home	\$300	\$255
Post Dev. Committee	\$2,000	\$729
Public Rel. Comm.	\$16,000	\$14,661
Res. Assign. Comm.	\$1,000	\$631
Servicemen's Center	\$300	\$230
L.I.T. Advertising	\$3,400	\$3,375
Legion Riders	\$300	\$226
USAA Expense	\$3,400	\$3,375
Strategic Plan. Comm.	\$2,000	\$1,817
Credentials Committee	\$1,000	\$543
Sergeant-at-Arms	\$500	\$107
Alternate NEC	\$2,000	\$2,000
Total	\$255,950	\$224,263

GRAND TOTAL **Budget vs. Actual**
\$1,016,482 **\$1,085,171**

Total Undesignated Revenue **\$1,201,567**
Total Undesignated Expense **\$1,085,171**
Change in Net Assets **\$116,396**



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 18-9

President Donna Arends

April 2018

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

The President's Column

By Donna Arends



Hello American Legion Family and all.

Since my last column, I have happily been on the move again. I enjoyed the Salute to Veterans at the Minneapolis VA. There, Commander Mike and I toured the Creative Arts projects done by the Veterans this year. We also split up into groups with other Service Organization members and visited with Veterans who were in the hospital. We thanked them for their service and presented them with a pin and a hat. We listened to stories of their service. It was a very enjoyable day and a great experience.

I next visited the Minneapolis Veterans Home for their annual venison dinner. This was my first time tasting venison and I loved it. I will definitely eat that again. I was on to Hutchinson with a visit to their American Legion Family members. It was a great visit and I was presented with a lighthouse painting, flashlights and a donation towards my project. Many thanks to the Hutchinson American Legion Family. Next up was the kick-off to The American Legion annual bowling tournament in Maple Grove. There were many American Legion Family members I knew and was able to meet many more. I shared with them that I didn't share their passion for bowling so I warned them that the first ball may not be pretty and guess what – half way down the lane my ball jumped into the gutter. Everyone was so gracious and I had a wonderful time. My next visit was to a very organized, informational Membership/ Leadership/ Public Relations training in Waite Park. A huge thank you goes out to the Waite Park Post and Unit and of course to the dedicated chairmen and members that attended.

March started with the American Legion Family Oratorical Contest in Anoka and Osseo. The hospitality and food at both Posts was great. Getting to meet and visit with all of the contestants at the banquet on Friday was very enjoyable. What a great bunch of kids – this type of event is always so refreshing and reassuring that we will be just fine with those kids following in our footsteps. The next day was amazing, listening to those same kids give their prepared and unprepared speeches, which they were just given the topic that day and had 5 minutes to practice. The Family Appreciation Rally at Buffalo was very well attended and quite interesting as some of Membership Mary's Search and Rescue Hats changed hands – or should I say, heads.

Thank you everyone for all the hard work you do and make this position so very enjoyable for me. May God bless our troops, past and present as well as those here at home that protect and serve in many forms.

National President will tour Minnesota April 16-18

Monday, April 16, 2018						
Location	Time	Event	Phone	email	Cost	Deadline
Hastings Veterans Home Tour						
Waseca American Legion 700 So. State St. Mary Jo Knudson	11:30 a.m 12:00 noon	Social Lunch	507-833-9935 507-521-4761	mjknudson44@gmail.com	\$10.00	4/13
Fagen Falls WWII Museum Granite Falls						
Willmar American Legion 220 19th Ave SW Donna Arends Betty Underthun	5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Social Dinner	320-235-8136 320-262-9321 320-235-3797	donnaarends7@gmail.com dbunderthun@gmail.com	14.00	4/9
Tuesday, April 17, 2018						
Location	Time	Event	Phone	email	Cost	Deadline
Eagles Healing Nest Sauk Centre Camp Ripley National Cemetery						
Little Falls Amer. Legion 108 1st St NE Carla Stewart Johnson	12:00 noon	Lunch	320-632-5944 320-630-7047	jackcarla@charter.net		
Fridley American Legion 7365 Central Ave NE Sandy Locker	5:30 p.m 6:00 p.m.	Social Dinner	763-786-2150 763-786-5415	lockerrg@comcast.net	\$12.00	4/11

The American Legion Auxiliary National President Diane Duscheck will be visiting Minnesota from April 16 – 18, 2018.

As her stay is short, we will be conducting a mini-tour of our state.

Above is a daily itinerary that we will be following.

Please make it a priority to attend one of the functions to welcome the National President.



DIANE DUSCHECK

and \$18.00 at the door. Please use the registration form which is in this copy of the Legionnaire. President Donna Arends has made this such a memorable year for us – let's attend to support her and our organization. There will be Resolutions to vote on so make sure your delegation is covered. All pending Resolutions will be posted on our website under the About Us tab, 2018 Department Convention as they are received in the Department Office.

Don't forget the Poppy contests that will be held at the Department Convention. This year there will be two categories; Table Centerpieces and Poppy Wreaths. More than one entry is welcomed; there will be three places awarded and a People's Choice Award. Entries must be at the Department Convention on Thursday, July 19th by 9:00 a.m. Please read your Trophy and Awards packet for details and rules.

JUNIOR CONFERENCE

The Department Junior Conference will be called to order by Courtney Rogat, the Department Honorary Junior President on Saturday, April 14th, at the North St. Paul American Legion Post 39 and hosted by our 4th District. We are hoping many Juniors will attend their very own Conference.

On Friday, April 13 starting at 6:00 p.m. the 4th District is hosting a "fun" night at the Legion Club for all Juniors. Please come and enjoy the weekend.

GIRLS STATE

Registration fees for the 2018 session of American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State were due on March 31st. We do still have openings so don't feel that because March 31 has gone by that you still can't register. Units may send as many girls as they choose to from the same high school. Your American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State citizens must attend a public, charter, parochial, private or home school in Minnesota or be a resident of Minnesota. Reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. We are still taking reservations and would like each Unit to participate. The 2018 session will be held June 10 – 16 at Bethel University in St. Paul.

2018 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Our 99th annual Department Convention will be held July 19-21, 2018 at the Kahler Grand Hotel in Rochester, hosted by the Rochester American Legion Family #92. A word of thanks to the Auxiliary Chairman and committee members for all they are doing to ensure a successful convention.

Hotel reservations are to be made directly with the hotel this year. The registration fee is \$15.00 for pre-registration

ANNUAL REPORTS/TROPHIES

Annual report time is fast approaching. All Units should be preparing their reports covering the time period April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018. The white copy is all that needs to be returned to the Department Office by April 15. It is important that your Unit report your activities each year and send them in. The information received on the reports is then compiled into a Department report that is sent onto our National organization. These reports become part of the American Legion Auxiliary record for the 2017-2018 year. Our National organization gives the information to The American Legion and they use the information when they report to Congress each year. Every activity your Unit has participated in is important. Be proud of your accomplishments and activities and share them. Forms are also on our Department website. For those computer guru's, just save those forms to your computer, fill them out and email them to us. How easy is that?

Trophy and Award entries are also due by April 15th unless otherwise stated in the rules. Be certain to label each entry with the name of the award you are applying for. Follow this year's rules. A separate entry is needed for each award unless the Department winner is forwarded for National competition. Any Unit may apply for any award whether your Unit has reached its membership goal or not unless that is a requirement stated in the rules.

Please remember to nominate a worthy member for Auxiliary Member of the Year. There are so many ladies worthy of this award and we never have very many nominations. As National Convention is in Minneapolis this year, it will be easy for our Member of the Year to attend.

MAILING LABEL FUNDRAISER

There was a slight misunderstanding on how the vendor

Mar. 21, 2018, Auxiliary Membership

District	Goal	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year 3/22/2017
One	5,000	4,255	85.10%	4,500
Two	4,924	4,224	85.78%	4,379
Three	4,411	3,845	86.95%	3,876
Four	720	628	87.22%	655
Five	824	639	77.55%	680
Six	6,042	5,280	87.39%	5,516
Seven	3,934	3,375	85.79%	3,453
Eight	1,628	1,362	83.66%	1,415
Nine	4,344	3,625	83.45%	3,885
Ten	5,159	4,208	81.57%	4,582
1982	160	153	95.63%	154
Totals	37,146	31,594	85.03%	33,095

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

was going to send out mailing labels to our members to raise funds for our Department Office. Many of you have been contacting me as to never receiving them when I had originally said everyone would have them by the end of January. The vendor is sending out 2,500 every four weeks instead of two bunches of 15,000. That is why many of you haven't received them yet. Hold tight – they will be coming.

Don't forget – we have plenty of 100th Anniversary Cookbooks, Emblem Magnets, Military Bracelets and Member Handbooks available. Please call us at the Department Office 651-224-7634.

SECRETARY SANDIE'S NOTES

Again, this month I procrastinated until the due date to get this to AI. It is hard to believe we are going in to April as I type. It will be a very exciting month as President Donna has her Testimonial on April 28 and Commander Mike has his Testimonial on April 21. I encourage all of you to attend both of these functions. This team has done a fantastic job representing our organization this year.

Last year at this time the Deutsch's were anxiously waiting for our new grandbaby to arrive – this year the first weekend in June we get to go to Texas to celebrate her first birthday. Gosh darn, for any of you that have grandkids living so far away, I can really feel your pain. Thank goodness Brad and Shannon send us pictures about three times a week and we still have our John and Claire living one block from us.

Another snowstorm is coming our way, just in time for our annual Finance/Budget meeting. I really hope we can get it completed.

I was very privileged to attend the Veterans on the Hill Day at the State Capitol this year and sit right up front. You need to take one of these in one year. Seeing all the Veterans from there and listening to the Pledge of Allegiance in the Capitol Rotunda is something that can't be put in words. I had chills run down my back and even a tear fall down my cheek. I have attended the past five years and have never seen this many veterans assembled in one place. Our veterans did their part, now our legislators need to do theirs.



Everyone have a wonderful Easter, enjoy your families and don't forget to give a hug to each of them. As you can see in the picture, I got my hug from both Mr. and Mrs. Peter Rabbit. I didn't even know there was a Mrs. I am a hugger (if you don't already know that) so if I see you be ready. (Happy Easter from my best friend Shorty too).



JEFFERS HONORS -- Membership awards from Jeffers Unit 401 were made to Gerry Carter and Audrey Carter (in picture) They received 50-year pins. Mary Ann Meyer, not shown, received her 55-year pin.

April is Children and Youth Month

Purpose Statement: To work collaboratively with The American Legion to direct and sponsor programs and services that provide care and protection for our nation's children, especially those of our military and veterans.

There is a variety of opportunities that can be utilized by Units and their members to bring awareness to children's needs.

Support Children and Youth in your community: Star Spangled Kids, Youth Hero Awards/ Good Deed Awards, etc. Some ideas for units and members: Offer to make a "Star Spangled" presentation to your local schools, contact local high schools to invite them to encourage their students to enter the American Legion Oratorical Contest, contact local schools, churches, and other groups to make them aware of the Youth Hero/Good Deed Awards, Identify children in your community who may be or are facing hospitalization for the first time and may benefit from Josh and friends dog and book.

Support military children and youth: Kids of Deployed are Heroes2 (KDH2), GI Josh is a plush dog and accompanying storybook used to help ease separation fears for the military children.

Ideas for units and members: Volunteer at a Family Readiness Group event where KDH2 "I'm a Hero 2 buttons/stickers can be distributed, give a GI Josh to the child of a deployed service member, wear purple on April 15 in honor of Purple Up for Military Kids day. As we honor our veterans we must remember to honor those at home. The sacrifice the children make when a family member is deployed. Display The Military Child's Table Setting or host an event to recognize military children. Be sure to include the Legion family. The Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony is a unique program to involve Auxiliary Junior members and younger Sons of The American Legion to honor the sacrifices of their military child friends and classmates. Have a supply of the "I'm a Hero 2: buttons or stickers ready to hand out. You might also want to have on-hand the "Proud Parent/Grandparent of a Military Child" button.

KDH2 buttons may be ordered through a commercial vendor or made yourself.

Support veterans' children by contacting your post service officer to offer help with the needs of children for veterans who need financial help. (The American Legion – Temporary Financial Assistance), members contact your local churches, homeless shelters and food pantries to identify homeless veterans' children. Ask what their specific needs are, and offer them your services as an ALA member. Purchase the book, Klinger, a Story of Honor and Hope,



ROBE DONATION -- 36 Afghan Lap Robes, handmade by Donna Miller of Rosetown Unit 542 in the 4th District, were donated to the Minneapolis VAHCS and Minneapolis Veterans Home. Receiving the lap robes are Sandy Gibson, Minneapolis Veterans Home Auxiliary Rep and Mary Ann Davis, Minneapolis VAHCS Auxiliary Rep.



BRUNO BUNCH -- Bruno Unit 563 was formed two years ago, and has grown from 13 members to 20, led by President Sandy Hoiland.

from TAPS with the companion plush horse for children who are grieving the loss of a military parent or loved one.

Additional Resources you can use:

The American Legion Children and Youth programs:

www.legion.org/programs

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation:

www.legion.org/cwf
Josh and Friends (American Legion Family Alliance): www.joshandfriends.com

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (an American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant recipient for Klinger): www.taps.org

Print Pocket Constitution for school children: www.constitutionbooklet.com

A Hero2 sticker's template and instructions can be found on the Children & Youth Program page at www.ALforVeterans.org

Continue to collect Tabs for Ronald McDonald Houses: This program is an easy way for people of all ages to support and know they are making a difference for families and children. Do not send them to the Department Office. Turn the tabs into McDonalds, keep track the number of the pounds and report on your annual report.

The following have been approved to solicit funds for this year: Forgotten Children's Funds, Child Welfare Foundation, Legionville, American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA).

Please earmark in the memo section on your check, which program you would like your donations to go to, as you send it into the Minnesota Department Office.

Diane Hayes, Children and Youth Chairman



DIANE HAYES



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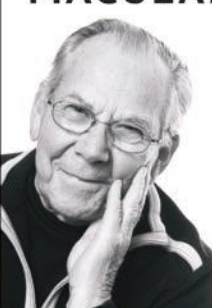
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